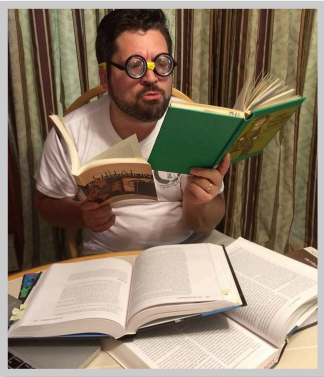


2016-2017 Annual Vision Report

Where, Oh Where Has Our Pastor Gone?

In September 2014, I began working on completing my Master of Divinity in Church History at Liberty University Baptist Theological Seminary (now the Rawlings School of Divinity). This is a 93-credit course which is supposed to take eleven semesters to complete. Because the cost of a semester is the same for 6-15 credit hours, I decided (in typical Erik-style) to maximize every semester so as not to be a poor steward of the funds the congregation was graciously reimbursing me for as I worked. This July, I will complete the course of study after five semesters, and I should graduate with highest honors.



Unfortunately, devoting this amount of effort to completing the course of study has meant I have not been able to put as much energy into some things as I would have liked. This vision report is one of those things. Usually, our vision report takes about two months to assemble, collate, edit and publish. It includes pictures and graphs, and nifty little formatting tweaks. This vision report is somewhat more Spartan. This is doubly frustrating for me because 2015-2016 has been such an extraordinary year.

- Erik DiVietro, Teaching Pastor

2015-2016 Summary

Worship Gatherings

In the spring and summer quarters of 2015, our average attendance was 77; but during the autumn and winter quarters, our Sunday participation increased to an average of 92. This is our highest average attendance since 2010.

Home Bible Studies

In September, we launched our *Home Bible Studies*. Both groups rotate to different homes every week. They have covered two studies thus far: the “One Another” passages of the Scriptures and the “I Am” statements of Jesus in the gospel of John. In April, they began a study of the Epistle to the Colossians. Both groups have had relatively steady participation.

CONTENTS	
2015-2016 Summary	1
Looking Forward	3
Tentative Schedule	4
Statement on the Sanctity of Marriage & Biblical Sexuality ...	5
2016-2017 Financials Summary and Budget	6
Upcoming Facilities Projects....	8

Special Events

In May, we welcomed Michael Card for another Biblical Imagination Conference, followed by a concert with him and Ginny Owens at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Hooksett. We will welcome Michael back for another conference this October.

During the Advent season, we enjoyed a vocal ensemble as well as the Hathcoat string trio accompanying our worship. We were able to go present Christmas carols at Birch Heights.

Easter was filled with special activities. On Good Friday, Nichole DiVietro presented a monologue which challenged us to consider Christ in a new light. Easter Sunday was filled with music from a twenty-five member vocal and instrumental ensemble.

Missions

Both the Childs and the Champeons were able to visit with us this year, and both Sandy Misshula and Bill Paige shared updates on their local ministries. The Childs have come back to the United States after two long stays in China, and Ted is currently completing seminary work while Debbie works for CRU Northeast. The Swensons will be visiting with us on July 10.

Youth Group

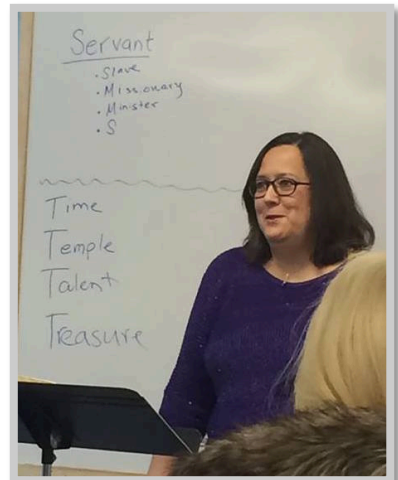
Lee and Stacey Farrar began leading a youth group, aimed largely at the middle school age group. The kids have had several activities, including camping at Camp Moosilauke and an autumn bonfire. This year, the Farrars have a number of activities planned including another camp trip.

Remarkable Journeys

In our second round of monthly ladies' meetings, a team of women led discussions about the women who surrounded Jesus in the books of Luke and Acts. These sessions have provided a great opportunity for connecting and sharing in one another's lives.

Facility Updates

Bob Bragdon, Thor Heinzman and Sean Donahue converted the former church library into a cry room for parents with small children in the worship gathering. This is a convenient addition to our facility, especially given the number of young families in our congregation.



It was necessary to replace the storm drain outside the education wing, an unexpected but important update. This required minor excavation which was completed within a week.

We had the parsonage wired for a generator. Also, Steve Allan, Bob Bragdon, Peter Lindsay, and Pat Reed have been working on a new porch for the parsonage, replacing one that had rotted out. The project should be completed by this summer.

Comings and Goings

This year, we welcomed a number of new families into our congregational family. Some folks are still visiting or stopping in from time to time, while others are on the way to covenant membership. Among the latter are Brandon and Katy Gilman and Ryan and Shannon Oullette. We also welcomed a new little one this year, Haley Louiseau's daughter Summer who was born on January 13.

Of course, church life is never static. We have also had some folks leave us. Bob and Sandy Lund returned to Trinity Baptist Church in Nashua after a few years with us, and Jonathan and Melissa Brandon are now worshiping with their extended family in Trinity Baptist Church in Concord. and Ron and Cory Chase relocated to the Austin, Texas, area where they have joined Woodlawn Church and are enjoying their new life there. We also said goodbye to Anna Arruda who was baptized on July 12, but had to return to her home in Brazil.

Looking Ahead to 2016-2017

As you will be able to see from the financial statement (pages 5-6), we have maintained a stable financial situation for the past couple of years. This has allowed us to do lots of updates to our facilities as well as put aside a significant financial cushion. While this stability provides us with some level of security, we are all to aware that all congregations go through periods of plenty and periods of want. Therefore, the elders have continued to attempt to minimize extraneous expenses, but without compromising the ministry of the church.

The question then becomes *what* do we need or more specifically *who* do we need to continue to add depth to our ministries?

Music and Worship Ministries

Beginning in September, Nichole DiVietro will be returning to the role of musical director. It has been several years since she has served in this role, but her work with the choir and band over the Easter season demonstrated her clear gifting in the area of encouragement through music.

We have immediate openings for vocalists and musicians to assist in leading worship. Currently, we have a single band which plays once or twice a month. If you play keyboard, guitar, bass guitar or another instrument or if you'd like to join a small vocal group to sing with the bands, you can contact Nichole (choleyd220@gmail.com).

Family Ministries

Last year, the elders presented a plan to incorporate a full Sunday School type ministry as part of our Sunday service, but there was not sufficient interest. Our guiding principle has always been that if there are not leaders, we do not adopt the program. We continue to have a need for teachers to work in God's Backyard with the children. There is not only a need for teachers but also for helpers and craft people. Those who work with minors need to participate in a 2-hour safety workshop and have a background check. Contact Greg Jones (grelor@comcast.net) if you are interested in helping.

Bible Studies

Currently there are seven families who host the weekly family Bible studies on a rotating basis. Hosting requires a minimal effort, just a willingness to open your home to your fellow believers. If you are willing to host a Bible study once every three or four weeks, contact Steve Rambikur (ssaser@gmail.com).

Tentative 2016-2017 Schedule

April

- 3 Lord's Table
- 12 Annual Vision Meeting
- 16 Remarkable Journeys (Women)
- 24 Potluck Lunch

May

- 1 Lord's Table
- 8 Mother's Day
- 30 Memorial Day

June

- 5 Lord's Table
- 19 Father's Day
(1st Outdoor Service/BBQ)

July

- 3 Lord's Table
- 4 Independence Day
- 10 Swenson Family (BBQ)

August

- 7 Lord's Table
- 21 Outdoor Service/BBQ

September

- 4 Lord's Table
- 5 Labor Day
- 17 Men's Retreat – New York
- 18 Outdoor Service/BBQ
- 23 Women's Ministry 2016 Kickoff

October

- 2 Lord's Table
- 7-8 Biblical Imagination Conference
- 9 Michael Card Concert
- 15 Women's Ministry 2016

November

- 6 Lord's Table; DST Ends
- 13 Semi-Annual Vision Meeting
- 19 Women's Ministry 2016
- 24 Thanksgiving; Advent Season

December

- 4 Lord's Table
- 24 Christmas Eve Service
- 25 Christmas Day (Sunday)

The preceding schedule is tentative. It is subject to change, but provides a good idea of the direction for the coming year.

Statement on the Sanctity of Marriage and Biblical Sexuality

It has become increasingly apparent that our society is shifting toward a relativistic morality which elevates personal preference while rejecting authoritative truth as the basis for conduct. The Supreme Court's decision (*Obergefell v. Hodges* 2015) to overturn all bans on same-sex marriage is symptomatic of this culture. We believe the gospel is meant for all mankind, but we are not willing to compromise the revealed truth of the Scriptures for the sake of being attractational. The elders have long been discussing how best to address this matter as a congregation, and we have devoted time in discussion and personal prayer on the matter. Below is a "Statement on the Sanctity of Marriage and Biblical Sexuality" for your consideration.

We believe that Jesus showed love and compassion to people regardless of race, gender or sinful condition; but we do not believe Jesus' love and compassion extended to the toleration or acceptance of behavior that violated the divinely ordained order of creation. This is a necessary tension that is maintained in the whole witness of the Scriptures.

We believe that from the time of creation, God has ordained that marriage is a covenantal, physical union of a single man and a single woman. It is the expression of God's original creative intent concerning the human race (Genesis 1:27). It is also the only biologically reasonable, and biblically mandated expression of the sexual nature of human beings.

We cannot find in the Scriptures *anywhere* that homosexuality is spoken of in a positive light. In every place that it appears, it is seen as a violation of the created order.

As such, we cannot in good conscience accept homosexuality or transsexuality as in keeping with the witness of the Scripture or the natural order. While we will not refuse love or compassion to those who practice these behaviors, our congregation's position is that homosexuality and transsexuality are sin.

Sin, which is a violation of God's order and will, separates us from God. It does not glorify God, and while it is forgiven in Christ, we find that one cannot knowingly continue in sin and claim to maintain a relationship with God (Romans 6:1, 1 John 2:4-6).

The doors of our church are open to all who wish to join in worship with us., but we cannot extend the covenant of membership or the recognition of marriage to those in homosexual or transsexual relationships. Our position does not extend to a political or legal statement for the affairs of human government, and this statement is not a demand for the conformity of others. Nevertheless, this statement will guide our attitudes toward this matter within the congregation.

This statement is presented for your consideration, in the hope that it can be entered in the minutes of our congregational meeting as our official position on the matter.

Financial Summary and Budget (as of March 31, 2016)

Facilities

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
Janitorial Services	\$17,700.00	\$17,700.00	-	\$18,250.00
Utilities	\$16,000.00	\$10,986.52	\$5,013.48	\$16,000.00
Escrow for Improvements	\$10,000.00	\$10,997.86	(\$997.86)	\$10,000.00
Building Maintenance	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	-	\$3,000.00
Snow Removal	\$2,000.00	\$2,637.50	(\$637.50)	\$2,500.00
Parsonage Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	-	\$1,500.00
Custodial/Kitchen	\$500.00	\$124.24	\$375.76	\$500.00
	\$50,700.00	\$46,946.12	\$3,753.88	\$51,750.00

Operations

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
Insurance Policies	\$6,500.00	\$5,928.00	\$572.00	\$6,500.00
Equipment	\$3,600.00	\$3,146.00	\$454.00	\$2,750.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$860.97	\$139.03	\$1,000.00
Office Supplies	\$500.00	\$1,243.54	(\$743.54)	\$500.00
Advertising	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Approved Out of Budget	\$500.00	\$36.65	\$463.35	\$500.00
	\$12,600.00	\$11,215.16	\$2,919.29	\$11,750.00

Worship

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
Equipment & Supplies*	\$1,500.00	\$6,208.24	(\$4,708.24)	\$1,500.00
Michael Card Conference	\$1,000.00	\$1,525.66	(\$525.66)	\$1,500.00
Software & Licenses	\$450.00	\$573.50	(\$123.50)	\$600.00
Choir Music	\$200.00	\$29.97	\$170.03	\$200.00
	\$3,150.00	\$8,337.37	(\$5,187.27)	\$3,800.00

*Includes one time donation of \$4,100 for a new soundboard.

Family Ministries & Bible Studies

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
Youth Ministry	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.05	(\$0.05)	\$1,000.00
God's Backyard	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Additional Programs (VBS)	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Nursery	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Bible Study Curriculum	\$100.00	\$25.43	\$74.57	\$100.00
	\$2,300.00	\$1,025.48	\$1,274.52	\$2,300.00

Fellowship & Small Groups

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
Meals	\$500.00	\$556.25	(\$56.25)	\$500.00
Elders Supplemental	\$250.00	\$31.87	\$218.13	\$250.00
Flowers & Gifts	\$250.00	\$124.45	\$125.55	\$250.00
Men's Ministry	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Women's Ministry	\$400.00	\$116.36	\$283.64	\$400.00
	\$1,600.00	\$828.93	\$771.07	\$1,600.00

Missions+

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
Post*	\$2,650.00	\$2,672.00	(\$22.00)	\$2,672.00
Champeon*	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	\$2,400.00
Swenson	\$2,200.00	\$2,220.00	(\$20.00)	\$2,220.00
Paige	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$0.00	\$2,100.00
Brewer	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
Thompson	\$1,900.00	\$1,920.00	(\$20.00)	\$1,920.00
Child	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00
Arce*	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Emergency Missions Fund	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Honorarium	\$250.00	\$525.00	(\$275.00)	\$250.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Prison Ministry	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
	\$17,300.00	\$16,237.00	\$1,063.00	\$17,362.00

+ there will be a full review of the missions budget for the semi-annual meeting in November

* denotes full support

Pastoral Compensation

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
Salary	\$33,000.00	\$33,000.00	\$0.00	\$33,000.00
Medical Reimbursement	\$12,000.00	\$8,536.50	\$3,463.50	\$12,000.00
Housing Allowance	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$0.00	\$7,200.00
Account Reimbursement	\$4,800.00	\$4,617.90	\$182.10	\$5,400.00
Education Reimbursement	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
	\$59,500.00	\$56,500.00	\$3,645.60	\$60,100.00

Summary

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
Total Expenses	\$147,150.00	\$140,444.46	\$6,705.54	\$148,062.00
Income – General		\$157,335.93		
Income – Special		\$150.00		
Income – Interest		\$29.52		
Net Gain		\$17,070.99		

2016-2017 Weekly Budget - \$2793.62

Accounts in Escrow

	<i>Opening</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>New Total</i>
Building Fund	\$20,500.00	(\$997.86)	\$19,502.14
Medical Reimbursement	\$4,309.17	\$3,463.50	\$7,772.67
Neighbors' Fund	\$1,231.65	\$520.00	\$1,751.65
Total in Escrow	\$26,040.82	\$2,985.64	\$29,026.46

Total Accounts

Undesignated Reserve	\$63,769.93
Total Cash Balance	\$92,796.09

Upcoming Facilities Projects

Projects for 2016-2017

Parsonage Driveway: In April, the parsonage driveway will be repaved. It has been in disrepair for years. The estimated cost will be \$8,200, but the new driveway will last for another twenty years or so.

Playground Area: In order to be kept safe, the playground area needs to be cleaned, the equipment power-washed and a new layer of woodchip applied. We are looking for someone who is willing to take the lead on this project. Contact Bob Bragdon.

Education Wing Update: This is an item that has been under consideration for a few years. The education wing's carpets are in a state of disrepair. The cost of replacing the carpet is not outrageous, but it will require a lot of moving furniture and other items around before the installation. This *may not* be done this year, and if it is, it will probably be done in the winter.

Projects for the Future

We have received estimates for sealing the church parking lot. The cost will be \$15,000 so the project cannot be completed this year, but it will need to be done soon as the parking lot is showing signs of wear.

Some of the windows in the lower level and education wing will need to be replaced. The cost will probably be around \$10,000. The energy savings since we installed new windows in the upstairs auditorium have been substantial, as reflected by our utility bills coming in well under budget this fiscal year.

There is still some discussion of installing air conditioning in the auditorium. These discussions generally get "heated" in July-August. The two portable air conditioners we are using now cool the auditorium to a livable temperature and humidity.

INFORMATION

Pastor:	Erik DiVietro	Bedford Road Baptist Church
Elders:	Robert Bragdon	67 Bedford Road
	Thomas Hathcoat	Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054
	Gregory Jones	www.bedfordroad.org
	Steve Rambikur	(603) 424-9623
Clerk:	Terri Larnard	Creating environments where people
Treasurer:	Jan Bell	encounter Jesus and journey together.