

#### GOSPEL COMMUNITY,

#### "THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD NEVER CEASES, HIS MERCIES NEVER COME TO AN END."

Throughout 2018, our Savior has been exceedingly merciful toward us. The gospel of Jesus Christ has encouraged, empowered, and sustained us during our year of "settling." In 2017 Gospel Community and Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church became one united family. In 2018 we learned to live together, and we invited others into our family.

It has been amazing to witness relational, spiritual, emotional, and financial growth. We have a great team of staff and elders, and a loving congregation, but all the glory and all the credit goes to King Jesus. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

With our eyes on Jesus, we are well positioned for ongoing discipleship and gospel multiplication.

Proverbs 21:31 says, "The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord." We are prepared for battle (Eph. 6:12), and we fully trust the Lord for the outcome of our future challenges.

Soli Deo Gloria, *The Elders of Gospel Community Rivermont* 

In this report, you will find many things worth celebrating. **Consider a few highlights:** 

We welcomed some missionary partners back home and sent out new ministry partners to places like Great Britain, Central Asia, and the Western United States.

We launched a new ministry residency program to intentionally train men and women for vocational ministry.

We defined and rolled out church membership.

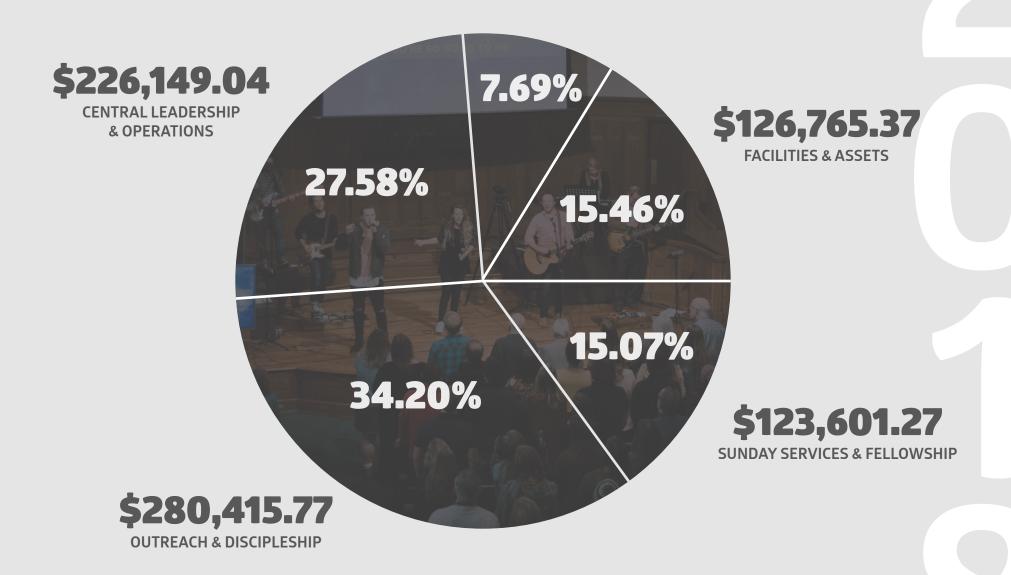
We leveraged our Connecting Point ministry center to care for families throughout the year and to serve kids in our community throughout the summer.

We expanded our staff in order to manage our church and serve our community better.

We continued to plant Gospel Community Providence and began to shepherd another local church in need of revitalization.

We worshiped Christ and saw lives transformed as people made new commitments, and re-commitments, to the gospel.

## \$63,049.71 FAMILY MINISTRY





**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE \$819,981.16** 

**TOTAL OPERATING WINDFALL \$135,762.92** 

\$17,671.38

PLANNED SPENDING FROM SAVINGS

\$200,579.68

**MERGER RELATED EXPENSES** 

INCOME FOR MERGER RELATED EXPENSES WAS OBTAINED BY A COMBINATION OF 2018 OPERATING WINDFALL AND A LOAN ESTABLISHED IN AUGUST OF 2017. PRINCIPLE & INTEREST PAYMENTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE 2019 BUDGET.



650

AVERAGE NUMBER OF WORSHIPERS

1,100 HIGHEST NUMBER OF WORSHIPERS

SERMON SERIES

284
FIRST TIME GUESTS

10,000+
CUPS OF COFFEE SERVED & BULLETINS PRINTED

CONNECTION CLASS ATTENDEES

**141**WORSHIP SONGS

BAPTISMS

"Through serving at Gospel, I have gotten to meet people who have grasped the importance of serving joyfully in the mundane, little tasks. Through a desire to do whatever needs to be done with excellence, I saw the love of Christ displayed, both to me and to others. This desire to love others and welcome them into Gospel Community is inspiring to watch. I feel honored to be a part of a community of people whose love for God and for others—friends and strangers alike— overflows into how they talk, act, and live."



115 KIDS IMPACTED

**35** STUDENTS IMPACTED

**125** TEAM MEMBERS

**10** TEAM MEMBERS

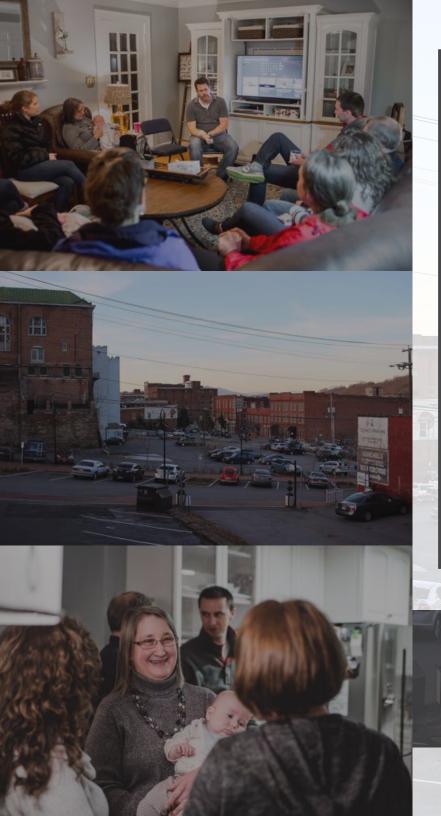
**9 LESSON TOPICS** 

**4** LESSON TOPICS

"This year, we had a young man that was part of GSM. He had been inconsistent in his attendance and was an atheist by his own admission. Mason comes from a broken home and none of his family members are believers.

After our Thursday Engage gathering, he made a profession of faith and surrendered his life to Jesus Christ."

- Brandon Read



# THERE WERE OVER **300** PEOPLE IN **22** GOSPEL COMMUNITIES, HOSTED BY 96 LEADERS, WHO IMPACTED 14 NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE GREATER LYNCHBURG AREA.

"Through being involved with and leading at GCR, my life has been significantly impacted. This past year has been hard, but it has brought forth so much growth for which I am thankful. By being in community with others and attending services, the Lord has spoken to me and shown Himself near in some of my darkest times. This has been the biggest blessing of my past year."

- Morgan Murphy

**OUR HOSPITALITY TEAM CONSISTED OF** 

7

TOTAL TEAMS CONTAINING

40+

**TEAM MEMBERS** 

OUR COMMUNICATIONS TEAM PUBLISHED

43

BLOGS WRITTEN BY 18

AUTHORS & REACHED

1,550

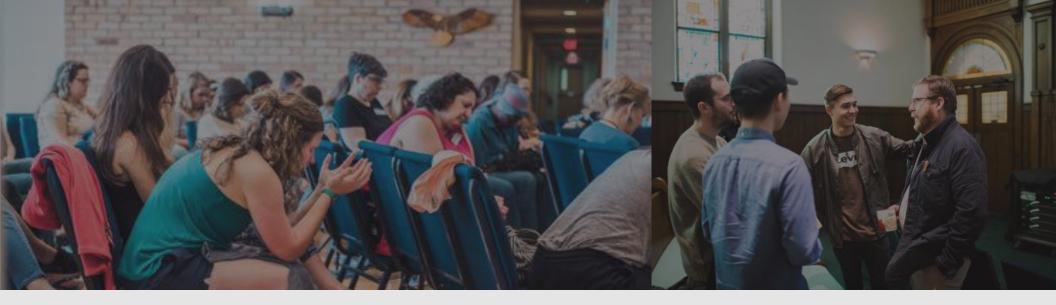
**SUBSCRIBERS** 

"2018 has been a fulfilling year for me at GCR. I have had the opportunity to serve in many capacities over the years with GCR, but the last year has been particularly meaningful for me. I love working with the audiovisual and worship teams. They serve diligently, encourage and build each other up, and strive for excellence in all that they do. I have

learned so much from each person, and I am incredibly grateful for each person that I get the honor to serve with along this road. I am grateful for a God who uniquely gifts people, and it proves just how dynamic and creative our God is when He creates each soul. It is particularly meaningful when He guides you to a place where those gifts can be

used to His glory. Your types and degree of service may change over time, but that is evidence of God's work in your life. My little bit of encouragement for you: seek Him and take chances. You might just be surprised with the direction that God takes and the ways that He uses you."

- JJ Bryant



"A young lady had some very painful and abusive encounters in her past. The first night [of the women's retreat], she experienced some 'feeling' (after years of numbness) and breakthrough during the first worship session. She asked for prayer following that session. Prayer started with five women laying hands on her, then one by one more women joined in. Slowly a hush fell over the entire room as every woman present interceded on behalf of this young lady. She fell to her knees weeping and many women could not even see who we were praying for, but they pressed in. Prayer after prayer was lifted up for this young woman whose story

we did not yet know. After some time, the prayer slowed and was followed by a stillness with only the sound of weeping. One by one women started to prophetically proclaim God's truth to this young woman. 'The Father wants you to know you are loved.' 'He sees you.' 'He loves you.' 'He is restoring your hope.' etc. This continued for some time until the Spirit stilled us, and we embraced each another in hugs, smiles, and praises to God. This young lady went on to completely open up to her debriefing group about all the trauma she had experienced [in the past] and the new beginning that God was singing over her at the retreat."

- Christi-Anna Boyer

**300 WOMEN IMPACTED** 

4 EVENTS + 1 STUDY

**100** MEN IMPACTED

**2** EVENTS



### FACILITIES IMPACT + STAFF ADDITIONS

OUR BUILDING IMPACTED 7,808 PEOPLE

WE
HOSTED
299
EVENTS

WE SHARED
OUR SPACE WITH
8 PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS









"In 2018 we began a new church revitalization project which has given us an opportunity to share with another church what the Lord did in our 2017 merger."

- Andrew Moroz

# JOCAL OUTREACH







**600+** ATTENDEES WERE SERVED AT THE FALL FESTIVAL BY **78** VOLUNTEERS

**40+** VOLUNTEERS DISTRIBUTED **200+** ITEMS AT THE CONNECTING POINT

**15+** VOLUNTEERS SERVED **10** WEEKLY ATTENDEES AT LUNCH N LEARN

"I would say the relationships that are being built are the most impactful things to me. There was a dedicated group of folks already serving at CP that had good relationships with our neighbors. We acquired a lot of new volunteers that are now serving as regulars. Over the course of the year the atmosphere has really changed at CP. It's a warm welcoming place full of smiles and laughter. And sometimes sadness as people share their struggles and burdens. It's really becoming a community because of the relationships built. And that allows us to show Christ's love in so many ways on a regular basis."

- Tyler Morris



16
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES DONATED BY GCR

COLLECTION WEEK VOLUNTEERS

GLOBAL MINISTRY LOCATIONS 25,000
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES COLLECTED IN THE GREATER LYNCHBURG AREA

DOMESTIC MINISTRY LOCATIONS PARTNER CARE PLAN DEVELOPED & IMPLEMENTED

GLOBAL OUTREACH TRIPS

