



# CHAPEL HILL YEAR-END 2015

My Dear Chapel Hill Family:

Well into my 29th year as your pastor, I can say that 2015 ranked near the top in terms of exciting, forward-looking initiatives in the history of our congregation. Thanks to your faithful giving of time and money, we were able to accomplish GREAT things this past year:

- We launched our disciple-making initiative, trained over 100 new LifeGroup leaders and restructured ministries around our ten-year goal to be known as a church that makes disciples.
- With our two 90 Day Challenges and the launch of “The Story,” we have unified the church as never before around a common study of God’s Word...with exciting results.
- We invested significantly in our worship ministries, hiring Margie Dickerson as our marvelous new Choir Director, James Roberson as our new Modern Worship Director and Sam Bergstrom as our Director of Youth Worship. Filling these important part-time positions with such gifted people...well, the quality and spirit of worship has never been better.
- We launched a Saturday night service to enthusiastic response and, in a few weeks, have already hit our one-year attendance goals for that gathering.
- We celebrated 33 baptisms in our August Harbor Service, including 2 strangers who heard the gospel proclaimed and came forward to give their lives to Christ.
- We discovered we have over 200 young families in our church and, when Cyndi and I felt inspired to host them for a picnic and a few thoughts about parenting...150 showed up!
- We chose to prioritize our youth staffing and eliminated the annual fundraiser.

And, another inspiring piece of news: a dedicated team of elders recently completed the refinance of our remaining debt of \$5.9M, (originally \$9.0M, \$3.1M was paid off in the last 10 years) and the resulting savings is \$200,000 annually!

I hope you will agree that these are exciting and fruitful efforts to fulfil our mission as a congregation. We are not willing to sit on our laurels for the coming year; we are leaning forward and investing in our future.

This growth in ministry, plus unavoidable increases in Workers’ Compensation and medical insurance premiums represent an increase in our budget of \$140,000.

Obviously, the Session could take the savings from our refinance and apply it toward the needed investment in ministry growth. But we believe this \$200,000 represents a wonderful opportunity to aggressively attack the remaining debt. It is the Session’s intent and longing to apply all of our savings from the refinance against principal. (If you have taken Financial Peace University, we are using our own “debt snowball”.) And within the next 2 years, we intend to mount a campaign to eliminate most or all of that debt completely.

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So... how can we do both of these things? How can we invest aggressively in the things we believe will grow our church in every way... disciple-making, strong worship, young, impressive staff, programs focused on reaching young people and families...while at the same time aggressively pay down debt?

Only one way: the people of Chapel Hill must rise up to the person to fill that gap. To that end, I am making an audacious ask of you: will you contribute a generous year-end tax deductible gift toward a goal of raising \$140,000 extra in the month of December? If you are already tithing, would you join Cyndi and me in a special Christmas gift? If you are not yet tithing, would you try doing so just for the month of December and see if God fulfills his promise to bless the tither? And if you are giving little or nothing...would you be willing to ask God if now is the time to step out in faith to help Chapel Hill continue the ministries that have marked us...and I believe, marked this community, for decades?

Before you do a thing, please pray. Ask God what he wants you to do...and then, step out in faith and do it. Just think of the cultural battles we are fighting. If churches like Chapel Hill will not stand tall in the midst of these enormous societal shifts, who will? And if you, the people of Chapel Hill, will not support those initiatives, again, who will?

“As for me and my house...we will serve the Lord!”

Thank you for your faithful generosity. Thank you for your prayers. And thank you for being part of the Chapel Hill movement. God is using us to make an eternal difference.  
And...MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Pastor Mark

P.S. Please send your generous gift in any of the following methods:

- Mail your gift in the enclosed envelope postmarked by 12/31/15.
- Online, go to [www.chapelhillpc.org](http://www.chapelhillpc.org) and click GIVE in the upper right hand corner.
- APP, download our new app at [www.chapelhillpc/app](http://www.chapelhillpc/app).
- TEXT, text the amount you want to give to 2532043132 and you will be prompted for giving information the first time you use this method.

It couldn't be easier!