



DEERBROOK

covenant
church

Annual Report (July 2018-June 2019)



Senior Pastor – Roger Gilbert

What a joy it is to serve Deerbrook Covenant congregation! We look back at our fellowship, adventure and even challenges we face, and we see Jesus walking along side us, encouraging us in this ever-changing society. In the last half of 2018, we completed a study of the Gospel of John, discovered markers of a healthy missional church and discussed *The Treasure Principal* for our fall series. During advent, we discussed the awe & intimacy of God. In 2019, we walked through the book of Isaiah right through Easter. Most recently, we have explored the *Sacred Pathways*, the variety of ways people love God through nature, intellect, acts of service, tradition and much more. Thanks to Joyce, Preston, Bob Stephens and Randy Horn for sharing the pulpit responsibilities. We appreciate the feedback from many about our services in the past year.

Our staff enjoyed working with **Molly Shalz** as our ministry support administrator during most of the year. This spring, the incredible **Emily Wages** took on the role and has demonstrated her wide variety of skills. Our staff continues to enjoy companionship, strives to improve our effectiveness and invest in the people of our congregation. Wednesday evening suppers continued, *Better Together* Sports Camp and Colorado Family Camp are all recent highlights. Easter season gave us a week of prayer, a special Good Friday service and an Easter celebration to remember. Our congregation stepped up with increased giving to meet our budget, as we continue to trust God and grow our ministry. We look forward to seeing God open doors for Deerbrook to bless our community.

LEADERSHIP *We benefit from the service & commitment of quality leaders.*

- **Ruth Noland** guided our Deacons with attention to detail, a passion for world missions and an encouraging approach to teamwork. The Deacons handle our business matters, including maintenance of the facility, our budget, caring for the staff and oversight of some of our ministries.
- Leadership of our Elder Board transitioned from **Mark Wissel** to **Daniel Jones**. All the elders are currently engaged in defining the spiritual milestones (goals, resources & practices) of mature discipleship. They have reached out to hurting or missing individuals, helped plan Family Camp and our week of prayer. Pastor Joyce and I deeply appreciate the partnership with have with the Elders.
- A main responsibility of the staff is to serve and recruit others to help fulfill our mission. **Joyce Norman** continues to provide competent leadership in the areas of Children’s Ministry and parenting. **Preston Lafollette** has again found amazing summer interns and leads an awesome, diverse and crazy youth group. **Clif Thurmond** leads our solid core of musicians who usher us weekly into experiencing worship. **Emily Wages** helps all of us get things done well and has quickly demonstrated her value in serving this loving congregation.

EVENTS *we enjoyed as a community. Here are some highlights of 2018-2019:*

- Youth group experiences CHIC (Youth conference in Tennessee) and Youth Front Camp
- *Super Heroes* Wednesday serve as an opportunity for weekly Children's summer fun
- Summer Sermon series on Healthy Missional markers
- Saturday, August 25th Royals game and tailgate with over 30 people
- Small groups form around the fall sermon series on *The Treasure Principle*
- *Parenting Relationally* 5-week Sunday classes lead by Michael & Becky Qualls
- Sept. 20th *Wings for Water* BBQ event moves downtown to record number of participants
- September 22nd Habitat for Humanity workday
- Significant repairs are made for our building including replacing interior doors, new sidewalks and driveway repairs, 2nd floor carpet, 2nd floor bathroom fix, worship center lights and lobby ceiling tiles.
- Wednesday Suppers resumes with good participation and generous servants
- School year Kids Adventure! and children's outreach continue in the Fall
- Nearly 100 trees are planted on our property by Mr. Ron Garrette
- A tremendous amount of community groups share our facility including LS Young Life, Reed Performing Arts, Langsford House (Christmas party), Intervarsity @ Longview CC, a weekly Anxiety Support group, multiple Home School groups and now Jackson County Elections!
- A long-term committed and compassionate response from about 10 individuals for 2 homeless families (since summer 2018) is quite an exciting work of God!
- We host Team Xtreme's Night of Nations with music, culture, food & gospel report
- Christian Rock concerts by Tim Halperin and Jason Gray are held in the Fall
- December staff dinner, New Year's Eve game night and advent season leads to Christmas joy
- The pastoral staff attend Covenant Mid-Winter conference in Denver Colorado
- Women's *Breathe* adult education class has great participation & Jan. 27th luncheon held
- New Revelation Wellness fitness class and small groups form
- Clif Thurmond memorial Chili Cookoff is held in Feb. Chiefs almost make the Super Bowl.
- Feb. 25th New member class is held and welcomes 5 new members
- Deerbrook unveils a new logo, entrance doors are labeled
- March Ash Wednesday Acoustic Worship Service, week of prayer and Easter celebration
- April 28th Congregational discussion identifies 6 areas to address to help define success
- May 13th Garden of Eatin' welcomes 100 Meadow Lane Elem. students and staff
- *Run for Little Hearts* packet pickup at Deerbrook, race is held at Arrowhead
- Monthly Missionary Sunday visits spread the good news of the Kingdom
- *Better Together* Sports Camp serves 70 children, adding evening sessions
- Colorado Family Camp at YMCA of the Rockies blesses 108 people connected to Deerbrook
- Mr. Jeff Pollard represents Deerbrook at the Covenant Annual Meeting in Omaha



2019 NEW MEMBERS: Connie & Rick Ryberg, Cathy Wells, Jeff & Mary Winters

2018-2019 BIRTHS: Anniston Reed (Whitney & Jeff), Augie LaFollette (Brit & Preston), Wyatt Akers (Kirsten & Ben)

CONGREGATIONAL DISCUSSION-APRIL 28

Our recent discussion around our definition of success and our mission statement produced six ideas that we would like to develop. Each group is working toward implementing their idea and asks the congregation to share the hope of effective ministry and love for all.

BRING

- I. Welcome packets (Ask the congregation to invite, and welcome visitors)
- II. Improved promotion & post-cards for missing & new friends. (A congregational task)

EQUIP

- III. Adult education class
- IV. Explore the idea of Adult Mentor training
- V. Invest in expository preaching & teaching

SEND

- VI. Commitment to measure and increase the % of people involved in Volunteerism/Outreach

PERSONAL: I accepted the challenge to invest more in preaching (*Isaiah series*), delegated more work-related tasks and benefitted from mentorship of another local pastor. The small group Bible study Karen and I attended concluded it's time together, so we look forward to new opportunities in the coming year. Karen's work as an RN has led to a new amount of work travel across the US. Our daughter and her husband settled in Colorado after a year abroad. Our three sons continued in their roles of leading a rock band, serving in the US Army (Afghanistan deployment), and as a student at LS North HS. My contributions to Lee's Summit included increased commitment as a Meadow Lane math tutor (Partner in Education), partnerships with local ministries (Coldwater & RPAC), a role as a volunteer chaplain with the LS Police Department and as a local soccer referee. Our family continues to develop friendships and appreciates the support of so many in the congregation.

Serving with gratitude and encouragement,

Pastor **Roger Gilbert**

Deacon Report – Ruth Noland

This year, we are happy to welcome Emily Wages as our new Ministry Support Administrator. Already, Emily has proven to be an excellent addition to the team and a strong support to the people and ministries of Deerbrook.

Since last summer, we have addressed concrete issues at sidewalks, the entrances to the parking lot and other areas that needed attention. Various fire doors were replaced, including the door to the youth Shield room. We replaced some stained and very worn carpet upstairs in hallway space and the office that Roger and Preston share. Have you noticed the new signage built into the front doors? Thanks go to Preston for his work in the design and implementation of the plan. In 2019, we replaced the microphones in the worship center to become compliant with new regulations of the Federal Communications Commission. As always, there is gardening to take care of. We thank Ron Garrett, Randy and Laura Horn, Rod and Rene Russell, and many others who volunteered their time to help plant, weed, and tidy. In the coming year, we will look at maintenance and partial replacement of HVAC units as needed, as well as other building matters, as they arise.



Among its duties, the Deacon Council is responsible for care of the building and grounds. This past year, we have extended that meaning to include not just bricks-and-mortar building, but also the building of community at Deerbrook as deacons have been involved in the ministries of the church and were among those who initiated the April church meeting to discuss how Deerbrook measures success of the church.



I look forward to another year of serving the Deacon Council and, along with them, Deerbrook. We pray for God's continued favor as He has blessed us with the community of believers and friends we call Deerbrook.

In His love,
Ruth

Elder Board – Dan Jones

We started the fiscal year (July 2018) with Dan Jones joining the Elder board. Dan replaced Robert Steele who had stepped down after serving for over three years on the board. Our primary focus at the beginning of the year was to encourage giving and faithful stewardship within the congregation. As we let go of what already belongs to God it eliminates a spiritual barrier and allows us to draw closer in relationship to our Savior Jesus Christ which allows Him to use us more effectively in serving. We agreed to make use of *The Treasure Principle* book by Randy Alcorn as the basis for the pastor's teaching series and small group emphasis for the fall.

To kickoff the giving focus for the fall we brought in guest speaker Brent Thompson who is the Director of Church Health for the Covenant Midwest conference. Brent spoke about our use of money as Christ followers and "freedom from greed through giving". Brent also met with the church leadership after the service for further discussion and a question/answer period.

The Elders affirmed the parenting class series offered in September which utilized a local Christian counseling couple Mike and Becky Qualls (Firm Foundation Ministries). The event provided wise parenting concepts and encouraged many of our parents.

In mid-fall the Elders envisioned putting together a definition of spiritual milestones. The vision was basically a list of spiritual practices and areas that Christians should develop for spiritual growth; it is similar to a discipleship program. The Elders have put together a list of 12 milestones and are working to develop a guide for each utilizing a general template developed by Pastor Roger.

To encourage our church to let their Christian voices be heard in our country's political process, the Elder board developed a non-partisan Voter's Guide. The guide was made available ahead of the November 2018 elections.

The Children's Ministry team decided this year's focus area would be "Equipping Parents". The Elder board affirmed the "Parenting Circles" program idea as a great way to mentor and further equip parents in the raising of children. Another outcome of this year's Children's Ministry meeting was a desire to celebrate communion as families. The Elder board and pastoral staff continue to refine our approach to inviting people to gather in family and/or small groups to share communion together.





In March, the Elder board recommended a week of congregational prayer and fasting emphasis in preparation for Easter. The Elder board developed a 70 hour prayer room project to run from after the Palm Sunday service to the Good Friday service, scheduling hourly prayer from 7am to 9pm each day.

In April, the Elder board focused on reviewing missing families and individuals whose attendance is less frequent and/or appear to be less connected to Deerbrook. The Elders reached and were able to make contact with many of the families to let them know they were missed. The Elders decided to revisit this issue on a periodic basis to encourage families and individuals to stay connected to a local church body.

Near the end of April the church held a Congregational Discussion to determine ways for the church body to be more effective in fulfilling our church's mission: Bring people to Jesus, equip people for Spiritual Growth, and Send people to Serve in Jesus name. The response was great and the group generated many good ideas. Several of the Elders are engaged in assisting and supporting the action items to strengthen each of these areas of our church's mission.

At the end of this fiscal year, Randy Horn has decided to step down from Elder board after many years of service and will focus on specific ministry areas within our church body. A new board member will be nominated to replace Randy on the Elder board.

Children's Ministry – Joyce Norman, Children's Pastor

With much gratefulness, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the incredible partnership we share in the discipleship of the children of Deerbrook. Over the past year, multiple occasions have been provided by this community for the spiritual growth of children. Thank you for the many ways you choose to invest in these children through volunteering, support, prayer and gifts of service.



Sunday mornings continue to be a mainstay of discipleship. This year we really concentrated on giving the children opportunity to respond to what they were learning. Both on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evening time is consistently given for children to pray, listen and respond to how God might have them live out what the Bible is teaching them. The Wednesday evening team committed to a second year of service and even though we had a very snow interrupted winter season, we engaged with God's Word in creative ways as well as corresponded with missionary kids in Cameroon.

This year has been Year 2 of the Legacy Project. The chosen emphasis is to equip parents. After meeting with a group of parents we developed a plan to gather intergenerational parents on a regular basis with the goal of providing a space to support, encourage and pray for one another. These groups kicked off in June and will meet approximately every six weeks for this purpose. All the groups will gather quarterly to be encouraged and challenged around a timely parenting topic.

Amy Bachtel continues to lead our quarterly service opportunities for children and families. This year we participated with Coldwater twice and visited the Jefferson Care Center. Jen Wright continues invite families to participate in our worship services to share their gifts with the body of Christ.

Our annual Sports Camp just finished. This year 65 campers participated in two camps, one in the morning and one in the evening.



Each day campers participated in a variety of sports and a daily devotion around the topic "Better Together." Our theme verse was, "Encourage one another and build each other up." 1 Thessalonians 5:11. We completed the week with a Friday night celebration which include a picnic, games, snow cones, cotton candy and lots of fun. Thank you to all who made this week a success.

As I look ahead, I continue to want to strengthen and deepen our discipleship opportunities for our children as well as find connecting points for Deerbrook's neighborhood children and families. I'm always looking for those who would like to partner with me both as volunteers in classrooms and in dreaming and visioning about what could be in the future. Thank you for the privilege of partnering with you.

Shield Student Ministry – Preston LaFollette, Youth Director

I have really enjoyed being a part of what God has been doing in 2019 in the lives of our Shield Youth students. We played countless fun and crazy games. We had deep and authentic discussions. We were blessed and challenged by God. And we shared lots and lots of laughter and memories.

We worked through several studies this year, however, two stand out above the rest. In January God called me to go back to the basics with our students for a while. So, for a few months we boiled things down to the foundation and talked about how our students can connect with God in a personal relationship. Our teenagers are living in a culture saturated by distractions. They are taught to fill every moment of every day with an activity of some kind. Spending time in stillness, silence or rest is a foreign concept to them. The wildfire that is social media is changing how they connect with people in intimate and quality relationships, let alone a God they can't see or hear or touch. So, every week we dove into scripture and asked ourselves two important questions:

1. How are you pursuing God intentionally on your own time?
2. Where are you seeing God present in the busyness of your life during school, activities, work and time with friends?

This led to great discussion and challenged our students to stop and think about what it means to have a relationship with their creator as a teenager in 2019.

In April and May, we tackled one of the most challenging and most important topics our students face: Sex and Dating. To be honest, I did have some anxiety going into this series. However, we found an incredible video series that helped us start the right conversations with our students. And our teenagers were amazing in handling the topic and some hard discussions. We ended up having some of the most important and real discussions in my eight years here at Deerbrook about such topics as: What is the purpose of dating and marriage, What are wise questions to ask yourself before entering into a dating relationship, What purpose did God create sex for, How do we protect ourselves from the epidemic that is the Pornography addiction, and What does God say about all these things in his word? To end the series, we let the students submit specific questions about all these topics and had an open Q&A. I was so proud of our group in this experience we faced together.



We also had lots and lots of fun in 2019, as we always do! We took a super fun group to the national CHIC conference last summer. We had a great fall retreat in September out at Youth Front Camp West. Thus far, we are having a very memorable summer. Our summer interns, Payton and Ashlan, are doing a great job pursuing our students and putting on fun activities and challenging bible studies with them. To cap it all off we get to take 21 students down to Camp Table Rock this month where they will have a great time on the lake and connect with God daily in a unique and impactful way.



Thank you for your prayers and support. I am so blessed and thankful I get to devote my life to guiding these students to the Father and that couldn't happen without all of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I can't wait to see what God has in store for the year ahead!

Worship Team – Clif Thurmond, Worship Director

2019 updates:

1. Very blessed to have had Alex Andersen join us in weekly worship on keyboards this last year. As he attends college this fall, we hope to have him intermittently join us throughout his college years when he is home. We wish him well.
2. I will be taking two 6-week sabbaticals this year, July 14-Aug 18 and Oct 13-Nov 17. During these times, Jeff Wingo and Matt Ketteman will be serving as interim worship leader. Thank you to those two for the time and dedication.
3. We improved our sound this year with a digital snake. This technology allows a more updated system to creating a better sound environment. Thank you to Jeff Edlund and Bill O'Neal for volunteering a day to make this happen.
4. Robert Cooper continues to work on lighting and has done a phenomenal job upkeeping and updating our technology in that area.
5. We are always looking for additional volunteers on the worship team, sound team, lighting team, and projection team. Please contact Clif if you are interested.
6. Thank you to Matt Ketteman for introducing and implementing our new presentation program for song lyrics, announcements, and sermon notes. *WorshipExtreme* has been used for the last couple of months and has allowed a more user-friendly and relevant world to our weekly services.

Thank you to the church for coming ready to worship our Lord and Savior with us each and every Sunday.

Church Leadership Team *thanks to all who serve.*

Deacon Council

- Kent Andersen
- Derrick Bachtel (completed service)
- David Anderson, Financial Sec.
- Robert Cooper
- Roger Gilbert, Pastor
- Mark Lazarz (completed service)
- Ruth Noland, Chairperson
- Rod Russell, Treasurer
- Aimee Turney (completed service)



Elder Board

- Sharon Baldwin
- Roger Gilbert, Pastor
- Randy Horn (completed service)
- Joyce Norman, Pastor
- Mark Ryan
- Dan Jones, Leader
- Mark Wissel



Staff

- Roger Gilbert, Senior Pastor
- Preston LaFollette, Youth Director
- Joyce Norman, Children's Pastor
- Emily Wages, Ministry Support Administrator
- Clif Thurmond, Worship Director

Summer Youth Interns

- Payton Shippy
- Ashlan Burton



Deerbrook Women Ministries

“Discover, pursue and enjoy a loving relationship with Jesus Christ and each other.”

This year in lieu of a large conference event, the women were invited to participate in a 5-week Bible study featuring Priscilla Shirer entitled Breathe. Thirty-two women signed up and eight women took leadership roles co-facilitating small discussion groups.

In January, the women and youth girls attended a Winter Wonderland Lunch and Party. It was a wonderful gathering which included games that allowed us to get to know each other better, sharing a meal and being challenged to seek God in the details of our lives.

Deerbrook Women Ministries encourages women to meet together formally and informally to encourage, support and challenge one another. Presently we have two IF:Tables meeting monthly and several small groups of women gathering to study the Bible and share life together.

Thanks to the Leadership Team this past year which included Kit Schmidt, Rene’ Russell, Tracey Wenson, DeAnna Anderson, Amy Bachtel, Karen Gilbert and Aimee Turney.

Deerbrook Men’s Ministry

Our men serve in various ways in our congregation. Several lead Bible Studies, serve in leadership, and connect with one another as time allows. Our most effective connection point has been 8-12 faithful men who meet on Friday mornings to listen to preaching podcasts.

Several social events (Royals baseball, Mavericks hockey) and a proposed golf event were aimed at connecting men. The Wings 4 Water event connected dozens of people to serve BBQ wings for water ministries all over the world. Our calling is to *Combat isolation, apathy & hunger one fun event at a time*. Our goal is further engaging in men’s and mixed small groups, investing in mentorship and adult education and using our gifts to further the kingdom. We are a work in progress.



Angels of Mercy – Terrie Peterson, Coordinator

Our dedicated servants: Jane Stiglic (cards/letters), Charlotte Wellman (Prayer), DeAnna Anderson (Meal Train), Sharon Baldwin (Mentor extraordinaire)

Angels of Mercy has had another great year of showing love to our congregation in times of need. We are thankful for all of the volunteers who step up to meet the needs of our church family and for those people who bring our attention to the needs. The items mentioned below were all provided and financed by members of the Angels of Mercy team.

Opportunities to Care:

- 7 Special collections of items/cards/etc. for encouragement
- 11 meal trains and/or special dinners
- 3 backpacks filled with school supplies
- 2 errands
- 1 driveway snow shovel
- 4 Hospital Visits
- 1 Baby Blanket

Moving forward, the Angel team may consider doing more group related serving opportunities for special occasions like Mother's Day or Father's Day. Thank you for all who generously serve in our Angels of Mercy team.

Wheels to Freedom



Between August, 2018 and June, 2019 we have been blessed to ship 724 wheelchairs to Hope Haven International Ministries for distribution in developing countries. A special thanks to Deerbrook members, Brad Harsha, Roger Plihal, Ron Garrette, Joe Burton and Pam Andersen and her home-school team who share in this ministry.

Apria Home Healthcare remains our main donor, along with nursing homes, hospitals, healthcare equipment vendors, and individual families. Oak Tree Church on Colbern Road has continued to partner with Deerbrook in this ministry, donating storage space in their barn. To date, Wheels to Freedom has donated more than 7000 chairs. In a recent meeting with Hope Haven International Ministry leaders in Sioux Falls, SD, we learned that Wheels to Freedom is the single largest donor of chairs to their work.

You are invited to join us in this ministry. Contact Randy and Laura Horn for information.

Garden of Eatin’



If you haven’t been out to visit our garden recently, please do so. It is lovely this time of year with flowers and vegetables in full production.

We have had a productive 2019 start for the Garden of Eatin’! Various families and small groups have taken responsibility for one or more of our sixteen raised beds. Thanks go out to Dave Haggard, Jeff and Mary Winter and their daughter, Sharon Baldwin, Steve and Laura Roberts, Randy and Laura Horn, Ron Garrette, Ron Akins, and Margo Simon’s small group for partnering with us in this ministry.

Each family or group has planted whatever they wanted. Tomatoes, cabbage, onions, basil, squash, zucchini, blackberries, lettuce, strawberries, peppers and cucumbers have once again proven popular. Gardeners are encouraged to “tithes” on their produce, giving some away to food pantries or neighbors. Frequently, Sunday morning attendees will enjoy some of the produce through our “First Fruits” ministry, sharing the garden produce with Deerbrook. In addition, a lot of our produce is donated to Coldwater and Hope House.

In May we enjoyed hosting 80 second graders from Meadow Lane Elementary School for our third annual science field trip that included eight learning stations about gardening, plants, ecology, etc. It is a delight to share the joys of gardening with the younger generations. This is the sixth year for our Giving Grove orchard of twenty apple and pear trees. A big thanks to our Grove stewards: Ron Garrette, Dave Haggard, Dan Jones, and Randy Horn. We anticipate a good harvest later this summer.



You are invited to join this ministry. Contact Randy and Laura Horn

Missions Report

Deerbrook seeks to actively support our missionaries around the World. Several families and individuals have been sent from the Lee's Summit area. In the past year, we have heard from the majority of our global ministry friends. May God bless their work.

From Deerbrook/Lee's Summit Area

Bible Translation – DeAnna & David Anderson continue their work with Wycliffe Bible Translators. DeAnna supervises the preparing and launching of new missionaries to the field.

Evangelism – Laura & Kevin Stark lead Team Xtreme YWAM and are committed to worldwide evangelism and discipleship recently focusing on Peru and Myanmar.

Community Development – Emily Wages works with Won By One to Jamaica, which impacts the spiritual, economic and educational climate in the community of Harmons

Retired from YWAM – Tommy & Lisa Ryan finished their work with YWAM in the winter and now reside in Minnesota.

Church Planting – Ell *** has completed her first year of language training and church planting in Asia with a dynamic student organization. She is a Mizzou & LSN graduate.

Medical Missions – Peter Lazarz in his final years of medical residency continues his volunteer work in the Amazon jungle. He plans to one-day serve in Haiti.

Discipleship – Katie & Lance Knight visited us in the Spring to discuss their desire to work with college students in Trinidad & Tobago with InterVarsity.

Serving Covenant World Missions

Leadership Development – Katie & Julio Isaza visited in June. They work with developing leaders and peace reconciliation in the mountains of Colombia. Shalom means to be at peace with God and others.

Medical Work/Outreach – A & P * continue to work in East Asia and are transitioning to another country due to govt. difficulties. Their medical and service work has been very effective and they have recruited and trained local leaders to continue their work.

Coming soon...**Education – Mary & Paul Noren (July 28)** We look forward to meeting another Covenant family who are seeking to return to Cameroon.

International Guest **Community Development – Bintu (Future Hope Africa)** In the Spring, we met the courageous leadership from Eastern Congo who uses VBS, job training and mentoring to fight poverty in this war-torn country.

Won By One to Jamaica - Emily Wages

I want to thank Deerbrook for all of the support they have given me and Won By One to Jamaica through finances, prayer, and participation. I have been blessed to travel to



Harmons, Jamaica 12 times so far since joining the ministry's staff in January 2017. My role as Education Coordinator includes planning art, music, and PE lessons for the American teams to teach at the preschool and elementary level, facilitating a Pen Pal program between 13 Jamaican and American classes as well as staff, running our weekly Reading Pals program at 2 local schools, and overseeing our tutoring program.

Deerbrook has helped financially with shipping costs related to my Pen Pal program as I have classes from 4 different states participating, printing and copying needs, Reading Pals supplies, and providing funds for bags of cement that were used to make a concrete pad for the water truck to deliver water to St. Jago Primary School.



In addition, a number of Deerbrook members have made the trip to Harmons with us over the last couple years. We very much enjoy taking our Lee's Summit church family to meet our Jamaican family and hope that more of you will consider joining us in the near future!

Members of the leadership team are meeting in the coming days to review feedback from 2019 Family Camp and plan for the future.

Local Outreach Opportunities

We have just created an outreach survey to measure & encourage involvement in our local community partnerships. Our local ministry partners continue to be *(in order of involvement by our congregation & building use)*.

Coldwater (food & clothes pantry)

Community Garden of Eatin' (fruit and vegetable gardens)

Reed Performing Arts Company (children's theater and dance production)

Langsford House (residential boys' home)

Young Life (local high school evangelism & discipleship)

Meadow Lane Elementary (partnership and tutoring)

Wings 4 Water (fundraising for global water projects)

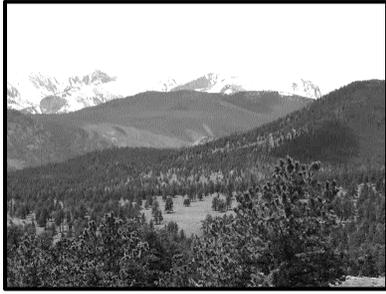
Run for Little Hearts (fundraiser for heart research)

Habitat for Humanity (urban home construction)

Pro Deo (at-risk youth group)

Colorado Family Camp

In June, 108 members Deerbrook and their families attended a week of Family Camp at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. We were joined by our guests, the Gibson family, former members of Deerbrook. We left us with thoughtful and introspective teaching in the evening worship services, and his son, Conner led us into worship with song.



During the week, families enjoyed morning prayer walks, hiking, arts and crafts, horseback riding, mini golf, rafting, fishing, quiet time and many meals shared together. The youth were active in their activities and kept us all laughing in the annual talent show.



We are thankful that God is faithful in so many ways.

Treasurer Report – Rod Russell

On July 1, 2018 Deerbrook transitioned from a calendar year church budget to a July 1 through June 30 fiscal year.

As the fiscal year budget was compiled in June of 2018 it was apparent that giving needed to increase to meet rising costs related to funding staff pensions and insurance, as well as a long hoped for goal of increasing our Missions giving to the equivalent of 10% of church revenue. The Finance Committee submitted a budget proposal to the Deacon Council asking for a 9.55% increase in giving. The Deacon Council approved the budget and final approval was provided by the Deerbrook congregation at our annual meeting.

It is my pleasure to announce that as a congregation we not only met the increased revenue goal but exceeded it by a wide margin. This was accomplished, not by one or a few members dramatically increasing their giving but by everyone doing their part. Thank you for your commitment to the mission God has given to Deerbrook!

As we look ahead to the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year a new budget has been prepared by the Finance Committee and approved by the Deacon Council. Four themes were considered:

Ministry: Programs for Children, Youth and Adults as well as community outreach through our Community Garden (Garden on Eatin'). Funds for those in our congregation and others outside of our congregation in financial need.

Missions: Deerbrook supports several missionaries. We also support the Evangelical Covenant denomination at the regional and national level.

Pastoral Staff: By paying their salaries and pensions we allow our staff to give their full attention to Deerbrook's mission.

Facility: Mortgage, utilities and building maintenance are provided for.

At our annual meeting on July 14th the new budget will be presented to the entire congregation. We look forward to answering any questions you may have at that time.