

## 2017 Vision & Strategy Two Services Information

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Here is one of my favorite passages in all of Scripture, a passage that became the motivational anchor when a group of people heeded God's call to plant New Community 15 years ago.

**2 CORINTHIANS 9:19-23** “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, *to win as many as possible*. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. *I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I DO ALL THIS FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL, that I may share in its blessings.*

Everything we do is for the sake of the Gospel. It's that simple. Everything we do is to reach more people, to win as many people as possible, for the sake of the Gospel. It's that simple.

I believe that God is preparing to do a great work among us. He already has! In the past 15 years, we have been privileged to see God work powerfully among us. Here are some highlights:

1) Through God's grace, we were able to plant our first church, New Community Bronzeville, in 2010. Our sister church continues to make an enormous impact in the community of Bronzeville!

2) God has used our Sunday worship gatherings, “evangelism” ministries like ALPHA, Small Groups, and many others to lead a number of people to a growing relationship with Jesus.

3) People are encountering life-changing community as they do life together. Just this year, we already have over 210 people who have committed themselves to doing life in Small Groups.



4) Through ministries like Open Arms Drop-In and now Open Arms Food Pantry, we are actively being the hands and feet of Christ as we minister to the hurting and the needy in our community and the city.

5) Our Children's and Youth Ministry has EXPLODED and continues to grow exponentially! We have a children's and youth ministry that most churches would love to have. Praise God for that!

Yes, God is already doing a great work among us through these, as well as dozens of other ministries! Many lives have been changed and continues to change because of the Gospel!

The exciting part of all this, is that God continues to draw new folks to New Community every week to encounter him. We have seen a dramatic increase in new "guests" each week since we moved into our new building! The Spirit of God is powerfully at work and we just want to simply join Him in the great work that He is doing around us! One of the ways that we can do that is to increase the capacity that we have to minister to the new people. *We have the exciting NEED as well as OPPORTUNITY* to make more room for the people that God is bringing to us.

This is where the second service comes in. By adding a second worship service, we believe that we can continue to reach more people with the Gospel. *As the Apostle Paul says, by any means necessary, we want to reach as many people as possible, with the Good News, the Gospel!*

This is a really good time to remind all of us why we exist, why any church exists. The Church doesn't exist FOR us, as if we are the ends. No, we ARE THE CHURCH, existing for the sake of a hurting, broken world. We exist as a church, so that people who don't know Christ can come to know Him, so that people who have walked away from the faith can return to their Father, and so that people who follow Jesus as Lord can grow deeper in their faith! This is why we exist!

Please pray for God to continue to work mightily through New Community: here in this community and beyond.

Your Pastor,

Peter Hong