

HighPoint Church

2011

Annual Report



Connecting People to God
To One Another
And To Purpose



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EXPENSES CONTINUED

Operating Expenses continued

Lawn Maintenance, Legal & Accounting, Miscellaneous, Office, Postage, Repairs & Maintenance, Telephone, Website/Database, Water Expense, Waste Disposal, Church Supplies, Special Event Childcare.

	Proposed	Proposed
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Total Operating Exp.	\$130,865.00	\$305,694.00

Ministry Expenses

Connections, BOSL/Leadership, Children's Ministry, Fellowship Ministry, Assimilation, Worship Arts Ministry (including Equipment), Youth Ministry.

	Proposed	Proposed
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Total Ministry Exp.	\$47,500.00	\$51,500.00

Missions

Heart to Honduras, HPC Choloma, Florida COG Ministries, local missions, Compelled by Christ Orphanage.

	Proposed	Proposed
	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Total Missions	\$201,492.00	\$36,100.00

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Senior Pastor's Report

Pastor Jack Hilligoss

This year has been extremely interesting and challenging for me personally and for HPC as a church. I think that we have faced those challenged and come through fairly well. We are positioned to continue to grow into the future but there are significant challenges and choices that lay before us if we are to continue to grow into the future. I want to lay the groundwork to help you understand what those challenges are and then what I believe we must do to successfully meet those challenges in the future.

My Vision and Goals for 2012:

- I want to see our church become a body that regularly experiences the life-changing presence of God in anointed, weekly times of worship. I want to be a place where every Sunday our people come expecting God to show up and because of that, they eagerly invite their friends.
- I want to see our church become a place where disconnected and lonely people can and do find connection to one another and God. Where they easily can find ways to move from loneliness and lack of accountability to belonging and growth.
- I want the people of our church to see us as missionaries and pastors to the community of Lake Wales and the surrounding area. I want us to be a huge blessing to the educational, business, and civic leaders and organizations of this area. I want us to be a church that is seen as a source of help and resource even by people who do not attend here. I want HPC to be a church that Lake Wales and the surrounding community would miss terribly if we were not here.
- I want our church to effectively reach and disciple more people. I want us to grow spiritually and numerically. I want us to make more and better disciples. I feel we need to grow to consistently reaching 600 people in this church and more.

Immediate Challenges Facing HPC:

From May of 1997 to May of 2010, HPC grew from an average attendance of 90 to 600. However, in the last 18 months we have drifted downward to an average attendance of about 450-475. I have shared with our BOSL at great length what I believe it will take from us as a church to reverse this trend and begin to grow again, so I simply want to share a synopsis with you in this report.

HighPoint Church

2012 Proposed Budget

INCOME

Offerings, Reimbursements, Interest, Books and Registration and Miscellaneous.

	Proposed 2011	Proposed 2012
Offering	\$515,789.48	\$544,000.00
Capital Funds	\$102,000.00	\$104,000.00
Spanish Congregation		\$ 10,000.00
Christmas Offering		\$ 50,000.00
Total Income	\$617,789.48	\$708,000.00

EXPENSES

Pastor & Employee Expenses

Salaries & Wages, Employer Social Security/Medicare, Housing Allowance, Pastor's Pensions, Professional Expense Reimbursements, Medical Reimbursements, Health Insurance, Workers Comp Insurance.

	Proposed 2011	Proposed 2012
Total Employee Exp.	\$237,932.48	\$314,326.07

Operating Expenses

Advertising, Alarms, Auto Exp. & Van Maintenance, Bank Service Charges, Lease & Contract Exp/Copies, Electric, Van Insurance/Payment, General Liability Ins., Janitorial,

Worship Director's Report

Brandon Collins

Last Christmas I was invited to play piano for the HighPoint Christmas Eve service, this was the first time I stepped foot in this church. January 2011, I joined the staff as the new worship leader. Nearly one year later I look back amazed at what God has done. When I first came to HPC, Pastor Jack was on a 3 month sabbatical and Pastor John Boedeker was filling in as interim. I learned so much from him in those 3 months and saw God begin to move in our church.

My first impression when I came to HPC was that it was a bit more reserved than I had been accustomed to in my previous years as Music Pastor...however, 10 months later it seems we have had a breakthrough in our freedom to express ourselves as a congregation in our corporate worship time. I'm so excited to see people now lifting their hands in worship, running to the altar without an invitation from a pastor, and even one Sunday, running around the church being set free from bondage!

It has been an awesome experience leading worship over the past 10 months here at HPC, not only because of the freedom-but because of the amazing team that I get to work with each week. I have enjoyed several Worship Arts social gatherings where I had the opportunity to get to know the talented and anointed members of the praise team and media team on a more personal level. I believe building these relationships helps the ministry to be unified in sharing the same heart.

When I first visited HPC I had the vision to start a choir...now each Sunday morning the HPC Choir helps to lead our congregation in worship and we are growing each week! Reflecting back over the past year really excites me and causes me to look forward to the new year.

Highlights for 2012

- I have plans this year to introduce "Nights of Worship" in January and invite the community to come experience a night of pure worship...it's going to be powerful!
- My wife Jenna and I are also expecting our firstborn daughter, Mayci in December so I know it's going to be a great year!

God is moving at HPC in Lake Wales!

Brandon Collins

However, I will tell you that these are the commitments and choices we must make in order to see it happen and all of them require a certain level of faith from all of us.

1. We need to hire at least one more gifted, full-time, Pastoral/program staff leader. For a church to effectively grow through the 500 barrier and maintain that growth the staff to attendance ratio must be about 1 to 100/125 (total attendance includes children). When we hit 600 we had a ratio of 1 to 150 with one of those staff members being part-time. So, full time our ratio was 1 to 192. Even now, if you consider only full time staff, our ratio is 1 to 159.

Add to all of this, the reality is that you really should hire ahead of the curve. So, if we want to grow through 500 and maintain that growth, we need to add a full time Pastoral staff member immediately and have the plan in place to add another late this year or early next year. I believe the first hire needs to be an Executive/Connections Pastor and the second needs to be an Outreach Pastor. This addition will require a big step of faith for us because it is a big financial commitment. However, there are two things we need to consider when we get nervous over that. First, we have never been able to afford any staff when we hired them...ever!! Second, if we do not do it we are making the choice to not grow, period!! So we have to figure out how to make it happen.

2. We must change our staff organization and personnel alignment.
We need to simplify what we do as a church and hire to provide leadership for those three objectives. We need to ask our people to do only three things. Worship God, Connect with Others, and Serve in the church/community. We need an executive team of pastors that oversees each of those areas.
3. We have to decide that we are called to pastor our community. We have to make a commitment to reaching. We must see ourselves as missionaries to the community not program directors for Christians who come to church here. So we must intentionally target our schools, businesses, civic leaders etc.
4. I will challenge the leadership of our church to effectively pursue the three objectives above and I will also lead us in a rewrite of our by-laws in 2012. This rewrite will not be total as the by-laws we have are fairly well done, but we do need to give more attention to the qualifications for and terms of service for elders of the church.

If we can take these actions, I believe that there are great days ahead of us here at HPC. Here's to a God-glorifying year of ministry in 2012!

Pastor Jack

Executive Pastor's Report

Pastor Bonnie Barker

In August of this year, my family celebrated 10 years at HighPoint Church! I can tell you on behalf of my family that it has been a joy and privilege to serve here! The way that you have loved and challenged us has been amazing! Thanks again for the wonderful surprise gift of a cruise! We will be enjoying that over Spring Break!!

Keith continues to teach at Roosevelt Academy and has taken on the custodial and maintenance role at HPC. Jordan is a junior at Warner University—he is studying elementary education. Kyle is a sophomore at Polk State College and is going into business with an emphasis in accounting. Zack is a senior at Frostproof, but is attending Polk State College full time, majoring in business as well.

This has been an exciting year at HPC! Pastor Jack took a much needed sabbatical for three months and our church is better because of it! I am so proud of the way you all stepped up and ministered during this time! Pastor John Boedeker was a great interim!

KidsPoint has changed some over the past year. Since we decided to stay in one service—we needed to create more space on Sunday mornings! So, we expanded our nursery to two rooms, moved the 2 year olds across the hall with the 3 year olds and moved the 4 year olds upstairs with the kindergartners.

Our Wednesday nights have also changed this year. Crossroads 45—a ministry for 4th and 5th graders has started! This is a fun, exciting ministry. It is designed as a junior youth group, which we believe will allow a better transition from children's ministry to youth ministry.

Our children's ministry team kicked the summer off with VBS this past year. Our theme was "High Seas!" This was an exciting week, with many kids prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior and best friend!

Student Pastor's Report

Pastor Mickey Taylor

I know we say the same thing every year, but wow that went by really fast! There are so many things that I am grateful for this past year. We attended two missions trips, which were fantastic! Many of our youth served here at Stay-at-home work camps. Our summer program was Amazing! God has done great things in our youth group.

Two things I am really excited about:

One, Our youth worship team is starting to take shape. We have eight young people that are practicing hard and doing a great job.

Two, Wednesday nights are going fantastic! We began taking pizza to kids at their schools which has been great to be able to hang out with the youth and to meet their friends.

Our adult leaders are great!! Nothing would happen here without their support and leadership!! I LOVE MY VOLUNTEERS!!! Maybe you could be one too!!

As I look toward 2012...

We are excited about this coming year!!! As I am writing this report, we are finalizing the details for State youth convention. IYC will be in Denver next year, which will be a great trip. The middle schoolers will be going on a mission trip.

There is much to be done, but we are having so much fun!

We are so excited to see what God has in store for us in the coming year.

Thanks for your love and prayers!

Pastor Mickey



- Spanish congregation is growing and is a part of HPC staff and goals.
- Facilities/grounds are in the best shape in years with the attention of Henry Smith and Keith Barker.

God via Pastoral Staff:

- Brandon Collins came to HPC to lead worship.
- Mike Willis took over the adult connections ministry.

God via BOSL:

- Visits to sick/hurting in congregation.
- Becoming more visible to congregation, taking part in Sunday services.
- Analyzing roles and responsibilities providing guidance.
- Board members taking active roles within the church via finances and administration of facility and grounds.
- Recommendation of a church administrator be the next hire to remove burden of maintenance and finances from Jack and Bonnie so they can focus on their gifts.

Sincerely submitted by,
Jack Trantham
BOSL Chairman

Adult connection classes continue to meet on a weekly basis. Some of these groups meet in homes, while others meet at the church. Many adults are involved in various groups and ministries. A class for new believers has started on Sunday mornings and is going great! This is a great opportunity for those who are new to the faith to begin to understand how to cultivate a relationship with God!

HPC Community Kitchen continues to serve 100 hot meals every Sunday! This ministry is led and ran by volunteers and is such a blessing to our community. Relationships are being formed between those who attend HPC and those who receive hot meals! We had one lady pray to receive Christ and she was baptized at HPC!

This past summer we took our first “Family Mission Trip” to Honduras; 27 people went! The experience was great! We built a home, led a women’s conference as well as visited schools and led the kids in VBS. I am very proud of the kids that went on this trip with us. They understood the ideas of serving the kids in Honduras. We are planning another trip in the summer of 2012!

Out of a passion for the kids in the orphanages in Honduras, our family has started a ministry called “Compelled by Christ.” Our goal is to start foster care homes in Honduras in an effort to get the kids out of the orphanages and into loving homes. Please pray for us as we embark on this adventure.

So, as you can see-it’s been a great year at HPC! I am so looking forward to what God has in store for us in 2012.

Here are a few things that are heavy on my heart:

- I believe that we as a church need to continue to reach out to the community of Lake Wales and be a blessing.
- Our desire to reach the lost needs to burn in our hearts! Let’s begin to think about how we can strategically reach our neighbors for Christ.
- Challenge yourself...What gifts, talents, resources do you have that could be used to further the Kingdom?

Thanks again for allowing me to serve at HPC-I enjoy it!

Pastor Bonnie

BOSL Chairman's Report

Jack Trantham

What God has done at HPC in 2011?

2011 has been a challenging and blessed year to date for the Board of Servant Leadership at HighPoint Church. The 2011 year planning started with a meeting in December with our senior pastor Jack Hilligoss, Church of God State leadership and the BOSL discussing the need for Jack to be granted a sabbatical. The meeting outlined a plan for Jack and the initial discussion on how the board would need to take more of an active and visible role within the church. I feel this migrated to the entire congregation stepping up and accepting the challenge from Chris Wiseman when he announced the news to the church just prior to the beginning of the sabbatical.

The new year began with our senior pastor on sabbatical from January to April. Obviously this was uncharted waters for the board, congregation and fellow pastors. This uneasiness was calmed with the 3 month commitment of retired Pastor John Boedeker who was a close friend and mentor of Pastor Jack. He quickly set a great tone with the board and congregation. John was the perfect person who God selected to guide HPC during this important time and allowed the congregation to realize HPC was blessed to have Pastor Jack, however, we were more than Jack Hilligoss. I think this was a huge step in our church's growth while Jack was resting, studying, being counseled and growing himself.

A few years prior to the sabbatical the state leadership of the Church of God came to assess the health of the staff and congregation. It was all very positive with the only potential negative being the church was heavily reliant upon Pastor Jack. During the sabbatical our board members took a more proactive role with administration of the facilities/grounds, financials and activities with more visibility with the congregation. The congregation was charged with continuing to attend, tithe and volunteer in our church as well as in our community.

Areas That The BOSL Have Addressed:

- In regards to the church mortgage, we were able to reduce our monthly mortgage payment approximately \$3000 per month with less than \$500 upfront fees.
- By changing lawn maintenance companies, we were able to save approximately \$1000 per month.
- We are currently bidding out the insurance on the facility and vehicles with all indications being, we will be able to save between \$5000-9000 a year.

When the end of the sabbatical came, I believe we were a healthier church; from our senior pastor to each member of the congregation. We stayed faithful and dedicated to HighPoint Church and to God's work.

Upon Pastor Jack's return, the BOSL was modified in these ways:

- Jack Trantham was nominated and approved as the new BOSL chairman.
- Chris Wiseman outgoing BOSL chairman replaced Ann Richards as the new BOSL secretary along with volunteer member to assist with church financials via Joyce Kingon.
- Eric Edwards and Henry Smith who had been added as Ex-Officio members of the BOSL were added as full voting members as Tom Mawdesley resigned and moved to Georgia.
- Henry Smith volunteered to take on the role of facilities and grounds administrator.

High Points of 2011:

God via Church Congregation:

- At least 30 people asked God to be their Lord and Savior in the first 3 months.
- We are above budget with half of the mortgage included.
- Twice this year we spearheaded a four church community work day/lunch.
- Approximately 27 people went to Honduras from the first family mission trip.
- Small groups are growing at the church through home meetings.