

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 1/15/2017 Sunday evening
State of the Church Address: 2017

Pastor Brad Brandt

"To Him be the glory both now and forever"
Romans 11:36

From my perspective, here are some of the evidences that the Lord was at work in and through WBC in 2016.

How we began the year—Four initiatives

As we began the past year we renewed a commitment to four initiatives established the previous year (2015).

1. To show we love the lost as Jesus did.
2. To leave our comfort zones to meet needs as Jesus did, starting with our brothers and sisters.
3. To embrace suffering as Jesus did.
4. To give more attention to prayer, as Jesus did.

That's what was on our heart as a church as we began 2016. That's what we were asking the Lord to do in and through us this past twelve months.

What did the Lord accomplish at WBC in 2016?

I think the numbers reflect another evidence of this growing love for the Lord. I invite you to rejoice and give thanks as you hear these numbers. We have ? members currently at WBC. Our weekly Sunday morning average attendance in 2016 was 127, on Sunday evening 60, on Wednesday evening 59.

The Lord used those people to give us General Fund income of (last year was \$239,625, a weekly average of \$4609).¹

In 2015 we exceeded our budgeted need by over \$22,000 and were approximately \$12,000 over our General Fund expenses for the year.

That deserves a thanks be to God!

On top of this was the special Harvest Offering in November of approximately \$1900 which is being used to add video/streaming equipment.

Additional gifts...

¹ For comparison purposes, here are the preceding years GF giving:

2015 - \$239,625 (weekly 4609)
2014 - \$228,253 (weekly 4367)
2013 - 226,507 (weekly 4355)
2012 – 206,588 (weekly 3973)
2011 – 199,633 (weekly 3839)

It is a joy for me and others to open the Scriptures with this congregation. Your evident desire to know God's truth better is another wonderful demonstration of God's grace at work.

Speaking personally, it was my joy to open the Scriptures for you week after week in 2016. On Sunday mornings we ...

"Preparing for Temptation—Learning from Jesus in Matthew 4"

The book of Daniel

A two week series "As God Intended," looking at the first man and first marriage in Genesis 2. This prepared us to approve an amendment to our by-laws which clarifies our commitment to the biblical view of marriage.

"Pilgrims in Progress—Learning from Hebrews 11-12"

On Sunday evenings we...

Throughout the year we heard from missionaries ...

We also had Sunday evening growth groups with electives in the spring and a church-wide reading of John Bunyan's *The Pilgrims Progress* in the fall.

We had a panel of our college students in January.

Scioto Hills summer staff in July

Matt Wilson did a four-part Sunday evening series this past winter in the book of 3 John.

"Counting the Cost" in Luke

"Appreciating the Cross—Five Key Words"

"The Parables of Jesus"

Labor Day Sunday outdoor service at the DeCamp's pavilion.

Children's Christmas program

On Wednesday evenings our adult Bible studies included ...

"Unsung Heroes of the Bible"

Matt Wilson is doing a series on Bible Doctrine.

Bible study of Philippians

Missionaries with us included Todd and Christie Kincaid, ministering to refugees and the nations in Rome, Italy

Gary Storm

For our missions conference in October: Nahum O'Brien, and Steve & Caroline Mann, focusing on reaching post-modern Western Europe.

It's seen by the many hours of work invested in the care of this facility, which included ...

Dennis DeCamp and the community center team have strategized various ways to let our community know we care about it, so we can communicate why we care, which of course is the gospel.

There were pancake breakfasts...

We offered space to community members for baby showers, funeral meals, anniversary parties, and birthday parties. Sports teams were fed. The Gideons used our building. So did the Porter Township Over 55 Club. And the Area Agency on Aging. And the county extension office for classes. And the Girl Scouts. And Lifeline Screening. And others.

In the past twelve months our church provided approximately 150 sessions of free biblical counseling for people from the Tri-State struggling with problems.

Tri-State Bible College is now offering college credit for our weekend CDT.

In 2016 our counseling team taught our counseling and discipleship training class to over one hundred people, at our facility in the winter, in Charleston in the spring, and at River Cities Church in Huntington for the second time in the fall.

Those from our church serving at CRADLE continue to show love to those in our community facing difficult challenges. Our sister, Melanie Malone, began serving in the position of Executive Director.

Once again in the summer a wonderful team of approximately 30 Scioto Hills summer staffers worshipped at WBC (in the past 25 years over 600 young staffers). These godly young people are now serving the Lord in their own churches and communities around the country and world.

And that brings us to this question, as we conclude our state of the church address.

What does the Lord want to accomplish at WBC in 2017?

Sharing: What God-given opportunity most excites *you* in 2016?