

January 2017



SAFE HARBOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# BEACON

to encourage...to inspire...to inform...

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## *Time to Travel*

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Shots have been administered, portable pharmacy and travel-sized necessities assembled, sweat-wicking shirts, shorts, trousers and undergarments packed. I am prepared for Yellow Fever, Lassa Fever, Dengue fever, Typhoid fever, Hepatitis A, B & C, Malaria, and everything Pepto, Cipro and Imodium should cure. But am I really prepared for the week to come? My daughter-in-law and seasoned African traveler, Alex Lauren Elizabeth Devore WILLIAMS asked me what I hoped to accomplish during this trip. I gave the standard answers of, "Building stronger bonds with mission partners and leaders in Togo" and, "Deepen my love and vision for God's work around the world", but do I know what that will look like and am I really prepared for what experiences await me in Africa?

I've been to Europe, Asia, and Central America on mission's trips of evangelical, vision, medical, teaching, construction, and relief purposes. I've never been to Africa. Togo is a typical post-colonized, sub-Saharan nation with an abundance of third-world problems, needs and unrest. What will my five days in country accomplish? I have some ideas about personal growth in the areas of service, patience and flexibility. I am praying that we will encourage our partners and inspire courage, passion, faithfulness and steadfastness among leaders, friends and new believers. I would love to discover, grow and deepen friendships across language, culture, customs and continents. But who knows what will happen? God does, and so I leave you with these words from Paul the missionary:

*...we are calling upon you to help us by your prayers...so always keep on praying for the Lord's work that we are doing... Pray also for me, that whenever I'm called upon to speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel...Then we will give thanks with many on behalf of the prayers of many.*

So what will I accomplish this week? Partner with me in your prayers and let's find out together!

Grace and Peace,

In Christ,  
Pastor Todd



## Winter Happenings at LCA!

**LCA Variety Show—Friday, February 3rd at 7pm.** Come and enjoy a night of singing, acting, musical recitations, and more as the children at Lighthouse Christian Academy share their talents. Watch for more info.

**LCA Science Fair—Friday, February 24th at 7pm.** This is a great time to see the children's scientific talents showcased in a variety of ways. Free.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Annual Auction will be held on Saturday, April 1st at Prospect Bay Country Club.




**Married Couples – REDISCOVER THE ONE YOU LOVE on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend!**

Come away from the world at the beautiful Vandiver Inn **February 24-26, 2017** and enrich your relationship. You will deepen your intimacy, improve your communication and make your marriage better. A Marriage Encounter weekend will help you discover the happiness God wants you to experience in your marriage. If you're even thinking this might be for the two of you, then COME! God is talking to you. Whether you've been married a short or long time, your relationship will benefit from a Marriage Encounter weekend. Contact Greg & Shirley Hills at [solchvary@hotmail.com](mailto:solchvary@hotmail.com) (302-453-9538) for more information or to register for this weekend.



Both weekends are hosted by the Presbyterian Expression of M.E



The sound team are looking for one more person to help out with sound on Sundays. Commitment is one Sunday a month and training will be given—no experience necessary.

Please contact Ed Smigielski if you are interested: [ersmig101@gmail.com](mailto:ersmig101@gmail.com) or 410-604-6255.



The winter shelter is in full swing right now! Sandi Wiscott, director of Haven Ministries, is very busy running it and so an update on the outreach ministry at Safe Harbor will be sent out later this month.

Continue to pray for her efforts, and for the many volunteers that help out at the Shelter with meals, laundry and spending time with those in need.

Donations for non-perishable foods are always appreciated for our food pantry, as well as non-food items for the Bountiful Blessings outreach that occurs twice a month. A list of items can be found on the bulletin board.

Thank you.

**Weekend Inquirers Class planned for February:**

Tentative dates:

Friday, 2/17 (7-9pm)

Saturday, 2/18 (9am-12pm)

If you have been visiting the church, or are a regular attender and interested in membership, call the church office to get on the list. You can also take this class if you would like to learn more about the Presbyterian faith.

# Youth Page



March 3-5, 2017

High school ski/snowboarding trip and retreat at Mont Lawn Retreat center in the Poconos! It is going to be a great weekend so don't miss it!

**COSTS:** Retreat only—\$194 ▪ Retreat & Tubing—\$236 ▪ Retreat & Lift Ticket—\$230 ▪ Retreat & Lift Ski/Board Rental—\$255 ▪ Retreat & Ski/Board rental & lesson—\$258.

Costs include all transportation, accommodations, all meals once we arrive, one day on the slopes.

Call Laura in the church office for more information or to sign up.

**Kids4Christ choir starts back.....**

**Thursday, January 26th**

**5:00-5:45pm**

**Open to children ages 5 and up**

The season runs from January to early June, and the kids will sing 3-4 Sundays during that time. We also visit an assisted living home in May, to share songs and showcase all the children have learnt. If you have any questions, please call Karen in the church office.



**Scholarship**

**Opportunity**

Choices are offering two scholarships again this year: \$500 for 1 HS senior girl and \$500 for one HS senior boy.

**Deadline to apply is March 1st.**

Scholarship forms can be found out on the bulletin board, or check in with the church office. They will also be available at HS youth group.

**Tubing/Ski Trip**

Middle School Snowboarding/Skiing/Tubing trip:

**January 27-28 2017**

Costs:

Retreat only - \$60

All Day Tubing—\$90

Lift Ticket only—\$120

Lift Ticket—rental (skis or snowboard) - helmet & lesson: \$135 (easy)

Lift ticket—rental (skis or snowboard) - helmet & lesson: \$154 (ALL slopes)

All the above prices include transportation, accommodation, pizza on Friday night, breakfast and dinner on Saturday. Lunch is on your own.

See the recent e-letter for more info on what to bring, and to download the flyer or register directly.



## MINISTRY REPORT OF THE PAST 12 MONTHS

### **What were your primary ministry/personal goals for the past 12 month!**

1. Launch our oldest daughter to college
2. Begin working with an executive coach
3. Launch College MK retreat
4. Launch Japan youth adventure camp
5. Launch Europe MK retreat
6. Re-brand ministry from GYFM to NEXT
7. Establish NEXT Team Leaders for Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Latin America
8. Expand NEXT Institute partnership with Covenant Seminary
9. Publish book

### **Do you believe that you reached these goals?**

Yes! (although we are still waiting on publisher delays re: book launch.)

### **What have been your ministry responsibilities for the past 12 months?**

1. Shepherding and leading NEXT team
2. Training nationals & missionaries in next-gen ministry
3. Casting vision, strategic planning, developing partnerships & recruiting
4. Care and counseling for mission families/adolescents
5. Local next-gen ministry

### **Provide 2 significant events that have occurred in your ministry this past year.**

1. Deployed new missionary to join our Asia-Pacific team: Rachel Bauserman
2. Approved 3 new missionary units through MTW's Launch: Radke's (Asia-Pacific team); Baxley's (Latin America team) and Graham's (Latin America team).

## MINISTRY PLANNING FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

### **What are your priority ministry/personal goals for the next 12 months?**

1. Recruit & develop administrative support for NEXT team
2. Recruit & develop director for NEXT Institute
3. Publish book, *"MissionNext: How the Church Can Reach a Global Generation"*
4. Raise additional personal & ministry support needed

### **What will it take for you to attain these goals?**

1. Move from centralized leadership of Executive Director to more shared responsibility by the NEXT Field Council (leadership team)
2. Needed finances and human resources
3. Prayer and prioritization

### **Are you expecting that your areas of responsibility, title, geographical location, etc., will change this coming year?**

Yes, As ministry expands and the team grows, my role has to continue to evolve-shifting focus to key leaders, delegating previous responsibilities, staying out-in-front on vision and direction, listening to the Spirit's leading and deepening in dependence on the Lord and those he's placed to speak into my life and leadership.

**Our mailing address is:** Next  
1600 North Brown Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30043

From Eric & Anna  
Graham

Anna and I are excited to announce to you that we have been called to serve in Bogota, Colombia with Mission to the World! We have joined a ministry called Next (formerly known as Global Youth and Family Ministries or GYFM), which serves the global church by reaching the next generation of believers. Next has three key focuses: 1) strategically sending out missionaries to different cities across the globe to partner with local churches in focusing on outreach and discipleship among young people, 2) training leaders within these local churches and providing them with resources for reaching and ministering to the next generation, and 3) seeking to sustain missionary kids (MKs) and their families living in cross-cultural contexts and enabling them to be effective agents of the Gospel.

To accomplish these goals, Next missionaries partner with likeminded ministries and churches to reach youth in different cultural contexts. Next also seeks to minister to Third Culture Kids (TCKs) by facilitating retreats, mission trips, and conferences. The term "Third Culture Kid" refers to adolescents living and growing up in a host culture different from their parents' own home culture. This includes missionary kids, military brats, and children of diplomats or businessmen. They do not entirely belong to their parents' homeland, nor do they fully belong to their host country, which leads to the development of a "third culture" to which they can identify. Due to the continued globalization of the world, more and more children grow up in these contexts, creating an entire population of people with similar experiences and issues who do not fully belong to any one culture. Next seeks to recognize and celebrate the TCK experience of Mission to the World's very own.

In Latin America, Next is headquartered in Bogota, Colombia, a city of 10 million and home to a significant population of expats and Third Culture Kids. Bogota is a common placement for many families working in missions, diplomacy, and business and presents a natural context for Next to do ministry. Anna and I will be working with United Church of Bogota, a multicultural, English-speaking church pastored by our Next team leader Andrew Lupton. Our joining Next has happened at an opportune time as Andrew has become occupied with pastoring the church. We will essentially serve as the "hands and feet" of Next in Latin America alongside our other Next teammates, Andrew and Kelly Baxley, Savannah Gorman, and Larissa Marshall. Anna and I will be doing middle school youth ministry through the church in addition to college-aged outreach. The middle school youth group consists almost entirely of TCKs, and the college group is comprised of around 50% non-believers. Our job will entail both evangelism and discipleship as we invest in the lives of middle schoolers and young adults living in Bogota.

The other principal aspect of our job will be our responsibility to the missionary kids of Mission to the World living throughout Latin America. Every four years all of MTW's missionaries within a specific region of the world, Latin America or Asia Pacific for example, meet for an area retreat to rest, recharge, and be mutually encouraged. Next missionaries attend each of these area retreats, even those outside their own region, to lead the middle school and high school programs. Next oversees the conference schedule for the MKs, including games, talks, and small group times, in addition to simply hanging out with the students during free time. These retreats are an essential part of NEXT's ministry as it opens doors for us to come alongside missionary kids who may be hurting or struggling with the repercussions of the lifestyle that their parents have chosen. Through our small groups, we are primed to be a voice of love, truth and friendship to the students who may need comfort and encouragement. In addition, since Third Culture Kids are characterized by their lack of belonging to any one culture, the area retreat is an extremely beneficial time for MKs to connect with other youth who perhaps can understand them more than any other demographic in the world. Though they grow up in different host cultures, missionary kids can relate to their common "Third Culture" experience. Outside of face-to-face interactions with MKs at area retreats, Anna and I will rely on virtual communication to maintain contact with MTW's kids growing up in Latin America. Next emphasizes building relationships with missionary kids through both long-distance and face-to-face interaction.

Currently in Peru, where Anna grew up as an MK with Mission to the World, there is a growing amount of MTW missionaries and children, most of whom are about to enter adolescence. Our team leader, Andrew, has placed the ministry to Peruvian MKs in particular under our care. While we will participate in ministry with children of missionaries from all over Latin America, we will focus primarily on discipleship among Peru's MKs. In April of this year, we will travel to Peru for a countrywide retreat for MTW's missionaries in Peru to begin forming relationships with missionary families there. Given Anna's own experience growing up in Lima, Peru, this is a rather special, meaningful aspect of our ministry.

Anna's own missionary kid experience has uniquely prepared her for this ministry and has placed in her a strong love and desire to mentor, sustain, and encourage other MKs who are living life outside of their parents' home culture and face struggles and sorrows unique to their own experiences. The TCK experience often involves intangible loss and grief, which includes sacrificing many things, from not really knowing their grandparents to losing pets due to constant moves between countries to the loss of a cultural identity. Anna felt (and still does feel) all of these things growing up though she loved her life as a Third Culture Kid. God has individually prepared her for a ministry such as Next, in which she can utilize her own experience to love and connect with others living a similar lifestyle.

Being raised at Safe Harbor I was exposed to missionaries' stories, which cultivated in me a love for the global church and the work of the Kingdom abroad. Safe Harbor places a heavy emphasis on missions, and that enabled me to experience firsthand the global church in different cultural contexts. My love for missionary kids comes from my interest in their extraordinary experiences and a desire to see the Kingdom's work sustained and flourishing. I love the ways that missionaries communicate the Gospel across cultures, but their children often are simply along for the ride. Sometimes they may feel that they are a casualty of their parents' ministry or of the Gospel because their extraordinary experience causes them so much hurt. But I love their unique and amazing stories and desire to validate their experience as something valuable and special. I owe much of my sense of calling to and am so grateful to Safe Harbor for opening my eyes to the marvelous work of the Kingdom overseas.

At this time, Anna and I are raising support in Chattanooga, Tennessee where we have lived for the past several years. I finished up at my job in late December to focus full-time on raising support, and Anna's job will end in the beginning of February. In mid-March, we plan to move up to Maryland where we will continue to raise support. We are so excited to once again be a part of the Safe Harbor community, at least until we move to Bogota. If you want more information on Next and our specific ministry, please send Anna or me an email at [anna.graham@gyfm.org](mailto:anna.graham@gyfm.org) or [eric.graham@gyfm.org](mailto:eric.graham@gyfm.org). We would love you to consider supporting us and becoming a part of our ministry. We primarily need monthly supporters, but one-time gifts are also an enormous blessing. Please pray for us and for the ministry of Next across globe. I also want to encourage you to remember to pray for the children of the missionaries whom you support personally and as a church. As they grow up across different cultures, missionary kids are on the front lines of mission and need your prayers and support. We look forward to seeing you in March!

**Centro Cristiano Fuente de Vida** has several programs at Safe Harbor, some of the ones that have been very successful like the Bible Institute, and The Leadership School.

The Bible Institute started three years ago with nine students and after three years we have about 40 student divided between 1st, 2nd and 3rd year. The students learn about the Bible, spiritual growth, ministry, and theology. Students will graduate after four years in the Bible Institute.

The Leadership school meets on Tuesdays. It started about six years ago with a group of 25 students. The two areas we are working on are: Theological Formation and how to live a Christian life.

Other activities are our home groups that meet on Saturdays, prayer meeting on Sunday mornings, as well as our 2 weekly services on Thursday evening and Sunday morning. Other activities are a fasting day one a month and a worship service one Friday a month. We celebrate several evangelistic services, one with an invited preacher which helps to attract new church members. We also have a pastor's day, present several movies during different services, plan a youth service and a women service, as well as a mission's day to assist missionaries in Spain Ecuador and India. We also have one retreat a year.

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### Upcoming Blood Drive



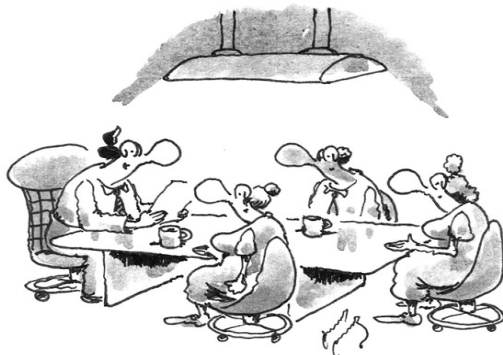
**American  
Red Cross**

Safe Harbor will be hosting the first blood drive of 2017 on **Friday, February 10th, from 10:30am-4pm**. If you have given in the past, or would like to be a first-time donator, please call Karen in the church office, or go directly to the website and follow the prompts: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

Also looking for one volunteer to help with the registration table from 1pm-4pm. If you can do this, contact the office—it is just checking people in and giving them the literature to read.

**The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.**

**Just for  
Laughs!**



**“Since we bought those bacon-scented candles, male attendance is up 30%.”**

