



CELEBRATE RESURRECTION

May 5, 2017



RESURRECTION

B R O O K L Y N

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Grace and peace to you during this Easter Season.

It is fitting that our congregations gather together every year during Easter and celebrate what God is doing in our network because we understand that the Resurrection of Jesus is the foundation upon which all our work is built. St. Paul says as much at the end of his magisterial reflection on the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15. After building a long theological argument in defense of the bodily resurrection of Jesus and those who are united to him, Paul concludes by connecting the resurrection to the ongoing work of the Corinthian church.

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. —1 Cor. 15:58

Because Jesus has been raised from the dead, the work we do in His name has eternal significance. Therefore, we celebrate together because God is using our imperfect work to display his perfect kingdom in this world. And we move forward in faith, loving and serving our neighbors, believing that God will bless all we do in His name. And there is much to be done. The fields are ripe for harvest. Resurrection Brooklyn is committed to loving our borough through planting and cultivating neighborhood congregations and, as you will discover in our ministry updates, we have much to celebrate.

CONGREGATIONAL GROWTH. Since this time last year, we marked the first anniversary of our congregations in Sheepshead Bay and Brooklyn Heights. As you will discover in their updates, both congregations are experiencing significant growth and maturation through the tireless work of their pastoral families and congregational leaders. In particular, we celebrate the many people God has welcomed through baptism at our newest congregations.

In addition to the numerical growth of our congregations, we also recognize the spiritual fruit that God is bearing through the maturation of his people. As is often the case in the natural order, spiritual fruit grows best through painful pruning (see John 15:2). In our Clinton Hill congregation, which is committed

to displaying God's reconciling power to a multi-ethnic neighborhood, God is developing the fruit of patience and self-control as they hope, pray and sacrifice for a sustainable model of multi-ethnic leadership. At Williamsburg, where they continue to navigate the complexities of sharing worship space with St. Paul's Lutheran church, God is developing the fruit of love and kindness. At Park Slope, which has experienced a significant leadership transition, God is bearing the fruit of faithfulness as the members have embraced Chris Hildebrand as their lead pastor.

MINISTRY OUTREACH. One of the practical benefits of being a network of congregations is sharing ministry resources. For example, every congregation, regardless of size or maturity, is endowed with a Mercy Team that has the ability to alleviate financial and physical needs of members and friends. Below you will also find reports from RezYouth and the Arts Ministry, both of which serve the members of Resurrection and function as a "front stoop" for our church—welcoming visitors and those interested in learning more about our churches and the Christian faith.

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT. Like a trellis that supports a healthy vine, Resurrection's administrative system continues to grow and promote our various ministries. Hidden from view much of the time, the

central staff ensures that our finances are in order, our communication is clear and timely, our rental spaces are secure, our volunteers are well-resourced and the pastors and congregational leaders are empowered for effective service. To that end, we have expanded the central staff this past year and hope you will continue to see results in your e-newsletters, websites, congregational updates and central events like Celebrate Resurrection, Christmas in the City and more.

MEMBER REQUEST. As you can see, God is at work in and through Resurrection Brooklyn and we are pleased to join in the work of the Gospel of Jesus. There is also much you can do. **We need you to pray.** Pray for opportunity and courage to invite your friends and neighbors to join you in worship. We are here to love and serve the people of Brooklyn and one of the primary ways we do this is by inviting them to worship the God who loves them. **We need you to serve.** Join a CSA. Coach a kids' team. Volunteer with the youth group. Visit an elderly shut-in. Host a dinner party. Create something for the next Arts Ministry event. If adding more events to your calendar is unthinkable right now, commit to praying regularly for our elected officials and public servants. If anyone asks you why you are serving, tell them it's because Jesus loves Brooklyn and so do you. **We need you to give.** In addition to your regular giving (for which we are always grateful and always in need), please

consider making a special gift to the Easter Sacrificial Offering which is wholly devoted to those in financial crisis.

Even as I write this, I am encouraged because I know that you, the members and friends of Resurrection Brooklyn, join me in celebrating what God is doing through our congregations. It is an honor and privilege to serve this network and I look forward to bringing you good reports of the ways in which your labors are bearing Gospel fruit in God's Favorite Borough.

In Christ,



Matt Brown

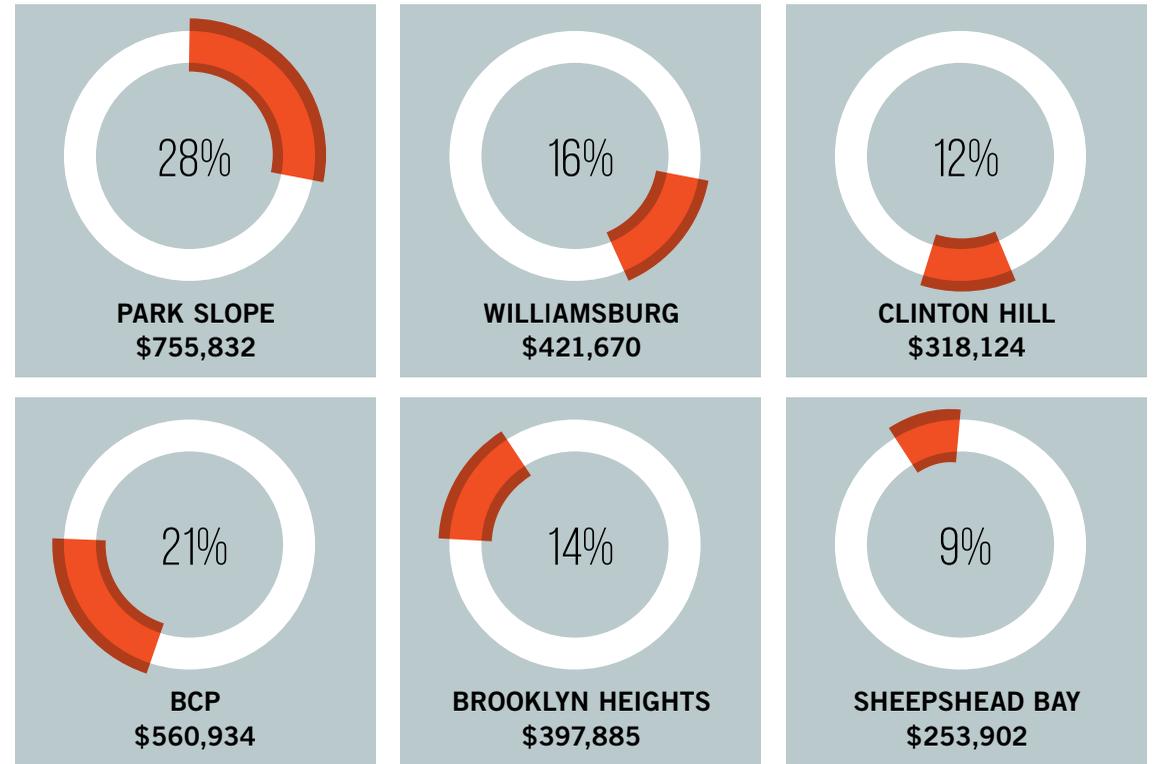


Financial Overview 2016-2017

Thank you for giving to Resurrection Brooklyn in 2016. Your giving has supported pastoral staff, local and global missions, numerous community ministries and other necessary expenses allowing our young church to love and serve Brooklyn and beyond. Overall internal giving, which includes giving from members

and attendees at our five congregations totaled \$1,617,713 in 2016, up 2.6% when compared to 2015. External giving, which includes support from churches and individuals outside of Brooklyn increased 27% in 2016. Resurrection finished the year with \$1,142,634 in general fund reserves.

2017 Budget Summary



REVENUE	2016 ACTUALS	2017 BUDGET	CHANGE
PARK SLOPE	733,729	715,000	-3%
WILLIAMSBURG	401,970	431,500	7%
CLINTON HILL	306,794	359,250	0%
SHEEPSHEAD BAY	179,551	245,000	36%
BROOKLYN HEIGHTS	351,581	340,000	-3%
BCP	441,120	498,384	13%
TOTAL	2,468,746	2,589,134	5%
EXPENSES	2016 ACTUALS	2017 BUDGET	CHANGE
PARK SLOPE	698,234	755,832	8%
WILLIAMSBURG	416,559	421,670	1%
CLINTON HILL	459,315	318,124	-31%
SHEEPSHEAD BAY	261,829	253,902	-3%
BROOKLYN HEIGHTS	352,173	397,885	13%
BCP	382,875	560,934	47%
TOTAL	2,570,985	2,708,348	5%

	2016 ACTUALS	2017 BUDGET
NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(98,987)	(119,214)
RESERVES	1,142,634	1,023,420

Q1 2017	Q1 BUDGET	Q1 REVENUE	2016 Q1 REVENUE
PARK SLOPE	178,750	146,746	107,333
WILLIAMSBURG	107,875	72,759	67,850
CLINTON HILL	89,813	89,087	57,781
SHEEPSHEAD BAY	61,250	27,127	26,727
BROOKLYN HEIGHTS	85,000	61,324	45,114
BCP	124,596	58,352	35,675

Missions Giving & Mercy Fund

In 2016, we were privileged to give \$121,216 to local and global missions projects. In addition we gave \$38,301.62 out of our mercy fund, while bringing in \$39,445.99 through giving from the congregations. The Mercy Fund had \$125,640.23 in its account at the end of 2016.

The last nine months have been a transition period for Resurrection

Park Slope. In September, I took over for Matt Brown as lead pastor of Resurrection Park Slope—which allowed Matt to devote all of his time and attention to his role as Senior Pastor of Resurrection Brooklyn. In February, our congregation said goodbye to the Van Horn family. Ryan completed his two-year church planting residency and moved to Chattanooga, TN to begin work on a new church plant. We had the

privilege of commissioning the Van Horns as they embarked on their new journey. In March we celebrated our thirteenth anniversary. At our anniversary party we celebrated the Browns' service to us and went back to where it all began, John Jay High School. Even though the familiar mural in the cafeteria was gone we looked back with great fondness at God's faithfulness to us over the years and especially this past year.

In the midst of all these transitions, God continues to bless our congregation with growth, new ministry opportunities and deep friendships. Throughout the year, we've welcomed new members and celebrated many baptisms. We continued our Easter Week tradition of worshiping with other churches in our neighborhood. On Good Friday, we worshipped with Old First Reformed Church and Greenwood Baptist Church, and on Holy Saturday, we held a joint Easter Vigil with Old First and All Saints' Episcopal Church. We're in the process of reorganizing Life Groups and introducing six-week discipleship groups that will help us incorporate a "rule of life" for our congregation. With an eye towards outreach, justice and service, we've been seeking new neighborhood partnerships and congregants have been meeting monthly to live into the Gospel call for racial reconciliation.

We are grateful for God's faithfulness to us during this time of transition and we look forward to what He will do in the months to come.





*“This is our
greatest festival.”*

- N.T. WRIGHT



The recent celebration of the Easter Triduum—the three days comprised of Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday—provides an illuminating glance at how Resurrection Williamsburg is celebrating and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we enter our thirteenth year.

On Good Friday we gathered together in vigil with St. Paul's Lutheran Church, continuing our close relationship with the church from whom we rent a worship space on Sundays. This relationship is especially important—connecting us as it does to the Latino community of Williamsburg, allowing us to reflect in small ways the multicultural nature of the Kingdom of God.

On Saturday, while many volunteers served lunch to 75+ residents of Broadway House Women's Shelter, others came to the church to begin decorating the church and preparing for our Easter Sunday potluck. The next day, over 200 gathered to worship the Risen King, witness the reception of nine new members (including one adult baptism, and one infant baptism, and feast afterwards at what we have come to call (in the words of N.T. Wright), “our greatest festival.”

On May 15, our founding pastor Vito Aiuto, along with his family, will depart for a 3.5 month sabbatical (to Italy, California, and—get this!—the exotic environs of southern New Jersey!), and while the congregation will miss him, we also look forward to being empowered by the Holy Spirit to grow together in new ways, learning afresh how to love and be loved by our good God.

RESURRECTION CLINTON HILL



RESURRECTION CLINTON HILL

While we may often believe that success must always look like a measurable arc of unimpeded progress according to our dreams and desires, Jesus tells us that in some strange paradox we more often flourish and become like him through suffering, loss, acquaintance with sorrow, even death. I begin with these words to be honest with you, our brothers and sisters, that while there are many works God is doing in RCH over which to rejoice (and I'll mention a few), the last 12 months have carried with them a lot of sorrow for our congregation. We sincerely rejoice and give thanks that God granted us and our network the gift of two fruitful years with Pastor Omari Hill, but it is with deep sadness that after much collective effort we have been unable to secure sustainable funding for him to remain with us. God has provided him and his family a call at his former church in North Carolina and we are busy trying to soak up every last precious minute with the Hill family before their July departure. Please pray for us as we experience godly sorrow, but also ask for us to be granted the faith to lean into Gospel hope.

And God is indeed alive and well among us. The Pratt Institute Ministry has continued and is growing in new ways under Omari; he is setting it up for a successful hand-off. Our Racial Reconciliation ministry is deepening our church's understanding of and

commitment to healing various injustices related to systemic and individual racism; it is bringing un-churched neighbors into these discussions; indeed this ministry is also growing up in other network congregations too. Members of our church have helped in a foundational way to launch Safe Families NYC. We have added numerous members over the last year and performed adult and infant baptisms. Over the last 12 months—due to finally having a morning service and a wave of new babies—our Children's Ministry is bursting at the seams and we are outgrowing the space we have for them. Then there is the (extra-)ordinary work of love and witness to Christ that happens in welcoming and joyful weekly worship services, acts of service and mercy, prayer and fellowship, meals and conversations shared. We give thanks for Christ in those gifts and we look forward with eager expectation to what he has in store for us in the year to come.

Please pray for us as we experience godly sorrow, but also ask for us to be granted the faith to lean into Gospel hope.

RESURRECTION SHEEPSHEAD BAY



*Resurrection
Sheepshead Bay
has celebrated 75
Lord's Day worship
services to date.*

RESURRECTION SHEEPSHEAD BAY



Our Christianity Explored classes have provided an opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to engage the good news of Jesus. This past March, we welcomed 13 new members, 8 of them by Christian baptism. We expanded our Good Friday service this year to include our brothers and sisters at The King's Chapel as well as Homecrest Presbyterian Church. Our Easter Sunday service was blessed to have 60 souls in attendance for a joyous celebration of our Savior's resurrection. More and more, we mirror our neighborhood of Sheepshead Bay ethnically, socio-economically, and by age. We continue to serve our neighbors recovering from Hurricane Sandy by assisting with temporary relocation while their primary homes are being elevated above the flood plain. Our church continues to work towards greater involvement in Safe Families. RSB is also exploring opportunities to provide drug and alcohol recovery services to our neighbors. We are looking forward to two major neighborhood outreach events this spring and summer - BayFest in May and a Summer Enrichment Camp this July/August. Teams from our partner churches, Stonebridge Community Church and Bellevue Presbyterian, will staff the summer camp and stay in Sheepshead Bay during their service. Give thanks with us for God blessing us with growth in faith, service, and community.



In January, Resurrection Brooklyn Heights celebrated one year of worship. What better way to mark the occasion than a feast of champagne, pizza and toasts to God's faithfulness and the sacrificial service of so many?

A new church is like a new baby. It requires a lot of care and attention, it's full of potential, and it's messy. One parishioner compares participating in our young church to going to a jazz club—it's intimate, improvisational, sometimes deeply moving, sometimes deeply confounding. I would like to share with you a couple of stories that provide insight to what God is doing in our community.

RBH has a Mom's Group that meets weekly. However, it is not the weekly meetings that are most beautiful; rather, it is the level of care and love they have cultivated for one another throughout the week. At RBH, we talk a lot about creating a home. We desire our community to be a safe place where people not only experience and commune with God, but also know one another and are known—love one another and are loved. These moms are creating and providing a home for another. They bear one another's burdens, share resources, pray for and love each other.

RBH has also developed a partnership with St. Francis College, a university in Brooklyn Heights. In collaboration with

St. Francis student athletes, RBH has sponsored two camps this spring—a four-week soccer camp and a one-day sports camp. Around 40 three-to five-year-olds participated in each event, many of whom don't go to our church.

At one point, I was talking to one of the parents whose daughter was participating. She didn't understand why a church would sponsor such an event. She kept asking, "What are you getting out of it?" My response was simply, "As a church, we desire the good of our neighborhood. We think it is good that kids can have a chance to participate in a free sports camp. That is enough." Though she remained confused, she was impressed and motivated to help us in the future.

Each of these (the mom's group and our partnership with St. Francis) have contributed to our church becoming a visible presence of God's grace to our neighborhood. As we move forward, our prayer is that God continues to build our community in number and depth and that we are continually thankful for what He is doing in our midst.





Resurrection Brooklyn's Youth Group is now growing and thriving more than ever. What started out as a teenage refuge at Park Slope has expanded into a powerhouse youth squad that spans all five of our congregations. The teenagers meet every other Friday night at our Jay Street office space for pizza, fellowship and meaningful conversations about the Christian Faith.

The group is averaging about 30 teens in grades 6-12 at their bi-weekly meetings and this past January, during their annual winter weekend retreat upstate, Resurrection Brooklyn represented with the largest group of teenagers present (over 40 people!). The theme of the retreat was, "Made for More" and the teens discussed how "We are well made, by a good maker, for a great purpose."

In addition the Youth Group also hosted it's annual Halloween Party in October, which was a huge success. There was

apple-bobbing, costume contests, and even visits from former youth group members that have graduated. In addition, every year the teenagers vote on a costume that their pastor, Steven Gil, is required to wear during the party. This year he was caught sporting a perfect Hello-Kitty getup, which everyone found hilarious. The Youth Group has also recently started their own worship team. They've only had a couple practice sessions, but they hope to go live with their talents in the months to come.

The Youth Group is always looking for more volunteers from all the Resurrection Brooklyn locations to chaperone events and be present for Bible Discussion. Several of our Youth Group volunteers have moved out of New York in the past year, so the group could really use some new manpower. Contact Steven for more information at steven@resurrectionbrooklyn.org.

Brooklyn Fellows

Since September, 14 parishioners from the five Resurrection Brooklyn congregations have been meeting Monday nights to explore the fullness of the Gospel and its implications for all parts of life. We started the year by considering how the Gospel renews individuals. Then we looked at how it renews friendships and communities. We're finishing the year by examining how it renews our work and culture at large. While a hallmark of the program is intentional study (the diverse reading list includes 14 books and numerous articles), it is not the main activity. Rather, the main activity is learning how to live the Christian life and how to do so together. As one of our authors, Susan Phillips, puts it, "The more we cultivate the discipline of friendship, the greater our flourishing," and this has been true for Fellows.

Week after week, Fellows share their testimonies, prayers and thanksgivings. As they respond to readings, they practice speaking honestly and graciously, especially when disagreements arise.

They practice morning and evening prayer individually and together. They not only share meals together, but bring meals to one another in times of need. They meet outside of meetings to encourage one another. They celebrate each other's work and the work of their respective congregations.

A current Fellow describes her experience this way: ***"While we have indeed read many great books, my 'aha moment' has not come through any particular Bible reading or any book, nor any one particular class or conversation. My aha moment has come gradually over a period of time, as I have gotten to know the other Fellows, hear their testimonies and internalize their individual faith stories as part of the larger story of God's redemption."***

As the 6th year of Fellows draws to an end, we're already getting ready for the 7th class, and we're praying that God would continue to bless Resurrection Brooklyn with deep friendships that bear witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please visit resurrectionbrooklyn.org/serve/fellows/ to apply to the Brooklyn Fellows program.

Mercy Team

The work of Resurrection Brooklyn's Mercy Team often goes unnoticed because a lot of their tasks are behind-the-scenes or confidential. But if you didn't know, our Mercy Team works nonstop to help meet the material and spiritual needs of struggling individuals within our communities. This could mean anything from helping someone find a new job to covering airfare costs when there's been a death in the family. Most importantly, the Mercy Team tries to go beyond simply meeting individual needs and instead seeks to build authentic holistic relationships with people who are in need in hopes of helping them achieve long term freedom and solutions.

In the past year our Mercy Team has prayed consistently for all our churches while trying to use their resources to fulfill God's call to serve those that are poor or in need. They have helped others find housing, create budgets, find transportation, or connect more deeply with their church. These are just a few of the things that our Mercy Team has done in the past year, and the comprehensive list is as commendable as it is long. In addition, they have commissioned new Mercy Team representatives at several of our congregations and have consistently been looking for ways to connect our church resources to the people who need them the most. We can't thank the Mercy Team enough for all the ways they serve our church and our surrounding neighborhoods.

Most of the funds used by the Mercy Team to help our friends and neighbors are collected every year through our Easter Sacrificial offering. Thanks for being so generous. If you haven't had a chance to make your offering yet, please visit resurrectionbrooklyn.org/give/.



On April 8th, the Resurrection Brooklyn Arts Ministry hosted their debut gallery exhibition, Via Dolorosa, at our common space at our Jay Street offices in Downtown Brooklyn. The Via Dolorosa (often referred to as the Stations of the Cross) is a series of images depicting Jesus Christ along the "Way of Suffering" on the day of His Crucifixion, followed by his Resurrection. The artwork displayed was created exclusively by Resurrection artists and featured performance art, pastry art, and embroidery, as well as traditional photography and painting techniques. The artists based their finished product on specific scripture verses and the artworks were displayed in a series. The event also doubled as a silent auction that yielded roughly \$2,000 in proceeds

with percentages benefiting Resurrection Brooklyn's Arts Ministry and Mercy Team funds. The arts ministry considered the event a huge success with more than 100 people in attendance and generous donations for nearly every piece of art. Not only were we pleased to launch our first gallery event, but we also loved kicking off Holy Week by meditating on the stations of the cross together. The arts ministry hopes to have more gallery events in the future so stay tuned for forthcoming information. Some artworks from the Via Dolorosa exhibition are still on display and can be seen by appointment. If you'd like to make an appointment, or get involved with the Arts Ministry in any way, please contact Daniel Mease at arts@danielmease.com.

Resurrection Brooklyn's Art Ministry seeks to encourage and support the visual and performing artists in our church network and broader community. The Arts Ministry is committed to influencing the arts culture of Brooklyn. Historically, the church has been one of the greatest patrons of the arts; but more recently that has been lost. The Arts Ministry strives to recapture some elements of that role while building relationships between artists and the community, based on God-pleasing artistic endeavors.

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Resurrection Brooklyn Session

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ETHAN CAMPBELL

DAVID DISHMAN

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JAMISON GALT

EVAN GREGORY

CHRIS HILDEBRAND

CHRISTOPHER NICHOLSON

BRIAN PRIUTT

JOSH SIMMONS

BRIAN STEADMAN

MICHAEL SUBRACKO



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