

## 2016-2017 Rooted Youth Annual Report

It's my joy to bring this annual report to our church body.

Wow! 2016-2017 has certainly shown God's faithfulness in the life of our church and in our youth ministry. In this interim period we've all been given practice in that tricky spiritual discipline of waiting. There's always an element of uncertainty in times of transition and change. I'm amazed as I look to our church and see a people with hearts ready to pour into this place in love, and pour out into our community in service. In the midst of this season, what a joy it has been to see our board, staff, and church family draw together and eagerly await what God will do, even as we keep the wheels well oiled and remain in this work of ministry together.

And what a blessing it has been continuing to know and disciple our students this year. Parents, thank you for your continued support and trust in this place and in our shared ministry to your children. Thank you for the ways you engage in this ministry. You drive, you write checks, you pray, you read emails (you do read the emails, right?) but most importantly, day to day you're in the trenches, in the midst of life, with your students. Thanks for the invitation to come alongside you in caring for your teens. It's my heart that your students grow in their knowledge and love of God. Please let me know how I can be a support to you and to your family as we co-labor together this year!

To our students, thanks for your bravery. I hope you'll keep allowing God and this place to draw you into a deeper love of Jesus. Each week we remember and recite together why we do what we do, so that "Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him." Thanks for letting me push you out of your comfort zone, whether through playing "smell the stool" (it's not what you think...) or through digging into tough questions of faith and life. This year, many of you have made decisions and next steps towards Jesus. Decisions about how you'll trust, how you you'll date, how you'll worship, how you'll give. You've taken greater ownership of your faith, you've leaned into leadership. You've been open to the love of Jesus and his grace in your life.

What can we keep doing? Pray for Rooted Youth! Let's be a place where our students and young people are lifted up, both in prayer and in actions that tell them that they matter. As a family, let's surround our teens with prayer, encouragement, and authentic community.

Sincerely,  
AJ Wolf, Youth Pastor

What we've been up to in Rooted Youth:

-We traveled with 13 students to Elevate 2016, looking forward to bringing a hopeful 21 students to Elevate 2017, this is a HUGE weekend of fun, discipleship, and evangelism

-We had an incredible 2 weeks at 2016 sr high and mid high summer camps, lots of fun, lots of deep conversation, and God's movement in hearts

-We studied the word by the setting sun during summer beach days

-We shared in a combined children's/youth/young adult VBS program, and service project alongside our young adults

-We embarked on a 3 day backpacking retreat, a spiritual retreat and reset before the start of the school year

-We gathered for a student leadership retreat in Julian

-AJ got married! Dakota and AJ moved to Oceanside to be closer to you!

-We jumped into NYI convention and Fresh Start this spring

-We've seen a handful of awesome new students in 2017

-We've been digging in together on Tuesday nights, moving through several series, lots of fun, games, questions and dialog

-Sunday mornings have been a chance to go deeper, proud of our high school students and their excellent discussion and reflections!

-We've been blessed with great leadership in Dakota Hills, Jessica Crittenden, and Katie Taylor

-We can't wait for our Surf Trip April 7-8!, Elevate May 26-29!, and camps this summer!

-Starting in June, we'll be opening up a book study group on tough questions, open to incoming sophomores through graduating seniors. It'll melt your brain! (in a good way)