



EVERY PERSON IN THE CITY

2017
ANNUAL REPORT

TO SEE EVERY PERSON IN
THE CITY KNOW JESUS AS
THE FORGIVER AND LEADER
OF THEIR LIFE.



My hope is that the stories and stats in the pages of this report give you a glimpse into the miracle of what God's doing in our city through our church and that it leaves you as inspired and excited about the future as I am.

2017 was an incredible year at Epic, highlighted by the countless number of people whose lives were changed by God after walking through the doors of one of our church locations. **I LOVE SEEING THE DIFFERENCE KNOWING JESUS AND FOLLOWING HIM MAKES IN A PERSON'S LIFE**, and I'm so thankful that we get to be part of so many stories like that at Epic.

One thing I know is that **GREAT CHURCHES AREN'T BUILT ON THE TALENTS OF A FEW, BUT ON THE SACRIFICES OF MANY**. It's hard for me to find words that adequately represent the depth of my gratitude for those of you who give your time and money in support of the vision God has given us.

Thank you so much for allowing God to use you to make a difference in the lives of so many people. I want you to know that **THIS MATTERS, AND THAT IT'S WORTH IT**.

As I consider our past and look ahead to 2018 and beyond, two words come to mind:

GET READY.

Get ready for even more stories of hope and life.
Get ready for an even bigger movement of love and compassion.
Get ready to do whatever it takes to reach every person in the city. And get ready to see God do even greater things than we could have ever imagined.

Much love — Kent



NINE YEARS #FORPHILLY

Named as one of America's
**100 FASTEST
GROWING CHURCHES**
by *Outreach Magazine* for
the third time in four years.



BAPTISMS
THIS YEAR

150

TOTAL BAPTISMS
SINCE WE STARTED

732

JAMES' STORY

I ended up at Epic after being coincidentally invited by two different people in the same week. Those invitations really caught my attention, first, because there were two of them, and second, because of all that was going on in my life. At the time, I had spiraled out of control and decided to give sobriety a shot. I thought that maybe church would be a good place to meet some people in a different circle since all of my friends still liked to party.

Growing up, I had dreams of becoming a big time attorney in the city. And I did it. I finished in the top 10% of my law school and went on to get a great job. I lived life in the fast lane, thinking that success as a lawyer followed by crazy nights partying with friends, would make me happy but it didn't. Even though my life looked amazing, I was lonely, insecure, and felt a void inside. Addictions had taken control and I felt like I was wearing a mask.

I went to church for the first time with a friend and I knew that when I left I felt better than before I came in. The next week, I went again and I'm so glad I did. On April 30th I got baptized, and it was one of the most meaningful moments in my life. This was the moment I consciously made a decision to follow Jesus and was willing to let everyone know.

Coming to Epic and eventually deciding to follow Jesus was the start of a journey that led to my life being radically changed, and I've never been happier.

DECISIONS TO
FOLLOW JESUS
THIS YEAR

477

TOTAL DECISIONS
TO FOLLOW JESUS
SINCE EPIC BEGAN

4,633



A portrait of Ashley, a woman with dark, wavy hair, smiling and looking slightly to the right. She is wearing a green, textured cardigan over a dark top and a large, ornate gold necklace. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

ASHLEY'S STORY

Before coming to Epic, Ashley had seen enough ups and downs to last a lifetime.

When Ashley was two, her mother left her father because of his drug addiction. Later, he was diagnosed with HIV, and on Ashley's thirteenth birthday, she got word that he was in a coma. Nine days later, he passed away.

Ashley had to figure out how to grow up without a dad. She didn't know what love looked like. She didn't know how a man was supposed to treat her. Eventually, she found herself in a relationship with someone who was controlling and possessive, and she stayed with him despite all of the warning signs.

When she finally couldn't ignore how bad it was, the relationship ended, and it left her in pieces.

Ashley had to get back up, and start all over again. And in the midst of that, she found Epic.

This is one of Ashley's favorite memories when she started going to Epic: "One thing I'll always remember is when Pastor Kent said he wanted to make a church for people who didn't really like going to church. I just felt like he was speaking to me, because I always felt like church wasn't my thing."

Since the moment she walked in, Ashley felt like she was home.

For her, what she's learned about God has changed everything. And it's changing the way she views everything she's experienced in her life: "Even though I'm still in the beginning of my journey of following Jesus, I believe God has a plan for me, and I had to go through the situations in my life to get to where He's leading me."

A portrait of Diana, a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling broadly at the camera. She is wearing a bright yellow t-shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

DIANA'S STORY

For as long as Diana could remember, she believed she wasn't enough. Not smart enough. Not pretty enough. Not good enough.

In her twenties, she started doing whatever it took to fix that feeling. She drank a lot, she restricted her eating, she worked out like crazy. Eventually, she developed anorexia.

Diana could only keep it up for so long before she realized she needed to change something.

She made a decision to finally put her health first. She started with drinking less, and then eating right. And in physical terms, Diana definitely improved, but she still felt like there was a part of her that was starving.

One day, she saw the bright red flags for Epic Church that we set up every Sunday morning at our locations. It turned out that she had a friend from work who went to Epic, and that was enough to get Diana to walk into church.

It changed everything for her. She said this about her experience that day: "It was the first time that I felt that there was a church that spoke to me. The message was beautiful. The people were so loving and caring."

What we've wanted since Day One at Epic is exactly that: a church where someone who rarely if ever finds herself in church can say, "I finally have a church that speaks to me."

NINE YEARS AGO...

seven people joined together to start the first Epic location in Manayunk. The first service began with 71 people in October, 2008. We soon moved to a larger auditorium, and then in September 2010 added a second service. In February, 2011, we opened a video venue in another auditorium in the same theater. With no more room to grow, we began opening new locations which enabled us to reach new communities and opened up more space at Manayunk.

In early 2017, the theater we were meeting in decided to change out their seats to large recliners, which reduced the seating capacity by 60%. As a result, we moved this location to the School of the Future, a state of the art high school near the zoo, a location which we call Parkside.

ROXBOROUGH est. 09.22.13

Epic Roxborough was started because Manayunk reached full capacity again and we were committed to making room for more people. A second service was added on September 7, 2014.

CENTER CITY est. 02.19.12

Epic became one church meeting at two locations with the launch of Epic Center City meeting at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre. A second service was added on February 17, 2013. As the church continued to grow, a third service was added on March 15, 2015, to make room for more people until the Fairmount location could be opened.

FAIRMOUNT est. 09.13.15

Epic Fairmount started in the fall of 2015 just north of Center City. This time, we started with two services.

PARKSIDE est. 04.02.17

We moved the Manayunk location to the School of the Future. Epic Parkside is a state of the art facility with lots of room to grow.

EVERY NUMBER HAS A NAME
EVERY NAME HAS A STORY
EVERY STORY MATTERS TO GOD

That's why we measure, celebrate, and share attendance data. Every number recorded or reported reflects what God is doing in the lives of people.

A V E R A G E A T T E N D A N C E

We have grown to a year-round weekly average attendance of 1,500 people. We exceeded 2,000 in attendance several times including a peak of 2,441 on Epic Day.

L O C A T I O N
A V E R A G E

Center City: 366
Roxborough: 374
Fairmount: 241
Parkside: 545

L O C A T I O N
P E A K S

Center City: 604
Roxborough: 545
Fairmount: 393
Parkside: 702

The making of a movement.

We believe that just
**A MOMENT IN GOD'S
PRESENCE CAN
CHANGE EVERYTHING.**

Worship

A photograph of a church congregation during a worship service. In the foreground, a woman with short brown hair is shown in profile, looking upwards with her mouth open in a prayerful expression. Her right arm is raised high, with her hand open. The background is filled with other people, some of whom also have their hands raised. The scene is lit with blue and purple stage lights, creating a spiritual atmosphere. The word "Worship" is overlaid in a large, white, hand-painted style font across the center of the image.

EPIC KIDS

2017 Average Weekly Attendance: 208

Epic Kids provides age-appropriate classrooms for infants up to 5th grade. Children are served every single week by amazing leaders at each of our locations. The kids love it. We hear over and over from parents that their kids are the ones who insist on going to church on Sunday mornings. We're so excited for the opportunity we have to teach kids about Jesus on their level and partner with their parents to set an anchor of faith in the heart of every child.

SOME OF THE WAYS WE PARTNER WITH PARENTS

- Provide weekly recaps of lessons and tools for parents to continue the conversation at home
- Epic Kids' Live, an elementary-age family experience for the whole family.
- Color Wars, a summertime competition for parents and kids to enjoy together
- Child Dedications and Baptisms

L I F E G R O U P S

1,174

PEOPLE
JOINED
A LIFE
GROUP



THIS FALL WE
LAUNCHED
YEAR-LONG LIFE
GROUPS

This year we've made the shift to groups that meet for longer terms to promote even deeper and more meaningful relationships.





ISAK'S STORY

As an only child to a single mom, I grew up going to church regularly with faith being a big part of my life. My mom made sure of it. But when I reached high school and college, I decided to put God on the backburner. Even though I knew the truth, I wanted to live it up and have fun - and God wasn't a part of that equation.

It took me reaching one of the lowest points in my life shortly after a rough break-up during my junior year of college for God to get my attention again, at which point I realized it was time to stop living for the moment and for myself. It was time to try things God's way.

After I made that decision, things didn't magically get better all of a sudden. In fact, they got harder. Following Jesus without the support of a church family and fellow believers proved to be difficult.

And so shortly after graduation, seeing how much I was struggling, my mom began emphasizing the importance of finding a church home in Philly. In particular, there was one Sunday night where we were talking and I assured her that I'd do some research and find some places to visit that week. Well, that very same night, I got home and when I checked the mail, there was an Epic postcard. No way was it a coincidence - I took it as a personal invitation from God. And so shortly after, I checked out Epic for the first time and have been coming ever since.

I started to get involved little by little through Life Groups, serve teams, and service projects and eventually worked my way into some leadership roles. Before I knew it, leading and serving at Epic became a major focal point in my life. And along the way, I felt God call me to full-time ministry, not necessarily knowing what that would look like, but being open to whatever He had planned. Then, in January of 2017 I accepted a staff position at Epic to lead our Fairmount location.

When I look back over the last several years, I'm so overwhelmed with gratitude for all God has done in my life. My faith has grown leaps and bounds since I became a part of the Epic family, but I know all of that pales in comparison to what God has next for me and for our church. Let's get it.



13,626 HOURS
SERVED

MISSIONS AND SERVING

As a church, we want to be known for our extraordinary generosity - with both our time and money - toward those in our local community and beyond.

LOCAL

Night to Shine: A prom for people with special needs. 434 people served 377 guest.

Serve Day: 411 people served in 28 service projects across the city all on one day.

787 people served in over 100 other service projects throughout the year.

NATIONAL

We financially support the Association of Related Churches which helped start over 100 new churches.

This fall we sent \$17,000 to help people impacted by hurricanes in Houston and Puerto Rico.

GLOBAL

We financially support Compassion International, a child sponsorship organization for children living in poverty all over the world.



MEDIA STATISTICS

456,510

Website views

15,538

YouTube views

3,570

Facebook likes

1,110

Epic app downloads

743

Twitter followers

300,000

Postcards mailed to homes

1,606

Instagram followers

I'm always amazed and incredibly grateful when I get to visit our locations and see the hundreds of people who team up to make church happen every week.

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING.

People who serve.

People who give.

People who pray.

People who lead.

PEOPLE WHO DO ALL OF THE ABOVE.

Our church is not built on the talents of a few, but on the contributions of many.

And it's not that we **HAVE** to do this.

We **GET** to do this!

We get to be a part of
God's dream for our city.

We get to be a part of
creating a church that people love.

We get to be a part of
shaping the faith and future of our kids.

We get to be a part of
restoring love, peace, and hope in Philly.

We get to be a part of
introducing and reconnecting people to Jesus.

IT'S AN INCREDIBLE PRIVILEGE.

-Justin



EVERY
PERSON
IN THE
CITY

T H E N U M B E R S

Income	\$2,101,627 <i>(projected)</i>	\$2,056,135	\$1,794,018	\$1,551,023
	²⁰ 17	²⁰ 16	²⁰ 15	²⁰ 14
Expenses	\$2,252,523 <i>(projected)</i>	\$1,994,984	\$1,951,876	\$1,402,619

2017 STAFF ADDITIONS

ISAK MAYBURY
Fairmount Location Director

RON MILLWARD
Central Production Director

IANA FACCIOLLA
Administrative Assistant

PETER TKACHENKO
Intern

686 VOLUNTEERS SERVE ON TEAMS
EVERY WEEK TO MAKE CHURCH HAPPEN.



\$968,406 <i>Personnel</i>	↑ 17%	\$1,172,653 <i>Personnel</i>
\$418,229 <i>Facilities</i>	↓ 6%	\$391,443 <i>Facilities</i>
\$332,192 <i>Ministries</i>	↑ 17%	\$387,709 <i>Ministries</i>
\$142,759 <i>Outreach & Missions</i>	↓ 22%	\$110,739 <i>Outreach & Missions</i>
\$133,398 <i>Operations</i>	↑ 3%	\$137,801 <i>Operations</i>
		\$52,178 <i>Move from Manayunk to Parkside</i>



MESSAGE SERIES

REMEMBER YOUR
FAVORITE SERIES?



photo by Morgan Burke