

2025

Annual Report

Grace Chapel Church



Presented by
Management Team



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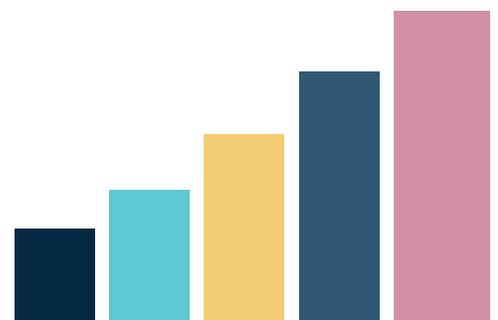
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From The Pastor



Hello Grace Chapel family,

It is a blessing and honor to look back over this last year! 2025 was an incredible year in so many ways. During the Vision/Business Meeting you will hear reflections and reports on all of the ministries, and I believe the Lord will use this time of reflection both to celebrate and encourage, but also to point us to the future.

I have a deep passion in my heart for this Vision Gathering and there are two significant things that the Lord has been leaning me into. The first is to reflect on what He has done this last year, to take some moments and look intensely at what He has done. This letter will talk about that reflection. The second part is what you will hear me talk about in the meeting. It is a reflection of where God is taking us.

But to understand where God is calling us, we must; Reflect and acknowledge everything He has done leading up to this point. We see this modeled in the Gospel of Matthew.

In Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus gives these final words to those who had been following him the last 3 1/2 years.

16 But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

From The Pastor



I find myself at an interesting place. I have been here at Grace Chapel for 3 1/2 years, the same time that Jesus spent with His disciples, but like the disciples faith roots, you have a long history of faith as a Church body. God had been working through the Jewish people for a long time before Jesus arrived and He worked with them to usher in a New Kingdom.

And then, at year 3 1/2, Jesus sacrificed everything to overcome death and the grave, and the stage was set, the Gospel was fulfilled, the message completed, and now He charges His followers to go into all the world, reaching people, discipling people into this new kingdom.

As Grace Chapel, we have worked together these last 3 1/2 years, celebrating and building off of a rich legacy, while embracing. and ushering in many new people into this mission.

And I believe that we are at a vital juncture. What happened when Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father and the followers became the foundations of the early Church? First, they were empowered by the Holy Spirit. Secondly, they went out into the world and took the Gospel to the people. And ever since that time, God has been renewing and reestablishing that movement. There are seasons where Churches maybe struggle or are static, or the body of Christ in a city, a state, a country ... find themselves wanting to see God move, but also struggling to see it happen. Then there are times of awakening, where the people of God and the purposes of God are renewed and flourish.

Family, you have been faithful as a congregation for 85 years, but I believe that the Church is entering a time of awakening. The people need the Church awakened and the world needs the Church revived. I believe that the Lord has been preparing us this last 3 1/2 years for that awakening.

From The Pastor



Awakenings often begin with worship because worship is the instrument by which we declare the goodness of God and declare His works. 2025 was a year of God working. We saw 10% of our attendance baptized, we saw a 10% growth in new members as well. In addition, approximately 30% of our active attenders have yet to become members. What this means is that God is drawing people to Grace Chapel ... many times through you! Our financial health is very solid, in fact, we have seen nearly a 60% increase in giving since 2021. All happening, not through weekly pleas to give, but simply celebrating generosity and not even passing a plate on Sunday morning. People have given with a joyful heart, not out of compulsion. More details will come as you will hear reported numbers and how the Lord is preparing for us the resources for the goals that lay ahead. The worship/river baptism we held late in the year saw almost 350 people in attendance. Our outreach events like trunk or treat and the easter egg hunt drew many people from the community.

Have we arrived yet? Of course not. There are so many more opportunities that we need to step into ... but we are on a solid, exciting path and it is an honor to be on that path together.

I am just thankful. I am thankful to you who serve so diligently. I am thankful for your openness and hunger for Jesus. I am thankful for heritage and I am thankful for new rivers flowing from the will of God.

I can't wait to share with you Sunday evening Vision 2030, a 5 year plan for Grace Chapel, a series of objectives and targets that we will refine together as a leadership over the coming months.

Blessings,

Pastor James

Vision And Mission



Vision

Grace Chapel will be a place where anyone and everyone can find a true home, experiencing the presence and power of Jesus and experiencing transformation in every area of their lives.

Mission

To passionately pursue the great commandment and great commission - to love God, love others, and to lead as many people as possible into a growing relationship with Jesus.

Ministry Reports



Deacon Ministry Team

Over the past year, the Deacon Ministry Team has seen a renewed focus on connection. We have begun making a deliberate effort to collaborate more closely with other ministry teams, seeking to support their work and better serve the overall needs of the church body. Through these partnerships, we will aim to be more present, responsive, and unified in our approach to the various ministries of Grace Chapel.

We are also aiming to continue to build strong relationships with those on our prayer lists. We hope to continue to be utilized as a resource by those in the congregation whenever the opportunity presents itself. We'd also like to recognize our brothers Danny Fertick and Ray Areheart, who have both rolled off of this team in the last year. Both have served in this capacity for decades, and we couldn't be more grateful to them for their service and the example they've set for the rest of us. We are encouraged by the ways God continues to work through prayer and cooperation in our team and among the congregation. We look forward to all that the Lord will do in 2026.

Ministry Reports



Management Team

The Management Board continues to meet monthly to oversee the financial and business affairs of Grace Chapel. In 2025, the Lord has continued to bless our church both spiritually and financially, providing for all our needs.

This year, we welcomed new staff members, including Jill Cuthill, who began serving as our Administrative and Communications Specialist on February 15, 2025, as well as a new custodian who joined our team in June 2025.

Throughout the year, the Management Board approved funding for several facility improvements and updates. One of our HVAC units required replacement, and Krantz installed a new main unit in the Family Life Center in June, at the start of VBS. In addition, we refreshed our church signage to reflect our new logo. This included repainting and redesigning the road sign with updated lighting, as well as adding new interior and exterior directional signage to better assist visitors to Grace Chapel. We also implemented a new phone system in partnership with Spectrum, along with Verizon service to provide dedicated internet access, VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) for all ministry teams, and guest internet service. This system allows incoming calls to be efficiently routed to the appropriate staff member or ministry area, whether that is Pastor James, Children's Ministry, or the Management Team. We are also in the process of updating the Family Life Center to better support our Children's Ministry as they lead services for our children. These updates include the purchase of a new computer and access to ProPresenter, equipping the team with the tools needed to effectively lead worship and teach.

Over the past year, the Management Team has continued working on projects discussed in previous years, with the Portico project remaining a primary focus. We are currently awaiting updated architectural drawings for the front of the church, which we believe will help address the growing needs of our congregation. Once these drawings are received, we will begin gathering cost estimates so the church can review, compare options, and determine the best path forward. We will provide further details at the annual business meeting and welcome questions at that time.

Ministry Reports



Next Steps joined us again this past summer to serve our community through various projects and outreach efforts. Since 2021, we have partnered with Next Steps Ministries to host student groups from across the United States. Alongside their leaders, these students completed a wide range of mission projects throughout our local community. Many members of our congregation generously supported the ministry by helping with meals, laundry, and other behind-the-scenes needs, making the Next Steps leaders and students feel truly welcome. The Next Steps staff and students were a blessing to both our community and our Grace Chapel family, and we look forward to continuing this partnership in 2026.

In the fall of 2025, Nickie Lord and Rachel Crelly launched the Rooted Hybrid School here at Grace Chapel. They meet three days a week in the Family Life center to offer a Christ-centered, hybrid-learning environment that partners with parents in the discipleship and education of their children. Over the summer, we will be meeting with Nickie and Rachel to receive an update on the past school year and discern next steps as we prepare for this exciting new season.

As we move into 2026, Grace Chapel remains a healthy and thriving church. Our finances are strong, and we look forward with anticipation to all that God has planned for the future of Grace Chapel. We are grateful to everyone who has stepped forward to serve, and we deeply appreciate the dedication of our volunteers and leaders. The Management Board will continue to partner with our church leadership teams to steward the business and financial matters of Grace Chapel in a way that honors and pleases the Lord.

On behalf of the Management Board, thank you to everyone at Grace Chapel for your continued faithfulness to God and to our church family. We sincerely appreciate your prayers and ongoing support as we work to faithfully manage the church's resources and maintain its financial integrity.

Respectfully,

Jessica Wahl Chairman, Management Board

Ministry Reports



Equipping Ministries Team

In 2025 Danis Fertick and Jill Cuthill took leadership positions on the Equipping Ministries Team. Throughout the year, our goal was to coach, develop, and help build teams rooted in **GRACE**.

G – Gifts and Talents (Ephesians 4:1-12)

R – Receive Wisdom & have a Teachable Spirit (Mark 4:25, Proverbs 12:1, Hebrews 12:25)

A – Availability & Commitment (Luke 5:1-3, Acts 20:28)

C – Communication (Ephesians 4:22-29, James 1:19, Matthew 18:15-17, Proverbs 15:1)

E – Engaged with Each Other and Together in Truth (Mark 12:30, Hebrews 12:14-15, 1 Corinthians 1:10).

The team completed 4 meetings through the year, one being a team building/ministry leader appreciation day in May. The church added a new ministry team at the end of 2025, the Engagement Team. In 2026, they will continue to help build core principles and values, but the focus will shift into building the teams in number. It is important for every person who calls Grace Chapel home to follow Jesus' example and find a place to serve. The team will help ministries bring on new team members in a healthy way so that the team can thrive in fulfilling the mission and vision of Grace.

Worship Team

Leadership/Team:

2025 was a great year! We are really thankful to have a team to do worship ministry on Sunday mornings and at other times with. In 2025, Gigi stepped into leadership as Jill stepped away, and Gary also joined in leadership by beginning to help with the musicians. Our leadership continues to meet and dream about where we are headed! This year was a big year of bringing unity to our leadership as we transitioned from having Jill step away and new leaders step in. The Lord was solidifying our foundation in many ways.

Ministry Reports



Our team consists of the members listed below. We can truly say that our team works diligently to develop their skill sets from investing in instruments, pursuing training and lessons, receiving feedback, and expressing eagerness to continue to grow. In the past year, we have grown so much, and we are challenging one another to hold fast to humility. We also strive to not be complacent, but we continue to sharpen ourselves by working together as a team. We continue to grow in creativity, sharing ideas for how to transition between songs and meshing songs together. We have been working on training members for new roles within our team, challenging vocalists to step more into leadership, having musicians play on multiple instruments, and exposing our team to the technology and production side in hopes to have more people equipped to help Jennifer.

Leaders: Gigi, Mackenzie, Jennifer, Gary

*Members consists of Production Team, Vocalists, and Musicians

Vocalists: Gigi, Mackenzie, Parker, Brandon, Teresa, Jill, Amy, Kirklyn, Jessica

Musicians: Sam, Cameron, Clayton, Danny, Gary, James, Steve, Sean

Guests: Jose, Dan

Sound Techs: Mike Areheart, Taylor Ditch

Producer/Streaming: Jennifer Ditch, Joshua Wahl, Keith Whitman

Accomplishments:

We established some new routines for our team this year such as spending some extended time praying together in the side room after Sunday morning run throughs. We continued to practice on Thursday nights for Sunday mornings. We intended to do a book study for our team, but it got postponed until January 2026 and is currently in progress. We also had plans in 2025 to re-do the side room to the left of the stage to have a space for our team to gather occasionally (prayer), and this project will carry over into 2026. Our team had a meeting in November to provide some training for our team members and review important foundational items.

Ministry Reports



Special Events:

We had Wurth ministry come back for a worship night in the spring, and some of our team members also joined Wurth for worship night at the River Rise. We held the Gathering Worship night again in November. We also played a role in special services such as Easter, homecoming, and Christmas Eve.

Needs:

We still have great needs for help with our production team as Jennifer spends many Sundays in the booth. We look forward to continuing to add new members to our team and growing spiritually and musically as well. We continued to revamp our worship ministry guide in 2025 in preparation for adding new members. *Need(s) to add - approval and help on re-doing the side room as a greenroom for the worship team. This will take a lot more work than we initially anticipated. We also have a continual list of purchases that we are slowly working on within the realm of sound/technology.

2026 Goals:

- Finishing the side room as a gathering space for prayer
- Adding members to our productions team- sound techs, pro presenter, live stream
- Holding 2 special events - Wurth in the Spring, The Gathering in the Fall (intending to pick a different date than past nights potentially partnering with children's ministry team for their September event)
- Team Meeting to continue with the items we exposed our team to in the Nov 2025 Team Meeting - Cross Training, finalizing the Worship Ministry Guide
- Adding a Worship Pastor paid role???
- Establishing more Worship Leaders
- Pianist/Keyboard Player

Missions Team

Missions Team Members: Lance Crowley, Wally & Dorothy Henninger, Pastor James Jones, Eddie and Loretta Killian, Tim Nelson, Donna Owens, Wanda Smith, Sheri Stewart (Sam Fulmer is our Management Board Liaison.)

Ministry Reports



Missions Team 2025 meeting dates: February 3, March 3, April 7, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 15, October 13 (Pastor James did a Missions Series of sermons in the Spring.)

Missions funds are used to support the following monthly or annually.

- Local Ministries and Projects

- Mission Lexington
- Scooter Scott Project
- Lighthouse for Life

- Foreign Missionaries and Projects

- John & Darlene Connelly (Barranquilla, Colombia)
- Brent & Kim McHugh (Cristar/Spain)- retired, support ended March, 2025.
- Tim & Tricia Barrow (SIM UK)
- Mark & Candy Garrett (Senegal/Serving virtually in US)
- George & Kim Aguirre (Italy)
- Charles Turner (Bible Translation)
- Pastor “G” (Guatemala)
- Operation Christmas Child

Special projects supported during 2025:

- Local:

- Living Waters Kids Camp used the church activity building.
- Meal for Airport High School football team (October 17)
- Angel Tree 2025: Twenty children from five local families were adopted and received gifts for Christmas. The families were associated with Grace Chapel Church, Lighthouse for Life and the Scooter Scott Project.

- Regional:

- Funds to help the Southern Boys purchase a freezer to support hurricane relief in North Carolina (\$2000.00)

- National:

- 2026 Next Step Mission Trip to South Dakota: paid deposits and bought supplies for fundraiser event

- Foreign:

- Funds to pay for airfare and baggage fees for Tammra Buchanan who took shoes, that were collected by Grace, to children in Panama
- Flight and luggage fees for Dorothy Henninger’s trip to Panama
- Operation Christmas Child 2025: 227 gift boxes were assembled and donated for Operation Christmas Child.

Ministry Reports



2025 Spring Yard Sale Total: \$3500.00

The money was given to the Children's Ministry team to purchase shading for the playground. Greg Rucker shared hurricane relief information during the sale, and we collected food donations for hurricane relief.

2025 Fall Yard Sale & Bake Sale Total: around \$4500.00

The money will be used to help fund the mission trip to South Dakota.

New Plans for 2026

- We will continue raising funds for the South Dakota mission trip that will take place in July.
- We will donate funds to Next Step to help fund summer projects in SC.
- We will create a process for and begin sharing regular updates about foreign missionaries that we support.
- Wally and Dorothy Henninger are planning to spend a few months in Panama to provide support to the church there.

Rooted Hybrid School

In 2025, Rooted Hybrid School transformed from a dream into reality. We launched in August 2025 with 13 students.

Weekly, students participate in home economics projects such as sewing and cooking, art projects, music class, PE, chapel and piano lessons. We went on field trips to the apple orchard, pumpkin patch, Celebrate Freedom Foundation and the Federal Aviation Administration (Mr Chase's work). We did our first service project - Operation Christmas Child by each packing a box to share with another child. From learning our letter sounds to learning multiplication, there's a tremendous amount of progress! We celebrated little and big wins academically, spiritually, emotionally. We kept our hearts and minds mission and vision focused -to Him!

Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited to finish the second half of the school year strong with learning, serving others and shining our light for Him! We anticipate to double our attendance at Rooted Hybrid School in August of 2026.

Ministry Reports



Engagement Team

At the end of 2025, Grace added the Engagement Team as a new ministry team. When a guest visits Grace for the first time, it is incredibly important that they know where to go, are welcomed by friendly faces, and feel at home. This ministry will be the start of what we feel expands into something much bigger. We know that the Lord is calling us to more - More relationship, more outreach, more of His power through the Spirit, so much more! As this ministry evolves, our dream is that it extends into an prayer/altar call component, a counseling component, and an outreach beyond Sunday component. The Lord has called several individuals into various roles within the ministry and we could not be more excited for them to step out of their comfort zones and into obedience in 2026!

Building & Grounds

At the beginning of 2025, Eddie Smith transitioned Gregg Rucker into the team lead for the Building and Grounds Team. This has been a rebuilding year for the team, as they grow in number but also transition from a group of guys that take care of church maintenance & facilities “problems” to a ministry that builds community around serving through talents and trades, while serving one another through community!

Church Hostess

2025 Nancy Busbee and I were glad to help and prepare in the following events this past year: Lunch for the littles for the Easter Egg Hunt Easter Sunrise Service breakfast Dinner to welcome Next Step leaders VBS meals -5 nights Next Step send off party Homecoming Trunk or Treat Hotdog meal Drinks for the Gingerbread bash

Glad to be able to help and serve our church and our community.

Ministry Reports



Children's Ministry Team

Ministry Leaders: Carey Odum, Rachel Crelly, and Apryl Whitman

This past year has truly been one of transformation and growth! We shifted our focus, ending our 9:30am Sunday School classes in August to fully concentrate our energy and resources on enhancing the Grace Kids, formally Wee Worship, and nursery during our 10:30 service time. This intentional change has shown overwhelming enthusiasm and growth! Over the last six months we have had an amazing surge in participation! Our Grace Kids program is now consistently averaging 44 children joining us each week. We love seeing the children engaging and actively learning and growing in their faith and forming friendships each week.

Our ministry calendar was also full of our four spectacular events this year, each were an amazing success! Our spring Easter Egg Hunt saw a fantastic turnout of 90 registrations. Summer brought our Carnival themed VBS into full swing with an average of 53 children over our 4 nights, who explored scripture, worshiped, and had great fellowship together. This impactful week was made possible by the selfless dedication of 55 registered volunteers – a truly amazing turn out showing our volunteers' commitment to Grace Kids. Fall brought our Trunk or Treat which provided a safe festive event for our community, with 22 fun decorated trunks. Where we welcomed and served over 275 people from our community. We wrapped up our year with our 2nd annual Gingerbread Bash, a wonderful family event that brought together over 20 families to make gingerbread Nativity scenes and learn more about the birth of baby Jesus!

We thank you for your continued prayers, support, and partnership in making our Children's Ministry such a vibrant and impactful part of our church family. We are incredibly excited for what the next year will hold for Grace Kids!

Ministry Reports



Men's Ministry Team

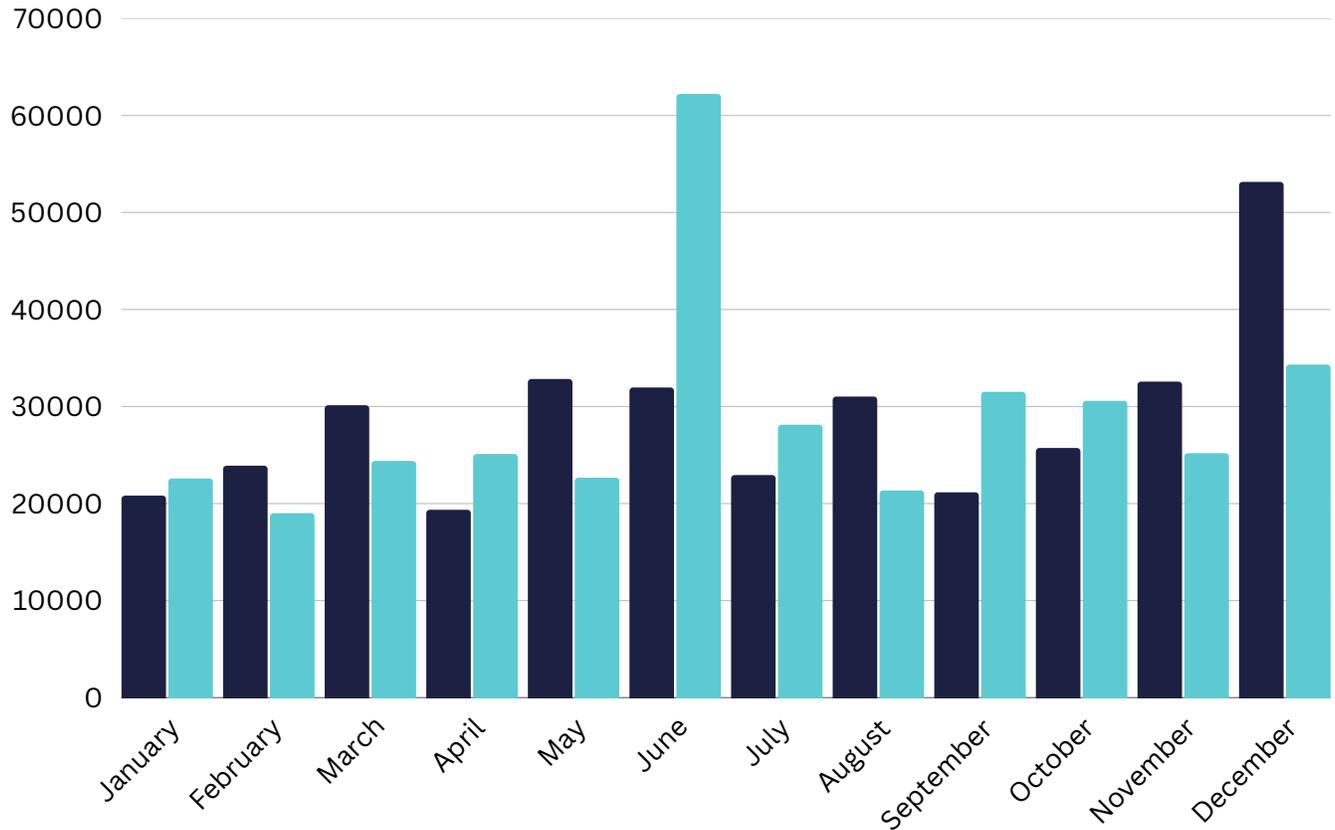
We had a good year for the men's ministry. While we did a few events, we have two that stand out. "Leaving a Legacy" was headed up by Parker Areheart. Though the study we went through what it means to leave a Godly legacy in our family. The legacy is different than what the world wants you to believe. Our second event was our visit to Nancy K. Perry teen orphanage. Keith Whitman put together our visit with the teenagers. We were able to give them a few gifts, share a meal and play games with them. It was great to visit kids who are often forgotten about during Christmas.

Kicking off 2026, we will be starting with "Stand Firm and Act Like Men" by Joby Martin, a study picked out by Chase Crelly. This study focuses on what it means to be a man of God. We also plan on doing a fish fry at the lake, and visits to the orphanage through the year.

Women's Ministry Team

January - Soup and Soak
Winter/Spring Bible study
February - Galentines
May - Women's Tea Party
Summer Bible study
August - Bible study - movie night
Fall Bible study
November - Share Fair

Annual Income & Expense



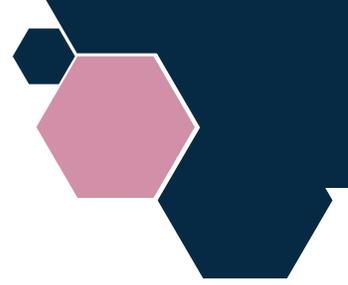
Income

345,600

Expense

347,063

Fund Activity



Funds	Fund 01 General	Fund 02 Missions	Fund 04 Building	Fund 05 Designated	Fund 06 Capital Projects
Beginning Balance	64,064.16	26,174.47	79,977.11	3,882.93	0.00
Income	246,087.44	87,426.24	10.00	5,508.92	6568.00
Expense	226,919.31	71,283.71	44,185.74	4,673.96	0.00
Transfers	-24,000.0 0	0.00	19,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Ending Balance	59,232.29	42,317.00	54,801.37	4,717.89	11,568.00

Financial Statements



Balance Sheet	
Assets	
Regular Checking	\$ 19,682.51
Money Market	\$ 150,506.72
Stripe Transit	\$ 4,395.60
Total Assests	\$ 174,584.83
Liabilities	
Pass Through Monies	\$ 366.50
Account Payables	\$ 1,581.78
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,948.28
Net Equity	
General Net Equity	\$ 59,232.29
Missions Net Equity	\$ 35,702.39
Missions Donor Restricted Net Equity	\$ 6,614.61
Building Net Equity	\$ 54,801.37
Designated Net Equity	\$ 4,717.89
Capital Projects Net Equity	\$ 11,568.00
Total Net Equity	\$ 172,636.55
Total Liabilities and Net Equity	\$ 174,584.83

Financial Statements



Income & Expense Statement	
Income	
Tithes & Offerings	\$ 235,767.52
Misc Ministry Income	\$ 757.03
Misc General Income	\$ 9,562.89
Missions Fund Income	\$ 87,426.24
Building Fund General	\$ 10.00
Designated Fund Income	\$ 5,508.92
Capital Projects Income	\$ 6,568.00
Total Income	\$ 345,600.60
Expenses	
Pastoral & Staff Salaries	\$ 97,328.30
Utilities & General Overhead	\$ 85,907.47
Ministry Expenses	\$ 43,683.54
Missions Monthly Support	\$ 61,719.00
Misc Missions Expenses	\$ 6,790.02
Donor Restricted Missions Expenses	\$ 2,774.69
Misc Building Fund Expenses	\$ 44,185.74
Designated Fund Expenses	\$ 4,673.96
Total Expenses	\$ 347,062.72



Contact Us With Questions



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