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ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022

COMPASSION CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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STEPHEN WILLIS

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S LEAD PASTOR



[Click here](#) to watch the annual report of Pastor Stephen Willis or:



CAVAN CARLTON

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S EXECUTIVE PASTOR

I humbly submit this, my eleventh annual report, as a servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Twelve years ago Jesus rescued me, pulled me from the pit, and filled me with His Holy Spirit. Not a day goes by that I don't praise God for His grace, His never-ending love, and His mighty promises. I also reflect often on the critical role our church – Compassion Church of the Nazarene – played in my own life. Without the ministries of our church, the uncompromising message of Christian Holiness, and the faithful leadership and example set by Pastor Stephen, Pastor Mike, and others, I wouldn't be where I am today.

2021-22 was a tremendous year in the life of our church. We have so many things to celebrate and be thankful for. Here are a few of the “high water marks” as I saw them as your Executive Pastor.

- Opening the Children's Education Center in August 2021. This major construction project has been a labor of love for over two years, and a testament to God's provision and care. Now that the dust has settled, the final cost is \$2.5 Million – more than we had hoped for but the Lord provided every single penny we needed.
- Retiring nearly \$140,000 in long-term debt early, and completely removing the interest rate threat we faced.
- REVIVE2021 with Dr. David Busic. What a powerful and life-changing four days we experienced! The Holy Spirit showed up and did a mighty work in our people, including me!
- Successfully incorporating as Compassion Church of the Nazarene, with unanimous support from our leadership and church body.
- Raising over \$50,000 for the newly established Compassion Fund, and being able to already bless over 120 families in the first sixty days.
- Maintaining a strong level of unity throughout our church family in a season where the enemy is working aggressively to try to divide the body of Christ.

Financially we had another strong year. Total giving was \$1.9 Million and total spending was \$2.3 Million. Over \$400,000 of that spending was for our new Children's building and debt repayment, from funds we had raised in prior fiscal years. I want to personally thank the outstanding members of our finance committee – Tim John, Mike Walker, Amy Seipp, and Rick Huff. The long hours spent reviewing charts, spreadsheets, trends, facts, and figures are all great investments in expanding God's Kingdom here on earth and helping ensure Compassion is a consistently good steward of all that is entrusted to us. On a personal note, Soni and I celebrated our 26th wedding anniversary and I love her more today than ever before! She is a beautiful, strong, faithful woman of God and the best wife to me and mother to our children I could ever ask for. Embry is quickly finishing her 7th grade year and is now officially a teenager. Callen is in 4th grade and hit the double-digit (10) milestone this year. I am eternally grateful for the blessing of my wife and children, and the holy love that fills our home.

I am privileged to serve the Lord in such a supportive and healthy church community. The constant encouragement and love shown to me and my fellow pastors is beautiful....and appreciated!

Pastor Cavan Carlton



MIKE LYLE

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S WORSHIP AND TEACHING PASTOR

What an enormous privilege it is to be able to report to you. I consider it a privilege because Compassion is a tremendously supportive church which provides such a healthy context for ministry. I am honored to work with you for the growth of the Kingdom of God. Thank you for the opportunity; I don't take it for granted. I would like to report that this year has been a great year of ministry. The two ministries I oversee have seen some significant areas of growth.

Our worship ministry has excelled and continues to grow. We are always adding new people to the team. I believe our worship team has a culture of deep community and respect for one another as well as a profound sense of hospitality toward new people. Each person on our team approaches their role with excellence while allowing others the space to do things differently. It is such a privilege to be on the same team as these people! We also have a number of leaders who meet weekly to disciple and encourage one another. Some of these people have written music for our church. The first song was released in January entitled "Song of Compassion." I foresee more original songs being added to our catalog. It is a way to partner with God in His creative activity and to serve our church. I am particularly excited about the gifted leaders who have stepped up in our worship ministry. I think God has great things in store for Brian Marker, Dee Jones, Mikayla Benner, and Caleb Atkins. They have a call to ministry and I am privileged to walk with them and help them answer that call.

With the change to Compassion Church of the Nazarene, our discipleship ministry has seen some transition. We envision discipleship ministry as a journey of grace that is made up of a series of two steps (inward steps and outward steps). There is an inward journey that takes place when someone chooses to love God, love others, and serve more. This is done through prayer and spiritual direction. We have attempted to provide resources (online, print, and pastoral) for this inward journey. There is also an outward journey that takes place in the life of the disciple. We have attempted to provide various groups for the stages of this journey. A Bible study is a place to learn together. A life group is a place to belong together. A discipleship group is a place to grow together. Finally, a compassion group is a place to serve together. We would like everyone in our church to be a part of a group. I would like to take the time to say a special thank you to all of our group leaders. These people give so generously of their time, energy, and financial resources. They provide such wonderful leadership and support for our church.

Finally, I want to thank my wife, Bethany, and our four children, Gracyn, Gavin, Gabriel, and Gia. I love them more than any other people in the world. However, I'm afraid they don't always receive my best. They have been quick to forgive and ready to support. I am genuinely grateful for their faithful love.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve Compassion Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Lyle



BRAD ROBERTSON

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S CONNECTIONS & RECOVERY PASTOR

As we quickly approach our 9th year as staff at Compassion and over a dozen years as part of this church family, the Robertson household is truly grateful for Compassion and the ways in which God has used this church to impact our lives for His Kingdom. We are grateful that our kids have been raised in a church with so much love! Thank you for your many years of generosity and investment in us.

Celebrate Recovery - What a joyful year for our CR forever family! Although this year had its challenges and lean times, the Lord has remained incredibly faithful to our ministry. We witnessed the salvation and deliverance of one lady from our CR group out of deep spiritual darkness and oppression. We had another man from a local recovery house pray to receive the fullness of salvation as well. We have been praying for God to provide "laborers for the harvest" (Matt. 9:35) and in 2022, He has been sending us seasoned and fresh potential leaders. We are grateful for the refreshed Life Center building and that now we have our own dedicated space on property. Each week, we rejoice that we are welcoming new guests through our doors from the community. As of late 2022, we have been experiencing a fresh wind within our ministry. We've gained momentum with a post-pandemic high of 35 participants. In addition, we currently have two Step Studies meetings with over two dozen men and women each week. The Lord Jesus truly continues to bind the broken-hearted and set the captives free through the ministry of Celebrate Recovery at Compassion.

Connections - The Lord is so good to us at Compassion! Scripture says that we will be known by our love for one another. (John 13:35) and how true this has been at our church. God has shown us favor by sending us single moms, widows, the broken, the downcast, and outsiders through our doors at Compassion. Celebrate Recovery has been an incredible support to that compassionate ministry, where people in the community have heard about our love and witness. Recently, we had a new family of four at our Connections Class solely because they heard about our church through CR. The Lord has weekly sent us numerous guests and new families. Some of these new members of our family have dove head first into Serving Both in our Connections Team on a weekly basis. We have grown numerically, but more importantly we are growing deeper in love for one another and for our community. God is entrusting us with the marginalized and the hurting. Thanks be to God!

Finally, I want to thank my bride, Jaime who has been my constant companion and partner in ministry for nearly 15 years. I couldn't do it without you! Thank you Compassion for allowing us to serve with you. I am humbled & honored to be a part of such a wonderful loving church family.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Brad L. Robertson



JAIME ROBERTSON

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S FAMILY DIRECTOR

As always, I am excited to share with you what is happening with our kids and families here at Compassion. This year was highlighted with fulfilled dreams, answered prayers, and the expansion of community.

Our nursery ministry, led by Vicki Thornsbury and Lindsay Beasley, is regaining strength and numbers. They have welcomed new babies and toddlers in droves, while opening two new rooms. The nursery is continuing to implement the Orange Curriculum to teach our tiny members that "Jesus wants to be their friend forever."

This year has been especially exciting for Compassion Kids. After years of planning and church family sacrifice, we moved into our much anticipated new home on campus. Friends, I am here to report that it is more marvelous than we dreamed. It has been such a joy to see the children dance, sing, and learn about their Creator in this space. We have welcomed countless new families, witnessed little hearts surrender to Jesus, and joined kids dancing with joy during worship. Aaron Hall joined our Kids Leadership Team (along with Darcy McAlinn and Katie Barber) and has brought passion and enthusiasm to our large group services. Compassion Kids hit a record number, 124, in March of 2022. This would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers that have a gift for not only teaching the Word on Sundays and Wednesdays, but caring for the children throughout the week. Our entire team is humbled to have a front row seat to watch all that God is doing in Compassion Kids. We have a core group of about 8 volunteers that serve each week. Although we are extremely thankful for nearly 20 volunteers that serve on a rotational basis, our core group of 8 is the life blood of our ministry. They are the "pastors" to their small group of kiddos. They know each one of their students' names, birthdays, family members, and prayer requests. With our rapidly growing ministry, it is this group of volunteers that keeps our kids' church feeling like a tight knit family.

One of my goals for this year was to reach a gap in our program, the 4th and 5th graders. Historically for us, and trending similarly nationwide, this is a huge drop off year for preteens. They feel "too old" for kids' church, but don't yet feel connected to the youth group. Thus, they stop attending church all together. Knowing this, we put some new programming into motion: we asked their youth group small group leaders to rotationally teach that class on Sundays, we also worked with the youth group to open up 5th grade as a "transitional year" on Wednesday nights. To God be the glory--we have seen this group go from 2-3 kids on a Sunday morning to a group of 20-25 kids! We are reaching new goals as a whole each week in Compassion Kids. Prior to Covid, we were running around 45-55 each Sunday. This month we reached a new record of 124 kiddos! That is an increase of nearly 3 times!!!

With all of the talk of what we have been doing, I want to close and concentrate on how we are being. I am thankful for a group of people to serve alongside that truly put the ministry in the hands of our Father...through prayer, service, study, and being the hands and feet of Christ. Our church is not determined by its location, its building, the numbers, the songs, or even the preaching...but simply by the love and service that is shared by those who share a common Savior.

Finally, it would be amiss for me not to mention my biggest support and partner in life and ministry, Brad. Thank you for always showing up and never letting go. There is no one I would rather dance through the minefields or sail through the storms.

Joyfully,
Jaime Robertson



GARY SMITH

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY PASTOR

We're loose! The gates have finally been opened for the Prime Timers! After nearly two years of isolation for many, we are able to see the light of day from the pandemic and go forward and away from the extended suffering of so many. "Our praise should be continually upon our mouths even in difficult times." (Psalm 34:1) This past year was a year of dodging, dipping, ducking and diving in and away from danger and potential illness as we all were affected by the pandemic. Many of you personally suffered and others lost loved ones. It has been tragic and overwhelming for so many. Now it is the time to "lift up our heads" (Psalm 24:7-10) and welcome the King of Glory to come in a fresh new way to touch our hearts again and rejuvenate us! Let's reclaim the days and years "the locusts have eaten" (Joel 2:25). God has been good and will continue to pour out his blessings on those who love Him.

We have had some wonderful times of fellowship through Compassion's line up of life groups in which many of our prime timers participate. The Prime Timer monthly fellowships have been active and blessed by the presence of those able to attend. We have visited many different places to eat and we plan to continue these monthly events to keep closely connected and active. Prime Timer gatherings are back with us and we finished the old year with a "Christmas Holy-day" banquet. We had a guest singer from Virginia Beach (Kathy Marshall) who brought many laughs and spiritual joy as she majored upon the majors of our relationship with God. In February, we had a blessed time of fellowship at Charley's Restaurant with 47 in attendance. This was a record of sorts for a monthly outing and it was one of the best times of fun, food and the Word that we have had. We will be anticipating more great times in the future.

Prime Timers are people that have come to the age of maturity (somewhere after 45 years of age). We don't turn anyone away so if you are interested in joining a group of active folks, please come to any of our events that take place. You will be welcomed!

This year, there are plans to take inspirational trips that are designed to help us grow spiritually and increase our wisdom and understanding. The most recent excursion will be seeing the "Story of David" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Pennsylvania. We hope to follow up with trips this fall to the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum in Kentucky, as well as a trip to the new Bible Museum in Washington D.C. We try to keep active in various ways throughout the year.

As part of my ongoing ministry at Compassion Church of the Nazarene, I try to keep in touch with people in our age group and bring them before the Lord as often as possible. Visitation to homes and hospitals is part of my efforts as needed. Our weekly newsletter keeps our prayer list up to date to inform our friends of prayer requests and events.

I am thankful to the Prime Timers that work and volunteer in so many areas of the church. What a blessing to see them active in the food pantry throughout the week. They are the backbone of this ministry - helping the needy and assisting in mission projects and disaster relief here in Lynchburg and various other places. You'll find Prime Timers greeting at the door, serving at events and filling in the gaps of ministry in the church. Are you a Prime Timer yet? If not, please do not hesitate to jump in and be a part of a great group of committed sons and daughters of Christ. Just fill out a card in the back of the chair and request we place you on the communication list for Prime Timers. We welcome you!

Gary Smith



RUSSANNA COOK

REPORT OF THE COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES CENTER COORDINATOR

Every year it is such a joy to report on Compassionate Ministry at Compassion Church of the Nazarene. I get a front row seat to see how compassion is shown in a tangible way not just in Lynchburg but in other parts of the country and even across the world. Here's a short list of ways our compassionate ministry center has served those in need over the past year:

- Continued to operate our weekly food pantry and reopened for in person shopping in September. Our volunteers rise to the challenge of tackling food insecurity in Lynchburg each and every week.
- Served 11 separate families through the ministry of Care Portal which partners us with local social service agencies to help kids in need.
- Delivered 1000 Christmas dinner boxes to Lynchburg and beyond for the second year in a row.
- Deployed our second disaster response team to Western Tennessee to help with the effects of devastating flood waters.
- Provided hundreds of Crisis Care Kits that were dispatched around the country and world.
- Continued to partner with multiple nonprofit agencies in Lynchburg, including No Walls Ministry, the Blue Ridge Pregnancy Center, Miriam's House, Roads 2 Recovery, Patrick Henry Family Services and more to make connections, meet neighbors and serve those around us.

While doing all that, we continued to offer immense amounts of prayer and encouragement to many hurting people within our community. As we plan and prepare for the next fiscal year, I am excited to see how God expands this ministry beyond 1737 Wards Ferry Road. We require a large group of volunteers to make this kind of ministry happen and I am so grateful for each and every volunteer who has served over the last year. Their example inspires me to love and serve better.

Every day, I wake up excited to come work on behalf of a community of believers that truly embody compassion through their giving and their serving. While you may only see the impact you're making through photos and videos, I get to see it first hand day in and day out. What a joy to be doing this Kingdom work with your love and support for those in need. One of my favorite parts of doing this kind of work is getting to bring my family along for the ride. They are endlessly supportive of helping those in need and we cherish the times we get to serve together. Brandon, Ryne, Lucy & Landon, you are all my favorites and I'm so grateful for you!

With Gratitude,
Russanna Cook



DOUG FRY

REPORT OF COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES CENTER & FACILITIES DIRECTOR



This is my 13th year to be a member of this great staff. I consider myself blessed and I am grateful. Over these years I have witnessed God's faithfulness and tremendous blessings. Things that once seemed to be impossible have become possible. For the past 6 years some of our volunteers have met on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 am to specifically pray for our Food Pantry, volunteers and clients. While we have continued to work our way through the pandemic, God has richly blessed our Compassionate Ministries and Food Pantry.

Compassionate Ministries:

On a weekly basis we have been able to provide a tremendous amount of food to needy families in our community. But that's not the end of the story. We have been able to develop relationships, hear stories, pray for needs, share the Gospel and in some cases, assist with financial needs. While it would be easy to be satisfied in our current situation, Russanna and I will never be satisfied. We are constantly praying, looking to the future and thinking about what we can do better and how we can reach more families by expanding our net. As we dream, we often talk about the "what if," then the question becomes "why not". If God's will be first and foremost, then why not? As I say each year, I am so grateful to Russana and the heart and soul she brings to this Ministry. She has the heart of God for this Ministry and loves the clients she serves. She is a tremendous asset to this Ministry and a close friend to me. I am also grateful for those who assist in this Ministry every day; David Bruffy, Trish Brooks, JoAnn Stocks, Pam Neisch, Brenda Meeks and Linda Shepherd.

Facilities:

This area includes maintaining buildings, grounds, and equipment. While this is a daily and never-ending job, we set aside approximately four Saturdays a year to prepare for special events. I am grateful for Justen Bruffy and all that he brings to this Ministry. Over the past years he has saved us a lot of money through his knowledge and by having the necessary equipment and tools. I would like to say a special thanks to James Bowles who works tirelessly to make sure that all facilities are ready each week for ministry. James is also a tremendous blessing to the food pantry as he does most of the heavy lifting and assisting with displaying the food items.

Life Group:

I have had the privilege of leading a Life Group of Prime-Time folks who love God, love their church and love others. They are some of the most compassionate people I have ever met.

I am forever grateful to my Lord and my wonderful wife Nancy for the privilege of serving!

Doug Fry



JONNY & CARROLL BAILEY & CLAY BRYAN

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S YOUTH PASTORS

What an exciting year this has been at Compassion Youth! From dodgeball, to 9-square, to our youth Worship band, to our teens and leaders, we have had quite the year. We are so thankful that even though the pandemic has continued, we have been able to regularly meet on Wednesday nights at church with changing regulations. Even with the ever changing regulations, we were able to start attending district events together in person. This year our teens were able to participate in Teen Camp, NYI DIG Camp Meeting, Megafest, and Winter Retreat. Our teens were so excited to be able to fellowship with other teens throughout the district after being apart for so long.

A praise for this year is our incredible leaders! We have had an influx of new leaders this year and leaders from previous years who felt led to continue serving with us this year. This has allowed us to divide up into even smaller groups so that our leaders can more intentionally pour into our teens. Having so many leaders has allowed our teens to hear lessons from different followers of Christ who are different ages and from different backgrounds. Our leaders are an integral part of Compassion Youth. Thank you to everyone who has served with us this year. We love you guys!

We'd like to thank the Brown, Hunter and Seipp families for their contributions to the youth group this year. Thank you to the Brown family for donating a ping pong table. Thank you to the Hunter Family for donating a foosball table. Thank you to the Seipp family for donating a volleyball net. Our teens and leaders are so thankful for the donations and always look forward to these activities on Wednesday nights.

All three of our youth pastors have also had some very exciting moments this past year! Pastor Jonny and Pastor Clay were both elected to serve on the Nazarene Youth International (NYI) Council for the Virginia District. Pastor Jonny was elected to serve as the NYI President and Pastor Clay as the NYI Secretary. Pastor Clay also got engaged to the wonderful Mikayla Benner and will be getting married this upcoming August. Pastor Jonny and Pastor Carroll announced that they are pregnant with their first child who will make her debut this August.

For this upcoming year, we want to continue to preach the Gospel with boldness and be led by the Holy Spirit. We want to continue to grow in our preaching, teaching, worship, and building relationships with our teens. We invite you to join us in prayer as we can't wait to see what this next year brings!

Pastor Jonny and Pastor Carroll Bailey

Pastor Clay Bryan

CALEB ATKINS

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S CREATIVE ARTS PASTOR

What an incredible year to serve at Compassion Church of the Nazarene, formerly Lynchburg First Church of the Nazarene. This is where I begin. To undergo a brand change is no easy feat. However, with an incredible team and, most importantly, the help of the Lord we were able to move into a new era with our identity. To become Compassion Church of the Nazarene really means to look more like Jesus every day. I am grateful for the opportunity to work on such a project. I am grateful for the growth that has come because of the Lord's favor.

One of the projects that I am also grateful for is the opportunity to write and record a new worship song, "Song of Compassion." It is such a privilege to work with such talented people who can make these types of projects a reality. Stay tuned for more!

We have continued to invest in the audio and visual aspect of Compassion church. You've noticed things such as a fresh look in the foyer and upgrades to our streaming capabilities. These are all wonderful projects to be able to work on.

Finally, I'd like to thank my family for their support. Steph is an incredible wife to serve alongside with and Rielly is a wonderful son in whom I am well pleased. It won't be long before he's either playing on the worship team or helping in technology.

I am grateful for my time and context at Compassion.

In Christ,

Caleb Atkins



COMPASSION FINANCIAL REPORT

2021 - 2022 FISCAL YEAR

(APRIL 1, 2021 - MARCH 21, 2022)

Normal Charitable Giving	\$1,305,938.25
Serve Both Charitable Giving	\$337,348.10
Designated Charitable Giving	\$201,977.26
Other Income	\$51,00.50

Total Income	\$1,896,364.11
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Facility Renovations & Improvements (Including Children's Education Center Project)	\$726,916.97
Payroll Expenses and Employee Benefits (Includes insurance, payroll taxes)	\$635,117.02
Finance & Debt Service (Interest Expense, Debt Repayment)	\$306,341.75
Nazarene Budgets & Missions Giving	\$231,311.46
Buildings & Grounds (Utilities, Maintenance, Supplies, etc...)	\$114,003.29
Local Mission (Financial Assistance, Food Pantry, Christmas Boxes, Celebrate Recovery)	\$107,584.78
Office Management (Supplies, Postage, Printing, Phone, Internet, etc...)	\$46,327.42
Administration (Commercial insurance, credit card fees, etc...)	\$33,109.64
Special Events (Harvest Festival, Church Wide Meals, REVIVE, Funerals, etc...)	\$27,541.12
Vehicles (Fuel, maintenance, insurance)	\$22,300.62
Youth, Children, & Nursery Ministries	\$18,699.08
Discipleship (Teaching Curriculum, Life Groups, Connections)	\$16,148.84
Worship, Music, & Technology	\$14,314.76
Men's, Women's & Senior Adult Ministries	\$7,396.54
Personnel Development & Volunteer Appreciation	\$6,538.81

Total Expenses	\$2,313,652.10
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*A significant amount of the funding for the Children's Education Center project was raised in prior fiscal years.

Serve Both Spending through 3/31/22

Phase I Serve Both Spending (Compassionate Ministry Center & 1733 WFR Purchase)	\$200,000.00
Phase II Serve Both Spending (Children's Education Center)	\$2,523,411.18
Phase III Serve Both Spending (Early Debt Retirement)	\$137,208.95
Long Term Debt Outstanding as of 3/31/22	\$1.314 Million

**Questions regarding any aspect of our finances? Please contact Pastor Cavan Carlton, Executive Pastor and Treasurer, at ccarlton@compassionva.com.



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