

COMPASSION CHURCH
OF THE NAZARENE



2022-2023
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS. SERVE BOTH.

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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 twelfth annual report, as a servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thirteen 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. 2022-23 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:

- Serving another 1,000 families as part of our Community Christmas Outreach.
- Hands & Hearts Day: Our annual partnership with New Covenant Schools where our food pantry is flooded with 4 th graders who join us in serving and loving our neighbors.
- Retiring an additional \$130,000 in long-term debt. Our debt balance has decreased by over \$1 Million in the past decade.
- REVIVE2022 with Dr. John Bowling. 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!
- Raising an additional \$50,000 for the Compassion Fund, and the hundreds of families we have been able to bless through it.
- The Revelation Worship Experience. What a powerful night of scripture, worship, and Holy Spirit Power we shared!

Financially we had another strong year. Total giving was \$1.68 Million and total spending was \$1.75 Million. Over \$100,000 of that spending was for our new Children's building and a major overhaul of our upper parking lot (after 45+ years!), 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 27 th 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 8th grade year and is very active in youth group and volleyball. Callen is in 5th grade and can now solve a Rubik's cube in 60 seconds! 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 & TEACHING PASTOR



What a wonderful church! Compassion Church of the Nazarene is some of the most generous, supportive, and encouraging people in the world! I am honored to work with you for the growth of the Kingdom. 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.



This year, we have seen some of the most dramatic changes in the two ministries I oversee. The lingering effects of Covid meant that our bible study and small group attendance was struggling. In response, we decided to bring our two service times together to make it easier for people to choose to engage in Sunday morning Bible studies. We also started a number of new small groups and pushed the congregation to engage again in small group ministry. I believe this has been successful!



Our worship team was able to come together as one worship team that leads worship in both services. This has slightly changed the worship style of each of our Sunday services. However, it has enabled greater participation and an increase in new people joining our team. The new schedule for our worship team has certainly come with challenges. However, the reason we changed was to help our congregation engage in Sunday morning Bible studies. Here is a snapshot of what has happened since we made this change and encouraged our congregation to engage in small groups:

- Average attendance in Sunday Bible studies increased from 45 to 125 people
- Number of small groups increased from 15 to 23
- 455 people are now engaged in some kind of small group at Compassion



We have seen some numerical growth in our ministry. However, I believe we have also seen some leadership and spiritual growth. The leaders in these ministries (worship and small group) are incredible and intentional followers of Jesus. 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! While it would be impossible to thank everyone involved (it would take too many pages!), I feel compelled to offer a special note of gratitude to some notable leaders: Brian Marker, Dee Jones, Mikayla Bryan, T.A. Dill, Carroll Sluss, Chris Barber, Andy Scoles, Chris McCown, and Alden Addair. Thank you for working so tirelessly to make our ministries so successful!



Finally, I want to thank my family: Bethany, and our four children, Gracy, Gavin, Gabriel, and Gia. They are always so ready to support and to serve. I could not do what I do without them doing what they do. My wife, Bethany, in particular is a rock. I am better because I am married to her. 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 10th year as staff at Compassion and nearly 14 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 tremendous year for our CR forever family! God has poured out His grace, favor, and blessing on our ministry. We had a year of increase in attendance with an average of 30 weekly participants. We were able to finally split our men's group and create a specific "Chemical Addiction Group" which has been very fruitful. We witnessed a man who overcame Meth addiction maintain his first year of sobriety and now is being trained as a co-leader for our chemical group. We were abundantly thankful for the return of Mrs. Tara Hughes from FL to be our female ministry lead. She also began leading our female Step Study group in January. Both our men's and women's step studies are helping people find healing and wholeness while actively training new leadership. Last, but not least we celebrate the launching of The Landing under the leadership of Pastor Ben Bailey. The Landing is a CR program designed for teens in 6th-12th grade. The Landing team has been very proactive in engaging the community and has been shepherding their flock well during this initial planting phase. We couldn't ask for a better team of leaders who love hurting teens so well!



Connections



What a rich harvest we have come to reap this past year at Compassion! It seemed this year the Covid fog had finally lifted and the vast majority of people returned from exile. God has also been sending us frequent guests from our community. Many of these guests have become engaged, assimilated into groups, and many are now serving in various capacities. This past year alone, we brought in 48 new members into our church through our online and in-person Connection Classes. Our new name of Compassion has continuously drawn in people who are hurting and need the loving care of Jesus. One new couple in our congregation have actively ministered in churches for years and recently moved here from AZ. They declared that this is the friendliest, most welcoming church that they've ever attended! What a testimony to the love of Jesus flowing through our hospitality teams and overall congregation! Thank you for being the church and living out the name of Compassion.



Finally, I want to thank my bride, Jaime who has been my constant companion and partner in ministry for nearly 16 years. Thank you for faithfully serving by my side! 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



JONNY BAILEY

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S CHILDREN & FAMILY PASTOR



It has been another great year for Compassion Kids! We have settled into our beautiful new building that our church built by faith. Each Sunday we are honored to partner with Compassion parents in ministry to all the kids that joyfully rush into our Sunday services. We have been averaging about 120 beloved boys and girls this past year; Which we exclaim, praise be to God! We had our annual Harvest Fest where we had the opportunity to love our community and church families, and we can't wait to see you again next year! We collected over 300 pairs of socks from our sock drive and caroling at Valley View. We want to celebrate with our families the 30 baptisms that have happened since the opening of the Compassion Kids building. We continue to press forward in God's mission of reaching kids and families with the Gospel and love of Christ Jesus. To Him be the glory! One of the best effects of Kids ministry is the impact it can have on the rest of the church. We are faced with many hardships in this world that could cause us to lose hope for our world; however, tell me there isn't hope when a child accepts Christ as their Lord and Savior. Tell me there isn't hope for the future when our kids are serving our community and not waiting to be the hands and feet of Jesus. There is so much hope we can find when looking into the eyes of our children. We have hope because God is continuing to expand His kingdom, and we are seeing the next generation join Him in His mission.

We want to honor Jaime Robertson and her family for all the faithful service these past years. Jaime stepped into the vacant role of our Family Director position and has served our church with diligence and love. We are excited for what is next for Jaime, and we are so grateful for all of her sacrifice. These words are not enough to convey the appreciation we have for her, so next time you see her, thank her personally for all the service she has done for our church. You and your family are loved! We want to also thank Pattie Silverthorn for serving as our interim Family Director. During this time of transition, Pattie has stepped up and taken the lead as we as a church transition smoothly to our new family pastor. The coordination of the kids ministry is not an easy task with 40+ volunteers, but Pattie has taken this task and has shown dedication every step of the way. Thank you Pattie for your service! You and your family are loved!

We want to thank Lindsay Beasley and Courtney Kelty for serving as our Nursery Directors. Lindsay and Courtney continue to elevate and serve while providing a safe environment for our children. From recruiting leaders, to making our children and parents feel loved, we thank and celebrate your efforts in all you do for the next generation. You and your families are loved! We want to celebrate all of our volunteers. Thank you to Darcy McAlinn who puts time into this ministry throughout the week to help us be prepared for Sunday. We also want to thank those who have been serving every Sunday: Katie Barber, Susan Stephenson, JoAnn Stocks, Debra Mead, Terri Harne, Rocky Barber, and Jeremiah VandeBogart. We would not be able to have any gatherings, teach our kids, or worship together without you saying yes. I want to encourage you that every time you say yes that it is a beautiful love offering to God. You are part of welcoming God to our church. Mark 9:37 says, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Every Sunday you serve, you are welcoming God, and that is beautiful.

We have hope as we look forward to the future of our kids ministry. We are excited for our 13 kids graduating from kids ministry and transitioning into our youth ministry. Thank you to our families and congregation who have prayed for our kid's ministry, served, and supported it this past year. I am excited to join all of you in this ministry and have hope for what this next year will bring.

With hope,
Pastor Jonny Bailey



GARY SMITH

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S PRIME TIMERS & CARE PASTOR

PRIME TIMERS - CHECK US OUT!

There are many who ask what Prime Timers are. Well, this is a great question!

At Compassion Church, there is a wonderful group of people that are more mature in age and have a wealth of experience and knowledge! They have garnered a tremendous amount of wisdom and experience that can be applied to all sorts of ministries in the Body of Christ. We need this vast resource to help educate and encourage future generations. What identifies or qualifies a person to be a Prime Timer? Usually, that question is answered by individuals who are drawn into and want to be a part of this awesome group! Age is not so important as compared to the desire to actively connect with the hearts of like-minded people. Our average age is 55 years so that means we have 40-somethings all the way up to 90-somethings. There you have it! If you feel like a prime timer, come join us!

Here are some of the things Prime Timers do:

- We are actively involved in all kinds of volunteer ministries, such as the food pantry to give food to 80-100 families a week! A major majority of our volunteers are Prime Timers who work throughout the week to distribute food.
- Disaster Response – We've had a number of prime timers that have traveled to areas that have been affected by natural disasters. Our last areas were Kentucky and Tennessee floods but we respond whenever the need arises.
- Church lawn care and cleanup – Prime Timers play a big role in helping with grounds clean up on the church property throughout the year.
- Outings – Trips are planned to go to places of interest such as: Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, the Billy Graham Home and Museum in Charlotte, The Cove in Asheville, The Bible Museum in Washington, D.C., Case Mountain Railway, etc.
- Gatherings – We have many gatherings throughout the year at restaurants in the area as well as three to four banquets centered around seasonal events.
- Worship Opportunities – Our praise and worship ministry utilizes Prime Timers in the morning worship as needed.
- Life Groups – Many of our Prime Timers are members of Life Groups that meet throughout the week
- Visitation – Our Prime Timers often pay visits to the shut-ins and the hospitalized. Note writing and card-sending ministries are very important. Some have even made baby blankets, embroidered hats and shawls for ill children.
- Prime Timer Communication – If you'd like to receive texts and emails focused on Prime Timer events, prayer requests and needs, please contact the church office.

If you are sensing that the Lord is drawing you to be a part of this dynamic ministry, please know, we are anxious to welcome you to the Prime Time group. Let's be a blessing together!

Pastor Gary Smith





RUSSANNA COOK

REPORT OF THE COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES CENTER COORDINATOR



What an adventure in Compassionate Ministries this last year has been. When our church formally changed its name to Compassion Church of the Nazarene, I began praying that God would give us more opportunities to show compassion to those around us. The Lord answered this prayer in more ways than I can count. Here are a few examples:

- We partnered with Virginia Baptist Hospital to provide infant carseats and pack and plays for new mothers in need. Any mother without a car seat or a safe place to sleep for their baby can call our offices and get one of these items before being discharged from the hospital.
- We successfully delivered 1,000 Christmas boxes across Lynchburg and surrounding communities for the third year in a row. This past year also marked the 14th year of the Christmas box program and continues to meet countless needs during the holidays.
- We launched the Compassion Care Teams, which will use various skills within our congregation to help those in need with work projects, home repairs, and general maintenance that they otherwise wouldn't have the resources to complete.
- We partnered with the Isaiah 117 house, a local nonprofit that helps foster children being brought into care prepare for their opening by providing funding for their teen room, meeting space for their monthly volunteer meetings and awareness for their overall mission.
- We continue to operate our weekly food pantry, feeding anywhere from 60-85 clients on a weekly basis. New volunteers join us each week and we continue to rely on those who have volunteered with us for many years to feed hungry families in Lynchburg.
- We resettled a Ukrainian family fleeing the war here in Lynchburg. When I look back on this specific event, I am still amazed at how God orchestrated every piece of this process to bring this family to be near their dearest Ukrainian friends already living in Lynchburg. So many people behind the scenes made this happen and it is a career highlight for me. Anton, Maryna and Nataliia have given up so much to reside in a safe place and given the circumstances of them coming to the states, they are all doing incredibly well. It has been such an honor to get to know them and to be a part of a church family who jumped in to serve and love them.

It is a privilege to be a part of meeting tangible needs of people in our church family and our community and to see compassion in action day in and day out. We would not be Compassion Church without the many volunteers who give their time and resources so generously to help those in need. It truly takes a team and my team serves tirelessly to love and serve others.

As always, my family is always willing to step in and serve wherever the need is. They are my biggest encouragers and my biggest blessing. These days with Brandon and my kids are flying by and I am grateful for each one.

With Gratitude,
Russanna Cook



DOUG FRY

REPORT OF COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES CENTER & FACILITIES DIRECTOR

I feel very fortunate to be completing my 14th year as a member of this great staff. Nancy and I became a part of this church family in 1984 and have shared many exciting moments together. I believe the greatest days are still ahead. We have been so blessed.

Compassionate Ministries:

This is my 13th year to be involved in our Compassionate Food Pantry Ministry. Over these past years I have seen God provide one miracle after another. On Tuesday mornings several of our volunteers come to our 8:30 prayer gathering. We pray for the prayer requests our clients have shared with us the previous week. Many of these people need a physical and spiritual healing as well for God to provide the basic daily needs that you and I take for granted. I am grateful for Russanna's leadership in our Compassionate Ministries. It is obvious through the way she loves our clients and through their love and respect for her. We are very grateful for the 28 to 35 volunteers who are a part of this great ministry every week.

Facilities:

Our goal is to maintain buildings, grounds, and equipment to the highest level possible. I am so grateful for all the volunteers who helped us during our four Saturday work days this past year. We are blessed to have so many skilled volunteers in our church family. Thanks to Justin Bruffy who maintains our facilities throughout the year.

Life Group:

It is a joy to lead a Life Group called "Doing Life Together". They are some of the most loving, caring and sharing people I know. They are the example of what Compassion looks like.

I am grateful to my wife Nancy and to my Lord for the privilege to serve.

Doug Fry





JONNY & CARROLL BAILEY & CLAY BRYAN

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S YOUTH PASTORS



What a great year it has been in youth ministry! This year has been filled with multiple youth events across the state of Virginia. We had 11 of our teens attend Ultra Camp at the Nazarene Retreat Center in Buckingham, Virginia and another group was able to attend Megafest in November. We started off 2023 by having 15 of our teens attend Winter Retreat in Harrisonburg, Virginia and 2 of our teens gave their lives to Christ! All praise be to God.



We have had many other exciting changes at Compassion Youth this year. In August, Pastor Ben Bailey and his family moved here to help launch The Landing. The Landing is a branch of Celebrate Recovery specifically designed to help teens in 6-12th grade who have any hurts, habits, or hang ups. Thank you Pastor Ben, Mandi, Sadie, and Emmie for your willingness to move here to help with this ministry. We are so thankful for your family and love for Jesus. Thank you Chessi, Eric, Wendy, and Pastor Caleb, our Landing Leaders, for your willingness to lead this ministry! Thank you Pastor Brad for helping us with the launch and sustainability of this new ministry! Please continue to join us in prayer as this ministry continues to grow.



This past August we also moved the youth group to Sunday Nights. This has been a unique change and one that could not be possible without our incredible leaders! Thank you Jasmine, Mara, Julia, Mikayla, Alyson, Zoe, Adam, Brandon B., Brandon, C., Eric, Geoffrey, and Pastor Ben for your time, dedication, and Christ-like examples you set for our teens each week. The time you spend pouring into our teens makes a difference! We love you guys!!



With our move to Sunday nights, we have begun to serve dinner during our meeting times. This would not have been sustainable without the many families who have been willing to provide a meal for our entire youth group! Thank you Compassion Youth Families for your willingness to provide a meal for our entire youth group. We sincerely appreciate your generosity.



This past year we were also able to split our Sunday School classes during our 9:00am service into Middle and High School. Thank you Pastor Jonny and Wendy for your weekly time and dedication to teach our youth more about Jesus. We are so thankful for you!!!



This year we were able to bring back our church dodgeball tournament to help raise support for our teens attending the 2023 Nazarene Youth Conference in Tampa Bay, Florida. We had over 10 teams participate and were able to raise close to \$3,000.00 to help support our teens and leaders who are attending. Thank you to everyone who participated and thank you to everyone who wasn't able to participate but still willing to donate to our teens! Please continue to pray for our teens and leaders who will be attending the Nazarene Youth Conference in July 2023.

While this year has brought an abundance to celebrate with our youth group, our 3 youth pastors have additional personal highlights to share with you all. Pastor Jonny and Pastor Carroll welcomed their beautiful daughter to the world at the beginning of August. Pastor Clay and Mikayla also got married at the beginning of August and will be welcoming a baby girl this upcoming August! Thank you all for your continued support and prayer. Please continue praying for our teens, leaders, pastors and this ministry. It makes a difference!

We love you all!
Pastor Jonny, Pastor Carroll, & Pastor Clay

CALEB ATKINS

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S CREATIVE ARTS PASTOR

2022/2023 was, again, an incredible year to serve at Compassion Church of the Nazarene. I am grateful for the opportunity to invest in the media and technology as we seek to build God's kingdom here in Lynchburg and beyond. Every day offers new opportunities to do exciting things.

One of the areas that brings me great joy is to build environments that are conducive to worship. This year we, again, celebrated advent and Christmas by being in a round stage environment. This was a fun endeavor and one in which we were able to record several original worship songs. These songs were written and produced by your very own Compassion worship team. It was such a joy to be able to be a part of the production.

In July of 2022 I was given the opportunity to preach for the first time at Compassion. Thank you for being such a wonderful congregation to share God's word with. Hopefully this won't be the last!

We have also 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 and Rielly is a wonderful son in whom I am well pleased. You've likely noticed the 6 year old with long blond hair running around the sanctuary after service. 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

2022 - 2023 FISCAL YEAR

(APRIL 1, 2022 - MARCH 31, 2023)

Normal Charitable Giving	\$1,401,813.08
Serve Both / Make Room Charitable Giving	\$46,684.07
Designated Charitable Giving	\$163,559.21
Other Income	\$71,749.65
Total Income	\$1,683,806.01
Payroll Expenses and Employee Benefits (Includes insurance, payroll taxes)	\$683,789.90
Nazarene Budgets & Missions Giving	\$234,366.73
Facility Renovations & Improvements (Including Children's Education Center Project)	\$176,985.97
Finance & Debt Service (Interest Expense, Debt Repayment)	\$169,132.80
Local Mission (Financial Assistance, Food Pantry, Christmas Boxes, Celebrate Recovery)	\$151,638.61
Buildings & Grounds (Utilities, Maintenance, Supplies, etc...)	\$115,758.02
Special Events (Harvest Festival, Church Wide Meals, REVIVE, Funerals, etc...)	\$42,484.02
Office Management (Supplies, Postage, Printing, Phone, Internet, etc...)	\$40,379.67
Administration (Commercial insurance, credit card fees, etc...)	\$36,732.28
Vehicles (Fuel, maintenance, insurance)	\$24,944.89
Worship, Music, & Technology	\$21,468.79
Youth, Children, & Nursery Ministries	\$20,162.11
Discipleship (Teaching Curriculum, Life Groups, Connections)	\$16,848.95
Personnel Development & Volunteer Appreciation	\$14,543.34
Men's, Women's & Senior Adult Ministries	\$6,825.51
Total Expenses	\$1,756,061.59

**A significant amount of the funding for the facility improvement projects was raised in prior fiscal years.*

Long Term Debt Outstanding as of 3/31/23	\$1.18 Million
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***Questions regarding any aspect of our finances? Please contact Pastor Cavan Carlton, Executive Pastor and Treasurer, at ccarlton@compassionva.com.*



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