

REPORTS

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STEPHEN WILLIS

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S LEAD PASTOR



Scan the QR code or <u>click here</u> to watch the annual report of Pastor Stephen Willis!





CAVAN CARLTON

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S EXECUTIVE PASTOR

I humbly submit this, my thirteenth annual report, as a servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Fourteen 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.

2023-24 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 4th graders who join us in serving and loving our neighbors.
- Retiring an additional \$133,000 in long-term debt. Our debt balance has decreased by over \$1.5 Million in the past fourteen years.
- Raising an additional \$35,000 for the Compassion Fund, and the hundreds of families we
 have been able to bless through it.
- The significant progress made on completing the 2nd floor of the Compassion Kids building, with a targeted completion of late Summer / early Fall 2024.

Financially, we had another strong year. We received more than we spent, and all bills and budgets were paid in full. 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 28th 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 9th grade year and is very active in youth group and volleyball. Callen is in 6th grade, loves running, and loves Jesus! 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.

First, I would like to provide an update regarding our discipleship ministries. This year, we launched our Church Center app. Within the groups portion of this app, all of our groups are organized by type: Bible Studies, Life Groups, I.D. Groups, and Ministry Teams. Bible studies are places for disciples of Jesus to learn. Life groups are places to belong. I.D. Groups provide a place to grow and Ministry Teams offer places to serve. Every group in our church has their own page including details about when they meet, who the group is for, and a way for new people to get connected. Our group leaders have been diligent in learning this new technology and responding to the invitations that come their way. I couldn't be more proud of our group leaders for how they have adapted. As a result, since my report from last year, the number of people engaged in a small group has grown from 455 people to 553 people!

Second, I am excited to offer a report on our worship ministry. I believe we have seen tremendous growth of the people involved in this great ministry over the course of this past year. The people involved are talented and humble worshippers of God. The leaders in this ministry are responsible for crafting such a strong and selfless team culture. I want to thank Dee Jones, Brian Marker, Mikayla Bryan, Emily Heady, Jared Rafacz, Caleb Atkins, and Tim Schauer for working with me to create a positive atmosphere of worship. I also want to mention that each person on our team approaches their role with excellence and dedication. Our worship ministry is second to none!

Finally, I want to thank my family: Bethany, and our four children, Gracyn, Gavin, Gabriel, and Gia. While I consider it a wonderful privilege to serve at Compassion, the pastorate comes with a certain degree of sacrifice paid by the family. I do not want to overlook their sacrifice and support. Thank you!

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Mike Lyle



BRAD ROBERTSON

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S CONNECTIONS & RECOVERY PASTOR

As we approach our 11th year as staff at Compassion and nearly 15 years as part of this church family, the Robertson household is truly grateful for Compassion and how God has used this church to impact our lives for His Kingdom. We are so very appreciative 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

The Lord has been so gracious this year at CR! Our average attendance has been consistently in the 40s (double what is considered a large CR group by national standards). Almost every week we have newcomers from the community with as many as 6-8 on a single night and our reach stretches as far as Nathalie, VA, which is over 45 minutes away. In addition to our Wednesday evening groups, we have had a consistent attendance of 15-20 participants engaged in our Sunday Step Studies, finding deeper levels of support and accountability. The Landing continues to be a beacon of light for teens in Central VA with average attendance between 5-10 gathered in a loving, supportive community under the strong leadership of Pastor Ben and his team. Last but not least, this January we were able to send some strong leaders such as Andrew Horseman and his team across the James River to establish a Monday night CR group at our sister church, Emmanuel COTN. The Holy Spirit has been showing up and showing off as streams of people from that community have been coming to find support and healing from their hurts, habits, and hang-ups. On each side of the river, we see the transformed lives from the deepest darkness to uncontainable joy!

Connections

The loving embrace of Compassion continues to reach into our community! Weekly, God sends us a vast harvest of guests and those drawn by His Spirit. I often remind our guests that they are a part of our church family from day one! This encouragement is being actualized through their engagement in our discipleship process by most joining our various groups and service opportunities. This past year alone, we brought in 50 new members into our church through Connections Classes and transfers! That is a huge accomplishment considering that the average Nazarene congregation is about 50 people. We've even had another house church from Concord come into fellowship and worship with us weekly. I frequently hear how our church welcomes like no other. 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 in Central Virginia.

Finally, I want to thank my bride, Jaime who has been my constant companion and partner in ministry for nearly 17 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



CALEB ATKINS

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S CREATIVE ARTS PASTOR

As I reflect on 2023/2024 at Compassion Church of the Nazarene, I am filled with gratitude. I often talk with other pastors about how blessed we are to serve in this context. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve this community through media and technology.

I wanted to draw attention to several projects that we have been able to accomplish over the past year:

- 1. Sound upgrades: We have been able to purchase new speakers which will replace the current speakers in the worship center. Our congregation will hear a big improvement in our worship center sound system soon. We also continue to "tinker," as I like to say, with our sound system in order to make improvements each week. In addition to big changes like the speakers, we also look to improve small things such as wireless microphones and transmitters in order to modernize and streamline our sound system experience.
- 2. Network upgrades: We've also purchased equipment and continue to install new network equipment. This will enhance our wireless network experience on campus and will allow us to use our internet service provider to its full potential.
- 3. Compassion Life Center sound upgrades: we were also able to upgrade the sound system in the Compassion Life Center. This has allowed us to have a more pleasing environment for Bible studies, Celebrate Recovery events, and youth events.
- 4. I preached for the first time in 2023 and in 2024, I was asked to preach two more times. Thank you for sticking with me! I'm honored to be able to share a platform with such talented pastors and I'm honored to be able to share with you.

On a personal note, our family grew as we welcomed our second child, River Andrew Atkins. While he brings a whole new challenging element to our family dynamic (think sleepless nights and diapers), he is a reminder of God's provision and blessings. Our family is bigger, louder, and fuller than ever before and for that I am grateful. All of this wouldn't be possible without a loving and supportive wife. I am eternally grateful for Stephanie's love and support.

In Christ, Caleb Atkins



GARY SMITH

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S PRIME TIMERS & CARE PASTOR

PRIME TIMERS - CHECK US OUT!

Are you looking to connect with a great group of folks that are in the next season of life? Let me introduce you to the PrimeTimers of Compassion Church! At Compassion Church, there is a wonderful group of people that are more mature in age (usually between 45 and beyond) and are charting a course of active life and fulfillment into their latter years. This group has a wealth of experience and knowledge and feels a desire to participate in what God is doing at Compassion. It is a group that has vast resources of knowledge and compassion to help educate and encourage future generations in their walk with Christ. Prime Timers, as we are called, desire to actively connect with the hearts of like-minded people to enjoy the journey of life. The gathering of Prime Timers throughout the year blesses those who are seeking connection and camaraderie that promotes mutual trust and friendship.

Prime Timers 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 PrimeTimers who work throughout the week to categorize and distribute food. The Prime Timers have been involved in assisting the elderly through home and hospital visitations and through offering repair services at these homes. A Life Group is poised to help whenever possible. The District Disaster Response Team gives opportunity for Prime Timers to minister to people who have been affected by an array of misfortunes. We have had a number of Prime Timers that have traveled to areas that have been affected by natural disasters. Our praise and worship ministry also utilizes Prime Timers in the morning worship as opportunity arises.

Several outings and trips are planned to go to places of interest such as the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA, the Billy Graham Home and Museum in Charlotte, The Cove in Asheville, NC, The Bible Museum in Washington, D.C., and Case Mountain Railway to name a few.

We also have several get togethers throughout the year at area restaurants and banquets centered around seasonal events. Many of our Prime Timers are members of Life Groups that meet throughout the week to fellowship, study God's Word and break bread with a meal or finger food.

If you'd like to join the Prime Timers at Compassion Church, Just drop us a note of your interest and your name will be added to the list of these great folks. You will start receiving information about upcoming activities and opportunities. You will be contacted to find ways to get connected and begin ministry at Compassion Church! It's that simple!

Pastor Gary Smith



JONNY BAILEY

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S 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, Courtney Kelty, and Vicky Thornsbury for serving as our Nursery Directors. They each 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



CLAY BRYAN

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S YOUNG ADULT PASTOR

Compassion Church Family,

This year has been nothing short of remarkable for our Young Adult Ministry. We have witnessed an unprecedented level of involvement and enthusiasm among our young adults, with more individuals than ever before actively participating in our church community. It's truly inspiring to see so many young adults plugged into the life of our church.

One of the most exciting developments has been the expansion of our young adult groups. What started as a single group a few years back has now blossomed into five vibrant and thriving communities. Most of these groups have seen consistent attendance, with most gatherings attracting more than 12 enthusiastic participants. This growth is a testament to the hunger for connection and spiritual growth among our young adults.

Our Christmas celebration was a highlight of the year, with an incredible turnout of over 55 young adults coming together to celebrate the birth of our Savior. It was a joyous occasion filled with laughter, games, and meaningful moments of fellowship. Events like these serve as a reminder of the strength and unity of our young adult community.

None of this would be possible without the dedicated leaders who pour their time, energy and love into our ministry. I am incredibly grateful for the leadership of Adam, Zach, Rachael, Garrett, Alana, Keefer, Delaney, Mara, and my beautiful wife Mikayla. Their passion, commitment, and servant hearts are the driving force behind the success of our Young Adult Ministry.

This year held a particularly special milestone for Mikayla and me as we welcomed our baby girl, Elsie, into the world. Her arrival has brought immeasurable joy and gratitude into our lives and I am deeply thankful for the love and support of my family. I am also grateful to my wife. One of my biggest blessings is being able to do ministry alongside her as we grow closer to each other and to Christ.

Looking ahead, I am filled with anticipation for the continued growth and impact of our ministry. With the support of our church community and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I am confident that we will see even greater things in the coming year.

In conclusion, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every member of our church family for your unwavering support and prayers. Together, we are creating a welcoming and empowering environment where young adults can grow in their faith and make a difference in the world.

With gratitude and blessings,

Pastor Clay Bryan



CARROLL BAILEY & CLAY BRYAN

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S YOUTH PASTORS

We are thankful for another great year in youth ministry. As co-youth pastors, we have worked together to nurture and grow our youth group and we are excited to report on this past year.

A highlight from this past year has been seeing multiple teens get baptized on Sunday mornings. We are so proud of our teens who have chosen to take this next step in their faith. In addition to baptisms, we had multiple teens get saved and sanctified.

The most significant change we made this past year was splitting our middle and high school ministries into separate buildings. We felt led to make this change to better be able to minister each age group. This change has led to a stronger community between teens and leaders and we are excited to see continued growth this upcoming year.

We cannot overstate the importance of our dedicated team of youth leaders. Their passion, commitment, and love for our youth have been instrumental in the success of our ministry. Without their hard work and dedication, we would not have been able to create such a vibrant and welcoming environment for our young people. We also want to thank all of the parents who donated meals and food items so that we could provide dinner each week to our teens.

On a personal note, this past year has been very exciting for Pastor Clay and Pastor Carroll. Pastor Clay and his wife, Mikayla welcomed Elsie Jo to the world in August. She is already so excited to be part of youth group when she grows up! Pastor Carroll and her husband, Jonny, announced that Charlotte is going to be a big sister in May! This is such an exciting time for both of our families and we are thankful to be part of the community and congregation at Compassion Church.

As we look ahead to the future, we are filled with hope and anticipation for what lies ahead for our Youth Ministry. With continued support from our congregation and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are confident that we will see even greater growth and impact in the coming year.

In closing, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to each member of our church family for your ongoing support and prayers. Together, we are building a strong foundation for the future of our church and empowering our teens to be strong leaders and disciples.

We love you all!

Pastor Carroll and Pastor Clay



DARCY MCALINN

REPORT OF COMPASSION'S KID'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

I'm so excited to share with you what is happening with our kids here at Compassion Kids. Compassion Kids has seen huge growth this past year, welcoming lots of new families. The number of kids wanting to declare their love for Jesus through baptism is such a declaration of the dedication our amazing volunteers who have poured into your kids. We have been blessed to witness first hand the miraculous work of the Lord in our volunteers as they continue to show the kids what it means to be a servant in His kingdom.

We rolled out some exciting new additions with promoting our Parent Cues and Daily Devotionals to help parents continue the discussions at home and to equip parents with the tools to help walk alongside their kids' journey to discovering who Jesus is.

We also held two jams this year: Jingle Jam and Easter Jam, which were so much fun! We plan to have many more of these events in the future so be prepared to put on your party hat and celebrate Jesus in some crazy and zany ways!

Compassion is an action word with no boundaries and we are beyond blessed watching the work being done on the expansion of the kids building. I know that the Lord will use this space to further teach us what it means to be a people of Compassion.

Lastly, I want to thank the team at Compassion Kids for the love, support, and encouragement that they share with each other and myself. They say it takes a village and I am forever grateful to be a part of this one that embodies the mission to Love God, Love Others, and Serve Both.

With Love,

Darcy Mcalinn



RUSSANNA COOK

REPORT OF THE COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES CENTER DIRECTOR

It is incredible to look back over the past year and see God's faithfulness cover every aspect of Compassionate Ministries. God has provided everything we need to continue to meet the tangible needs of our community. I do not take the privilege of getting to do this work lightly and I am grateful to work on behalf of Compassion. Here are some highlights:

Our weekly food pantry continues to max out nearly every week. Our incredible team of volunteers faithfully make this food ministry happen by loving on families and providing food and encouragement to those in need. Trish Brooks, JoAnn Stocks, Paula Gilman, and David Bruffy are a few of my most faithful volunteers who keep this ministry going week after week.

In December, we returned to having in person Christmas box distribution. Thank you to every volunteer who sorted, collected, and counted food and to those who lovingly packed it and gave it away. For 15 years, we have provided Christmas dinner for so many families and have enabled many of them to hear the Gospel for the first time. That is my favorite kind of Christmas joy.

In the fall, we partnered with local nonprofit Love Heals to renovate the kitchen of a family after they took in four younger siblings. It was incredible to see the complete transformation of their kitchen in just one weekend. One year ago, we launched the Care Teams, led by Nate Gravitt, Lee Hall, and Dan Seipp. In the past year, our care teams have completed thirty work projects ranging in a large variety of tasks. Our Care Teams are always willing to show up and help fix whatever needs fixing.

Compassionate Ministries has continued to partner with nonprofits such as Love Heals, The Blue Ridge Pregnancy Center, Miriam's House, Virginia Baptist Hospital, Patrick Henry Family Services, Freedom 4/24 and several others to help increase our impact across Lynchburg as we work together to help those in need.

Adam Hogsed and Joel White joined us as our facilities assistants this past year and they've been great additions to our team. They are always willing to serve however needed and have made great connections with our other volunteers while serving in many ministries at Compassion.

On December 31, Doug Fry finished out his tenure as Compassionate Ministries Center Director and officially retired. Working alongside Doug and learning from him as a leader and pastor has been one of the biggest blessings in ministry. Doug is a faithful encourager and worked tirelessly to champion compassionate ministries. Doug, I'm so thankful for all you've done for me over the years, for how you've given me a platform to live out my vision and for all the Chick-Fil-A. The Cook family loves you!

Brandon and I are grateful for our healthy, growing kids and for our church family who supports us while raising them. Brandon and I celebrated 18 years of marriage in November and he will soon finish out his 19th year of teaching. Ryne, Lucy and Landon have had great school years and we praise God for that. My family is always willing to serve alongside me and support the mission and ministry of Compassion Church. They are my greatest blessings and the very best part of my life. Thank you for loving them well!

With joy and gratitude, Russanna Cook

COMPASSION FINANCIAL REPORT

2023 - 2024 FISCAL YEAR

(APRIL 1, 2023 - MARCH 31, 2024)

Campus Security Men's, Women's & Senior Adult Ministries Total Expenses	\$15,294.41 \$14,026.05 \$11,975.00 \$11,212.18 \$2,228,590.94
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Campus Security	\$14,026.05
Personnel Development & Volunteer Appreciation	\$15,294.41
Worship, Music, & Technology	¢1E 2O 4 41
Discipleship (Teaching Curriculum, Life Groups, Connections)	\$22,554.53
Vehicles (Fuel, maintenance, insurance)	\$28,133.12
Special Events (Harvest Festival, Church Wide Meals, REVIVE, Funerals, etc)	\$28,464.31
Family, Youth, Children, & Nursery Ministries	\$30,327.83
Administration (Commercial insurance, credit card fees, etc)	\$41,238.86
Office Management (Supplies, Postage, Printing, Phone, Internet, etc)	\$42,790.25
Missions Trip Participant Expenses	\$63,949.72
Buildings & Grounds (Utilities, Maintenance, Supplies, etc)	\$136,870.92
Local Mission (Compassion Outreach, Food Pantry, Christmas Boxes, Celebrate Recovery)	\$140,351.94
Finance & Debt Service (Interest Expense, Debt Repayment)	\$169,132.80
Nazarene Budgets & Missions Giving	\$223,435.13
Facility Renovations & Improvements (Including Compassion Kids 2nd Floor)	\$434,714.22
Payroll Expenses and Employee Benefits (Includes insurance, payroll taxes)	\$814,119.67
Total Income	\$2,480,629.43
Other Income	\$199,059.60
Missions Trip Participant Funds	\$64,978.03
Designated Charitable Giving	\$137,655.12
Make Room Charitable Giving	\$553,568.09
Normal Charitable Giving	\$ 1,525,368.59

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



1737 Wards Ferry Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502

Phone: (434) 239-4943

Email: office@compassionva.com

www.compassionva.com





