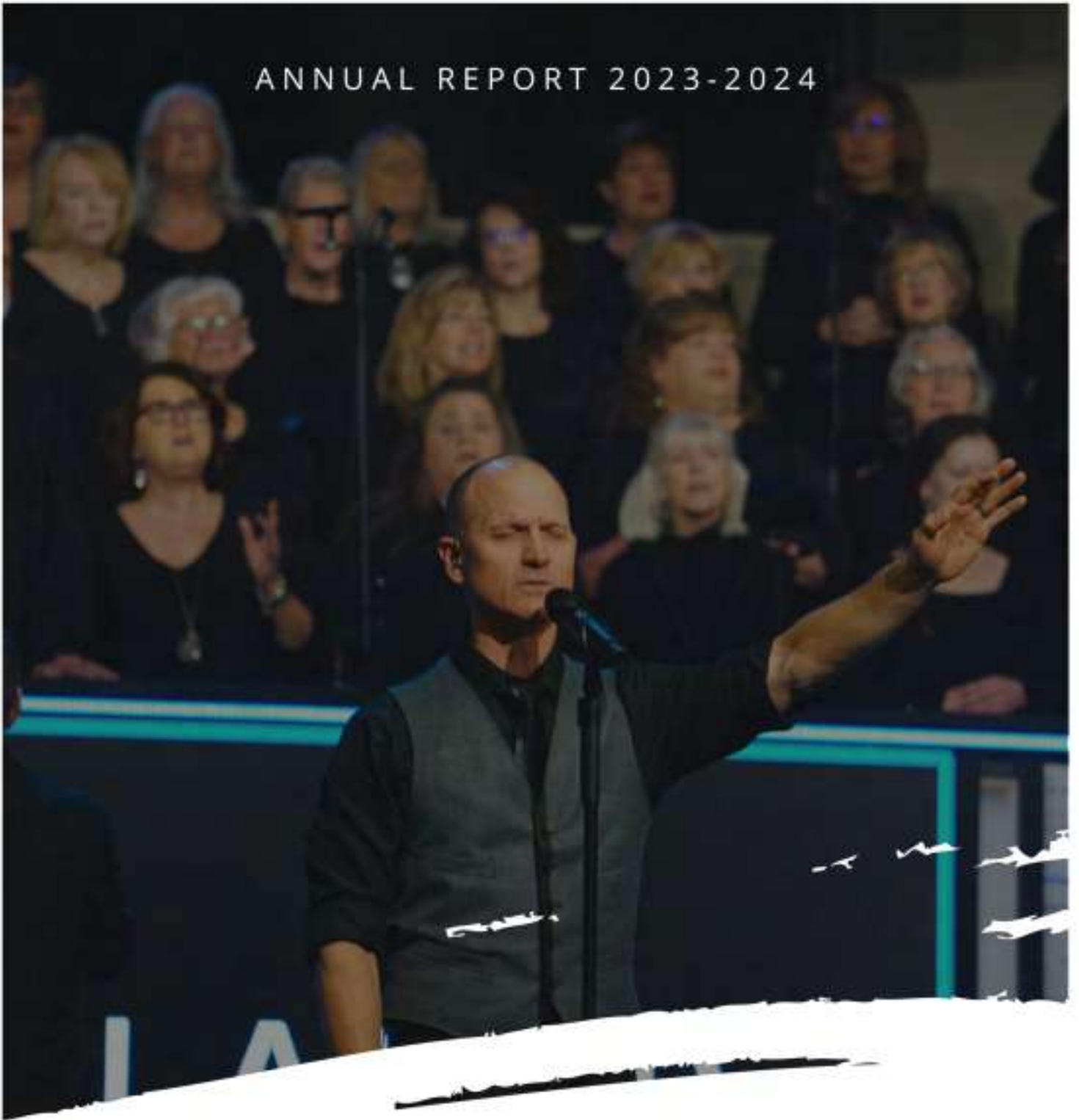


ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



IT'S BEEN A YEAR

AND HE'S BEEN SO GOOD

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH INDIAN TRAIL



FROM OUR PASTOR

DR. MIKE WHITSON, SENIOR PASTOR

**unbelievable
apart from
the Hand of
our great
Provider**

Without a doubt the Lord has entrusted to us powerful opportunities to expose the gospel in our Jerusalem. Along with that opportunity, He has gifted us with all that we need to ensure that His will is accomplished.

As I studied this year's receipts and the anticipation of our 2023-2024 budget year, I was blown away by the miraculous growth of this ministry. In 1983, our annual receipt was about \$75,000. To look at \$8 million now is almost unbelievable apart from the Hand of our great Provider.

Then, when you add that God chooses to use people to channel His blessings through and to, it only verifies the fact that apart from Him "we can do nothing." But with Him, "we can do all things."

The year 2023 has seen the Lord build back from the consequences of COVID. We saw over 1,200 people come to faith in Jesus through our combined ministries and mission efforts. Life groups have flourished. Various ministries have multiplied, and many more volunteers are stepping up to serve.

Our staff have led tirelessly to help us grow and model ministry before us. Take a few minutes and pray for them and, when you feel prompted, send a word of encouragement to let them hear of your love. After seeing their goals and plans for the coming year, I am convinced that God's best is on the way. As you review this report, pray. As you pray, believe. As you believe, let it be evidenced by your obedience. That is what reveals our faith.

Be blessed as you walk with our Lord.

Preacher Mike

**with
Him
we can
do all
things**

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE AVERAGE

2400 

PROFESSIONS

MAIN CAMPUS

167 

BAPTISMS

MAIN CAMPUS

173 

LIFE GROUPS

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

1561 

THE BEST DAY

OF THE WEEK

It doesn't get any better than Sunday (we're just saying...)

There is no argument here...Sunday really is the best day of the week. It offers the opportunity for believers to corporately worship the One who deserves all our praise and a chance for unbelievers to encounter the living God. We celebrate baptisms and first time guests and are led in a Biblical message that challenges us to grow in our faith and regain our focus for the week ahead. Whether connecting over a cup of coffee, a friendly hello or a conversation in life group, Sundays offer a chance to do life with some pretty awesome people. And who doesn't love spending the best day of the week with the best people?





PRAISING

HIS HOLY NAME

Christmas brings decisions for Christ

The Indian Trail Choir and Orchestra presented Christmas at Indian Trail: A Night of Joy featuring the 120-voice Indian Trail Choir along with special guests Wes Hampton, Angie Primm and the award-winning Voices of Lee. This two-night Christmas spectacular filled the auditorium each night with over 50 people receiving the greatest gift that has ever been given, the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

KIDZ Choir is back

In February, the Music Ministry officially relaunched KIDZ Choir. This ministry was founded to pour into our children through music education and spirit-filled, Bible-based songs. With over 60 children in attendance each week since its launch, the kids in our KIDZ Choir have been an integral part of our main blended worship through their performances each month. We just can't get enough of those little voices singing praises to our big God!





MARCH

LIKE A CHAMPION

Three days of powerful preaching

The second annual March Like A Champion Bible Conference did not disappoint with power-packed preaching from numerous dynamic speakers across the country and songs of worship that ignited both an overflow of praise and presence of the Holy Spirit undeniable in the room. Attendees walked away recharged and reminded that the Lord Himself fights our battles and gives us the victory over the darkness in this world.





FORTY YEARS

AND COUNTING

Pastor celebrates incredible milestone

April 2023 pinned the 40th year of ministry for Dr. Mike Whitson at First Baptist Church Indian Trail. Our church family and many friends in ministry came together to celebrate the goodness of God and His blessings on this ministry through the unwavering leadership of our Pastor. He was awarded The Order of the Long Leaf Pine and gifted the opportunity to open a session of the US House of Representatives with a prayer for our nation. The day of May 28, 2023 was also proclaimed Mike Whitson Day by the Town of Indian Trail for his contribution to the community. What an incredible milestone, only made possible by an incredible God!



DR. MICHAEL T. WHITSON
Guest Chaplain





VBS

STILL A KID-FAVORITE

Purpose-filled fun for all ages

Vacation Bible School continues to be one of the most engaging events we host. Over 300 adult and student volunteers come together to serve nearly 700 children from our church and community. Our week concludes with a Family Night that brings over 1,000 moms, dads and kids together to celebrate what God has done while, in turn, providing us with the opportunity to share Christ with many unchurched families. At least 25 souls were saved through this effort, and we are still celebrating all God did!

FAMILY FEST

IS THE PLACE TO BE

More for families

With so much darkness surrounding Halloween, Family Fest gifts our community with a family-friendly event featuring food, games, hay rides, inflatables, and of course lots of candy! All ages of our church combine to serve the attendees of this festival and provide each family with information about our church and the gospel.



316 SPORTS

GOES BEYOND THE
GAME

Teaching kids how to win on the field and in life

316 Sports continues to be one of the prime experiences that we offer families of children ages 3-14. Developed to intentionally expose families to Christ through their chosen sport, that is exactly what we are doing. Our theme this spring encouraged players to put on the armor of God to tackle battles both on and off the field and to defeat lies with the truth of God's Word. One young mom reported that her son's prayer life drastically improved after hearing his coach speak on the importance of prayer. While winning a game is great, a win like this is so much greater.

1 6 0 0

participants

1 8 0 0

presented the Gospel

2 3 0

salvations





192

GOLFERS



158

SPONSORS



\$202k

RAISED

Teeing off for a cause greater than golf

The fifth annual Mike Whitson Invitational raised the bar in number of golfers, sponsors and donations. With the Lord's provisions, we were able to present Cameron's House of Hope with our largest donation of \$202,126. The result of your generosity will provide numerous children with a birthday celebration, art therapy, bibles, nutritious meals, new outfits and emergency shelter if needed. Now that's a hole-in-one!



Cameron's House of Hope opens

Fall 2022 marked the opening of the permanent location for CHOH. Built with a multitude of volunteer hands and donations, CHOH can now host outdoor play, counseling, tutoring, a clothing boutique and activities for multiple children of substance abusive parents at once. The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these children would not have been possible without your gifts of love.



27

KIDS ACTIVELY
BEING HELPED
THROUGH CHOH

THE LIFT

MODERN WORSHIP
ENVIRONMENT

Lance Bradley, Pastor

The LIFT turns 15

This year, The LIFT celebrated 15 years of leading people into an everyday walk with Christ. Every week, people who haven't been to church in a long time or who are far from God say yes to Jesus through this modern worship environment. They are connecting to this church and each other, and we couldn't be happier! Fifteen years of life change is something to celebrate, and we're believing God for 15 more!



Helping kids in Kenya

The LIFT raised sufficient funds to construct a new Junior High School in Kenya to help young girls continue their education and keep them from becoming child brides. Because of your generous giving, the students of Linda's Kids Academy now have the hope of a brighter future.

Giving Hope gives more

The LIFT wrapped up Giving Hope in December by providing Christmas to over 300 local kids and their families whom otherwise would not have received anything. Each year, this initiative gifts families with more than what's uncovered from a box and bow but rather the hope that is found only in Jesus. And He is the greatest gift!

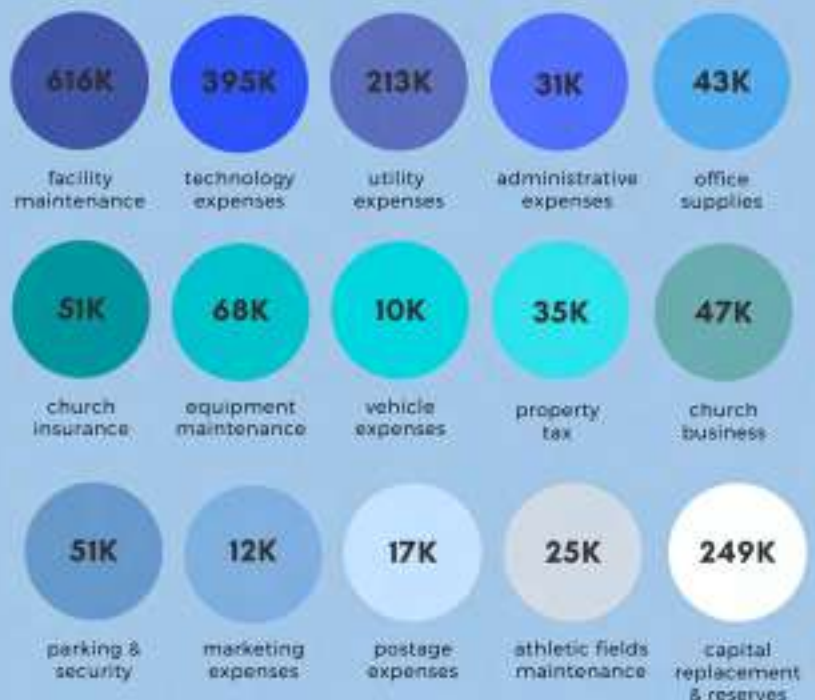


FINANCIALS

God has blessed us with about 210,000 square feet of floor space at Main Campus alone, including over 145 classrooms and an extraordinary amount of equipment. We are blessed with over 110 acres of property and over 370,000 square feet of buildings among all campuses. Even with this much space, there continues to be great demand for our facilities by all the ministries of our church and school. Two new classroom buildings have been completed over the past year. Though these classrooms will primarily be used by our school, they will also benefit Life Groups on Sundays. These construction projects have also freed up 34 additional parking spaces adjacent to the Sossamon Chapel.

Our facility is utilized seven days per week with well over 10,000 people coming through on an average week. We strive for ways to efficiently maintain and upgrade our campus. We regularly review operating expenses to ensure we are good stewards of the resources that God provides.

OPERATING EXPENSES



23-24

MINISTRIES

to love and lead everyone
we meet into an everyday
walk with Christ

\$25,500	BEREAVEMENT	\$72,500	MEDIA
\$14,200	SENIOR ADULTS	\$3,600	MEN
\$55,450	CHILDREN	\$22,400	MIDDLE SCHOOL
\$21,690	FAMILIES	\$80,000	MUSIC
\$18,000	YOUNG ADULTS	\$22,450	PRESCHOOL
\$4,200	COUNSELING	\$7,160	SLAVIC
\$2,000	CULTURE IMPACT	\$59,800	SPECIAL DAYS
\$22,200	316 SPORTS	\$30,680	GUEST SERVICES
\$1,200	DISCOVERY	\$94,400	THE LIFT
\$28,628	HIGH SCHOOL	\$17,250	WOMEN
\$63,500	LIFE GROUPS & DISCIPLESHIP	\$8,000	VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

\$674,808 MINISTRIES TOTAL



MISSIONS

TRAINING
+ CONFERENCES

Education & Conferences	\$49,000
Southern Baptist Convention	\$15,000
NC State Convention	\$500

PERSONNEL EXPENSES



\$749,000
BENEFITS



\$166,500
SOCIAL SECURITY



\$62,850
MILEAGE



\$32,000
WORKER'S COMP



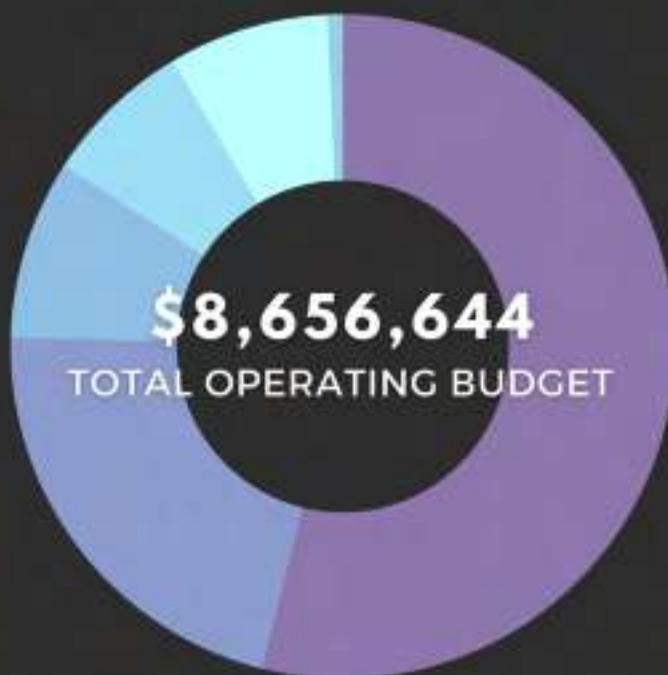
\$3,656,500
SALARIES & HOUSING

DEBT PAYMENTS

ANNUALLY, \$756,000 IS PAID
TOWARD DEBT PRINCIPAL
REDUCTION AND INTEREST.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

BUDGET YEAR 2023-2024



PERSONNEL

\$4,666,850

OPERATING EXPENSES

\$1,863,350

DEBT PAYMENTS

\$756,000

MISSIONS

\$631,136

MINISTRIES

\$674,808

TRAINING & CONFERENCES

\$64,500

SATELLITE CAMPUSES

ONE CHURCH.
THREE CAMPUSES.



East Campus

*Dr. Alvin Summers,
Pastor*

The proposed budget for East Campus is being sent to the families at that location. **Their total 2023-2024 budget is \$699,915.** This is not included in the totals on the preceding page.

West Campus: Restoration Church of the Carolinas

Dr. Joe Brown, Pastor

The proposed budget for Restoration Church of the Carolinas is being sent to the families at that location. **Their total 2023-2024 budget is \$595,100.** This is not included in the totals on the preceding page.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PASTOR



REV. SAMMY THOMAS

A year of opportunity

We are all blessed to be part of a vibrant church where lives are being changed and people are growing in their faith. This morning, I sat in a homegoing service of a faithful church member where eight people responded to the gospel invitation from our Pastor. We are still seeing growth in our worship services and life groups. God continues to bless us with new opportunities for ministry. We are reaching over 1,000 homes most weeks with our online services. Our television ministry has changed to a stronger station this year, WCCB Charlotte, opening new opportunities for us to reach viewers that have never worshipped with us before.

Over the next few weeks, we have great opportunities to see people come to Christ with mission groups in the Dominican Republic, Kenya and Panama. Over 200 middle and high school students will be heading to camp later this month. Close to 1,000 children will also attend Vacation Bible School in late June. I look forward to seeing how the power of the gospel draws many to Christ this summer. All of this, and so much more, is possible due to the blessings of God and your continued faithfulness in giving.

We are grateful for all that has been done, but challenged by all that is still ahead. The 2023-2024 budget reflects a modest increase of 4.75%. This is always a faith budget, as we depend on God to supply our needs. Much time and energy has gone into preparing this budget. The continued support of staff members, as well Finance and Personnel Committee members is a vital part of this process, and I am grateful for their hard work. We present this budget for your approval. I am eternally grateful for God's continued blessings and your faithful support of First Baptist Church Indian Trail.

Sammy L. Thomas



FINANCE COMMITTEE 2023-2024

Ray Black, Bob Conder, Shirley Helms, Helen McAteer, Kevin McManus

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE 2023-2024

Tom Ahrens, Larry Helms, John Hurley, Greg McCotter, Jeff Simpson, Ed Small

The budget vote will be held on Sunday, July 2 at the conclusion of the 11am worship service.

If you have any questions regarding the 2023-2024 budget before you vote, please contact Julie James, CPA at 704-893-2624 or Rev. Sammy Thomas at 704-893-2612.

