

ANNUAL REPORT



FISCAL YEAR 2025

A NOTE OF HOPE

Hope Community,

The Bible tells us that looking back and remembering is a good practice. As we meditate on and remember all that the Lord has done at Hope this past year, we're reminded of His faithfulness to us, both in celebratory times and in times of struggle. Remembering what this year has looked like can cause us to rejoice, and it can also bring us to lament. Both are good and right ways to respond to God's work in our lives. At Hope this year, we've rejoiced in all the ways the Lord has changed people through the good news of His gospel. We've also lamented staffing and facility changes, struggles, and expectations. In good and hard times, we remember God's faithfulness and receive the invitation to trust Him as we partner with Him in His work.

As you read this report and remember what God has done in the life of our church since last July, we hope that this could also prompt a time of personal reflection for you, too, to look back and see what God has done in *your* life this past year - the ways He has been faithful to you in hardship, how He has grown and sanctified you, and the good gifts He has given you to delight in and share with others.

Our hope and prayer for this next year is that we would remember daily how the Lord shows His mercy and faithfulness to us. As we recall these truths and rest in His promises, would we be propelled with faith and love to our neighbors, our community, and our city, and would our hope be found in Him alone.

We're grateful for you, Hope Community! We're thankful for what God has done, and we're looking forward to what He has in store for us next.

Hope Community Church



FINANCIAL REVIEW



FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025¹

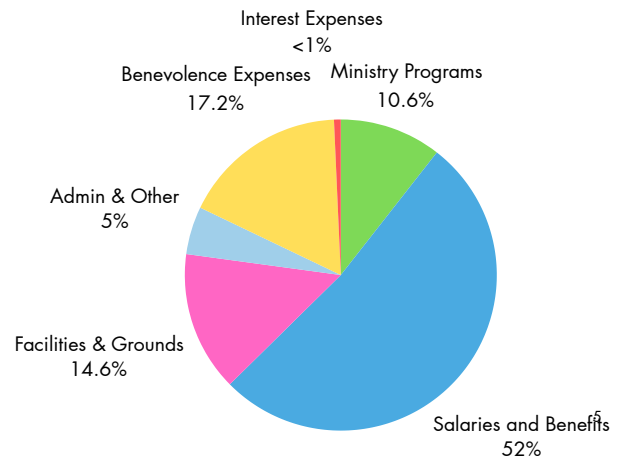
Revenue

General Contributions ²	\$7,271K
Designated Benevolence Contributions	\$236K
Other Revenue	\$305K
Total Revenue	\$7,812K

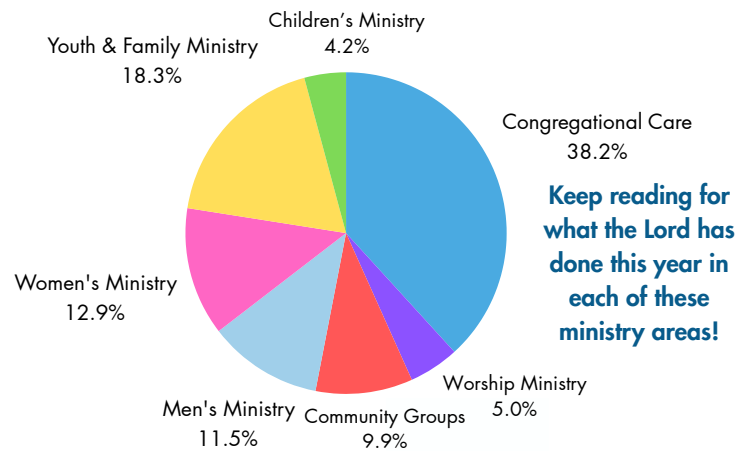
Expenses

Operating Expenses	\$4,458K
Ministry Programs	\$573K
Congregational Care	\$219K
Worship Ministry	\$29K
Community Groups	\$56K
Men's Ministry	\$66K
Women's Ministry	\$74K
Youth & Family Ministry	\$105K
Children's Ministry	\$24K
Salaries & Benefits	\$2,825K
Facilities & Grounds	\$790K
Admin & Other	\$270K
Benevolence Expenses	\$932K
Interest Expenses	\$38K
Total Expenses	\$5,428K
Net Income	\$2,384K³

TOTAL EXPENSES



MINISTRY PROGRAM EXPENSES



SIGNIFICANT BALANCES AND OTHER KEY METRICS

\$4,397K

CASH³

\$1,013K

OP MORTGAGE

\$4,110K

OP MARKET VALUE⁴

\$137K

ANNUAL MORTGAGE
PAYMENTS

28

TOTAL EMPLOYEES

73

ATTENDEES PER FTE
STAFF PERSON⁵

¹ Unaudited financials may change with year-end adjustments; you can find audited financials at hopecommunity.com/giving when available

² Contributions to Hope's General (Hope Overflowing) Fund

³ Intended to help address facility needs in the future

⁴ As of August 10, 2021 appraisal

⁵ According to The Unstuck Church Report, churches our size have an average staff budget percentage of 53%, and 55 attendees per FTE staff

HOPE BY THE NUMBERS



253

NEW MEMBERS

1,612

**CURRENT AVERAGE
WEEKLY ATTENDANCE**

67

BAPTISMS

If you look at our numbers alone from this past fiscal year, they're pretty staggering. Our current average weekly attendance is over 1,600 adults + children. This is a **17% increase** from our average attendance this time last year. We're so grateful for the people the Lord is bringing to Hope and for their experience of the gospel of grace, whether it's their first time or their 1,000th time. We're continuing to pray about how to best shepherd people, how to steward our resources, and what to do about space and staffing limitations.

We had **160 new communing members** join our church family from July 2024 - June 2025. For **59** of these adults, Hope is the first church of which they've ever become a member, and **5** of those adults were baptized for the first time alongside their joining. **15** of these new members are youth that have grown up in the church and have decided to join Hope of their own accord, apart from their parents' faith. We also added **93 non-communing members** to our church body this year, whether by birth or by their parents joining.

These numbers are big and exciting, maybe even overwhelming, but more special than the numbers themselves is each individual story that they represent. Our Elders and members of our Women's Shepherding Team have the privilege of getting to hear each of the stories behind these numbers when people interview for membership. It's a joy to share with you briefly how the Lord is using Hope in one such story.

"God has gathered and grown me in a beautiful community at Hope. We do life together. Through all of our twists, turns, and trials, we worship together, weep and rejoice together, fix our eyes on Jesus together, and find our hope in His mercy, grace, and truth."

- Amy Townsend, OP Member

*"Real
people..."*

COTSWOLD CONGREGATION



Our Cotswold congregation is no stranger to change, and this year proved to be no different. In the midst of struggles and uncertainties - facility, leadership, and otherwise - **we've seen the Lord's faithful hand at work in our congregation still.** This year, Cotswold hosted its first leadership training classes, and we're grateful for the men and women the Lord brought. We had 9 Community Groups at Cotswold (roughly 150 people in groups!) and are excited to open a few more this fall. 50 women & 40 men joined us for their respective retreats this spring - more than we've ever had from our Cotswold congregation!

One big part of God's story for Cotswold this year came from the Pastoral Search Committee interviewing candidates and ultimately deciding to hire **Steven Chitty** as our new **Cotswold Site Pastor.** Steven was an intern at Hope many years ago, but he and his family are most recently coming to us from San Jose, CA, where Steven served as the co-Lead Pastor at Grace South Bay. Steven, Nicole, Mckayla, and Margaret arrived in June, and we're looking forward to their continued integration into the life of Cotswold.



One of the things that we're encouraged by at Cotswold is the way in which this feels like a congregation of neighbors, both physically and in spirit. In fact, when the Chittys bought their house in Charlotte, they bought from a family of Cotswold members! One particular story that shows how God has been at work through this community came from something as simple as inviting neighbors to a workout.

"One of the things we've most loved is the community at Hope Cotswold. Our Community Group leaders have been hosting a Saturday morning workout that is laid back and open to all, even all of our children. The loving environment they have created made it easy to invite our neighbors, who have now become regulars, and it has compelled them to visit our church. We're excited to see how God continues to use this community in our neighborhood and in our neighbors' lives."

- Jonathan Wilson, Cotswold Member

Just this month, our Cotswold site has begun meeting at Charlotte Christian School while our building is being renovated by the landlord. The Lord has provided for us in many ways, and we're very grateful for the hospitality of Charlotte Christian as we're displaced for a while.

Would you join us in **praying three specific things** for our Cotswold site this year? 1. That we could celebrate the work of Jesus in our lives and in our congregation over the last five years. 2. That people in our community - both inside and outside the church - would experience Jesus through Hope Cotswold. 3. That Jesus would unite, strengthen, and grow us as we move into Charlotte Christian School. Thank you!



OLDE PROVIDENCE CONGREGATION



Somehow, **the Lord keeps bringing new people to our OP congregation even though we truly have no space for them.** We're humbled and grateful. This Easter, we added a third service and still had to ask people to consider worshipping elsewhere, because registration filled up so quickly. (Over 830 adults joined us that morning!) We consistently run out of parking each week, both on Sundays and for Women's Bible Study. We began this fiscal year 3 months into our Hope Overflowing generosity initiative, but this summer, the Session made the difficult decision to not move forward with the expansion for the time being, due to giving being significantly behind what was pledged to-date.

The Lord is graciously meeting people at OP in **all seasons of their life and faith**, whether that's folks hearing Bible stories for the first time, or people being able to rest and be refreshed by the gospel of grace as they come out of vocational ministry. OP's mercy ministry has a group dedicated to building community among and caring for the needs of single women in our congregation, and mercy is happening regularly through members of the church. Here's an example of how OP members are at work serving each other:

"A year ago, some of our friends experienced a deeply difficult life event. Since then, seeing the church care for them has been so impactful. From meals, to babysitting, to sorting through materials for insurance claims, the body of Christ has wrapped around this sweet family in countless ways. A year later, it is incredible to see so many of our prayers answered. We are thankful to be a part of Hope."

- Dave Kulp, OP Member

The Lord is using our facilities, too, as **our physical building continues to be a space that we're grateful to offer the community on a regular basis.** AA meets at OP three nights each week, and Young Life uses both the back house and the Barn for their ministry. We've hosted Nurture Counseling the past three years, and our space is regularly rented for events in the community - school sports banquets, HOA meetings of our neighbors, celebratory life events. Our Deacons & Mercy Team are building partnerships with other ministries in our community, too. Most recently, we've been able to offer our space to South Charlotte Presbyterian to meet as they are currently without a building. **We want to steward our property well, recognizing that it is a gift from the Lord that we can be open-handed with by offering it to others.**

With OP's growth, we're grateful for the continued growth of our leadership, too. We elected 3 new Elders to serve this congregation this past year, and you all nominated almost 20 men from OP who are currently going through officer training. Whether or not they are called to serve in this way, this is amazing. Many leaders served our Community Group ministry, as well, with 25 Community Groups at OP this year!

The Lord is doing great things in and through our OP community. As He continues to bring more people that long for gospel community, **please join us in praying that we can serve God and serve others by being open-handed and outward facing with our time, our gifts, our building, and our relationships this year.**



SOUTH END CONGREGATION



If you were to step into our South End congregation on a Sunday morning (or a Monday night for Women's Bible Study, or a Tuesday night during the Summer Study), you'd find **a vibrancy that really mirrors the part of town that this congregation occupies**. This congregation is growing with neighbors who find our church and walk to worship from their South End apartment each week, as well as growing with families. Our South End site averaged a baptism every other Sunday this fiscal year!

Ministries at South End are growing and are **bearing much fruit**, as well. We had 23 Community Groups at our South End site this year. 113 guys attended the Men's Retreat this spring - the first ever solo South End retreat - and 149 South End women participated in Women's Bible Study this past semester. On top of that, we've averaged close to 200 attendees at our Summer Study this year. Here's how ministry at South End has impacted an attendee, specifically.

"...looking to the real Jesus..."

"Over the last three years—and especially this past year—I've been encouraged to see how the Lord has opened doors for me to step into His kingdom work through leading Women's Bible Study and serving in our Children's Ministry. As I transitioned out of the Charlotte Fellows program, He's provided new community to grow and learn alongside, while also deepening many of the meaningful relationships I formed during my time as a Fellow."

- McKenzie Feldman, South End Attendee

In addition to growing in fellowship internally through block parties, coffee in between services, or even painful things like profound loss, **our South End site is also being led by their Mercy Team in external service**, partnering closely with 7 ministries in our city. We offer space weekly to YoungLives for their ministry to teen parents in Charlotte, and we have a team that is building relationships with people in the city through recreational sports ministry, too.

South End leadership is so encouraged by the way people at this site are actually living out the mission and vision at Hope. Would you **join us in praying that this would continue in our South End congregation as we keep engaging with our city?** Please also **pray that the Lord would provide a new space in South End** where we can worship, as our lease expires in the next few years.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

38.2%



As our congregations continue to grow, our aim is to both **introduce people to the real Jesus**, who changes us through the Holy Spirit and the good news of the Gospel, and to **shepherd this growing group well**. **Our congregational care budget helps us do just that**. Discipling people over a cup of coffee or a lunch, delivering meals to new families, caring for folks during difficult times, meeting for new member interviews - these are all ways we tangibly serve and care for the people of Hope. All of our ministry areas use this budget for one-on-one care for people. Thank you for allowing us to do that! Sometimes hard and sometimes full of joy, it's a real privilege to have front-row seats to the change that the Lord is doing in people's lives. Our hope and prayer is that we continue to embody our mission statement:

"To bring glory to God by proclaiming what Jesus has done for us and by becoming a community of people characterized by authentic relationships, heartfelt worship, and selfless service as God's Spirit applies Christ's work to us and to our children, the people of South Central Charlotte, and our neighbors in urban centers around the globe."

Would you join us in praying that we could continue to be a church of real people looking to the real Jesus for real change?



WORSHIP MINISTRY

5.0%

Worship truly is the heartbeat of each of our three sites. Our hope, all throughout the week but especially on Sunday mornings, is that **our eyes would be fixed on Jesus, not ourselves**. **Worship teams at each of our three congregations help lead us into that posture each Sunday morning**, and we're especially encouraged by the growth of these teams. Our philosophy of ministry starts with our volunteers - we want the people on stage on Sunday to look like the community they're leading - which means including everyone from adults to youth-aged kids. On top of coordinating our services on Sunday mornings, our worship coordinators walk alongside volunteer leaders, building confidence, leadership, and discipling them as they use their gifts and move into their calling. We worship together corporately on Sunday mornings, but we also love gathering together at special services throughout the year, including Advent, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

9.9%

“...for real change.”



The Community Group ministry at Hope is where life really happens - where **people experience living out the gospel in community**. It's also where much of the mercy care in our congregation happens, with groups regularly rallying around members in times of need. Our Community Groups are truly places where our big church starts to feel a little smaller and more intimate.

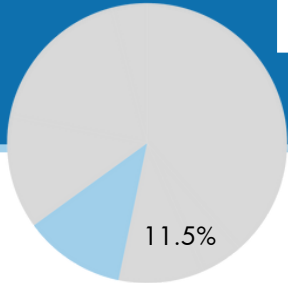
Many people in Community Groups are experiencing **real community and faith through community** for the first time. This happens sometimes when groups discuss sermons together each week, really diving into the practicality and tangible nature of applying what we hear on Sunday morning. Others experience this when individuals share the story of how God has worked in their life. For many, this is their first time listening to others share and practicing this reflection on their own. Whether in these ways or while going through other gospel curriculum together, our hope is that the Holy Spirit really uses these spaces for people to experience **real life and real transformation**.

We currently have 57 Community Groups across our three congregations of Hope. That means **roughly 900 - 1,000 folks (about 77% of our congregation!) are participating in this ministry**, which is wild and amazing! In addition to that, we're hoping to add over 20 new groups across the three congregations this fall. We continue to be exceedingly grateful for our Community Group leaders (all 208 of them!!) and the ways in which they give of their time, their homes, and themselves to serve and lead the body of Hope. We're also very thankful for the 35 Community Group coaches who care for, shepherd, and meet regularly with our leaders to provide support throughout the year.

This ministry is growing rapidly, as is the need for budgetary and staffing increases. We're doing our best to catch up with Hope's growth, trying to get as many people as we can into groups as quickly as we're able, but this is no small feat. **Please join us in praying that the Lord would continue to provide leaders for new groups, and that these groups would truly be places where people at Hope are changed by the gospel through community.**



MEN'S MINISTRY



Men's Ministry at Hope continues to be a place where **many guys are experiencing real gospel friendships and vulnerability**, some for the first time. This year, the men of Hope spent time studying the Bible together at Men's Bible Study, while also enjoying fellowship at pig pickin's or monthly guys nights.

One big shift in our Men's Ministry this year came from **each of our three congregations having their own individual Men's Retreats** this past spring. This allowed for more guys from each site to attend, and it also fostered greater relational community among men at their own Hope site. Moving to site-specific retreats is exciting, but it also presents calendar and resource challenges, so our Retreats will shift to an every-other-year cadence moving forward, with fellowship events in Charlotte during the off-years.

We're grateful for how the Lord is using Hope to work in the lives of men in Charlotte. Would you pray for continued gospel transformation and community?

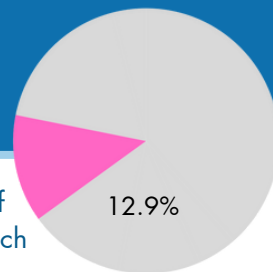


"It is honestly hard to condense just how much of an impact the Men's Retreat has had on me. It really opened the door to transformational community in my life. I feel like the retreat was an answered prayer in finding some of my closest friends, community, and overall home that I've found in Hope South End. It's been just over a year since my first retreat, and I'm still so unbelievably grateful that the Lord led me there."

- Fernando Granda, South End Member



WOMEN'S MINISTRY



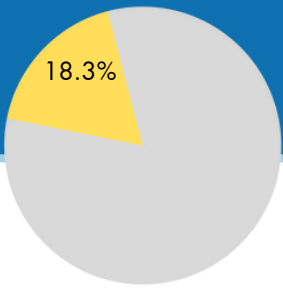
It was a big year in Women's Ministry at Hope! This year, our Women's Bible Study went through the book of Colossians together, and with both daytime & night groups, we had **an average of 288 women** participate each semester. (The number of participants is capped due to space limitations at our OP site and childcare restrictions. Childcare for Bible Study is one of our greatest budget items for this ministry.) Even with these limitations, we love this time together. Many women lead tables and small groups, and it's a gift to hear lay leaders from our Women's Shepherding Team teach.

Speaking of Women's Shepherding, this leadership team currently has **21 women who care for, serve, and shepherd women** across our three congregations. Those who serve in this role rotate off for sabbatical every 2-4 years, so we are always praying that the Lord will bring more women to lead in this capacity. We currently have 24 ladies that were nominated by the congregation who are attending Sonship and theology training for 16 weeks this summer, and we're so thankful!

Also this year, we shifted from one retreat all together to two retreats due to growth and capacity challenges. Our South End women were supposed to go to Montreat this past fall (unfortunately they were derailed by Hurricane Helene), and 150 of our Cotswold and OP Women enjoyed time together in Greenville, SC, in February. Similar to the Men's Retreats, because of calendar and resource challenges caused by site-specific weekends, our Women's Retreats will also shift to an every-other-year cadence.

Overall, **we're so grateful for how the Lord is using the women of Hope across our church**. Whether leading/teaching Bible study, serving as a Community Group leader or coach, leading worship on Sunday, leading/serving via mercy teams, or hosting a dinner in their homes, these leaders are drawing women in at Hope and welcoming them, connecting them, and pointing them to Jesus.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



As families at Hope grow, so, inevitably, does our Youth & Family Ministry, as kids age into middle school. We currently have **80+ kids** that are involved consistently each week, as well as 26 amazing volunteers & 3 staff members who lead these students. Not only do they show up to be with students each Sunday night,

but throughout the week they're leading small group Bible studies, grabbing lunch with kids, and going to sporting events at their schools.

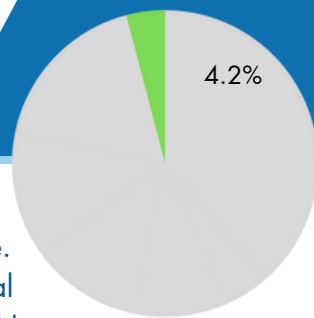
One of our focuses is teaching students **how to plug into the local church** and other Christian ministries. **We want to give kids a vision for what it looks like to follow Jesus in life and for life**, not just right now in middle or high school. For high school kids, this looks like taking a trip to an RUF meeting together, as we talk about what it looks like to follow Jesus in college. We model how to connect in and serve the church, which means a lot of our **students currently serve** on the worship team or in Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings. 15 of our new communing members at Hope this year were youth that professed their faith and became members on their own! We also want to foster parent-youth relationships, which is why we have annual Father-Son & Mother-Daughter events.

In addition to teaching our youth how to become healthy members of the church, we also want them to **experience gospel community** among themselves. We budget for summer activities, our annual Fall Retreat, a high school ski trip, annual mission trips, small group Bible studies, and weekly Sunday night meetings. Our hope is that in these times together, students are learning to be good friends who can encourage one another as they follow Jesus together.

We're especially thankful for our Parent Committee, which meets monthly, and for the many families, community groups, and others who serve meals to our Youth each Sunday night. Thank you for caring for our Youth & Family Ministry in this way! Please continue praying for our students and our leaders throughout the year.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



The goal of Children's Ministry at Hope is to prepare our children to be gospel-dependent, spiritually healthy members of Christ's body who are equipped to live missionally within the culture. We believe (1) Parent Modeling, (2) Gospel Teaching, and (3) Integration into the Body are central to accomplishing that, so if you're a parent, thank you for bringing your kids to worship each week!

We're currently averaging **close to 400 kids at Hope each Sunday**. Like Women's Bible Study, this number is based on capping classrooms at our OP site. Families at OP register children for classes each Sunday, because, unfortunately, we don't have enough space or volunteers to accommodate everyone. However, we do have **over 400 Children's Ministry volunteers and leaders** on our roster that serve in this ministry across our congregations, and we're so grateful for them! We even have some covenant kids who have aged out of Children's Ministry and now volunteer, which is amazing.

We've intentionally decreased programming in Children's Ministry over the years to keep calendars free for families to enjoy time together, with their neighbors, and in their communities. Would you **join us in praying that kids at Hope would come to know Jesus, and that our families would be missional members of their communities as they live out their day-to-day?**

BENEVOLENCE PARTNERS



Benevolence is an important part of giving at Hope. It's a way that we, as a church, can give back, be open-handed and outward-facing, and partner with organizations in our city, in our country, and around the world by using the gifts and resources the Lord has so generously provided to us. We're able to take a percentage of giving to Hope and use it to support the spread of the Gospel. The Lord is doing great work, not just in Charlotte, and it's a privilege to get to be a part of it.

This year, your generosity has given us the ability to support the following **church plants and church planting ministries** in our city and in our country:



GOSPEL FREEDOM FOR
LEADERS IN MINISTRY



CHURCH
OF THE
APOSTLES



VIVE CHARLOTTE
CHURCH



BENEVOLENCE PARTNERS



Thanks to you, we've been able to generously support and partner with the following **mercy ministries** in Charlotte.



YoungLives.



We're also grateful to be able to come alongside these **outreach** organizations. Thank you!



BENEVOLENCE PARTNERS



You also help us partner with these **mission** organizations:



And **missionaries** in these countries:



Belgium



Czech Republic



Dominican Republic



England



Germany



Greece



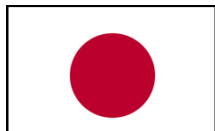
India



Iran



Ireland



Japan



Jordan



Nepal



Peru



Russia



Spain



Uganda



Zambia

THANK YOU, **HOPE COMMUNITY!**

We're filled with gratitude and
hopeful for what's next.

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