

Annual Report

2024 Ministry and Financial Outcomes

Myers Park

Our Mission:

Claimed by the Love of God in Jesus Christ,
we are called into this community of faith;
living out our love for God
in worship, study, and service;
loving and supporting one another
as we join God's transforming work
in our city and in the world.

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The Best Thing in Your Inbox

Daily devotions, weekly updates, and ministry newsletters – no clickbait, just good stuff: *myersparkpres.org/subscribe*.





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From our Pastor

Friends,

Throughout each year, we welcome new members to our faith family through New Member Classes. It's a joy to be part of a vital community of faith that welcomed 126 new members in 2024, not including 67 confirmands who became active members!

With each class, I share that no matter what their conscious reason for joining our church may be, we believe God is calling them to join this ministry. I also share our conviction that it's our church's responsibility to help them grow in relationship with God through the life and ministry of the church. I encourage them to engage in four practices that we believe foster such growth: participating in regular worship, studying the faith through regular Bible study and other faith formation opportunities, offering themselves in service within the congregation or in the wider world through our mission partners, and living generous lives.

This Annual Report celebrates the ways our faith family is deepening relationships with God and with each other, shaping the community and world in which we live. It also reflects your incredible generosity and our leaders' faithful stewardship of your offerings, as we've been able to include our year-end financial results for 2024.

As you read through this report, please join me in offering a prayer of thanksgiving for all God is doing in and through the ministry of Myers Park Presbyterian Church, and for the deepening relationships with God so many enjoy as a fruit of this ministry.

In Christ's Love,

In.

Joe CliffordPastor



2024 by the Numbers



98
years in ministry

3,760

people attended
Christmas Eve
Worship services



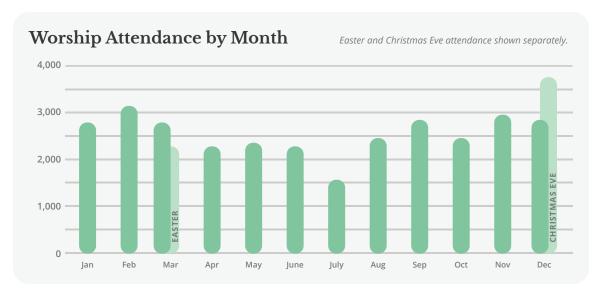


20,000+

square feet of educational space renovated through the Cultivate Capital Campaign 200

flood buckets packed by members and staff









9 prayer gatherings at the Peace Pole



126
New Members

123
Baptisms



67
8th Grade
Confirmands



170
Presbyterian Women
Honorary Life
Members celebrated
since 1944



faith community united in faith, love, and purpose



350

Vacation Bible School participants





Adult Faith Formation

Mary Beth McIntyre, Adult Faith Formation Council Chair John Magnuson, Associate Pastor for Discipleship

Who have you learned with this past year?

Notice what we said there – *who*, not *what*. In Discipleship Engagement, we recognize that we learn from a community, with our community, and are formed by being in community.



Faith Formation is happening outside of Sunday mornings, through evenings of fellowship and learning at Tuesdays Together for 65+, Lent Small Groups, monthly Men's Breakfasts, Presbyterian Women events, and a group of 16 travelling the Camino. We are also excited that we added a new Sunday School class for empty nesters called "The Refresh."

Even as the world changes, so much stays the same: the importance of gathering together, sharing meals, studying scripture, and praying for one another. This is how we are formed in faith with one another.

35

men went on the first MPPC Men's Retreat, with men aged from their 20's through their 80's



Ways to Engage:

Be sure to read the Connect weekly email newsletter and feel free to reach out our Discipleship Engagement Coordinator, Lindsey Adams, at *ladams@myersparkpres.org*.

Care Ministry

Elizabeth Biber and Kelly Ridinger, Deacon Co-Moderators Elaine Walters, Mental Health Ministry Chair Millie Snyder, Executive Pastor Alison Messick-Watkins, Parish Associate for Care

Mental Health Ministry

In 2024, we began a new ministry dedicated to mental health. This began, not through staff initiative, but by the vision of one of our members who recognized that there was a need within our faith community for conversations around mental health.

The ministry's first project was a congregation-wide survey to better understand the needs of our community. Guided by the survey results, the team launched a speaker series addressing critical topics, including suicide awareness and prevention, children's mental health, and grief.



team members. The hope is to offer this type of service more regularly as a way of addressing and normalizing that there is pain amid life's joy.

Ways to Engage:

Visit *myersparkpres.org/mental-health*, where you'll find a list of upcoming events as well as resources for those in a mental health crisis.

Two ministry team members co-facilitate a support group for mothers of young children, while the team also oversees two additional groups: one focused on grief support and another for caregivers.

This year, our Service of Remembrance and Hope was led by our Mental Health Ministry

Deacons

In 2024, the Deacons focused on sharing the compassion of Christ through the ministries of care and hospitality. Deacons greet worshipers every Sunday morning in the Welcome Center and lead the Prayer of Dedication for the offering in worship. They contact older members regularly and take communion to those who are unable to attend worship in person.

Children and Family Ministry

Barbara Atkins, *Children and Their Families Council Chair* **Lisa Hickman**, *Associate Pastor for Children and Their Families*

2024 brought hope and peace, along with challenges and joy. We enjoyed fellowship together in groups big and small. Our big highlight was to be the All-Church Retreat at Montreat, but Hurricane Helene changed our plans. We were able to turn a challenging time into a wonderful experience when families joined us for a day of service and fellowship, where we assembled cleaning buckets for areas affected by the storm.

Sprouts and Mission Kids worked hard throughout the year to help our ministry partners and learn about Christ's love through service. Over 350 children, youth, and adults joined together in Vacation Bible School, where our "Dive In" theme came to life through an underwater adventure across the church campus. We also celebrated another successful Tapestry Young Adult Retreat "Summer's Best Week" in August.

Children and Their Families Ministry celebrated Faith Milestones throughout the year, and faith formation events continued to shape young minds and hearts with the love of Jesus.

In all, we remembered our Baptism, symbolized by the shell. Thanks to all leaders, teachers, parents, elders, and church members who honor their baptismal promises in all we do!



350

Vacation Bible School Participants

Ways to Engage:

Learn about all of the ways our church nurtures the faith of our youngest disciples by reading Connect, following along with our Instagram page at *@mppcchildrenfamilies*, picking up one of our ministry brochures in the welcome racks, and subscribing to our "Spark" emails at *myersparkpres.org/subscribe*.

Clerk's Council & Pastoral Residency Program

Mary Mandeville, Clerk of Session Linda Ibsen, Residency Team Chair Millie Snyder, Executive Pastor

In 2024, we welcomed our seventh Resident Pastor, Allie Hargrove. Allie is a graduate of Furman University and Duke Divinity School. She has been getting to know our members and has also been helping to lead our youth Confirmation Class. Allie works with Newell Presbyterian Church as the partner church for her program.

Our second year Resident Pastor, Erin Tolar, has had opportunities to attend Stewardship and Endowment meetings to get a broader understanding of church finances. She continues

to be involved at her partner church, Amity Presbyterian Church.

In November 2024, we hosted a reunion for our former Resident Pastors, and three of the four graduates were able to return for a time of sharing and fellowship! They are thriving in ministry and are grateful for the experiences of the residency program.



Residency Program alums Joseph Jumper, Savannah Demuynck, and Ben Brannan.



Erin Tolar



Allie Hargrove

Ways to Engage:

Introduce yourself to Erin and Allie and ask about their call to ministry!

4

Residency graduates currently serve in ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

CROSS Missions

Courtney Pender, CROSS Board Chair Erika Funk, CROSS Director

CROSS celebrated 25 years of ministry, a milestone that reflects the trust we've built with the leaders who bring their groups to serve with us. Groups return year after year, and new churches sign up every year. That's true for all our programs: weekend groups, alternative breaks, and week-long summer groups.

In 2024, we navigated the challenges of a shifting youth ministry landscape as churches worked to re-engage youth and families. Part of our work is to adapt and lean into the changing landscape of youth ministry.

While summer participation fell below our hopes, attendance during the rest of the year met or exceeded expectations. Thanks to careful stewardship, we ended the year with a surplus, allowing us to upgrade our sleeping arrangements to cots – an exciting improvement over the green mats we've used for years!

Our Board is strong, energized, and is brainstorming more ways to grow and serve God faithfully. Finally, we welcomed Donna Fair as our Program Coordinator, and we couldn't be happier!

10

different states represented by visiting groups



Youth from across the country debrief after a day of urban ministry with our Outreach Partners.

Ways to Engage:

The Board will soon be introducing our Worker Bees teams. Keep an eye on Connect for opportunities to assist CROSS. Most of these will be one off times to extend hospitality to the summer interns, assist CROSS staff or engage with the visiting groups.

Food Service Ministry

Ed Baesel, Food Service Ministry Chair **Dwayne Richardson**, Kitchen Manager

Food Service Ministry experienced a transformative 2024, serving over 1,000 meals each month to Weekday School students and introducing exciting new offerings.



With a focus on broadening our menu, shifting toward scratch cooking, and providing Meals-to-Go, we've enhanced both the quality and variety of food we offer. These changes have been met with enthusiasm and have strengthened relationships within our ministry.

2024 was also a financially stable year with Food Service finishing in line with its budget. With this solid foundation, we will continue to provide exceptional service while remaining fiscally responsible as we build deeper relationships with ministry areas.



Ways to Engage:

If your child or grandchild attends the Weekday School Program, or if you've enjoyed meals at Tuesdays Together, a Men's Breakfast, Session dinner, Wednesday night gathering – or even finger foods at a funeral – you've experienced the Food Service Ministry! Stop by the kitchen and say hello to Dwayne Richardson, our new Kitchen Manager.

Outreach

Kathleen O'Bannon, Outreach Council Chair **Patty Arcia**, Outreach Director

In 2024, Outreach Ministry offered over 370 service opportunities, engaging members of all ages in discovering and participating in God's work in Charlotte and around the world.

In April, we hosted the 6th annual Outreach Partners Retreat, featuring keynote speaker David Bindewald. The retreat welcomed over 60 leaders from 28 non-profit organizations across Charlotte, providing a space for connection, nourishment, and renewal.





We funded the installation of a new well at the Bududa Learning Center in Uganda and planned the installation of a *Living Waters for the World* well system with our partners in Cuba. Both projects will provide clean, accessible drinking water for our partners and their local communities.

In the fall, we partnered with Dream Key Partners and CrossRoads Corporation to break ground on the construction of over 250 affordable homes in Grier Heights, marking a significant step forward in addressing local housing needs.

391

beds made up at the Outreach Center for neighbors during the 2023-2024 Room in the Inn season

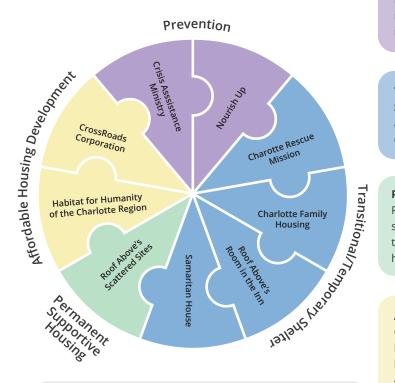


On Our Mind:

Did you know that most of MPPC's local commitment is closely involved in addressing poverty, homelessness, and providing access to affordable housing in Charlotte?

In 2024, MPPC provided over \$1.2 million to local partners committed to this dynamic issue. Here's how they fit into the puzzle of the Affordable Housing Continuum:

The Affordable Housing Continuum



Like numbers? Go to page 21 for detailed financial information.

Prevention: Targets households facing near-term housing instability and have not yet lost their housing.

Transitional/Temporary

Shelter: Provides temporary living arrangements for households experiencing homelessness.

Permanent Supportive Housing:

Provides affordable housing and supportive services to assist households to access and sustain permanent housing.

Affordable Housing Development:

Creates and sustains affordable housing, where a household spends less than 30% of their annual income on housing-related expenses (rent/mortgage and utilities).

Ways to Engage:

Explore how you can be part of God's work in Charlotte and around the world! Visit *myersparkpres.org/outreach* to learn more about current opportunities and find your fit.

The Weekday School

Taylor Stukes, Weekday School Board Chair **Heidi Truong**, Managing Director of the Weekday School

This year at The Weekday School was one of transition and transformation, marked by the completion of Phase 1 of the BCD renovation. Our Half-Day Program moved into a beautifully updated space, featuring new classrooms, materials, and child-friendly designs that enhance both learning and play.

Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to complete Phase 2 of the renovation. This next phase will see the Full-Day Program moving into its newly renovated space and expanding to offer additional classes.



This progress reflects our commitment to nurturing and inspiring children and families through every stage of our ministry!



We proudly serve

282

children at the Weekday
School and boast a staff of
65 including teachers, admin,
and directors

Ways to Engage:

Visit our website at *myersparkpres.org/wds* to learn about enrollment, curriculum, and events.

Wellness Ministry

Margaret Bradley, Wellness Ministry Board Chair Monty McCullough, Wellness Program Manager

The Wellness Ministry believes that every person is a treasure, every life a sacred gift, and every human being is a unity of mind, body, and spirit. Our mission is to build community and promote health and healing within the church and beyond. The Wellness Ministry provides a safe and supportive environment for people to grow healthier physically, spiritually, and emotionally.

The programs offered by the Wellness Ministry include youth and men's basketball, pickleball, personal fitness training, and core and cardio exercise equipment. Additional programming includes wellness and nutrition classes, along with stretch and mobility classes (new for 2024) and yoga. Even more new classes are planned for 2025!

In 2024, we introduced Kids in Motion, a reimagined after-school program for preschool-aged children that focuses on active, engaging experiences tailored to young children's needs and interests.





Ways to Engage:

Discover all the exciting programs and events in the Wellness Ministry by visiting *myersparkpres.org/wellness*.

307

active Wellness Ministry memberships

657

children registered for basketball this year

2

capital improvement projects completed: installation of upgraded scoreboards and the refinishing of our basketball courts

Worship Arts

Betty Cowden, Worship Council Chair **Mark Kemp**, Director of Worship Arts

In 2024, Worship Council provided numerous opportunities for our congregation to express our faith through worship and music.

Musical offerings included the Chancel Choir, Summer Choir, Celebrate Band, Youth Band, and children's WAMP (Worship Arts at Myers Park) classes. During Mark Kemp's medical leave, Dr. Lillian Quackenbush led the Chancel Choir with excellence, while Aimee Barnhill and Erin Tolar have provided great leadership for the WAMP program.

The Flower Ministry expanded its outreach this year by delivering wedding and funeral flowers to members who are homebound, on the church's

prayer list, or in community care residences, bringing joy and connection to those who receive and deliver the flowers.

In addition to music, the Worship Council oversees a variety of "behind-the-scenes" ministries that enhance our worship life. From lay readers to communion prep, these ministries support and enrich worship in meaningful ways.



Ways to Engage:

Looking to get more involved in worship?
Our church community thrives because of people who share the gifts of time and hospitality. Visit *myersparkpres.org/serve* to find your fit!

350

funeral & wedding floral arrangements re-arranged and delivered to members

3,760
People attended one of six Christmas Eve worship services

Youth and Their Families

Andrew Batchelor, Youth and Their Families Council Chair **Michelle Thomas-Bush**, Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families

In 2024, Youth Ministry introduced a new two-track plan for Confirmation, providing families with greater flexibility while fostering the meaningful faith formation at the heart of the Confirmation process.

The Confirmation Retreat welcomed 40 youth who completed their faith journey in one intense and transformative week. This experience offered an opportunity to build an intentional faith community that will carry them through high school. The more traditional fall Confirmation class included 30 youth who concluded their journey in February.



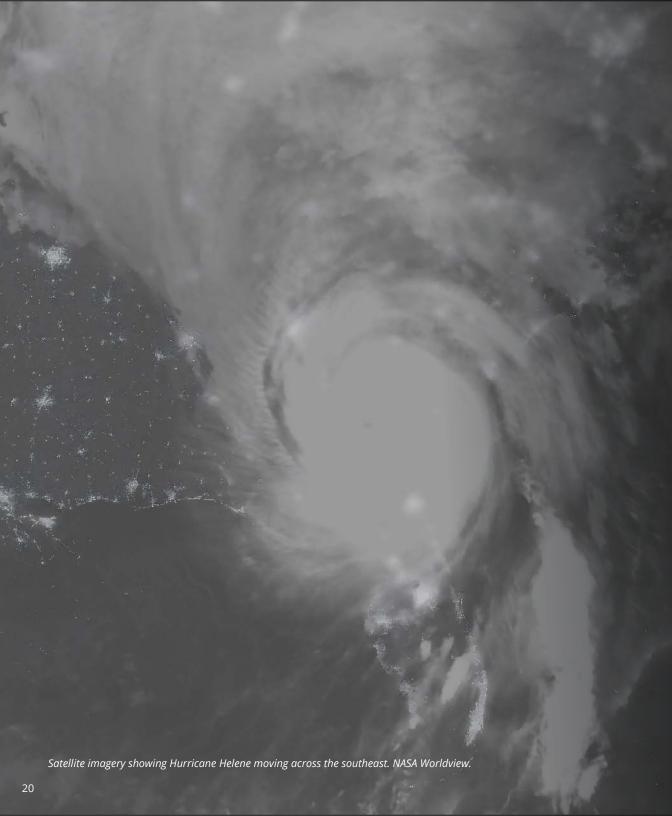
This year also marked our third Camino Pilgrimage, where 31 youth and adults embarked on a life-changing pilgrimage of faith and self-discovery.

24

seniors participated in the Senior
Capstone program, deepening their faith,
self-awareness, and relationships during
this pivotal transition from high school to
the next phase of their lives.

Ways to Engage:

Visit our website at *myersparkpres.org/youth* to learn how to join us for our annual Chicken Pickin' tailgate fundraiser, serve on the Art Auction committee, teach a faith milestone, make some pies, chaperone for CROSS (only a 1/2 day commitment!), or serve as a Middle School leader. There's a spot for you!



Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts

At the end of September, Hurricane Helene brought devastating destruction to communities close to the heart of Myers Park Presbyterian Church. While we are not a disaster relief agency, we recognized the importance of responding thoughtfully and faithfully without disrupting the work of professional responders. By collaborating with local churches, professional aid organizations, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, we were able to offer a meaningful response.

Shortly after the storm, we were able to provide emergency housing and meals at the Cornerstone for five PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteers who had been serving at Hands and Feet of Asheville.

Our congregation raised \$137,150 through our dedicated offering to support relief efforts:

- \$20,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for immediate and long-term recovery efforts,
- \$25,000 to Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region to support rebuilding homes in Western NC,
- \$10,000 to Feeding Avery Families for essential food and supplies,
- \$80,000 for critical supplies, portable showers, and food through local partnerships.

In addition, dozens of members stepped up to deliver supplies, coordinate resources, and assist with relief efforts. We worked with Black Mountain Presbyterian Church and Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church to provide:

- 20 sets of propane heaters, small electric space heaters, and wool blankets for residents of Blowing Rock facing freezing temperatures,
- Funding to replace critical equipment at Manna Food Bank's distribution center, which serves 16 counties in Western NC,
- Support for the Appalachian Shower Project, funding three portable shower units.

We remain in prayer and partnership with those continuing the hard work of recovery.









2024 Year-End Results

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	Over (Under) Budget
Income	\$6,046,250	\$6,033,587	(\$12,663)
Investment Income*	\$0	\$704,301	704,301
Expenses	\$6,046,250	\$5,891,623	(\$154,627)
Net	\$0	\$846,265	\$846,265

*Our investment income comes from prudently investing Cultivate Capital Campaign and reserve funds, ensuring responsible stewardship and stability. This income will help support the Cultivate Capital Campaign.

\$5.4M FROM 818 HOUSEHOLDS

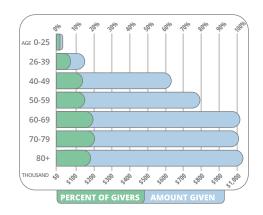
MEDIAN CONTRIBUTION \$2.400

AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION \$5,593

NON-PLEDGED CONTRIBUTIONS \$543,752 FROM 252 HOUSEHOLDS

Pledges, Income, and Expenses

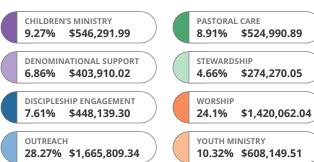






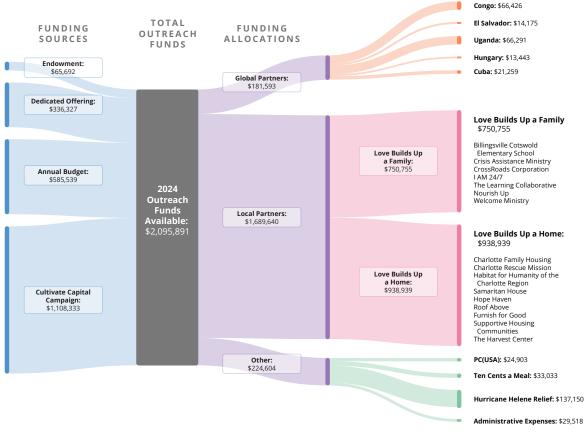
2024 Actual Expenses CATEGORIZED BY COST OF MINISTRY SERVICE

Personnel are attributed by ministry service. Program support and facilities are allocated across ministries on a prorated basis.



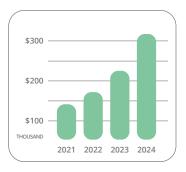
Unpacking Outreach Funding

Our Outreach Ministry funding in 2024 extended beyond our operating budget allocation, drawing from dedicated offerings, endowment funds, and the Cultivate Capital Campaign to support our local and global partners in ministry.



What is the "Dedicated Offering?"

At many churches, offerings collected during worship go directly to the operating budget – but not at Myers Park Presbyterian! Here, our dedicated offerings support specific Outreach partners and ministries. In 2024, these gifts helped fund 13 local partners, four global partners, Ten-Cents-a-Meal, and special PC(USA) offerings like the Christmas Joy Offering.



2025 Approved Budget

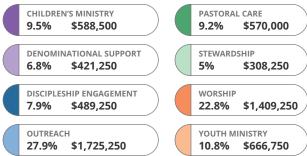
CATEGORIZED BY COST OF FUNCTIONAL AREA

Functional Area	Budget \$	Budget %	
Administrative Services	\$337,500	5.46%	
Communications	\$75,000	1.21%	
Facilities	\$1,134,750	18.37%	
Personnel	\$3,547,500	57.42%	
Program Management	\$3,750	0.06%	
Children's Ministry	\$44,000	0.71%	
Denominational Support	\$189,750	3.07%	
Discipleship Engagement	\$37,500	0.61%	
Outreach	\$598,750	9.69%	
Pastoral Care	\$17,750	0.29%	
Stewardship	\$22,000	0.36%	
Worship	\$112,000	1.81%	
Youth Ministry	\$58,250	0.94%	
Total	\$ 6,178,500.00	100.00%	



CATEGORIZED BY COST OF MINISTRY SERVICE

Personnel are attributed by ministry service. Program support and facilities are allocated across ministries on a prorated basis.



Cultivate Capital Campaign Update

As of 12/31/24

The Cultivate Capital Campaign launched in 2021, and contributions have now exceeded \$20 million.

So far, 61% of households have fulfilled their pledges, keeping our cash flow ahead of expenditures. This has allowed the Finance Committee to maintain a conservative investment strategy, ensuring these funds are safeguarded for future needs while maximizing their impact.

This past fall, we celebrated a major milestone by opening the newly renovated D Building and gathering for a joyful potluck lunch in Providence Hall, attended by hundreds of members. Renovations to the C Building are currently underway and on track for completion this summer. The final phase, the renovation of the B Building, will begin this fall and is expected to be completed by early 2026.

For more information about the Cultivate Capital Campaign, visit *myersparkpres.org/cultivate*.

\$20M

total contributions

571

total contributing households

\$40,848 average pledge

000/

given of the pledged amount

CAMPAIGN DISTRIBUTIONS TO DATE AS OF 12/31/24

FACILITIES

74%

\$12,551,001

Includes campus chiller, Cornerstone House renovation, Columbarium expansion, D Building renovation, and initial expenses for the renovation of the B and C Buildings.

OUTREACH

25%

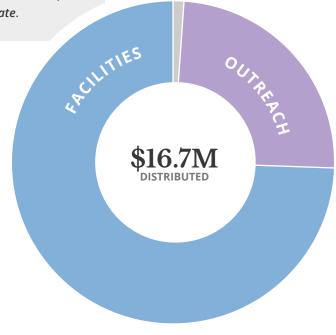
\$4,163,433

Includes distributions to Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region, Roof Above, Crisis Assistance Ministries, Nourish Up, our global partners in Congo, and others.

CAMPAIGN EXPENSES

1%

\$188,304



Your Generosity Makes Ministry Possible

Great things are happening in our faith community through the generosity of our congregation! Every act of giving sustains ministries that transform lives within our church, in Charlotte, and around the world. Your support ensures we can continue worshiping, learning, serving, and growing together.

Here's how you can participate:

- Annual Giving Campaign When you make a commitment to invest in God's work through an annual pledge, you are supporting the church's mission and ministries.
- Dedicated Offering Each week, our worship offering goes directly to local and global outreach partners. This is separate from pledged giving and an essential part of how we serve our neighbors. Give in worship or via text (details in the bulletin and on-screen during worship).
- Capital Campaign We are in the final stage of the campaign, with construction on track for completion by early 2026 and final support for our outreach partners underway. Your contributions are still welcomed as we work to bring this campaign to a strong finish.
- **Endowment** A gift to the endowment is a lasting investment in the future of our church's mission and ministries. By giving to the endowment, you create a legacy of faith that will provide for the needs of today and the opportunities of tomorrow.

Your generosity fuels our shared mission. However you choose to give, thank you for being part of the work God is doing through this church.

Learn more at myersparkpres.org/give.

Annual Financial Information Meeting

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 11 a.m., A104

Join George MacBain, Finance Chair, and Jennifer Childers, Executive Director, for an information session presenting financial details from the 2024 Annual Report.

Myers Park PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2501 OXFORD PLACE CHARLOTTE, NC 28207