

2023-2024



ANNUAL REPORT

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THE CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE



Alliance people share seven core values that flow from the Fourfold Gospel — the driving force behind our desire to know Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King.

Lost People

Lost people matter to God. He wants them found.

Prayer

Prayer is the primary work of God's people.

Stewardship

Everything we have belongs to God. We are His stewards.

God's Word

Knowing and obeying God's Word is fundamental to all true success.

Great Commission

Completing the Great Commission will require the mobilization of every fully devoted disciple.

Empowered

Without the Holy Spirit's empowerment, we can accomplish nothing.

Faith-Filled Risk

Achieving God's purposes means taking faith-filled risks. This always involves change.

A WORD FROM PASTOR GARY

NOW

In Joshua 18 there were seven tribes that hadn't received their inheritance within the promised land. There are potential reasons for why they hadn't taken what God was giving them: a lack of faith, courage or maybe they were settling for the nomadic life they've grown accustomed to. God challenged them with the question of "how long will you wait before you begin to take possession of the land". The question is a valid question based on God's promise to give them the land and provisions to do so. The Hebrew word for "wait" means relax or neglect. So, the question is: "Why are you neglecting or relaxed about yielding to what God has for you?" In Acts 22, The Apostle Paul was preaching about the transforming supernatural power of God. He used his conversion experience in Damascus as an example of this power. In this experience, God used Ananias to communicate that Paul was chosen by God to know His will, see the Righteous One, hear His words and to be a witness of all he's seen and heard. After Ananias challenged him with the mission he asked, "And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name". My observation is that God is waiting more for us to get up and move more than we are for Him!

When we enter into a relationship with God through Jesus, we become citizens of and belong to the kingdom of God (John 3). Those that are born again are given the ability to see and enter the kingdom of God. We've been chosen by God to know Him, His will, to be a witness (Acts 1:8) to all we've seen and heard and to make disciples. In what places or areas in your life might God be asking you why you're waiting to move where He's clearly directing you?

It might be within designating more significant time with God, being intentional within those in your web of influence who don't know Jesus, reconciling a relationship, being present, communicating gratitude and thanksgiving, making the phone call, writing the note, making the invite, or circling back around. Could the area that God might be challenging you on be around your role within His church? God's given you gifting, skills, and talents to edify the Body. In the Old Testament God called on skilled musicians (1 Chronicles 25) to lead the way. When building the tabernacle God used skilled workers and designers (Exodus 36). In 1 Chronicles 25 the musicians are described as trained and skilled, young and old alike. So, this tells us God can and desires to use us and at any age. God desires to move His unmistakable supernatural transforming power through you and us as His church. Are you neglecting or relaxed about yielding to what God has for you NOW? If tomorrow isn't guaranteed, God's promises are true and will never fail, you have the spirit of Christ in you and He's promised to be with you, what are you waiting for? My challenge for us individually and as a body is to allow the Spirit to stir a sense of urgency about today. I'm not encouraging us to run ahead of God. I'm encouraging us to live today wisely by making the most of every opportunity and it starts **NOW**.



A WORD FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

At The Lighthouse Church, our Finance Team is dedicated to being faithful stewards of the offerings and expenses entrusted to us. Our responsibilities include diligently monitoring and managing income and expenses, ensuring financial transparency, and upholding the trust of our congregation. We commit to meeting monthly to communicate detailed financial reports, fostering a culture of accountability and wise financial practices that support the mission and vision of our church.

Special Note: As we began this fiscal year, both the Elders and the Finance Team anticipated the possible need to supplement some new undertakings using some of our cash reserves, such as adding Pastor Carlos to our staff and the new Multicultural Missions program. In addition, the Church body supported two incredible Missions trips to Peru and Germany this year. We thank you for your tithes and gifts; without your support we wouldn't be able to do the work God has commissioned us to do.

Finance Team Members

Bud Dailey - Chairman
Sue Jackson
Nancy James
Kyle McClure

Lisa Migliaccio
Dan Pashley
Ed Whalen

OFFERINGS

General	\$829,811.73
General Banking Interest	\$4,850.86
General Restricted	\$61,054.72
Missions Restricted	\$142,188.73
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$1,037,906.04

DISBURSEMENTS

Missions Teams Abroad	\$40,550.00
Local Missions	\$42,340.91
Missions Trips	\$69,833.22
<i>Total Missions Disbursements</i>	<i>\$152,724.13</i>

Personnel	\$562,403.04
Facilities	\$157,369.29
Church Office	\$27,064.65
Insurance	\$17,295.19
All Church Community	\$13,807.43
Biblical Counseling	\$6,008.35
Children's Department	\$19,888.96
Ministry/Advancement	\$3,658.36
Worship Department	\$10,765.92
Young Adults Department	\$16,405.38
Dist. Operating Expense 6%	\$51,378.54
Misc. Restricted Funds Expenses	\$20,004.35
<i>Total Disbursements (Excluding Missions)</i>	<i>\$906,049.46</i>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$1,058,773.59
Reduction in Cash Balance	\$20,867.55

A WORD FROM THE TRUSTEES

This past year the trustees have continued their task of overseeing our church building and property. We also had an all-church workday in early April which was well-attended and completed many tasks: kitchen cleaning, ceiling tile replacement, drywall repair/painting, planter removal from the chapel, and landscaping. Thanks to all who attended.

Our major project this year which was led by Phil Risko and his team included removing grass and topsoil from the front parking area, grading and distributing the gravel and stone dust base for the artificial turf. Phil and his team saved the church a considerable amount of money. Praise the Lord!

Our ongoing building and property maintenance coordinated by Jeff Scarcelli and Tim Moore includes cleaning; fire, elevator, and other inspections; as well as various electrical, plumbing, and HVAC needs. A new ac condenser was installed for the second floor children's wing.

We would like to thank all the trustees and our in-house team for their daily attention to our building.

"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." Matthew 16:18

Board of Trustees

*Dave Sonntag - Chairman
Dave Cohn
Kurt Haywood
Dennis Krause*

*Phil Risko
Len Guthrie
Tim Moore
Jeff Scarcelli*

A WORD FROM THE ELDERS

Greetings TLC Family!

The Elder Board would like to thank all TLC members for committing to being a part of the body of Christ in Cape May County. TLC is an Elder/Pastor-led church that strives to fulfill biblical leadership like that described in 1 Timothy 3. A glimpse of what an Elder/Pastor-led church is: first pray and tend for the Body. Then, at its simplest, the Elders/Pastors follow the Holy Spirit and the vision He puts before us.

This year has been such a blessing in so many ways! We have seen His Spirit heal hearts and physical bodies and have heard beautiful testimonies that reflect God's glory in many lives. We have seen Him move in the hearts of our congregation towards missions, as about twice as much was given to missions this year than expected and budgeted which advanced how we can spread the name of Jesus across the globe.

Thank you for all of your prayers that cover our leadership and community. We always need more people to humble themselves to get on their knees and pray. Exciting things are happening at TLC, so keep praying that we can be good stewards of what He gives us.

Elders

*Frank Ackley
Dave Sonntag
Bob Standeven*

*Micah Wenker
Dominic White (on sabbatical)*

CONGREGATION STATS

36

NEW MEMBERS

17

BELIEVERS BAPTIZED

3

CHILDREN DEDICATED

443

AVERAGE WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

71

AVERAGE SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

316

ONLINE SUBSCRIBERS

2,846

ONLINE VIEWS

MISSIONS

A community longing to see people turn to God and experience life with Him. We are reaching people through real LOVE. Developing trust and showing real love takes time.

Collectively God called people to give \$73,000 to this year's mission trips. Twenty-six people went on mission trips abroad this year. The Missions Committee has grown to 10 lay members.

PERU

21

TEAM MEMBERS

600

LIVES TOUCHED

We shared testimonies and prayed with people, the gospel was preached and Jesus was exalted. We saw some people hear of Jesus for the first time. We saw one teen receive their first book, which was a Bible. We helped provide people with basic needs they had. Thank you for your help in taking the gospel to Peru this summer!

GERMANY

6

TEAM MEMBERS

38

LIVES TOUCHED

During the five-day overnight English camp the teens got to see that Christian community doesn't have to be stuffy and boring, but can be fun and engaging! The Missions Team shared their testimonies during the evening services and shared truths with the teens during the small group time where kids felt comfortable enough to ask hard questions. The week was eye-opening and encouraging to everyone involved!

5

LOCAL MISSIONS SUPPORTED

5

MISSIONS FAMILIES ABROAD SUPPORTED

3

NUMBER MISSIONS EVENTS HELD

500

NUMBER OF EVENT ATTENDEES

\$142,188

DOLLARS RAISED FOR MISSIONS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

06

EVENTS HOSTED

455

AVERAGE EVENT ATTENDANCE

2271

TOTAL PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE

89

EVENT VOLUNTEERS

MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH

Multicultural ministries has reached out to a variety of people over the course of this year. There have been various outreach events at the church, trying to help new people feel more comfortable in our church building. We are currently meeting in people's homes to help them grow in friendship and trust with the goal of these people coming to faith in Jesus Christ.

We are hoping to start a weekly Home Group in Spanish in September. We also hope to see a Spanish ministry in our church body.

We strive to be a group that shares all of Jesus for all of the world!

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands." Revelation 7:9



HOME GROUPS

In 2023-2024, TLC had 14 Home Groups consisting of 35 facilitators, 26 host homes, and 255 participants attending a group at least three times. We focused on four Biblical doctrines with associated scriptures as our topics for discussion: God, Sin, Justification, and the Holy Spirit. The guides included questions to prompt reflection and discussion on what we are called to do in light of these doctrines and how this understanding impacts our daily walk as Christians. It was evident that many groups grew deeper in their relationships and cared for one another well.

MEN'S MINISTRY

The mission of the Men's Ministry at The Lighthouse Church is to create an atmosphere where men can develop Godly characteristics through accountability and relationships in order to influence their world for Jesus Christ.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women ministering to women through various groups to encourage deeper relationships with God and each other, providing Bible centered teaching, prayer and encouragement for spiritual growth.

SENIOR LUNCHEON

The Senior Ministry strives to minister to the spiritual and social needs of the senior adult community by providing them with luncheon opportunities that will nurture their relationship with God and promote Christian fellowship, while also supporting various missional opportunities.

109

ATTENDEES ON AVERAGE

9

MEETINGS

\$4,362.48

RAISED FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS





YOUTH MINISTRY

MISSION STATEMENT: Equipping students 6th-12th grade with the Gospel, as we walk alongside them and teach them to walk alongside each other. (*Ephesians 4:11-16*)

We saw many students get to know each other better and welcome new students very well over the past year! We saw these relationships deepen which works towards accomplishing our mission of walking alongside each other. Our student leadership team grew as we saw students continue to mature in their faith.

2023-2024 THEMES: Identity, Emotions, Why We Do What We Do

OUT AND ABROAD

LAKE CHAMPION RETREAT - 18 STUDENTS

MISSIONS TRIP TO PERU - 9 STUDENTS



18

STUDENTS ON AVERAGE

28

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

54

STUDENTS IN TOTAL

3

VOLUNTEERS

4

STUDENTS BAPTIZED

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Mission: To help kids develop personal, life-changing relationships with Jesus Christ. We accomplish this through through:

Loving God *Mark 12:30*

Growing *John 15:4*

Loving People *John 13:34*

Being the Body *Matthew 28:19-20*

Leading *2 Timothy 2:2*

RECAP: The Children's Ministry went through a year of transition as Kristen McClure, Director of Children's Ministry since August 2018, stepped aside from her full-time position to spend more time focusing on her family. While Kristen is still on staff, her role has shifted and allowed others to step up in her place. While there are still areas within Children's Ministry that need leadership; such as Sunday School, Tot-Time and Simply Rooted or another family/youth focused ministry, many people have answered the call to serve in various ways. We are excited to see individuals answer the call to serve in Children's Ministry in the year ahead!



72

CHILDREN ON AVERAGE

168

NEW CHILDREN IN ATTENDANCE

386

CHILDREN IN TOTAL

1,560

CRAFTS PREPARED - AT LEAST!

56

SUNDAY SCHOOL & NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

2024 THEME: SCUBA: *Diving into Friendship with Jesus*

Vacation Bible School was held August 4th-8th in the evenings. The children started and ended in a whole group setting where they worshipped God as one body, singing and dancing to songs such as "Joy" by For King and Country and "Praise" by Elevation Worship. During these opening and closing times, we offered an update on the mission project, raising money to further the THRIVE Ministry. The rotations included a Deep Bible Adventure, an immersive, and sometimes interactive, telling of key parts of the Bible. There was Imagination Station: a science-centered approach to having children connect to the qualities God exhibits as a friend to us; this was a **very** popular rotation! Children also created a keepsake painting, after learning how to access God's word through a rotation called Sticky Scripture. Each child took home either a Gospel of John, designed for younger learners, or a New Testament. This rotation gave children the chance to open, read from, and learn how to use a Bible. Each day we took them through a section of John and tied in the Bible point for the day.



43

NEW CHILDREN IN ATTENDANCE

5

NIGHTS

176

CHILDREN IN TOTAL

1,043

MEALS GIVEN OUT

86

VOLUNTEERS

GRIEF SHARE

GriefShare has been growing steadily with each 13-week cycle, leading us to add multiple GriefShare groups. GriefShare is a huge community outreach opportunity as 90-95% of the participants are not from TLC.

Many are non-believers, and we have had people come to faith, get baptized and join our church family—God is faithful!

Each of the three facilitators we have come to us as grievers themselves, and were profoundly helped by the GriefShare curriculum. As a result, they wanted to give others what they had been given. A number of people from Lighthouse signed up to join us in the same mindset: to walk wisely and well with those struggling with the loss of a loved one, and point them to the hope and healing found in a relationship with God through Jesus.

THRIVE

THRIVE launched in Fall 2023 after the staff recognized a need within the community for a program that comes alongside grieving children and youth. A few weeks into struggling to write our own curriculum, we partnered with two other churches who were actively running child and youth grief programs. Three individuals finished the first cycle of THRIVE, and a total of six finished the second. As the second cycle came to a close, we took a leap of faith and decided to prepare to offer a THRIVE Summer Camp: a 3-day camp focused on hope and healing in Jesus with a variety of off-site activities. The camp was held in mid-August with 15 volunteers and 27 campers, and we partnered with members of the congregation, Cape May County Zoo, No Limits Academy, and other local organizations to create an unforgettable week. We are excited to see how the Lord continues to use THRIVE in Cape May County.



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V
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27
MEETINGS

36
CHILDREN REACHED

12
ACTIVITIES

15
VOLUNTEERS

DIVORCE CARE

DivorceCare is a healing ministry that strives to help hurting hearts and minds through Jesus Christ. Healing from divorce is a slow-moving process, which results in attendees needing to go through the 13-week cycle two to three times. As we strive to change the stigma around divorce, our prayer is that those who attend the sessions for healing naturally evolve into divorce leaders who can walk alongside others. Generally, women are more open to attend. This year, however, we have had more men take the leap of faith and next steps to heal. We are excited to help these men and women heal so they do not carry the brokenness of their past relationships into future relationships.

LIFE RECOVERY

Life Recovery had an awesome year! God allowed five individuals who have been faithful for 6 months to a year to commit to becoming a part of the leadership team. Two have facilitated meetings throughout the year, while others have been a blessing behind the scenes, such as recording the attendance, and keeping bins stocked with coffee, water and snacks. We have seen many miracles and blessings throughout the year of individuals applying the 12 Steps and 12 Scriptures to their everyday lives and staying the course. They have told us of how the Lord has blessed them, such as getting their own place to being able to sleep at night. We have seen Atheists come in and give their life to God. The group has become a family in so many ways, including dining, attending worship events, doing activities, and praying together. We are excited to see the Lord continue to work through this group in the upcoming year!

"Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, And he saved them out of their distresses. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, And brake their bands in sunder. Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, And for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

Psalm 107:13-15

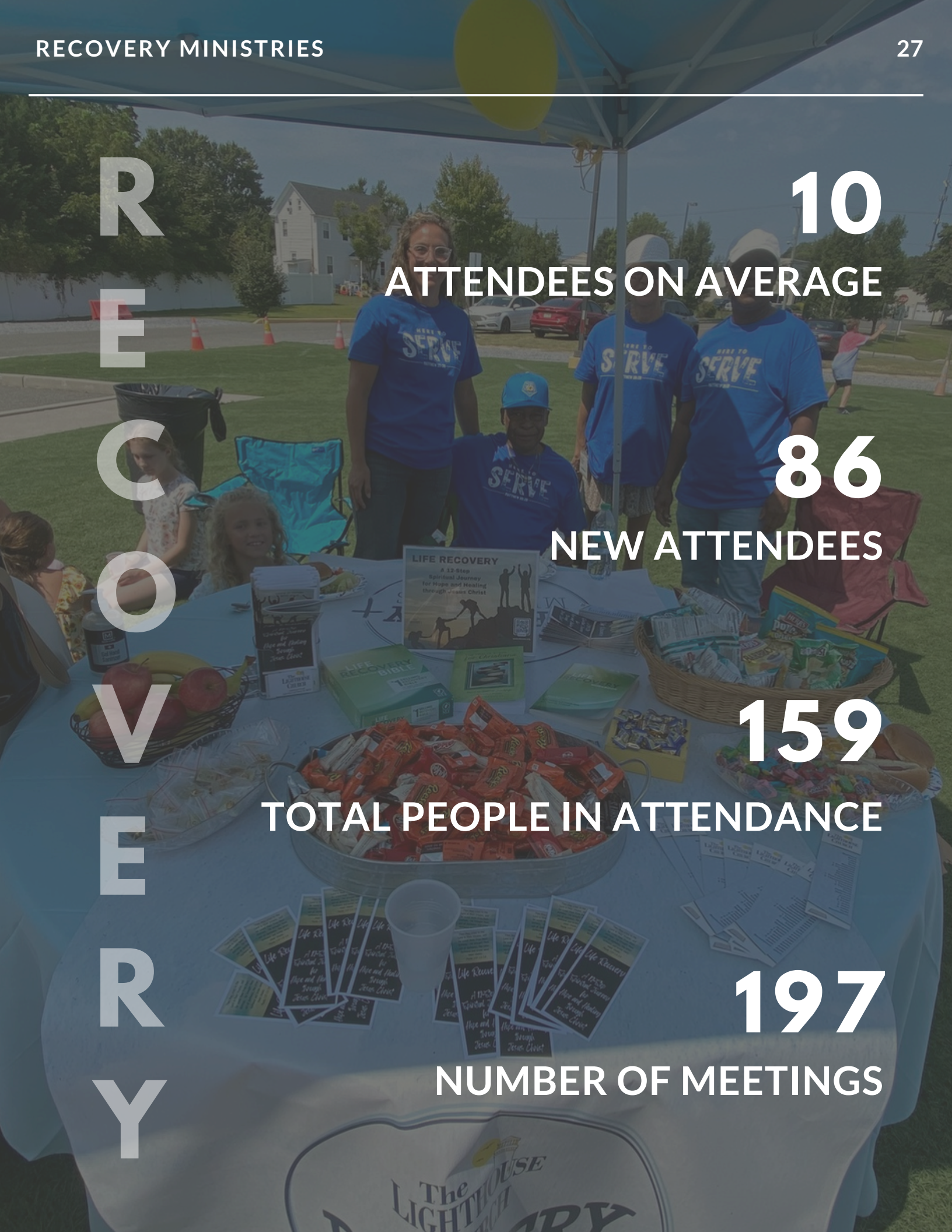
R
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10
ATTENDEES ON AVERAGE

86
NEW ATTENDEES

159
TOTAL PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE

197
NUMBER OF MEETINGS



HOSPITALITY TEAM

The Hospitality Team leads in fostering an environment that embodies warmth and care, helping to make every individual feel seen and valued, and pointing them towards a relationship with a loving God. Biblical hospitality is not just a task or a role, it's a position of the heart and a culture we build.

WELCOME TEAM & USHERS

The Welcome Team is the welcoming face of our congregation, helping to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for all who enter. Their primary role is to greet attendees with a smile, assist newcomers with information about services and programs, and provide support as needed. Their presence helps foster a sense of community and belonging, making everyone feel valued and seen as they join us for worship and fellowship.

The Ushers play an important role in ensuring that the service is welcoming, comfortable, and runs smoothly for the members and visitors. They escort individuals to open seats with a smile, and answer any questions that come up.

SAFETY TEAM

The Safety Ministry hosted Stop-the-Bleed and CPR/AED/First Aid training for volunteers across several TLC ministries.

Safety Ministry also participated in FBSN's Church Security and Safety Conference in northern Philadelphia.

54

TEAM MEMBERS

4

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

3,468

HOURS VOLUNTEERED

4

COMPLETED CHURCH SECURITY
CERTIFICATION COURSE



COUNSELING MINISTRY

The Counseling Ministry is going into its fifth year and is based on the knowledge that as Christians, the Bible is our authority and drives our understanding of the human heart and its deep motivations. Biblical counselor, Maria Sonntag, is committed to using God's word as the source of wisdom to address personal struggles as well as marriage and family issues for hope, understanding and true healing. By drawing those in need into a deeper relationship with God to better grasp His love, grace, and forgiveness in Christ, believers are equipped to live life with hope in a fallen world filled with disappointments and temptations.

True change is not merely behavioral, but generates from deep within the heart, and transformation is accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are saints being progressively sanctified.

There are currently 25 people being seen for Biblical counseling. The paradigm for our church-based counseling is an average of six sessions and then an evaluation to determine the need to continue or perhaps reduce the frequency of visits. Only those in "crisis" (a need evaluated by the Counselor) are seen weekly. The goal is not to remain in counseling indefinitely, but to widen the counselee's connection to fellowship within the church body such as through Home Groups, Bible Study and especially getting involved themselves in serving others.

PRAYER MINISTRY

WE BELIEVE PRAYER IS THE PRIMARY WORK OF GOD'S PEOPLE!

The Prayer Ministry continues to persevere with our faithful "pray-ers." We currently gather at the church an hour before the Sunday service begins to pray and invite the Spirit to fall afresh on our worship, that it would be pleasing and glorifying to God.

We also greet people and pray for them in the sanctuary. So many God-ordained interactions (no matter how brief) have blessed us and those we get to pray with! This is especially true for our time of "Altar prayer" at the end of the service, where folks are invited to come up and bring their prayer requests to be lifted to the throne room of grace.

The prayer team also attends church events such as holiday outreaches and provides prayer guides as needed, as well as invites people to join the team, and provides training on a continuing basis.

WORSHIP AND SIGHT & SOUND TEAMS

Worship at the Lighthouse Church has experienced transition over the last year, but we have seen the heart of our church and teams remain focused on Jesus through it all. We continue to see the quality of our services improve as we strive to point people to Christ. Our goals for the Sight, Sound, and Praise teams continue to be to remove distractions, pursue excellence, and point people to Jesus. Part of our plan for accomplishing these goals includes creating a more cohesive gathering time which is consistent and excellent on a regular basis. This includes providing intentional training opportunities for volunteers, developing higher quality organization for our teams, and improving the equipment and space we gather in, to praise the Lord.

A major aspect of this includes rearranging how we utilize our worship space. We believe that there are better ways to use the building that we have been granted, which will provide additional options for fellowship, as well as provide a more consistent environment for corporate worship. By shifting services into the current gymnasium, we are able to provide a more cohesive space. To be clear, we are not dismantling the gym, as we believe it provides a great space to invite believers and unbelievers in through various functions. Instead, each portion of the new service space will be specifically designed for easy removal. At the same time, this provides the opportunity to shift the current worship space into a true fellowship hall, where we can gather together. These adjustments will take time to implement and finalize, but we believe this will ultimately serve to help reach our goals of pointing people to Jesus with minimal distractions.

COMMUNITY CARES TEAM

The Community Cares Team at The Lighthouse Church is essentially a team of people who are actively looking to be the hands and feet of Christ. Our goal is to help meet the emotional, financial, and physical needs of the congregation. Over the last fiscal year, our team has received many applications, referrals, and word of mouth needs from our congregation. We have provided multiple financial gifts to families in medical crisis along with gift baskets to those currently going through medical procedures. We have also provided community resources to help meet personal family needs, along with notes of encouragement to those in need. Our vision for the future is to expand our team, to continue to help those in need, and become more aware of congregation needs through the prayer ministry.

10

FAMILIES CARED FOR FINANCIALLY

\$3,843

USED TO PROVIDE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

OCTOBER

Simply Rooted kicked off
Pastor Carlos and family joined
Trunk or Treat
5th Sunday Fellowship

NOVEMBER

Sweet and Greet with the Saavedras
Tot-Time resumed
Thrive launched
Advent Wreath Workshop

FEBRUARY

Amistad en Familia Dinner

MARCH

Desayuno Cultural Breakfast
Easter Eggsperience
Good Friday Service
Celebrando la Pascua
Easter Sunrise Service

JUNE

Worship Night
Missions Car Wash
Membership Classes
Bingo with the Blue
5th Sunday Fellowship
Donuts with Dad

JULY

Grade-School Girl's Night
Men's Ministry BBQ
Missions Trip to Peru

DECEMBER

Gingerbread House Decorating Party
Candlelight Christmas Service

JANUARY

Worship Night

APRIL

Church Work Day
Missions Yard Sale & Craft Show
Resurrecting Relationships
Youth Group Retreat

MAY

Hymn Sing
Missions Fundraiser Dinner
Muffins with Mom

AUGUST

Vacation Bible School
Men's Ministry BBQ
THRIVE Camp
Ministry Fair & BBQ
Missions Trip to Germany

SEPTEMBER

Beach Baptisms
Hymn Sing
5th Sunday Fellowship

