

OCEAN POINTE CHRISTIAN CHURCH 2023 Annual Report



CONTENTS



03

WORD FROM TANNER

04

OP EVENTS

05

NUMBERS

06

SERVING & MISSIONS

08

LEGACY

09

STORIES

13

FINANCIAL STEPS

14

MOVE CAMPAIGN

15

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

16

BIG GIVE

A WORD FROM TANNER

It's difficult to capture all the high points from 2023. For some of you, OceanPointe is your very first experience of church. Others of you returned to a faith community for the first time in years. And still others of you chose to be baptized this year. I celebrate you! THANK YOU for the courage of walking through the doors or being baptized. Our church is truly better with you as a part of it!

OceanPointe is the people, and I celebrate how many people actively served and loved people inside and outside our walls. A group of 12-15 led the way by serving each and every month at the community meal. When the need for more people to be on the meal-train list (to bring meals to new parents or those who've had medical challenges), 25 people signed up immediately. Night to Shine lived up to its name again this year, as we were able to serve 156 people with special needs. And, a handful of OceanPointers traveled to Nairobi, Kenya to assist in schools, encourage the teachers, and help the churches there.

Others formed deep friendships through groups or trips. The teens led the way as 21 traveled to the CIY conferences and 58 participated in weekly group. College students and young adults formed new groups. The women's ministry thrived as 19 attended Bible study each week, and 26 attended monthly events. And four new home groups formed.

All of this reminds me of the early church described in Acts 2:42-47:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

As a leadership, we hope and pray the Holy Spirit continues to move like this long into the future, which is why we have prioritized long-term health. We want to be a healthy church led by healthy leaders so each person at OP can be healthy. I celebrate how the Elders prioritize the health of the staff, which is why they proactively decided to pay for any therapy for staff, if ever needed.

We have taken financial steps for long-term health too, completing each of the financial 'baby steps' and kicking off the MOVE campaign to accelerate the payment on our building debt. This will save hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest and will allow us to be irrationally generous for years to come.

All this to say, the church is the people. Thank you for welcoming, serving, caring, and giving. In other words, thank you for being the church.

Tanner Green

Tanner Green, Teaching Pastor



465

EVENT VOLUNTEERS



EGG HUNT

486

ATTENDEES

75

VOLUNTEERS

1

DART FOUND
IN BRADY'S GUITAR

YOU'VE BEEN EGGED **FUNDRAISER**

1,350

EGGS HIDDEN

\$1,215

RAISED FOR CIY
STUDENT TRIPS

NIGHT TO SHINE

SPECIAL NEEDS PROM

156

GUESTS

305

VOLUNTEERS

0

EMERGENCIES



LIGHT THE NIGHT

HALLOWEEN OUTREACH

8

HOSTS HOMES

40

GAL. OF COCOA

3,428

CANDY BARS GIVEN



© P NUMBERS

FROM POPCORN TO BAPTISMS

BAPTISMS: 39

NEW ATTENDEES: 309

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: 858

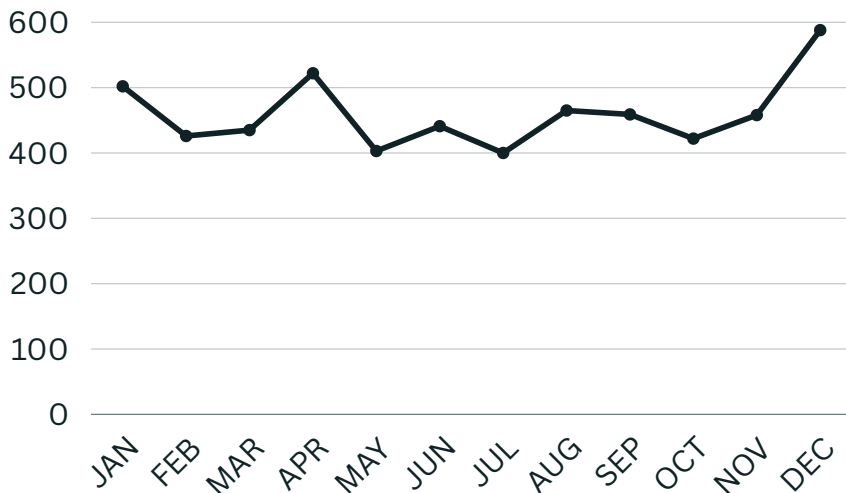
CUPS OF COFFEE SERVED: 5,616

BAGS OF POPCORN CONSUMED: 2,142



AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

- KIDS: 64
- WORSHIP: 459
- STUDENTS: 58
- GROUPS: 51



AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE BY MONTH



SERVING

One of our core values here at OceanPointe is that we like to laugh hard, loud and often - there is nothing more fun than serving God with people you love. We love to serve - and we love to serve together. This year, many of our teams have begun training sessions that not only help build the ministry, but also provide personal and spiritual development for team members. If you haven't connected to a team yet, stop by the Gallery to learn more. There are many teams to choose from and always room for one more!



COMMUNITY MEAL

MONTHLY TEAM SERVING THE HOMELESS

720

MEALS SERVED

92

HAIRCUTS GIVEN

130

SLEEPING BAGS
DONATED

206 PEOPLE
REGULARLY
SERVING

20

COMMUNITY MEAL

10

FACILITIES

65

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

26

GROUPS

2

OPEN | CLOSE TEAM

28

OP KIDS

4

PRAYER MINISTRY

9

TECH MINISTRY

10

STUDENT MINISTRY

4

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

28

WORSHIP MINISTRY



MISSIONS

Our OceanPointe history is rich with mission work and support. While our construction project and the ramifications of COVID caused a pause in mission support, in July 2023 we were able to restart missions giving and come alongside two organizations as they build the Kingdom of God:



CHURCH PLANTING

From the beginning, OceanPointe has supported church planting. It's part of our DNA. This year we began supporting Orchard Group, a church planting organization that we already share a partnership with. Not only does Tanner Green work for Orchard Group, overseeing the New England region, but Orchard Group has strong ties to OceanPointe's origins.



CAMPUS MINISTRY

Sojourn Collegiate Ministry is a New England-based campus ministry that invites college students to discover God's dream for their lives. We have previously partnered with Sojourn and are excited to do so again, assisting them in their mission to help students find Jesus.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

This year OceanPointe sent a team of 5 volunteers to Missions of Hope International in Nairobi, Kenya. The team taught nearly 500 students about the love of Jesus, encouraged teachers and staff and visited churches. As the team connected with these children, they learned of the desperate need for child sponsorships - the means by which Missions of Hope is able to support, care, feed and educate thousands of children in the impoverished Methare Valley of Nairobi. When the team returned and communicated the need, OceanPointe responded and currently sponsors 53 children!



LEGACY

Since 2014, OceanPointe staff have hosted LEGACY, an annual event designed to honor all those who serve regularly. We believe that leadership should be shared. Here at OceanPointe, we are staff-led, Elder-protected and volunteer-fueled. At LEGACY, we celebrate those volunteers.

This year's event was an evening of gourmet popcorn, game show-style shenanigans and lots of laughs. And, amidst the mayhem, the annual LEGACY award was presented. This award is given to a standout volunteer; one who is typically found in behind-the-scenes places, quietly serving and exceeding any and all expectations. Our 2023 LEGACY Award winner is Christina Carpender, who serves with the facilities, women's and community meal teams. Congratulations, Christina! (Sorry... we know you probably don't want a shout-out here, but too bad.)



**WE ARE SPIRITUAL CONTRIBUTORS NOT
SPIRITUAL CONSUMERS. THE CHURCH DOES
NOT EXIST FOR US. WE ARE THE CHURCH AND
WE EXIST FOR THE WORLD.**

meet

JOHNNIE

Johnnie Spencer grew up in church and was taught by his mother to serve, love and worship God. A self-proclaimed introvert, Johnnie struggled to socialize with others and battled learning comprehension challenges in school. "I wasn't an honor student like my siblings," he said, "I struggled with severe anxiety, stress and depression." While he did have some close friends, he found that managing his anxiety meant isolation, self-deprecation and even self-harm. "Many times I've asked God to just let me die. I've asked him, 'Why would you want someone like me alive when I can do nothing and have nothing to offer you...?'" Though his mother would try to encourage and support him, Johnnie fell deeper into depression.

In his depressed state, Johnnie didn't dream about the future. "I didn't have any (dreams)," Johnnie said, "because I never thought I was worthy enough to live life or even feel like I deserved to live." He went on, "I believed that God loved me enough to send His Son to die on the cross because He loved His creation, but He didn't love me personally to save me from myself." While Johnnie was raised to know and love God, he often felt that he was spiritually dead inside. He gave up trying to fit in, gave up trying to prove his worth. To satisfy his loneliness and isolation, he would keep to himself and sleep for long periods.

In 2018, Johnnie hit a new low. He sustained a serious elbow break while at work, requiring significant medical intervention to rebuild the joint. Then in January 2021, Johnnie lost his mother and his job all within a 2-week period. In response, Johnnie fell deeper into anxiety, stress and depression - even attempting suicide. He began drinking, eventually landing him in an alcohol-induced diabetic coma. Johnnie hit rock bottom. "I felt like I was being punished by God," he reflected.



In 2022, Johnnie started attending OceanPointe. Despite growing up in church and attending many churches over the years, Johnnie struggled with his faith. On June 25, 2023, Johnnie surrendered his life to Jesus in baptism. "I decided to be baptized because I felt I needed a new beginning," he said. "I wanted to get back to the basics of building a better foundation of faith and relationship with God." As a husband and father, Johnnie also knew that the decision to be baptized would set an example for his family. In fact, just 3 months after Johnnie's baptism, his daughter Zipporah surrendered her life to Jesus as well! "OceanPointe has embraced my family," he said, "...and has helped reignite the hope I somewhat had, and the faith I never had..."

Reflecting on his past and the change Jesus has made in his life, Johnnie said, "I believe that adversity, trials and tribulations have a way of pulling you from where you used to be and putting you where you need to be." A life of adversity brought Johnnie to Jesus - right where he needed to be. Looking ahead, Johnnie no longer feels anxious or worried about the future. He has surrendered his own plan to God, trusting Him to guide him each day.

"OceanPointe has embraced my family," he said, "...and has helped reignite the hope I somewhat had, and the faith I never had..."

"The difference Jesus made in my life was a complete turn-around," he said. "God has blessed me to be a Contemporary Christian Recording Artist." Johnnie writes, plays, sings, engineers and produces his own music - all inspired by God. His hope is that his music and online content will inspire and encourage others who may be struggling. "Imagine a person who couldn't be encouraged, encouraging others," Johnnie said.

We don't have to imagine it. Johnnie can often be found on Sunday mornings, serving as a vocalist on the worship team. He uses his God-given talent to lead others in praise. This man who could not be encouraged is now encouraging others to worship God.



"IMAGINE A PERSON WHO COULDN'T BE ENCOURAGED, ENCOURAGING OTHERS."

-JOHNNIE SPENCER

meet

JACK & JUDY

Judy Cohn grew up attending a small Episcopal church. Actively involved in youth choir, she remembers attending the early service with her Dad. Even though Judy grew up in church, she described herself as being cynical, negative and lost. "I had been brought up going to church," she said, "but was also taught that I would go to Heaven if I was good, but to Hell if I was bad." She often felt insecure, particularly in relationships. While she knew her father loved her, she felt rejected by her mother, causing her to approach other relationships in a clingy manner. Even when it came to faith, Judy struggled. "...I believed in God and Jesus," she said, "but I didn't think God would ever want to forgive me."

In college, Judy attended the campus church, singing in their choir. It was in her senior year physics class where she met Jack. She and Jack were physics lab partners. She said, "This is more romantic than you think!" These physics lab partners were later married and went on to have 2 beautiful children.

Jack Cohn never attended church as a child. "My parents were without any religious faith," he said, "we never went to church." Growing up in a home without faith, Jack's life was primarily work-centered. "My goals were materialistic," he said, "I rarely thought of spiritual things." However, as their family grew, Jack started going to church with his wife and children.

While Judy had been attending church since childhood, it was in 1979 when she really met Jesus. She had gotten involved at a local Episcopal church and volunteered to help at an event. "I can't remember exactly why I thought it important to go to church when I was sure I was lost," she remembered. As the event planning proceeded and realizing where she was spiritually, the other volunteers began to pray for Judy. It was during this event that the pieces fell into place. "I truly had a light-bulb conversion at age 31," she said, "and fell on my knees in thanksgiving for forgiveness and acceptance."





Through Judy's example of a changed life and observation about the world, Jack became convinced that the scriptures are true. It was 10 years after Judy's conversion when Jack was baptized in the Episcopal church. "I participated in the ceremony sincerely," Jack remembered, "but looking back today, I know that at the time, I did not fully understand the significance of baptism..."

Jack and Judy began attending OceanPointe in 2022 and shortly thereafter the couple began discussing baptism. On February 5, 2023, Jack and Judy responded to a call and were both baptized at OceanPointe. "It was not something that came up in the Episcopal Church," Judy recalled her experience, "I simply re-affirmed my confirmation vows that I had not understood at age 13." She went on, "But when it was presented to me as an opportunity to follow Jesus into the water," she said, "I couldn't wait."

Jesus changes lives and Jack and Judy are no exception. When asked about life after surrendering to Jesus, Judy recalled many changes: she stopped swearing, started reading her Bible and submitting to God's plan. "And the change for the better was dramatic," she said. Before Jesus, she would approach relationships with fear and insecurity, often wondering if people would like her. However, after starting her journey with Jesus, she said, "I began to look at relationships more as, 'How can I be a friend to this person?'"

Jack's commitment to follow Jesus did not change his life immediately. It has been through a series of what he calls, "fits and starts" where he is making progress and growing in Christ. "I am less prone to write myself off as hopelessly lost," he said. Jesus changes lives and for Jack, it's making a generational impact. "For the future," he said, "I have hope to be more Christ-like as a husband, father, and grandfather."

"OP is home," Judy said. And so, on Sunday mornings you can find Jack and Judy greeting at the front door, welcoming others home too.

OP IS HOME.

FINANCIAL BABY STEPS

2023 was a year of continued recovery for OceanPointe. Established in 2022, we worked through and completed a series of baby steps to pursue our goal of financial health.

STEP 1

\$11,000 in average weekly giving.
ACCOMPLISHED!

STEP 2

Complete the building.
ACCOMPLISHED!

STEP 3

13 weeks in an Emergency Fund.
ACCOMPLISHED!

STEP 4

Fully funded ministry budget.

While this milestone has not yet been completed, 2023 brought tremendous progress. In the 2nd half of the year, we increased the weekly giving need to accommodate a return to missions giving, better fund ministries and promote long-term health with our staff. Below you will find the average weekly giving, by month.

AVERAGE WEEKLY GIVING

JANUARY-JUNE

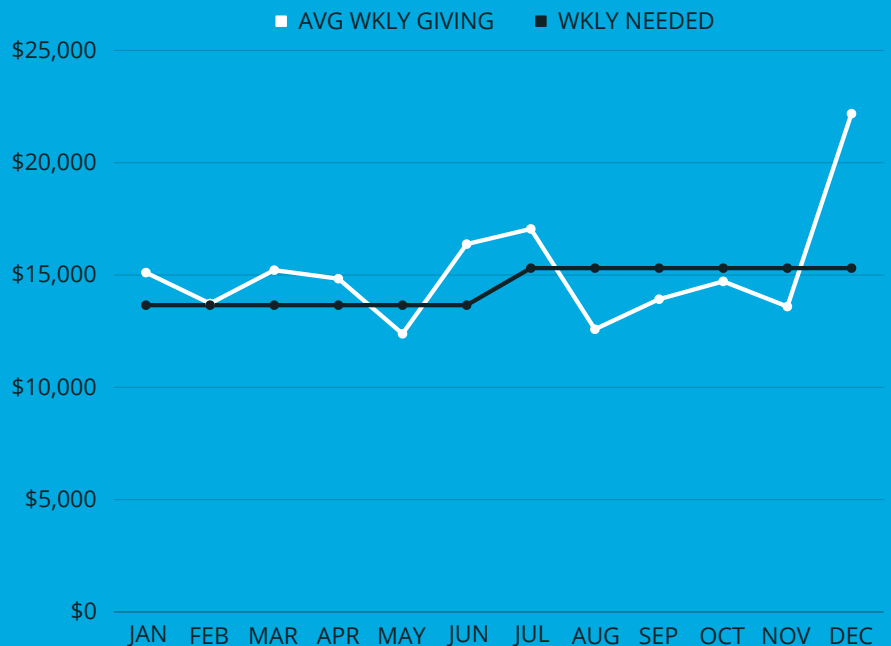
WEEKLY NEED: **\$13,658**

WEEKLY AVG: **\$14,610**

JULY-DECEMBER:

WEEKLY NEED: **\$15,307**

WEEKLY AVG: **\$15,677**



MOVE CAMPAIGN

The next phase of long-term financial health was presented in October in the form of the MOVE debt-reduction campaign. OceanPointe has 5 loans on the facility, equalling \$3.4 million. The MOVE campaign will raise funds to eliminate some of that debt early, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest. We are a church for people who have given up on church, but not on God. To reach more broken people with the hope of Jesus, we need to reduce the debt load. This allows us the freedom and flexibility to MOVE. Move in our church, move in our community, move in our world. If you have not made a commitment to the MOVE campaign, it's not too late. Simply visit our website at: oceanpointeri.com/MOVE to complete an online commitment card or even give a one-time gift. One hundred percent of MOVE campaign funds go directly to pay down the mortgage debt.

TOTAL DEBT: \$3.4M
CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$400K
CAMPAIGN LENGTH: 25 MONTHS
(ENDING DEC '25)



M O V E

FROM HERE TO THERE

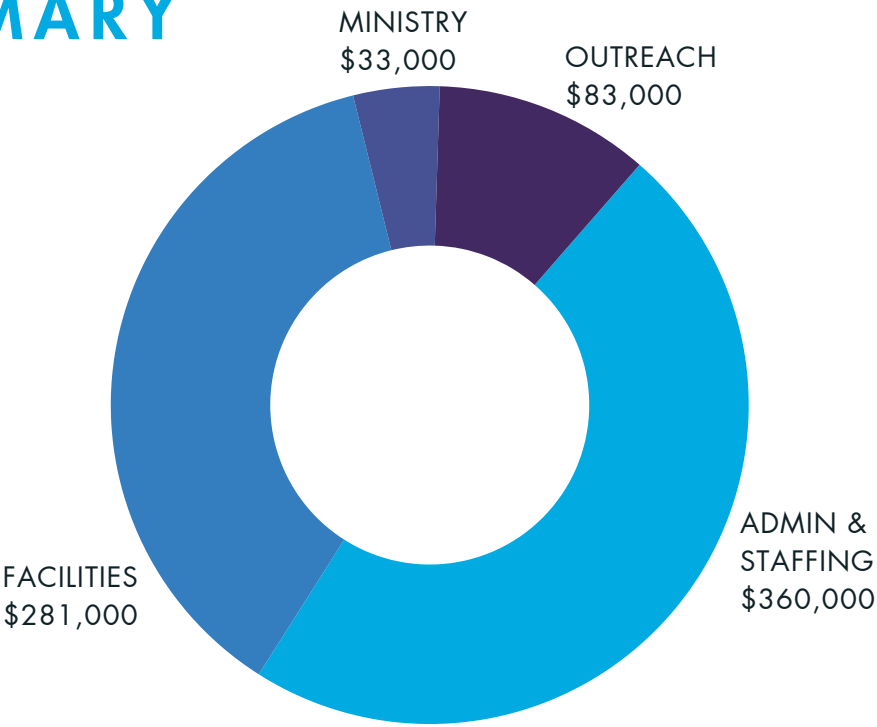
"TRULY I TELL YOU, IF YOU HAVE FAITH AS SMALL AS A MUSTARD SEED, YOU CAN SAY TO THIS MOUNTAIN, 'MOVE FROM HERE TO THERE,' AND IT WILL MOVE. NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU." MATTHEW 17:20

2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

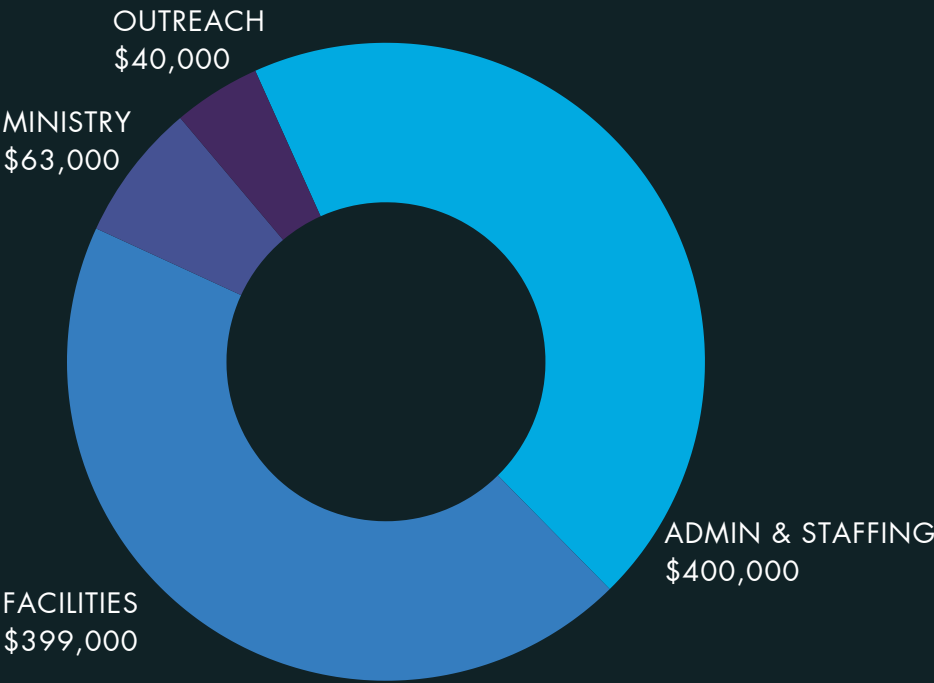
TOTAL BUDGET:
\$758,756

TOTAL GIVEN:
\$790,479

MONTHLY AVG:
\$15,201



2024 FINANCIAL BUDGET



TOTAL BUDGET:
\$902,720

WEEKLY NEED:
\$17,360

THE BIG GIVE



\$51,872 BIG GIVE
OFFERING

One of our core values at OceanPointe is that we want to lead the way with irrational generosity and compassion. We decided to go big and give away our entire Christmas 2022 offering. Through The Big Give, we raised and gave away \$51,872, supporting three efforts:

1. **Make a difference in the lives of the few** - Lucy's Hearth works to bring single mothers out of shelters and into secure housing. The Big Give made it possible for 4 families to get settled into forever homes.
2. **Make a difference in the lives of many** - The St. John's Food Pantry assists families experiencing food insecurity. The Big Give helped to feed 3,420 people, right here in our community.
3. **Make a difference globally** - OceanPointe sent a team of 5 volunteers to Missions of Hope International in Nairobi, Kenya. The Big Give paid nearly 80% of their trip fees, allowing the team to teach children about Jesus.



**THANK YOU
FOR MAKING
THE BIG GIVE
A BIG SUCCESS
WITH A BIG IMPACT.**