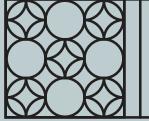


## GRACE ROAD CHURCH

• ANNUAL REPORT 2024 •

#### Gospel • Community • Mission





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### INTRODUCTION A LETTER FROM KEVIN



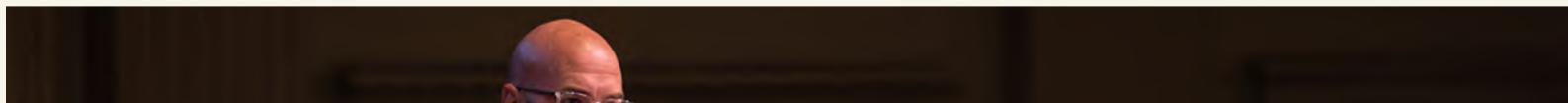
Dear Grace Road,

2024 was a year of steady progress as we worked on the "trellis" of our church structure behind the scenes, **with continued rapid growth of the "vine" of our church** as new life in Christ continues to spread.

We have been working to expand our staff and restructure how we operate during the week. Most of those changes wouldn't be noticed on Sundays, but are necessary because of the multiplying needs of discipleship and care for so many in our church. Our staff is now larger than ever and cooperating well in our mission to spread a passion for Christ in our region. Under Matt Ouellette's leadership as Executive Pastor, we have filled key staff positions and organized for continued growth.

Our elders have been working through a long process of assessing and fixing our leadership structure with some outside help and have made good progress. They have carried a heavy load for our church (some for more than 15 years now) and all of them have experienced some personal suffering along the way, yet have persevered. I'm incredibly thankful for them.

While restructuring doesn't sound exciting, it has been necessary because of the really exciting stuff. We continue to see large numbers of people baptized, having professed new faith in Christ. Though we don't expect numerical growth every year (and often there are good reasons to shrink), we are thankful that our attendance grew more in 2024 than any previous year. Our kids' program is bursting at the seams, our youth ministry experienced an influx of Junior High kids, and our Young Adults ministry is gathering regularly and integrating into the church as a whole. Men's and Women's ministries are thriving and full. Our Care ministry handled more requests for help than ever, and we continue to spread Grow Groups and Grace Groups around our region.





# INTRODUCTION

In 2024, we also gave more financial support to missions, church planting, and local ministries than ever before. Our teens took a missions trip to El Salvador and will do so again in 2025. We started supporting new ministries, like the Seed Company, a Bible translation ministry that aims to get the Bible into every language in our generation. We also hosted missionary receptions to help our members connect to those we have sent abroad. I'm thankful for Cody Wilbanks' continued leadership in our missions endeavors and the way he has used his heart and experience to further the cause of Christ around the world.

As we celebrated our **15th anniversary as a church** this year, it was clear that our story each year has been the story of God's goodness and provision, of great gospel triumphs, of failures and sins and frustrations, and of continued grace from God to persevere.

On the personal side of things, our family is doing well. The kids are all following the Lord and serving Him in ever more active ways. Lydia is a junior in college at Grove City where she is an R.A. and involved in her church and missions (having recently done some missions work in the Dominican Republic). Sophia is finishing her freshman year at MCC with an eye toward possibly nursing in the future. Isabelle is a junior in High School and loves teaching and reaching out to her friends. Hudson is a sophomore, who is wrestling for the JV team and thinking about options for his future . They all serve in the kids ministry and our youngest three will continue to serve on staff at Camp Hickory Hill this summer, Lord willing. Debbie is, as usual, devoted to our family, to ministry at Grace Road, to her Grow Group, and has been working part-time as a nanny at home.

Looking forward to 2025, we expect this to be the year that we send at least one key staff member to plant or pastor another church in our region. We also plan to add a residency for continued leadership development. We will continue looking for a venue where we could multiply our church into two congregations. And while we look and wait, we expect to add a third Sunday service this fall to be able to always welcome people to our church. As always, **we are dependent upon God's grace**, and expectant of more of His grace. Not because we deserve it but because He is good.

#### Peace, -Kevin Maloney, Lead Pastor

M. He Welly

## GOSPEL UPDATES 2024 IMPACT



## COVENANT MEMBERSHIPS PEOPLE BECAME MEMBERS OF

GRACE ROAD IN 2024.

## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE 1428 PEOPLE MET TOGETHER FOR SERVICE.

## NEW VOLUNTEERS

51 NEW VOLUNTEERS SIGNED UP TO SERVE.

**59 NEW VOLUNTEERS SIGNED UP TO SERVE IN GKIDS.** 

BAPTISMS

**PEOPLE WERE BAPTIZED AT** 

## GRACE ROAD IN 2024.

## GRACE GROUPS

(Build your community)

Each year comes with extraordinary opportunities to live in community. Year after year, we seek to build space for people to slow down and spend time with other believers to the Glory of God.

This past year came with some remarkable interactions that further show the necessity of the work and the joy it brings. We saw meal trains formed, volunteer projects enacted, marriages celebrated, and so much shared joy! We also mourned deaths, jobs lost, uncertainties felt, and pain expressed. We have seen the Spirit at work to bring those in need into community with other believers.

As the church continues to grow, so we will continue to create space, host events, and seek to fill the needs of our community however we can. It may not always look like an organized Grace Group. It may be an invitation to gather regionally or to foster smaller connections. **Psalm 68:6** reminds us that God draws the lonely to homes and that is the joyful work before us. There are countless stories of the

Spirit's work abounding in Grace Groups, but a conversation with one person has been lingering in my mind:

"We had a lot of big decisions in front of us. We don't have family in the area but we really felt God calling us to stay in Rochester. We found community and, as we commit to staying here, we hope to build even more."

#### It's a blessing to watch some of these remarkable stories play out, to see **Gospel-centered community**, marked by prayer and care, flourish among us.

For more information about our Grace Groups, go to: www.graceroadchurch.org/groups

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

## Grow Groups

Grow Groups continued to be a place of vibrant community, care, and spiritual growth in 2024. Our 20 or so groups with more than 150 men and women involved, studied Exodus and 1 & 2 Thessalonians, memorized scripture, served together, prayed and confessed sin, and gathered weekly to open God's word with one another.





Our August training shared a refreshed vision and focus for our Grow Groups and enabled new leaders to learn more about what group leadership looks like. Our team continued to work on curriculum, practical applications of the study,

and memory verse songs to aid in the growth of our participants.

We're excited to look ahead to 2025 and see how the Lord might use these groups to draw people to Himself!



#### NO GKIDS 2024 REPORT WOULD BE COMPLETE

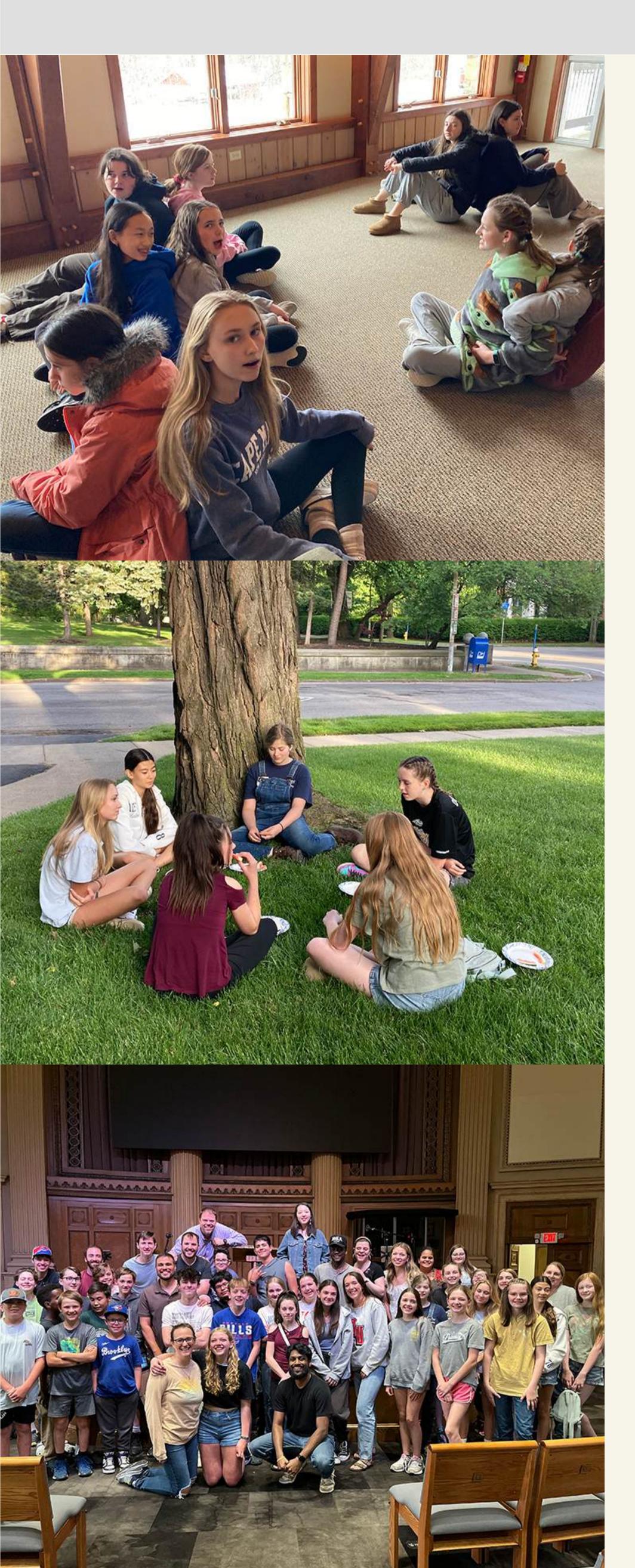
without a special thank you to Lindsay Trahan for her years of dedicated service to the children and families of our church, and to Jenna Farley for stepping in as interim director over the summer and making sure everything continued to run smoothly.

Although 2024 was a **year full of changes for GKids**, it was also a year of constant growth. We had **59 new volunteers** join our team last year, which was exactly what we needed in order to serve the **250 - 275 students** who attended Grace Road each Sunday.

In our downstairs classrooms for 0-5 year olds, we focus on teaching students a foundation of Bible knowledge and Gospel truth. In our upstairs GKids Church (1st - 5th grade) our goal is to, by the grace of God, make those truths personal and give opportunities for hands on application.

We are **committed** to coming alongside the parents and guardians of our GKids students in doing everything we can to **raise up life-long Christians.** We will continue to take every opportunity to help our students learn about the gospel, draw near to God, and become active members of their church.

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS REWIND - STUDENT MINISTRY





Rewind 2024 was a year full of joy and the grace of God! Our leadership team faithfully poured into our students' lives this year.

#### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE

Rewind leaders of 2024: Joe & Valerie Beyer, Karis Horton, Bradley Yoder, David & Najara Butler, Erntz & Abby Reynolds, Mary Dussett, Kula Maganti, Alexa Cunningham, Elijah Walters, Stuart Burtner, Josh Hill.

#### OUR YOUTH JOINED TOGETHER IN AWESOME OPPORTUNITIES:

Rewind's weekly Youth Group, Winter Retreat, Flower City Work Camp, Water Park Adventures at Seabreeze, Word of Life's Reverb Overnight Event, our first Youth Missions Trip to Taura El Salvador, and more!

We are praying that students will be encouraged to cling to Christ in all things in 2025, with great hope as they prepare for young adulthood.



## **GRACE ROAD INSTITUTE**

Our aim at the Grace Road Institute is to "strengthen the church for worship and service through theological education."

**Praise the Lord**, that came to pass! In 2024, we had over 160 students, including many from other churches in our area, attend various Institute classes on theology, hermeneutics, and missions. We walked through historic Christian belief, sought to understand how the Christian story offers something better than the cultural narratives of our day, and explored how the church can engage in its mission to make disciples of all nations. We also welcomed Dr. Gregg Allison, and over **300 attendees**, for our Institute seminar on the Holy Spirit. Dr. Allison helped ground us in properly understanding who the Holy Spirit is and how He helps us in our discipleship with Christ. Additionally, we launched the Institute Library, now housed in the cafe, and have seen it become a well-utilized avenue for getting trustworthy resources on various topics into the hands of our members.

As we look ahead to 2025, we look forward to growing our offerings in Institute classes, **increasing our opportunities for discipleship**, and even have exciting plans for a church-planting residency program.

We're grateful for the ways the Lord has blessed these efforts and can't wait to see what he has in store for the year ahead.

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS Young adults



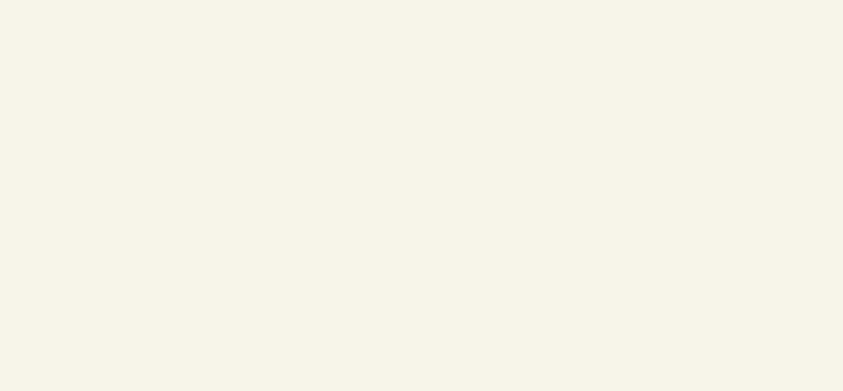
#### **2024 WAS GRYA'S THIRD YEAR**

connecting the young adults at Grace Road Church!

The group hosted **ten events** including multiple worship nights, a game night, a picnic, and the classic BBQ Friendsgiving. The roughly **1620 minutes spent fellowshipping together** were a time for

encouragement in Christ, building relationships, forming community, and fostering gospel culture.

"Connect young adults with each other. Connect young adults to the church. Promote a Gospel culture. "



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

THE LORD BLESSED **GRACE ROAD MIDLIFE** WITH ANOTHER GREAT YEAR OF FELLOWSHIP AND GROWTH

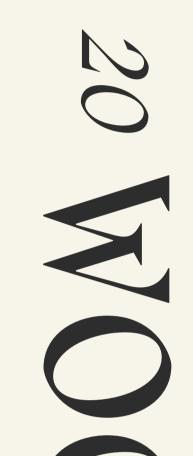
#### WE HAD SEVERAL BREAKFAST MEETINGS with inspirational discussion led by some of our church staff, along with game nights full of spirited fun and interaction. In April 2024, we also teamed up with the Young Adult group for a night of square dancing with over 70 Grace Roaders attending. We continuetolookforwardtoprovidingopportunities for fellowship, to connect and grow in our Christian walk with others navigating the same stage of life!



## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS women's ministry

In 2024, the women's ministry at Grace Road found a refreshed rhythm with some new faces and programs.

Danielle Marzano refocused her work on our staff by transitioning her time and efforts to become Andrea's ministry assistant, and her partnership has proved to be immensely fruitful for our work.

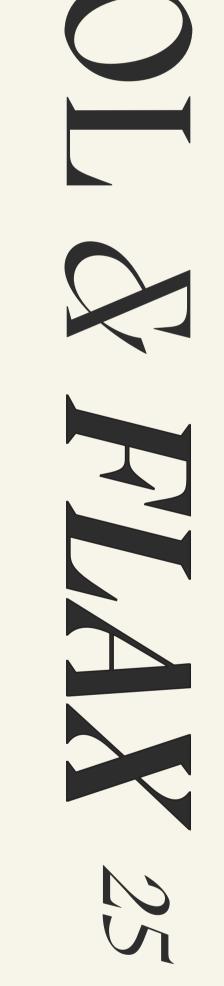


#### WE LAUNCHED THE LITTLE YEARS

—a once-a-month Friday morning gathering for moms of young kids, ages 0-4. Seasoned older moms joined us to encourage this exhausted, discouraged, and eager group of women. Already, we've seen so much community come from this program and we look forward to continuing this in 2025.

#### **WOOL AND FLAX,**

our monthly women's gathering, was a success throughout the year as we taught through different passages of scripture and women gathered for a shared meal, connection, and worship. Danielle taught alongside Andrea, which is a huge asset to add another teacher to the women's ministry. We are looking forward to 2025 and all of the opportunities it will bring!





## MEN'S MINISTRY



The Grace Road Men's Ministry exists to **"instill in our men a robust**, **biblical, and compelling vision of masculinity through worship, teaching**, **and fellowship."** The call of God on the men of our church is difficult, but He is always worth it. So we seek to infuse our time together with deep encouragement, prayerfulness, camaraderie, and a sense of God's sufficient grace in the call.

And praise God for how He has been at work! **In 2024, we hosted monthly Saturday morning men's breakfasts**, complete with singing, fellowship, time in the Word, and breakfast pizza! We opened God's Word on topics related to biblical masculinity, including leadership, strength, and character, and spent the fall walking through Paul's exhortation in 2 Timothy to fight the good fight of the faith to the very end. As we turn into the new year, we look forward to hosting Dr. Carl Trueman for our men's conference, to encourage men to find a Christ-bought resolve to fulfill their callings.

В

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

# Care Ministry

It has been an exciting year in the Care Ministry as we have moved into a building phase. We have begun to fortify the care ministry through a multi-faceted approach to equipping and educating, implementing different tactics to try to multiply our time and build a culture of care at Grace Road.

A second initiative that we were able to launch was a professional development opportunity offered by Fieldstone Counseling. Fieldstone's Standards of Care is a year-long course that ten of us are working through and gathering together for monthly discussion. These conversations have been fruitful and impactful as we seek to engage the church in being the church.

Launching our new Care Groups initiative was a big accomplishment in 2024. We started small with the launch of Sexual Integrity 101 in the fall. These groups ran for nine weeks, with men and women meeting separately to talk through how to find freedom from the effects of unwanted sexual behaviors and betrayal. We are grateful for those of you who stepped into the first run of this group. We hope to run this particular group three times per year.

Finally, as we endeavor to equip the Care Team, we traveled to a conference in West Virginia through an organization called Peaceworks. Peaceworks endeavors to educate the church in domestic abuse prevention and intervention. It was a time of fellowship, learning, and encouragement!

We are still actively looking to add to our Care Team staff while building up our volunteer base. In all these efforts, we feel immense privilege in being able to bear witness to what the Lord is doing in the many lives of those that call Grace Road home.

#### In need of practical care or assistance?

### LEARN MORE

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### MISSIONS **GREAT COMMISSION DISCIPLESHIP**

Jesus gave his Church a specific mission: make disciples of all nations.

That means every local church should cultivate a passion for God's global glory and make every effort to see disciples made everywhere.

In 2024, we experienced some exciting things in our church's global missions ministry. We launched a new course called "Great Commission Discipleship," which offers an introduction to the biblical and theological basis for global missions along with practical ways to be involved. We sent out David and **Carmen Gunderson** as Grace Road missionaries, serving among the vast refugee population in Athens, Greece.

#### **GREAT COMMISSION DISCIPLESHIP**

"...which offers an introduction to the biblical and theological basis for global missions along with practical ways to be involved..."

We also had several visits from our missionary partners, including the Groeneveld family (Spain), Alejandro & Noelle Badilla-Ferris (Costa Rica), Helm family (Cambodia), and Corinne Porter (Cambodia). For 2025, we have expanded our missions partners by supporting a new family doing incredible work among an unreached people group in Indonesia. On top of all of that, we continued to partner with many incredible ministries doing important work right here in Rochester and in America.

Continue to pray for our missions partners and consider how you might be involved in the new year!





To see more from the missionaries Grace Road supports, visit: www.graceroadchurch.org/missions

## SPECIAL EVENTS 15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



As we celebrated our 15 year anniversary this year, we reflected with gratitude on all the ways the Lord has built and blessed our church. Many contributed their personal stories to our building timeline and it was amazing to see the unique and diverse ways God has moved in the lives of His people here at Grace Road. From baptisms to international moves, weddings and child dedications, comfort in hard seasons, missions trips, youth group memories, and hearts surrendered to Christ, the testaments to God's faithfulness were powerful to witness.



We are so thankful for the **many dedicated individuals** who have served over the years– our leaders, volunteers, staff, and every member who has given their time, energy, and talents to the growth and health of the church. **In these 15 years**, we've seen growth not merely in numbers, but in true faith, gospel-shaped community, and sacrificial service.

As we look toward the future, we are confident in the God who, as we sang that day, keeps His promises. We lean expectantly on His grace.

## SPECIAL EVENTS CHURCH PICNIC



2009 1 2024

# GRACE ROAD — GRACE ROAD — GRACE ROAD

**ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER GREAT CHURCH PICNIC!** The Church Picnic is the time of year when our **whole church comes together** in one place for great food, fun, and fellowship. This year, we had the staple features such as inflatables, food trucks, and pumpkin painting, with a couple switchups. **Thanks to Todd Hartman, Dan** 

## Holmsten, and Bob Mahoney for grillin' up hot dogs and the GRYA team for heading up s'more station!

## FINANCES

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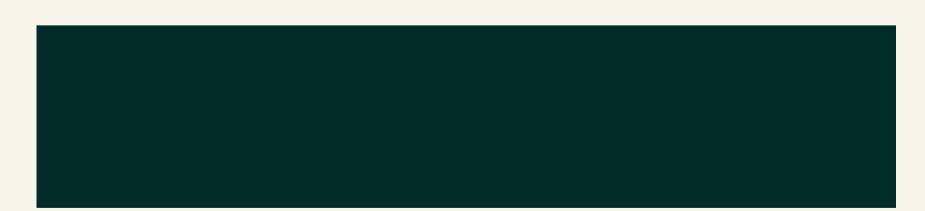
**OUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP APPROACHES** finances with thoughtful stewardship and careful planning. You may notice that some categories are **under budget this year**. All of our missionaries and church planters received full funding, with some even receiving extra support when unexpected needs arose. **We've also set aside savings within our missions budget for future church plants,** missionary visits, or any unforeseen opportunities that may come up mid-year.

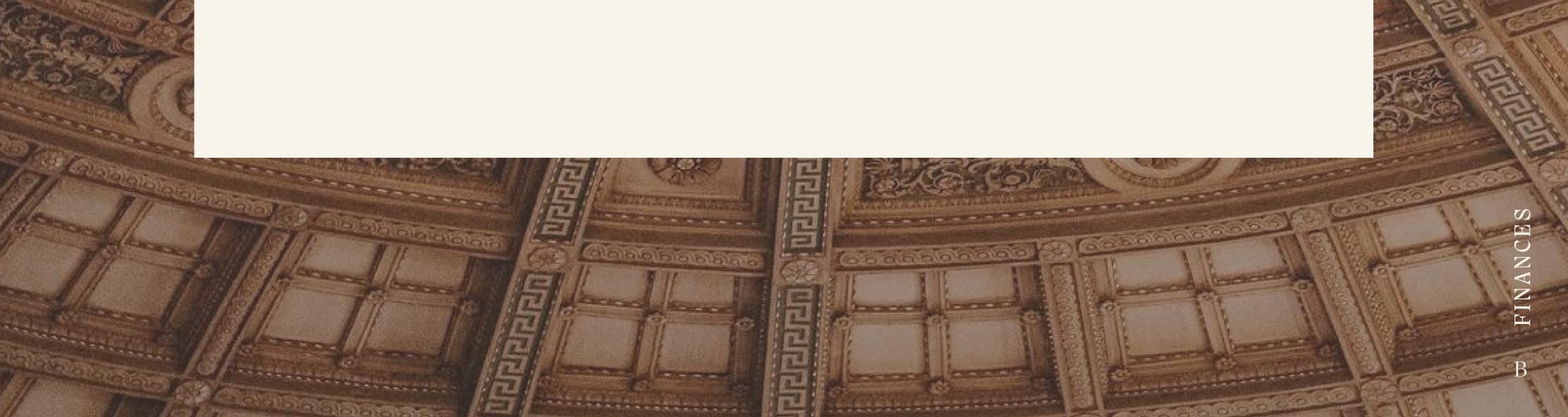
Additionally, our Facility budget includes a fund for major repairs and improvements to our current building. Each year, our surplus has been set aside, anticipating that, when the Lord provides, we will be making another facility purchase to multiply our church into two.







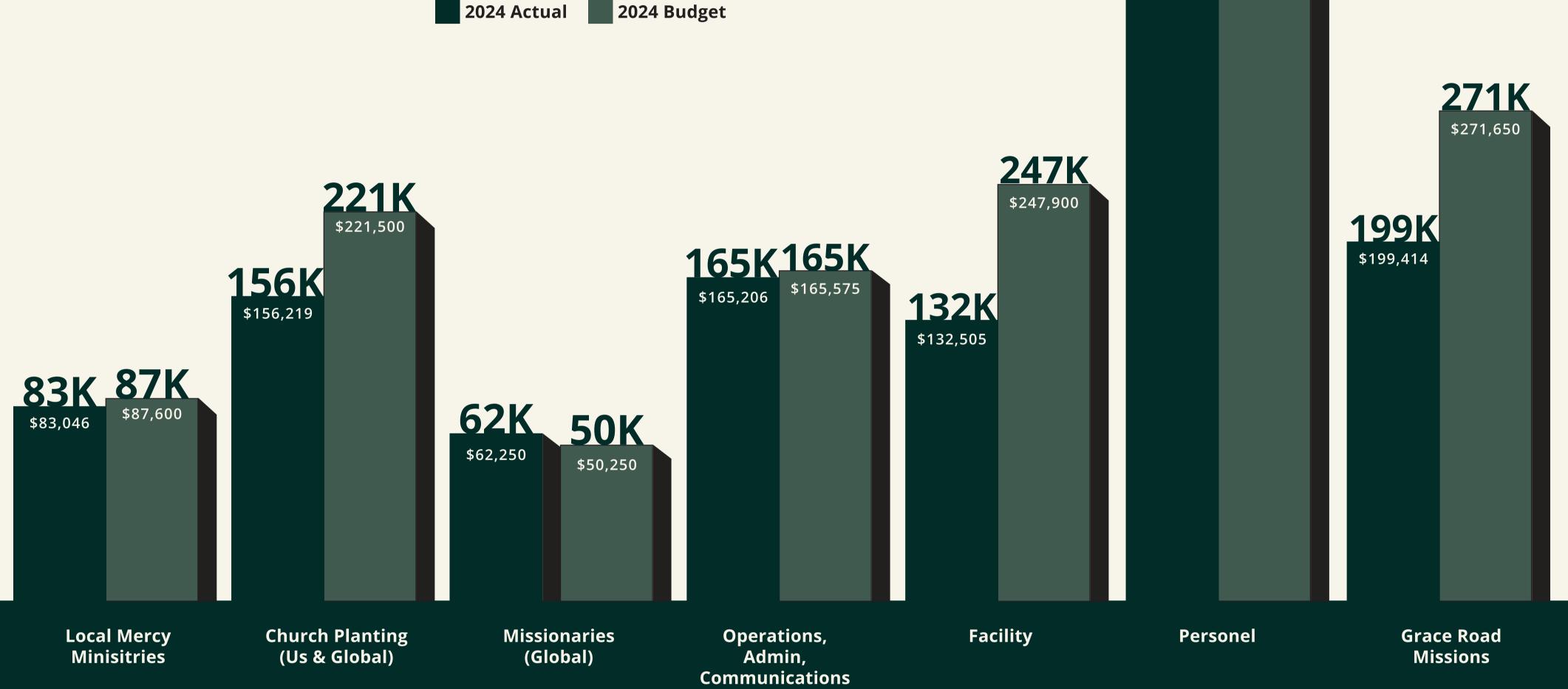






## Actual Total: \$1,770,301 Budgeted Total: 2,286,875





<u>1.5M</u>

\$1466,178

**1.2M** 

\$1,205,605

The Finance Team meets monthly to review financial statements, payroll, invoicing, and our budget.

This team is deeply committed to the support of our ministries, accountability with funds, and the overall health of the church. Their work behind the scenes ensures we remain fiscally responsible while meeting the needs of our church family. We typically set budgets slightly higher to account for unexpected expenses and to ensure that our community and ministries are fully supported throughout the year. We are grateful for another year to share the Gospel in every aspect of church life. Thank you for your generous giving to this mission!

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## GRACE ROAD

#### 440 EAST AVE | ROCHESTER, NY

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