

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMISSIONED



FIRST ALLIANCE
CHURCH

Dear First Alliance Family,

You might get choked up when you see it. I know I do. **The act of commissioning is very sacred and very important.**

Before those who serve in our armed forces begin their service to our country, they are **commissioned** by a commanding officer.

Before our international workers are sent out to new countries to share the Gospel with those who need Jesus, they are **commissioned** by the C&MA family.

Our annual meeting theme this year is Commissioned. Why? **Because we have been commissioned. You and I have been reached by the mission of Jesus in our lives, and we are now on mission with Jesus in our world.**

The “Commissioned” is defined as *One who is being asked to do something by one in authority.* We see this theme through Scripture:

To the **nation of Israel:**
*The Lord gave this **commission** to Joshua son of Nun: “Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you.” (Deut. 31:23)*

To the **New Testament church:**
*It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. **He has commissioned us.** (II Cor. 1:21)*

And the very last earthly words of Jesus are our first priority: **“Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19). We call this The Great Commission.**

If you are part of the FAC faith family, **consider yourself commissioned** by the King of Kings for a work in the lives of people that has eternal consequences.

This FAC mission is not a general statement but addresses a specific need in the world that God is wanting to meet through

Together, we have been commissioned to passionately pursue God, extend life-changing hope and disciple people to be Spirit-empowered followers of Jesus.

us. We have been commissioned to His priorities. Further, as a C&MA faith family, we stand on the shoulders of our founder A.B. Simpson and his peers, who took tremendous risks to fulfill their commissioning: All of Jesus for All the World. Being fully engaged is just who we are; it is in our DNA.

As you read this Annual Report you will see specific ways God has fulfilled his commissioning among us in the unique context he’s called us to serve:

Lexington, KY. We have seen new ventures in loving our neighbors, reaching the nations, and raising up the next generation, all done as we depended on the Holy Spirit and responded in faith. We have seen people come to faith, be baptized, and then get involved in groups. As an intentionally intergenerational church, we are



being discipled and we are making prayer our first work. We are a resource generous people, as well, and we want a true and lasting work of the Spirit. We believe the best is yet to come. In short, **we are living into our vision of being a loving community of disciple-makers serving and reaching generations with the Gospel in our city and around the world.**

In addition to this report, you will want to visit our **website at faclex.com/annualmeeting for information on voting and to view the extended Treasurer’s Report video.** If you have any questions, please attend our dialogue session on Monday night June 5th. No business happens at that session; it is simply an optional time set aside to answer any questions you have about the report.

The Annual Business Meeting Celebration will be held during all three services on Sunday morning, June 11. I look forward to worshipping with you at that celebratory service.

I love being your pastor. Let us continue to fulfill our commissioning from Jesus together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Paul Smith

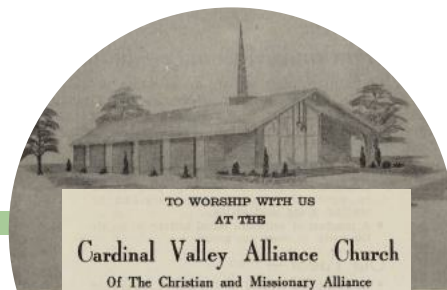
OUR HISTORY



In **1949**, George Breden began a series of tent meetings on the corner of High Street and Ransom Avenue.



In **1956**, the congregation officially organized as the Walnut Street Alliance Church.



In May **1965**, the church became Cardinal Valley Alliance Church.



In **1974**, the property on Old Higbee Mill Road was available, but financing was not. Several members of the congregation took out personal loans to help pay for the property.



Ground was broken for the new building in 1978. The first service to take place on the Old Higbee Mill Road site was on Easter Sunday, **1979**.



In **1990** a new Church Family Fellowship Center was added to the facility. The church went to two services in August, **1992**.



1992-2017, 4 churches were planted out of FAC.



A building project to enhance our Children's Ministry facilities, as well as expand and update our Atrium was completed in **2008**.



In **2016** we celebrated 60 years as a church and a commemorative stone was placed at the front entrance.



In July **2018** we welcomed a new Lead Pastor, Paul Smith. A new chapter began!



In **2020** we began to our livestream services and moved to 3 services.



In November **2022** we adopted new Mission, Vision, and Value statements.

Vision Sunday & Beyond

Vision Sunday on November 6, 2022 was a significant milestone in the life of our church.

Some background: In February of 2022, we completed a congregational survey assessing the spiritual priorities of our FAC family as we looked towards our future. The leadership board, a special task force, and StratCom Consultant Rick Stoller, then worked together for several months prayerfully synthesizing the findings and looking towards our future. This resulted in setting new ministry priorities, and ultimately new vision, mission, value and movement statements. These guiding statements are:



Through this process we also adopted a clear definition of who a disciple is and the discipleship process we will endeavor:

A *DISCIPLE* is someone who knows how to listen to God, obeys him, and helps others do the same.



All of these commitment statements also resulted in some staff reorganization, moving from one Executive Pastor of IN, to dividing that position into **two positions: an Executive Pastor of Ministry Development overseeing IN and a new Pastor of Group Life** who will oversee Life Groups, Men's Ministry, Young Professionals, Affinity groups, Adult education and events, and new discipleship ministry in days to come. Dan McPherson, our current Pastor of High School, will be moving into the role of Pastor of Group Life after a new high school pastor is found. These roles will be crucial to reaching our goals of making disciples and embracing the future, taking next steps in complete ministry alignment and addressing practical space challenges. A task force to look at our space constraints and identify options for our Leadership Board to consider has also been assembled.

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Congregational Survey

This past March 12, 2023, we took our annual congregational survey to see how we are doing in practically living out our new ministry priorities and goals. Here are some of the results!

664

People took the Congregational Survey! This is a fabulous response rate!

69%

Reported inviting someone to an FAC service or event in the last 12 months.

88%

Agreed with the statement "The worship experience at FAC helps me connect with God".

87%

Agreed with the statement "I consistently (on a daily basis) apply God's Word to my life".

Top 3 aspects that our congregation said are most important for attenders in a church home are:



Theology/Doctrine



Spiritual Vitality



Preaching

We are so excited for our future... as we continue to live out what God has commissioned us to as a church!

Thank you to our 2022-2023 Leadership Board!



Meet our Nominating Committee Nominees



Gary Fleck

Gary is married to Linda and they have three children and three grandchildren. He has attended FAC for 32 years. He leads a small group, is on the guest services team, and teaches the Relational Wisdom adult education class. He's always been drawn to the deep Biblical messages and that the focus is Jesus first, which makes a healthy church family.



Caryn Ellison

Caryn is married to Steve. She has attended FAC for 5 years. She is a Life Group co-leader, guest services, and YoungLives volunteer. She loves the outward focus of FAC and is constantly inspired to look around and do more in our community.



Cindy Barber

Cindy is married to Jeff and they have a daughter, Kristen. This year will be her 30th year attending FAC. She is involved in several ministries including the prayer team, Boomers & Beyond, and the Reading Program at Russell Cave Church of Christ. First Alliance has been a great place for her to find and nurture deep friendships.



Bob Bravard

Bob is married to Susan. He has attended First Alliance for over 25 years. He is on the Guest Services team as an usher. He loves that the message comes from the Word of God and the people at First Alliance.

For more information on voting please visit faclex.com/annualmeeting.

MEET OUR LEADERSHIP BOARD NOMINEES



Cindy Absher

Non-elder, 2-year term

Cindy is married to David and they have four children; Caroline, Meggen, Ian, and Katie. She has been at First Alliance for 30 years and teaches the 7th grade girls Sunday school class. She loves the people at FAC and the support and encouragement for her faith.



Steve Ellison

Treasurer, 2-year term

Steve is married to Caryn and they have attended First Alliance for 5 years. He is on the OUT ministry's advisory board, a Life Group leader, and participates in the Men's Ministry. He appreciates the intentional way FAC welcomes people and encourages engagement in the life of the church. He is excited to be a part of a church that is involved in mission globally and locally.



Jason Groth

Elder, 2-year term

Jason is married to Cara and they have four children; Madelyn, Caroline, Anna-Grace, and Silas. He has attended FAC for 11 years. He is on the Communion team and is involved in various activities through his children's ministries. He loves the way FAC is dedicated to prayer and how we find ways to love like Jesus.



Paul Nesselroade

Elder, 2-year term

Paul is married to Cheryl and he has attended FAC for a total of 26 years and is in a Life Group. He thinks FAC is a wonderful community of Christian faith where people spread the good news of the gospel broadly and faithfully, carry each other's burdens compassionately and lovingly, and engage with another in Christian discipleship genuinely and humbly.



Jonathan Waterman

Elder, 2-year term

Jonathan is married to Sarah Beth and they have two children. He has attended FAC for 5 years. He is involved in the Youth ministry and Nursery. He loves the deep community they have found at FAC with people that have God at the center of their lives.



Sarah Sizemore

Non-elder, 2-year term

Sarah is married to Jeremiah and they have 4 children; Glory, Baxter, Gideon, and Silas. She has attended FAC for 10 years. She is involved in the Young Marrieds and Growing Families class as well as Women's Ministry. Her favorite things about First Alliance are the people and that God's love is made tangible through the meaningful relationships she's found here.

MEET OUR RETURNING BOARD MEMBERS



Todd Banus

Elder

Todd is married to Rebecca and they have two children, Laurel and Arden. He has attended FAC for 15 years. He is involved in the Next Gen ministries and the Men's ministry. His favorite thing about First Alliance is that it is an easy place to find others to walk towards Christ with.



Amy Long

Amy is married to Linden. She has attended FAC since 1980. She facilitated the Newcomer's Class, is in a Life Group, and participates in the prayer ministry. She has found rich community, believers who challenge her, and teaching that is rooted in God's word at FAC.



Damon Mazza

Elder, Vice Chair

Damon is married to Enid and they have three children, Megan, Emily, and Julia. He has attended FAC for 24 years and is involved with FAC partner, Lexington Leadership Foundation. He loves the Life Groups at First Alliance and that we are a younger, growing church that values learning from older generations.



Daniel Rehner

Daniel is married to Kat and they have three children, Hazel, Hadassah, and Elorah. He has attended FAC for 16 years and is involved in the Youth ministry. He loves the people he gets to do life with at FAC and attending a church that preaches the word and encourages us to live in a spirit empowered life.



Susan Sallee

Secretary

Susan has two sons, Tripp and Jake and a daughter, Kate. She has attended FAC for 8 years. She is a facilitator for women's bible studies and grief study life group and is part of the grief team. She loves the family environment of FAC and has felt her family has grown more spiritually mature since attending.



Tim Woods

Elder

Tim is married to Tracy and they have attended FAC for 16 years. He is involved in a Life Group. He likes that FAC has a rich missional heritage and the current efforts to make Christ known to a changing world.

UP

TOWARDS GOD IN WORSHIP MINISTRY REPORTS

Zeke Friedeman • Worship Director

Thankful for another great year of worshipping together! The last 12 months have been some of my favorite at FAC. As always, I'm extremely blessed to be a part of a church that shows up on Sunday mornings ready to jump in and worship together! For my #s people out there – this past year, we introduced 10

new power songs, had 9 new worship team volunteers join the team, had 8 new tech team volunteers join the team, 5 church-wide special worship nights, and an estimated 1,252 minutes of corporate moments of singing and worshipping Jesus with grateful hearts.

brought a wealth of technology expertise and leadership.

If you didn't know, every week, 10-15 people put in 10+ hours each to prepare and participate in that week's service as a worship or tech volunteer. For those of you on those teams, THANK YOU for your willingness to serve and lead others faithfully!

I'm excited as ever for the future of FAC and continuing to lead and worship alongside you on Sunday mornings and beyond. Thanks for being a church that comes ready to worship in truth and purity!



One of our great worship teams on a Sunday morning.

Last June, Andrés Donahue joined us as part-time staff to oversee all of our Sanctuary technology, including audio, lights, and all digital presentation. He's done a phenomenal job leading those teams and has

Jessica Freeburne • Prayer Ministry

We believe in the power of *expectant prayer* and demonstrate it in many ways! This January we joined with 22 other churches in Lexington to be a part of an unceasing prayer movement, **24 Hour Prayer**, over the city of Lexington and beyond. On the second Monday of each month FAC has committed to pray for 24 hours. The congregation signs up for 30 minute time slots and is provided with a Prayer Guide. People are

encouraged to pray in the Prayer Room or from home. The Prayer Guide and Prayer Journal, for responses, is also available digitally. Our congregation has enthusiastically embraced this prayer opportunity!

Our **Sunday Prayer Team** has continued to grow and we have seen many people come forward at the conclusion of services for prayer this year. This continues

to be a vital ministry on Sunday mornings.

The **Prayer Bulletin** has moved to Tuesdays and now includes prayer points from Vertical and 24 Hour Prayer, along with personal requests from our church family, local and global partners. Vertical has become a weekly prayer rhythm in the life of our church and continues to demonstrate the prayer-fueled value of First Alliance.

Bethany Donahue • Guest Services Coordinator

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,"
-Matthew 25:35

The Guest Services Team has the privilege of serving our congregation and guests through greeting, ushering, parking cars, and so much more—whatever it takes to welcome and care for everyone who walks through our doors.

This past September, our team enjoyed a joint "Sunday Experience Rally" where we partnered with worship, tech, prayer teams, and Life Group leaders to celebrate our volunteers with a Sonny's lunch

and then had a time of training in our individual teams. Our Guest Services captains led volunteers through a position-specific training time. It's always great when our team can learn together!

The welcome center received a facelift in early December, with the installation of two slat walls featuring moveable shelving to display information on upcoming events, *Engage* magazines, and our guest welcome gifts. We added a tv display as well with rolling slides featuring that day's opportunities!

Christmas services were a special time where our volunteers served in some

unique roles like lighting candles during service and serving cookies. A special thank you goes out to our parking team that served in below freezing temps to make sure guests were well cared for. We were also grateful for those that participated in the brass band to add a festive flair between services.

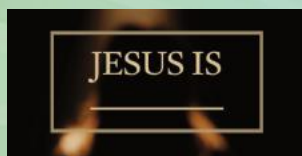
We saw God provide over and above at Easter when the congregation responded faithfully to our big ask for 20 volunteers beyond what we need on a "normal Sunday". Every slot was filled and the over 1700 Easter attendees were welcomed and served well. Balloon arches were a fun touch for Easter photos declaring He is risen!

We stand amazed at how God continues to take our small offerings of a smile, a handshake, a cup of coffee, or directing in the parking lot and multiplies them to be true gifts toward his service that show people they are loved by the King. We look forward to the year ahead in Guest Services as we continue to serve as "commissioned" ambassadors of Christ's love at FAC.



Bethany speaking to Charles and Carol Austin.

This Year's Sermon Series





IN

TOWARDS EACH OTHER IN DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY REPORTS

Many different ministries happen under the umbrella of IN. We have so many growing and serving groups, and the desire is that everyone who calls FAC their home church finds both a growing and serving group to be a part of. We are excited that we continue to see such great engagement in these specific ministries.

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Our **Adult Education** offerings expanded this past year. In addition to our long standing Open Word, Young Married & Growing Families, and Deeper Walk classes, we added Evangelism 101 (Sharing Jesus Without Fear) to our regular rotation with Activate and the Membership class. We also offered some impactful electives: Emotionally Healthy Discipleship; Equipping Mind, Body, and Soul; and Listening Prayer. The Adult Education ministry desires not only to help us grow in knowledge but also to be changed as we apply God's Word specifically to our lives. Many in our FAC family were positively impacted in both head and heart this year

through these classes. We look forward to continuing to expand offerings and have greater clarity in walking people through a clear discipleship process at FAC in this next year.

Our **Men's Ministry** hosted the 3rd in a 3 part series of The New Man conferences with guest speaker Mike Breaux. Over 80 men gathered to learn more about the Biblical view of a husband's role in the home. We also held a Wild at Heart ministries retreat

in fall 2022 and held several weeknight Bible studies throughout the year. A space has been created on Sunday mornings in Room 11 of the Lower Auditorium for men to gather and connect. It has been an awesome opportunity for organic conversation to happen among the men in our church of all generations.

These group opportunities are helping us be the loving community of disciple-makers we desire to be!

The **Young Professionals** group held fall and spring retreats and continued to meet weekly for fellowship, Bible study, and service projects. Smaller discipleship groups called triads began to meet within this growing community.

We held four **Membership** classes during the year for people who wanted to explore membership and learn more about the Christian & Missionary Alliance and FAC. Attending the class is required for membership, but we do not pressure anyone to join. Since July 2022, 39 people demonstrated their commitment to the mission of FAC and the Alliance by becoming new members bringing our total membership to 307. We welcome their partnership in the Gospel!

Thank you to all of our ministry volunteers who taught in our Adult Education, helped with Men's Ministry, and served with our Young Professionals this year. These group opportunities are helping us be the loving community of disciple-makers we desire to be!

John Doyle • Pastor of Intergenerational Engagement

A core value and strength of FAC is its intergenerational character—grandparents and grandchildren, great aunts and uncles, great nieces and nephews, university students and young professionals, young marrieds, young families, mid-lifers, empty nesters, retired but not done, aging saints, physically limited, and homebound—a full-family church home. This is increasingly uncommon in churches today. We believe it is a gift of God to be stewarded faithfully.

An exciting new development this year has been the launching of the **Intergenerational Leadership Team**. This 12-person team, with ages ranging from early 20s to early 80s, is creative,

the understanding that we are one body, one calling, and one family. Not just multi but intergenerational in worship, discipleship, mission, and service. Pray with the Intergenerational Leadership Team and join with us as we lean into this focus of God's call on FAC.

I am also privileged to work with the more senior saints of FAC. **Boomers and Beyond**, led by David and Sharon Winkle and the Boomers Leadership Group, continues to grow with the Gathering on the fourth Sunday of each month and the Lunch Bunch on the second Tuesday of each month. In addition, Boomers stay busy with shared events with FAC Youth and Young Professionals.



The Boomers & Beyond group at Lunch Bunch.

of all ages who bring joy, life, and witness to these events. Two were dedicated to the celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion, one was a celebration of songs and stories of faith, and the fourth was our Christmas celebration.

This spring we launched an exciting new initiative for and with grandparents. In connection with the Legacy Coalition, we are coming alongside grandparents who want to explore and step into the Biblical role and calling of intentional Christian grandparenting. This began with the six-week **Grandparenting Matters** class in April and May, and we will continue to build this over the coming months.

The best is yet to come!



The Intergenerational Leadership Team

energetic, called, and committed to prayerfully ensuring that everything we do reflects and builds on this great blessing and strength. More than making sure we have programs for every age group, it is about building on

This year we celebrated four Sunday evening **Intergenerational Worship Nights**. These are informal, family-friendly evenings of fellowship and celebration. We are blessed with an abundance of gifted and talented people

Heather Smith • Director of Communications & Connections

Communications

Carly Kuss, Chris Davis and myself, along with intern Avery Marshall, comprise the FAC Comm Team. **We have been commissioned** to communicate the message and mission of First Alliance! We serve the FAC family in many verbal and written forms: Connector, website, app, *Engage* magazine, message bumpers, social media, baptism videos, Advent enhancers, logos, verbal updates, announcement videos and more! All of these support the many ministries of FAC in providing information and invitation. We strive to harness the power of media, technology and

communications to further everyone moving UP, IN, and OUT.

Connections

LIFE Groups: We commissioned our 43 amazing Life Group leaders at our Volunteer Rally in September.

These 43 leaders shepherd 259 people in their 21 groups. We continue to see Life Groups as vital to our church for care and discipleship. We need even more leaders and groups for 2023-2024! As I

get ready to hand over leadership of the Life Group ministry to Dan McPherson when he moves to Pastor of

Group Life, I want to thank the leaders of these groups for their steadfast commitment and caring leadership!

Affinity groups were a new addition to our groups in summer 2021, grew in 2022, and will expand in 2023! We love the fun, intergenerational and evangelistic opportunities they provide.

Ministry Fair: We held our annual August ministry fair in the Lower Atrium over 4 Sundays, taking one week each for UP, IN- growing groups, IN-serving groups, and OUT. Many people made connections with ministry leaders and opportunities.

**43 leaders
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Kendall McKee • Greenhouse Ministry

It is hard to believe that we are almost 8 months into the first Greenhouse cohort development process. As Drew Rinehart and Laytham Mangham pursue their ministry callings, we have been blessed with their service and humility on our team.

Drew served this year in an "OUT" role for his first four months and the prayer team for the latter four months. He is pursuing marriage with his fiancée Anna, and they will get married in the Summer of '23. They both feel called to be International Workers with the Alliance, and we are encouraged to see Drew's growth and passion for the lost and marginalized. Drew's yearly project is planning our cross-cultural experience, and in the springtime of 2025, our cohort will be heading to Albania to assist our partners, the Wagoners, with the ministry that they do in central Albania!

Laytham has served in three roles here at First Alliance Church. First, he serves Dan McPherson in Men's Ministry with Dave Miller, facilitating the connection and conversation room each Sunday morning off the lower auditorium. (You can thank these two if you smell eggs and bacon on Sunday mornings!) Second, Laytham has served diligently in our college ministry, helping facilitate a comfortable environment for questions and leading in vulnerability in our discussion groups. Finally, his year-long project is a tree planting project for our loved ones who have passed away in our First Alliance body. Laytham will plant these trees on the First Alliance property.

**We want to foster
an environment of
leadership
development in
our Church!**

We will continue with our second cohort of Greenhouse Residents in June of 2023. We can't wait to welcome the four of them into our church body soon and are so excited for you all to be a part of their development process. We want to foster an environment of leadership development in our Church. Greenhouse is one of the intentional ways for us to see leaders grow in their process of defining what God is calling them to.

Greenhouse through FAC has only just begun. Thank you for commissioning me to lead this important work as we will over and over prepare and commission our residents into the ministry God has for them!

Susan Scott • Director of Women's Ministries

Our FAC women's ministry has been overwhelmed by the character of God being revealed to us over this last year. Everything – our Bible studies, Christmas event, Life to Life, MomGroup, Secret Sisters, and Retreat– focused on God's character.

Great God! We gathered as large groups at the Stryker farm for our Summer Celebration, in the FAC atrium for our fall coffee social and Christmas Rejoice celebration, as well as in Corbin, Kentucky, for our annual retreat. Our smaller

studying Esther, Isaiah, and prayer in the Before the Throne study.

FAC women continue to be OUT focused, desiring for the Great Commission to be fulfilled by us as we seek to “(t)herefore, go and make disciples of all the nations.” We partnered with our Alliance Women's national project while also ministering to FAC partners Ella and Max Brown, YoungLives, Wellington Elementary and our own FAC high school seniors and a local nursing home.

Our God has promised to “surely be with us always” as we live **Commissioned** lives, and we are thankful for this as His character is constant from A to Z– from being the Alpha and Omega to being Zealous!



The 2023 Women's Retreat attendees

Over 50 women led by facilitating groups, planning events, welcoming women into their homes, and sharing about the character of our

groups were comprised of approximately a few hundred women in 20 Bible study small groups each quarter

Jessica Freeburne • Coordinator of Congregational Care

At FAC, we believe we are each called to care for one another in community! A smaller group, such as a life group, serving group or Bible study group, is where you can expect to be prayed for and cared for first. When there are more sensitive, on-going or critical needs our Congregational Care ministry is here to support you.

The **Keeping In Touch Team** (KIT Team), serving individuals within the FAC family that are homebound or home-limited, has visited folks every other month. The visits help these individuals feel connected to the FAC body.

We continue to provide **Christian counseling** referrals for many individuals. Our **Benevolence Ministry** has generously provided for significant needs, including financial assistance with counseling, for those within the FAC community and beyond. We continue to provide support for those who've experienced loss by mailing **Grief Support** books within the first year someone experiences loss. The **Meal Team** has also blessed and supported many families. The **Baptism Team** has helped 15 people prepare and come alongside those making the decision to get baptized by



Nancy Lashbrook helps pass out donut holes on Sunday morning.

walking alongside them on the day of the baptism and also by creating a celebratory atmosphere in the atrium on Baptism Sunday.

What a gift to be a part of a generous, loving congregation!



NEXT GEN MINISTRIES

Tim Davis & Hannah Meredith • Children's Ministry



This year was an event-full one here at FAC Kids! We saw kids and families engaged with each other and with God in new and exciting ways. Last summer, we had over 100 kids join us at the beach for VBX (Vacation Bible eXperience) as we took a deep dive learning what it means to walk with Jesus! We then kicked off the school year on Step Up Sunday, learned that God has MORE for us at our elementary Overnight, anticipated Jesus' birth (while doing some service projects to bless our local partners) at our Christmas event Oh Boy!, and discovered

that God is building our families at our Lego Night. On Sunday mornings, our elementary kids experienced Bible characters and events, learning that Jesus has a place in our lives every day, not just on Sunday mornings! We have loved watching them develop a deeper relationship with their Heavenly Father as the year has gone on!

God continued to impact our Nursery & Preschool kids and their families! We are so thankful for our awesome teachers, leaders, and caregivers who love Jesus and understand the crucial activity of the church discipling its children and families (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). We really

can't say "thanks!" enough to our amazing team of volunteers who tirelessly give their energy, wisdom, and love to kids and families each week. It's their consistent example of Jesus that helps make FAC Kids a place *where God changes kids who change the world.*



Jacob Cecil helps in a preschool class.

Tanner Fouts • Middle School Ministry



Our Middle School students spent this year traversing the entire Bible. We spent the fall investigating everything we could in the Old Testament before tackling the New Testament in the spring.

Together we celebrated 4 baptisms and 1 salvation! As this year ends, we know several students are on the cusp of taking that next step in their faith. We invite you to



Middle School Fall Retreat

join us in prayer for these young kids who are making their faith their own.

We held our Fall (Anchored) and Spring (Remember) Retreats. Each retreat was a massive triumph, and we cannot wait till next year.

A big reason why this year was so successful is due to the dedication of our volunteers. Our diverse group of leaders ranging from 21 to 72 years old have passionately and faithfully led our students closer to Jesus. We have best friends, spouses, parents, grandparents, and college students serving with us—all living examples of Christ's followers.

Finally, it is with joyful hearts that we send our 2023 Harmony class (Romans 15:5-6) to high school!

Dan McPherson • High School Ministry



FAC Youth has had a great year! Our Fall Retreat focused on being dependent on Christ rather than ourselves or anything else. Dusty Bailey, the HS pastor at Southland, spoke at our Spring Lock-in which was awesome! We

covered a range of topics on Sundays this year including Prayer, Christian Sexuality, Busyness and Spiritual Disciplines, attributes of Jesus, Lent, and tough questions students are wrestling with.

God has blessed FAC Youth with 24 amazing leaders pastoring our 8 LIFE groups with consistency,

wisdom, and love. We also added 6 people this year who weekly pastored our small group leaders, checking in with them and caring/praying for them. It was a blessing to watch community and care thrive through those relationships.

To be honest, students are wrestling with a lot. It is a challenging time to be a teenager. Both students and parents are being attacked spiritually, emotionally, and mentally. Thank you for your prayer and continued support of them this year.

As you know, some changes are coming in the HS ministry. Thank you for your continued prayer as we follow the Lord's guidance in the months and years to come! Blessings.



Pastor Dan McPherson teaching on Sunday morning with guest speaker Hannah Meredith.

Kendall McKee • College Ministry

I'm grateful for my first year in the College Pastor role. We went beyond my wildest expectations, and we were able to witness God move in incredibly powerful ways. Who would have thought I would walk with these students through a worldwide revival and watch our students lead at that very Outpouring humbly and graciously? Our First Alliance college students have been exceptional.

We enjoyed weekly lunches this year after third service with an average of 20-30 students attending each week. (Thank you to those of you who helped provide food for those!) We enjoyed conversation and biblical discussion, and we built community. We had students

from UK, Asbury, Transy, ECU, Midway and more participate this past year. I'm excited to see the development of relationships.

As we closed out our lunches late April, we celebrated ten graduates! Some will stay in the area, but we also get the privilege of launching some back into their home communities or where they will work! Additionally, and most importantly, we got to pray with three students this year to receive Christ and are walking with them through baptism and beyond.

As we look forward to the summer season, we welcome our college students that call Lexington home! We will still have a College Ministry presence throughout the summer as our



College students preparing for the graduation celebration.

summer intern, Daniel Moye, and I lead a small college group. It will be a laid-back time of worship, study, and relaxation on Tuesday nights.

College ministry is vibrant at FAC. I am thankful for our commitment to raising up the next generation!



TOWARDS OUR WORLD IN MISSION MINISTRY REPORT

Tyrone Vinegar • Pastor of Outreach & Missions

In the past year, we have had the joy and privilege of seeing:

- God work through ministries being launched.
- Existing partnerships being strengthened, and people being sent.
- Truly living OUT our vision as a church of loving our neighbors, reaching the nations, and raising up the next generation.

This year we have started **new partnerships** with Cross Cultural workers and local partners. Please welcome and pray for Nesbert & Kelli Vaval who are serving in Selma, Alabama, as well as Chloe Ehrlich who serves with YWAM. Our newest local partner is Lexington Leadership Foundation and they will give us the ability to impact the peoples lives directly.

We also did great work with our existing partners! We were able to help ladies get furniture for their new homes through Natalie's Sisters as they walk in freedom from drug and sex trafficking. Young Lives has grown! They have served over

40 teen mothers this year, and we have seen young mothers & mentors walk into a relationship with Christ. Please continue to pray for Young Lives as we need mentors for mothers, and pray for ways to engage the young fathers also. The Reading program at Russell Cave Church of Christ started back up this past fall, and kids are being encouraged and loved by you, FAC. We had a great response as always to our Christmas meals and gifts for Wellington, Booker T, Russell Cave and Natalie's Sisters. Thank you!

We were thrilled to be able to **engage our physical neighbors** by going door to door to invite them to Easter service in April.

We were also able to bless staff and residents at Palomar View Apartments with gift cards to help people who may have lost groceries due to power outages from the wind storm in March. We will continue to seek ways to bless those in our neighborhood!

We continue to work with all of our partners to advance the mission of Christ! For a current list of all local and global partners, go to faclex.com. We also send prayer requests from our partners by email so please sign up to get email updates if you are interested. And, if YOU feel called to go OUT please reach out to me so I can help you find the right fit for you.



The Girls on the Run program led by the Vavals who serve in Selma, Alabama.

Finances

Beyond the Budget

July 2022-April 2023

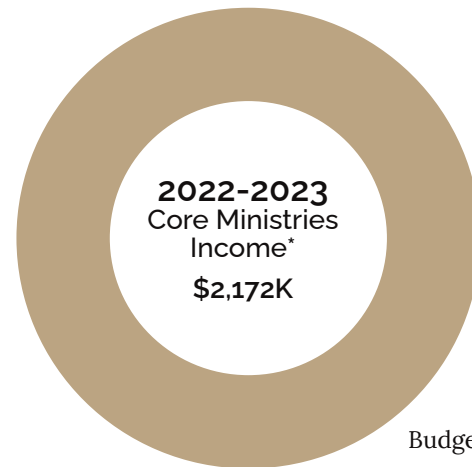
Giving to Our Neighbors and
the Nations

In addition to your generosity to the Core Ministries Fund, you gave:

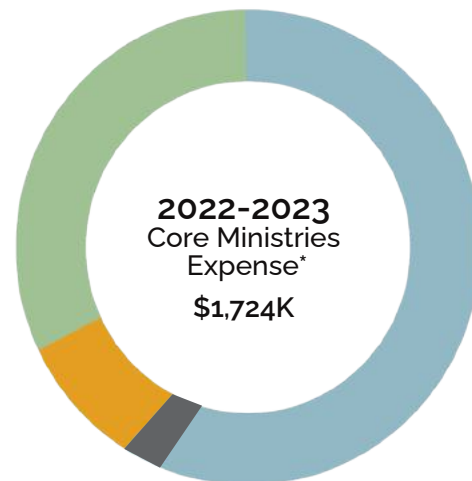
- \$174K to the **Here, There, and Everywhere** fund - which was used **HERE** to replace the oven in the main kitchen, to expand VBX, and help to send a team of 16 people to Peru to serve with Inca Link; **THERE** to support the ministries of the Lexington Leadership Foundation, to support the missional move of the Alliance headquarters from Colorado to Ohio, to support the Asbury University Outpouring, to support the Ohio Valley District of the C&MA in their church planting efforts, and to feed medical workers and school teachers in Lexington; and **EVERYWHERE** to invest in the Great Commission Fund of the Alliance.
- \$124K specifically designated for Alliance Missions, including the **Great Commission Fund, Compassion & Mercy Associates, and Alliance International Workers** from FAC to support the work of spreading the gospel in word and deed around the globe with the Alliance! (This was above and beyond the Here, There, and Everywhere GCF gift!)
- \$12K for benevolence, allowing us to bless many local families with basic needs such as housing, food, health care, and counseling!
- \$10K for local ministry partners doing compassionate kingdom work, including Natalie's Sisters, YoungLives, the Lexington Leadership Foundation, and projects we did for Russell Cave Church of Christ, Wellington Elementary and Booker T. Elementary School.

Your generosity was above and beyond!
THANK YOU!

2022-2023 Core Ministries Income & Expense Report



Budget was \$2,022K



Salaries & Benefits**	\$1,058K
Operations	\$459K
Ministry Investments	\$200K
Online Giving Fees	\$7k
Total	\$1,724K

*Note: 2022-2023 total income and Core Ministries Income and Expenses include actuals through April 2023 plus estimates for May and June 2023.

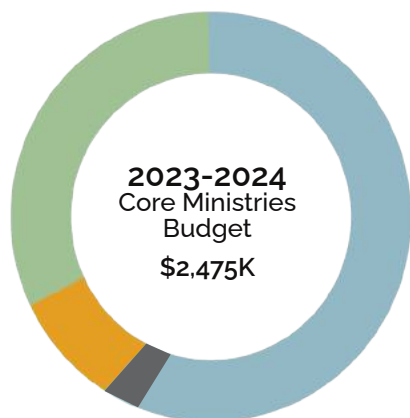
**This number represents 11 full time staff as well as 15 part time staff who work between 5-32 hours per week.

Total Giving
\$2.56M

2023-2024 Proposed Core Ministries Budget

This budget has been examined over a three month period and is presented to the membership of FAC fully supported by our Leadership Board. We desire to steward well every dollar entrusted to us, and we believe that all categories support mission and vision fulfillment as we invest in people, our property, and our initiatives.

For more detailed information on both last year's and this coming year's financial stewardship, please go to faclex.com/annualmeeting to see the Treasurer's report video hosted by Executive Pastor of Strategy and Operations, Deb MacKay, and our FAC Treasurer, Steve Ellison, as well as the extended Treasurer's summary.



Salaries & Benefits**	\$1,489K
Operations	\$603K
Ministry Investments	\$356K
Online Giving Fee	\$14K
Total	\$2,462K

**This number represents 14 full time staff as well as 16 part time staff who work between 5-32 hours per week.

Thank You!

In this Annual Report, you read how we as a church responded to God's commissioning. Your giving to the Core Ministries fund and beyond the budget helped to make this possible.

Thank you! We look forward to fulfilling even more of the work God calls us to do with the faithful financial support of everyone who calls First Alliance their church home.

FAC

By
the
Numbers

15

Baptisms

23

Salvations

307

Membership

788

**Number in
groups**

Average in-person attendance reported last year was 854. Since January 2023, our weekly in-person attendance is over 1250. The peak in February 2023 is an indication of the ripple effects of the Asbury Outpouring here at FAC for both in-person and online attendance.

- In person attendance includes everyone in the building on Sunday mornings.
- Online attendance includes our estimate of how many people are watching us on Sunday via faclex.tv, Facebook, and YouTube, using a consistent method.

How blessed we are for the experience of the Holy Spirit's presence with us in worship.

Average Monthly Attendance

