HOPE

FOR THE YEAR



2023

V30 GOALS + OUTCOMES

REACH

We strive to intentionally gather in our community, offering experiences, relationships, and places for as many people as possible to find life and purpose in Jesus Christ. In 2023 we:

OPENED
Hope Café to provide a place to work, gather, and connect during the week

EXPANDED
Tuckahoe Thrift to increase work space and community gathering spaces

LAUNCHED
Hope Center for Ministry Leadership (HCML) with two residents

GROW

We know that finding life and purpose in Christ happens when we gather to disciple and equip our community. In 2023 we:

HOSTED
quarterly Worship Nights + Believer's Baptisms

INTRODUCED
a new quarterly teaching: "The Gospel &"

EXPANDED
the small groups ministry to include large group gatherings for men and related small groups

SERVE

Local and global serving opportunities have been part of the HOPE fabric since we began in 1997. In 2023 we:

INCREASED
outreach giving to represent 10% of our annual budget

FORGED
relationships with new giving partners for monthly Hope Gives programs

RELAUNCHED
middle and high school service trips and explored potential new serve partners with an exploratory trip to Serbia

HOPE VALUES

LOVE GOD

We pursue growth in faith and Biblical knowledge, and seek to apply scriptural teaching in life and work.

LOVE PEOPLE

We strive for unity intentionally deepening relationships with one another over time and across groups. We prioritize developing others, with focus on creating leaders to sustain and grow ministry.

LIVE AUTHENTICALLY

We display a teachable spirit, willing to give and receive feedback. We choose coaching over critique. We are appropriately vulnerable, and commit to pray with one another.

GATHER INTENTIONALLY

We are collaborative, balancing differing viewpoints and ideas to be creative and innovative.

OVERFLOW GENEROSITY

We strive to display big picture thinking, making decisions that are scalable and sustainable, that boldly advance a Gospel movement. We strive to display a servant heart, prioritizing serving others over our own agenda.

Pray for the people HOPE will reach in the next 7 years. Pray for lives that are still to be changed.



A LETTER FROM *David Dwight*



Dear Friends,

When Pete Bowell and I started HOPE, we had the help of great volunteers, while also doing much of the work ourselves. We made runs to Kinkos and the post office, we improved our desktop publishing skills by composing communications, and we went to Costco a bunch - buying supplies for picnics and gatherings for HOPE. When we had an event, we planned it, set up for it, loaded tables and supplies in our cars and then cleaned up from it. I remember saying one day, "I wonder if there will ever be a day when my car isn't packed with HOPE stuff!?" Now, more than a quarter-century later, HOPE does many things that Pete and I never touch. Our church is blessed by the talents of a robust staff and hundreds of volunteers who working together, reach thousands of people each year with the message of the gospel. Just in this past year, our community has been able to celebrate some remarkable wins - and we are glad to share news of this with you!

God has done so much in the life of HOPE - and these pages highlight the goodness and fruitfulness of what He's brought about.

These photos, stories, and links to videos represent what God is doing in the lives of many people and we all get to be a part of this - with our lives coming together drawn into community. As you spend time with this content, I hope you will find yourselves in other's stories, celebrating with them and for them. And as you are praying - please pray for what's ahead for our church. We have big goals that require planning, talent, and funding to make them possible as we seek to reach families, grow leaders, plant churches and go far and wide.

Occasionally friends of mine who are not part of HOPE ask me about church finances and how they work. If I scan my memory over these past 26 years - the financial part of our church has been a story of God's remarkable faithfulness. The Lord has met our needs over the years - sometimes barely in the nick of time, and has continued to provide needed resources through your generous support and shared vision. He's also provided talented staff and leaders to steward these funds and put them to work. One example is that recent efforts to reduce HOPE's debt have taken us from $4,649,953.53 18 months ago, to $943,364.70 today! This helps us significantly as we seek to pursue our big plans for the coming years.

Hopefully you will enjoy the interactive experience with this report and as you see faces that you know - please let's also never forget to keep praying for people we don't yet know, who we have yet to meet, and who God will bring into the life of HOPE!

Gratefully in Christ,
David

P.S. We love celebrating the stories of families at HOPE. If you haven't seen it, I encourage you to celebrate the story of Libi Grace Wisniewski and her parents Matt and Krissie. Their miraculous story is one of the gifts we get to celebrate together.

Each Sunday morning the Hope Kids hallway is filled with kids, parents, and volunteers. In preschool they focus on the three fundamental truths about God: God made me, God loves me, and Jesus wants to be my friend forever. In Kindergarten-5th grade the kids focus on three new fundamental truths: I can trust God no matter what, I need to make the wise choice, and I should treat others the way I want to be treated. The curriculum of Hope Kids helps parents lay the foundation of their children's faith and the volunteers who serve become trusted mentors and friends who reinforce these truths each week.







WAYS TO CONNECT WITH HOPE KIDS

SUNDAYS
Staff and volunteers serve 300+ kids, ages birth-5th grade each week.

REACH EVENTS
These events are designed for FUN! They are an entry point for new friends to come and interact with our staff and volunteers, for families to have fun together and meet new friends, and for kids to experience the crazy fun that Hope Kids loves to share. In 2023, Hope Kids' reach events served more than 5,000 individuals.

CAMP
In June, Hope Kids staff and volunteers took 42 fourth and fifth graders, three of whom were kids with special needs, to camp for four days of unplugged fun! Kids were immersed in exploring who they are as individuals and how their relationships with Christ might be growing. Camp helps kids step out of their comfort zone to try new things. Hope Kids staff celebrate that kids who go to camp engage more with their small group leaders and enter into worship more readily in the year that follows.

ADVENT EXPERIENCES
Each year, Hope Kids offers more than 500 families meaningful ways to engage during the advent season by sharing "experience bags." Families are encouraged to have a weekly Advent experience and talk together about what the season means.

PARENT CONNECT EVENTS
Throughout the year, Hope Kids creates ways for parents to connect with each other and talk about the joys and challenges of each stage of parenting.

Pray that God will deepen His work of calling these families and children to Him. Pray that they will grow closer together as a family unit and that their kids grow up strong and confident in the Gospel because of who God is.

Student Ministry at Hope Church is focused on raising up the next generation of believers and leaders. Through a model of discipleship and small groups, Student ministry offers 6th-12th graders relationships and places where they feel known and loved by adult leaders who care about them and want them to grow in Christ.





SENIOR LEGACY VIDEOS



Each spring, graduating seniors have an opportunity to share their testimonies on video and reflect on what God has done in their lives during their time at HOPE. We celebrate how God is working in this generation of students.

HOPE GOLF CLASSIC



30 teams hit the links in October, raising funds to offset costs for Winter Weekend and summer camps. It is HOPE's desire that financial need never stand in the way of a student's access to these experiences. HOPE member, Calypso Gilstrap shared about the impact of Hope Students on her family as she raised three teenagers.

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH HOPE STUDENTS

SUNDAYS
Sunday night large gatherings average around 100 high school students and 75 middle school students, though more than 500 students will attend at least once each semester.

SMALL GROUPS
Small groups meet throughout the week, averaging 100+ students each week, with more than 175 students engaged in some way each semester.

WINTER WEEKEND
In February, more than 350 students, volunteers, and staff attended Winter Weekend. Many students cite these annual retreats as fundamental turning points in their faith journey.

SUMMER CAMPS
Middle and high school students get away, unplug, and seek God together in fellowship with summer interns.

COMPASSION TRIPS
"Experience trips" are designed to show students the breadth of God's kingdom, take them out of their comfort zones, and expose them to people who are doing the work of caring for others. 29 students traveled to Nashville this summer and supported various groups involved in ministry to people experiencing homelessness and other challenging circumstances. 16 students traveled to Scotland to provide work crews for a Young Life camp and were exposed to the post-religious culture in an area largely devoid of the Gospel.

Pray that the Lord will draw these students to Him and give them deep roots of faith to anchor them as they move on from HOPE.



Hope Special Needs serves individuals with special needs and their families with programs that meet them where they are and facilitate connections at HOPE.

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH HOPE SPECIAL NEEDS

HOPE KIDS
Volunteers are paired 1:1 with special needs kids and attend Hope Kids programs with their age-mates unless students need to take a break in our Sensory Room. Currently, 46 kids rotate through Sunday mornings with support.

HOPE STUDENTS
Volunteers support more than 10 middle and high school students at Sunday night large gatherings and weekly small groups.

YOUNG ADULTS
Young adults, aged 18-25, meet on Monday nights in the GRIT group, which has grown beyond 30 individuals and expanded to a second group this year.

ADULTS
Adults gather on the last Monday of the month in the Lodge to enjoy a themed party with community, worship, teaching and a meal. More than 90 adults, plus volunteers, attend these events.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT
These events are offered seasonally to parents and caregivers of special needs students, birth through high school. Parents enjoy a date night while their kids enjoy dinner and fun with Hope volunteers.

SPOTLIGHT: RHETT



We celebrate God's work in bringing the Caratelli family to HOPE and were privileged to celebrate Rhett's baptism in 2022 as a community.

NIGHT TO SHINE





On February 10, 2023, HOPE hosted Night to Shine, and welcomed 250 guests for the most fun evening. Thanks to 300 volunteers, we cared not only for each guest but welcomed their caregivers to the Lodge for dinner and fellowship as well.

Thank the Lord for how He reveals His beauty in and through our special needs community.

HOPE COLLEGE + HOPE YOUNG ADULTS

hopechurchrva.com/college
hopechurchrva.com/youngadults

Hope's College Ministry is in growth mode. After many years of a college ministry that was active only during summers and school breaks, programs are now offered year-round. A small group at Randolph Macon has launched this fall with more than 40 students engaged. The group meets every other week and continues to grow.

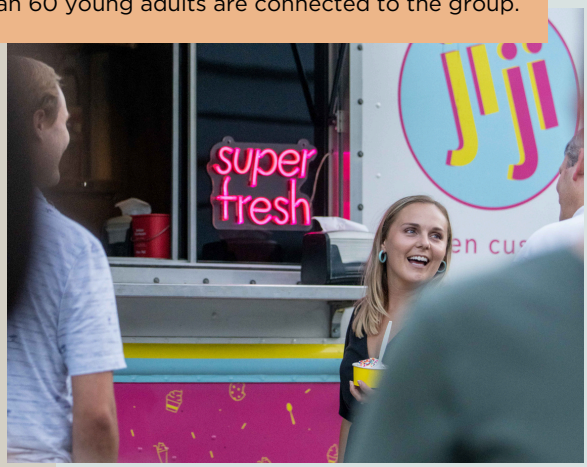




College students in the Richmond area are invited to twice-monthly lunches following the 11am service.

Young Adults in their 20s and early 30s meet monthly for a house party hosted by different HOPE families. The group shares a meal and enjoys conversation, teaching, and fellowship. We also have one social event each month in the community. This fall, the group enjoyed a retreat in the Outer Banks. More than 60 young adults are connected to the group.





Pray for the college students and young professionals at HOPE, that they would build their lives on God's truth and find fellowship with each other.

HOPE's summer intern program is built around a philosophy of ministry, founded on Biblical principles of discipleship. Interns are challenged to grow in their faith and stretch them and challenge their capacity, in an environment of intentional community. This summer, HOPE hosted 24 summer interns; 14 led small groups in Student Ministry, three led in Worship + Production, two led in College Ministry, two led in Kids Ministry, and one in Special Needs.





Pray for the future leaders of the church. Pray that through HOPE's work with interns and residents, God will raise up church leaders for the next generation.

The Hope Center for Ministry Leadership (HCML) is a program designed to help young college graduates discern if a career in ministry is part of their professional calling. Residents commit to a one-year program, with the opportunity to re-apply for two more years. The program examines ministry through a gospel-centric lens, supporting residents with mentorship and teaching as they gain skills and experience.

ISAAC NUNN



Isaac Nunn is in his first year of residency, serving in Worship Arts.

AIDAN FLEMING



Aidan Fleming, who previously served in HOPE's intern program, is in his first year of residency, leading college ministry at HOPE.

ELDERS

HOPE's Session is composed of two teaching elders (David Dwight and Pete Bowell), and ordained ruling elders, elected to three year terms. The Session provides governance, support and accountability toward Hope's Mission, Vision and Values. As champions of HOPE's mission and vision, elders work in support and partnership with the ministry staff on decisions that affect the direction of the Church, have certain financial implications and create policy. Elders care for the health of the body and the staff through the Personnel Committee and Care Team involvement.





DEACONS

HOPE is also supported by a dedicated team of deacons who oversee the church's Care Team ministry, as well as communion, and many other aspects of the shepherding and care of our community. Deacons come alongside the pastors and staff to support the values of HOPE as expressed through our weekend services, serving on sub-teams for strategic change and new ministry development.

VOLUNTEERS

Every ministry at HOPE could not exist without our volunteers. Each month, more than 500 volunteers serve at HOPE in one ministry or another. Volunteers make every aspect of our Sunday services happen and many volunteer during the week with ministries at HOPE, as well as at our thrift stores and café. We are grateful for each and every one!

MIKE MILLER



Deacon Mike Miller shared his testimony of coming to faith, and later to HOPE. He is a gift to our community.



In June, pastors and elders traveled to the EPC's General Assembly in Denver. Pastor Wes Peterson serves on the World Outreach Committee; Elder Joi Williams serves on the National Leadership Team; and Elder Tom Love serves on the Stewardship Committee of the Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic.



Our Worship Arts and Production volunteers serve faithfully each Sunday, at Students gatherings, baptisms, and many other events to provide a worship experience that will touch the lives of all who walk through HOPE's doors.

Pray for our Elders, Deacons, and all volunteers as they seek to serve together and steward the work of the church for God's glory.

HOPE DISCIPLESHIP
HOPE GROUPS



GROUPS

We are made for community. We need connection to others to grow. HOPE's Groups ministry looks to Jesus' model of discipleship. Jesus had twelve friends - His disciples, and three close friends among that group. HOPE small groups strive to follow that model. Currently at HOPE, we have more than 115 small groups, each with an estimated 8-10 people. We know that more than 1,000 people at HOPE are involved in small groups.

THRIVE

Thrive is a ministry of HOPE open to women of all ages and meets on Thursday mornings and evenings. Women hear a teaching from a speaker and enjoy study fellowship together around a table with their small group. Thrive is a great way for women coming in to HOPE to meet new people and find community.







Pray that those in small groups find friendship and fellowship that points them to the Lord. Pray that those seeking community find their way to the right small group.

HOPE DISCIPLESHIP
HOPE CLASSES

hopechurchrva.com/classes

HOPE values spiritual growth and offers classes through the year to help our community grow in faith together.

AUTHENTICALLY SHARING YOUR FAITH



This class, focused on evangelism and sharing your faith in an authentic way was offered in August. More than 30 people attended.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES



Offered twice annually, this four-week class delves into spiritual disciplines - what are they, why do we engage in them, and how can our faith grow by developing these habits that lead us towards greater spiritual maturity. Combined, more than 125 people at HOPE attended these sessions this year.

THE GOSPEL &



New in 2023, this quarterly offering explores topics of our day and what the Gospel has to offer as we navigate challenging aspects of our lives. More than 200 people have attended each event and enjoyed a teaching time, an open Q&A conversation, and a table discussion.

DISCOVER HOPE



This class offers a background of HOPE's beliefs and programs and is the prerequisite for becoming a member at HOPE. The class was offered three times in 2023. Out of 170 combined attendees, 90 people became new members of HOPE.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY



This personal finance course helps individuals learn the keys to successful personal financial management - create a budget, get out of debt, and begin to save and give. More than 50 people attended the class in Fall 2023.

BOOK ON LOVE



In 2023, 67 couples attended this three-part class that provides clear and concise teaching about what the Bible says about marriage.

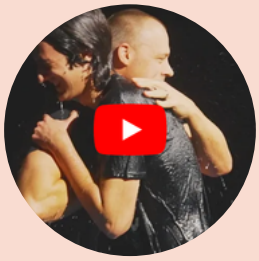
Pray for our teachers as they seek to help our community grow in faith and truth.

HOPE BAPTISMS

hopechurchrva.com/baptisms

Baptism is a holy sacrament of the church. This year, for the first time, HOPE's community experienced Worship Nights with Believer's Baptisms. These events were a beautiful time of celebration together.

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM + WORSHIP NIGHT



Check out our first Worship Night with Believer's Baptisms.



Through our Worship Night and Believer's Baptism events in January, March, May, and November, we celebrated the baptism of 49 students and adults.



Summer baptisms are a long-standing HOPE tradition and a beautiful time to celebrate God's work in our body of believers. In August, we baptized 18 believers at a pool-side ceremony.



Our congregation was privileged to support families during 29 infant baptisms and 14 infant dedications.

Pray that those baptized at HOPE this year will continue to grow deep roots in the Lord as they continue on in their faith journeys.

hope thrift

Many shoppers and volunteers are not connected to Hope Church and over time, the thrift store has become their church. Both locations have gathering areas and kitchen spaces to host small groups, book clubs, and even partner with other local ministries. Thrift volunteers and staff pray for shoppers, and often take meals or provide other support to those in need.





HOPE's two thrift stores focus on "people first, retail second." Shoppers come to Hope Thrift for high-quality, affordable home goods, clothes, and toys, but stay connected for much more significant reasons. Some neighborhood residents come to the stores every day, just for the connection of being greeted by name.

HOPE THRIFT



Hope Thrift's model and success has garnered attention beyond our community. The project was featured in June at the EPC's general assembly meeting.

Pray that the ministries of the Thrift stores and Café will draw people into relationship with Jesus.

HOPE café

In May, Hope Café opened to guests and has been a beautiful gathering place for many in our community. The café is donation-based, but serves a variety of beverages, snacks, sandwiches, and soups. It is a popular meeting place for many in our community and we hope the relationships that form over good food and drink sustain for years to come.



At Hope Café, we believe in the life-giving power of connection and serving, and that Christ is seated with us at the table.

OUTREACH

Through the generosity of HOPE donors and the proceeds from our Thrift stores and Hope Café, we are able to support kingdom work with local, regional, and global partners. A full list of our partners can be found at hopechurchrva.com/outreach.





HOPE GIVES

Each month, HOPE's congregation gives generously to support local mission partners. This year, we have donated more than 14,000 pounds of food to Goochland Care and the Henrico Community Food Bank. In addition, we collected school supplies for Elijah House Academy, diapers, wipes, and children's OTC medicines for CrossOver Healthcare Ministry, and gift cards for The Caring Closet.

MISSION TRIPS

HOPE believes short-term mission trips are not only about supporting the work of missionaries and faith communities around the globe, but about changing the perspectives and growing the faith of those who go to serve. HOPE supported three short-term trips this year and planned for the future by reestablishing and strengthen partnering relationships coming out of the pandemic.





CHURCH PLANTING

Church planting is in HOPE's DNA. It is a key area of our ministry work. Currently, HOPE supports three church plants and looks forward to supporting other plants and raising up plants from within HOPE in the future.

CHURCH ON BLVD



Richmond, VA

THE BRANCH



Ashland, VA

SOUTH CITY CHURCH



Richmond, VA

Pray that the Lord will use our Outreach efforts to grow and edify His kingdom. Pray for rich relationships to flourish between HOPE and our partners. Pray for new relationships to be led by the Lord.

STAY *CONNECTED* TO HOPE

THIS YEAR IN SERMONS





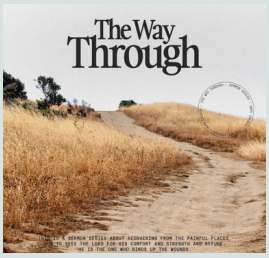














View sermons on YouTube

Dive deeper with weekly discussion guides

Keep HOPE in your ears! Add our podcasts to your feed.

Isaiah 55 says, "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Pray that God's word will accomplish His purpose in our community and beyond.

HOPECAST

HOPE CAST

Twice a month the team at HOPE tackles questions we all have (or have had) about life and faith in under 30 minutes.

FAMCAST

the family podcast.

Real people with real lives + real messes trying to point their kids to Jesus.

HOPE SERMONS

HOPE SERMONS

Weekly messages from the teaching pastors at HOPE.



HOPE's V30 vision is to continue the kingdom-building work God has called us to. We are anticipating what God will do to expand on what we have built so far and continue to offer opportunities for as many people as possible to find life in Christ, continuing toward one of our goals of baptizing 1,500 new believers.

HOPE
A Good Place to Find Life