

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



Mt Carmel
BAPTIST CHURCH

OUR PURPOSE

Helping people take their next step in Christ

OUR PURPOSE IN ACTION

Believe . . . experience God

Belong . . . grow in community

Bless . . . others

OUR VALUES

Follow Jesus.

It all begins with God. Through Jesus, we can know Him personally. We are faithful to Him above all else.

Be disciples.

Believing that God has spoken to us in truth through His Word, the Bible, we grow in walking close to Jesus.

Invest in each other.

God loves people. Because people matter to God, people matter to us.

Live generously.

Everything we have is from God.

Let us live generously in our service to Him and others.

Spread the Gospel.

Because the Church exists for the world, we serve others before ourselves.

We must share the Good News of Jesus with others.

WHO WE
ARE

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

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125 years ago, Mt. Carmel began in the hearts of a small group of people. They first met at the Swann's School House on September 2, 1894, as a Missionary Baptist Church. Fifteen were received into membership of this new church on promise of letter and ten as candidates for baptism.

The first service was held on the third Saturday in September 1894. A building committee was formed and immediately went to work. On Christmas Day, 1894, the church house was used for the first time. A Sunday School was organized in April 1895 and classrooms were added in 1919. After voting to become a "full-time" church in 1941, the church began to grow in attendance, programs, and mission concern.



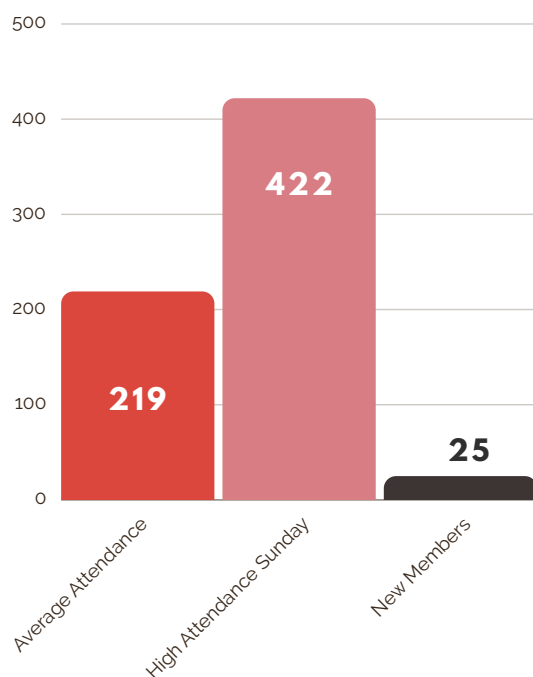
An education building was erected in 1957. In 1985, an educational area was constructed and dedicated to providing space for preschoolers and children. In 1998, Mt. Carmel completed the youth annex and began a campaign to construct a new worship center. This work was completed in 2000 and still serves this body and community today.

Mt. Carmel has a rich history of dedicated pastors and members. Each week, Mt. Carmel continues to minister to families of all generations through weekly worship, Bible study groups, missions locally and internationally, and ministries for the entire family. While we have a great history and heritage, it is up to us to carry that on. God has given us a vision and purpose. We must keep at the forefront of our hearts and minds that we are "helping people take their next step in Christ." Join us as we continue to write the next pages of history.

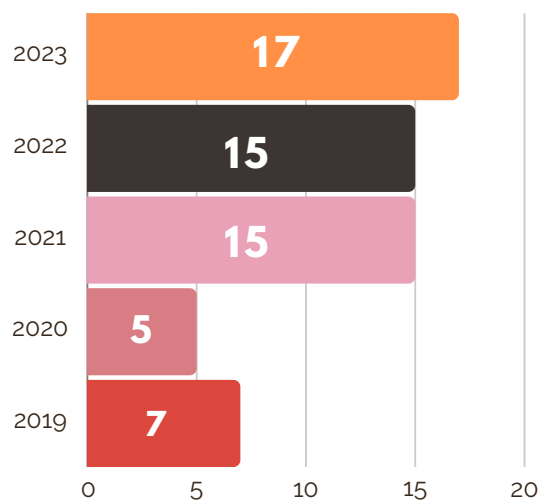


MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

ATTENDANCE AND NEW MEMBERS



BAPTISMS



SPECIAL SERVICES

Vision Sunday	209
Super Sunday	230
Mother's Day	292
Father's Day	253
Easter Sunday	422
Summer Sundays Finale	237
Christmas Eve	318



189

Children have
attended a Sunday at
Mt Carmel
in 2023



25

NEW MEMBERS



107

GROUPS
AVG ATTENDANCE



17

BAPTISMS



8

NEW COMMITMENTS



23

FIRST TIME GIVERS



\$652,936

TOTAL MISSIONAL
GIVING

BELONG

GROUPS

Discipleship is about growing in Christ and doing life together. Our group ministry did this through consistent and Christ-honoring ways, even with a significant transition from space to space. We were delighted to put all of our groups in one area after completing our downstairs remodel. Each group has a space to call their own, study God's word together and grow. Both Sundays and Wednesdays provided opportunities for this to happen throughout the year. On Sundays, we averaged 85 in our groups, and on Wednesdays, we saw an average of 22.

PARENTS, MEN'S & WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

This year, we introduced regular fellowships for our parents. Every other month, parents were provided breakfast in the fireside room and the opportunity to discuss topics that applied to their lives. Parents Breakfast provided a place for our parents to break the norm, gather together, fellowship, and grow. We also had our first Mother's Day women's and Father's Day men's fellowship. These opportunities allowed the men and women in our church to connect, eat, grow, and learn as they heard from powerful speakers who offered challenges for growth.

DEACON FAMILY MINISTRY

The Deacon Family Ministry was organized as a way for the deacons to minister and serve the families of Mt. Carmel. Each family in turn has a personal contact for care. Our Deacons serve faithfully each year as shepherds to our church body as well as serving the ordinances of the church.



OUTREACH EVENTS

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Our community egg hunt is one of our most anticipated events of the year. The year's egg hunt included thousands of eggs, many vendors, princesses, and even an appearance of the Easter Bunny. We use this event to invite others to church for Easter.

BACK TO SCHOOL BIG GIVE 2023

For our Big Give, we let the teachers shop for themselves through a church-sponsored shopping spree at Walmart. 75 teachers registered this year. Each registered teacher was given an hour and \$100 to get whatever they needed for their classroom! This was made possible through contributions made by church members. It was a gift for the teachers and volunteers who got to experience their joy!

TRUNK OR TREAT 2023

Our community trunk or treat has gotten a reputation as one of the best in the area! Over 70 volunteers helped pull off this event. That is the most volunteer participation we have ever had. There were over 1,000 people in attendance. Folks experienced a train ride, pony rides, face painting, and CANDY.



EMMANUEL HAITI



EMMANUEL HAITI 2013-2023

Mt. Carmel's Emmanuel Haiti ministry began in 2013 when Mt. Carmel members Vicki Shultz, Mary Phil Illges and Mat Illges visited Haiti and met 50 orphaned children in need of a home. The people of Mt. Carmel stepped up to sponsor these children and have continued to do so to the present. Through the years, God has grown this ministry in ways none of us could have ever imagined. These are the highlights of the ministry to date:

- Children's Village built 2013
- Church built 2014
- School built 2016
- Church rebuilt after Hurricane Matthew 2017
- Medical Clinic built 2018
- Boys' Transition Home founded and built 2018
- Girls' Transition Home founded 2018
- 29:11 Jeremie Ministry founded to create businesses to employ transition home boys
- Chicken and Goat businesses, Moto-Taxi business created 2019
- Sewing Business and Bakery created & building purchased 2019
- Second downtown Jeremie business building purchased 2020
- 5 Widows' Village Homes and new Girls' Transition Home built 2021
- Radio Station "Saveur du Sel" (Taste of Salt), the only 24/7 radio station in Haiti, projected to reach 100% of Haiti in 3 years, purchased with partners 2022
- 37 Individual Homes for Families built 2016-2023
- 15 Churches Planted and Built 2014-2023
- 31 Just Go Haiti teams visited Jeremie and Les Cayes, Haiti. Travel was halted in 2023 due to extreme unrest.





EMMANUEL HAITI BY THE NUMBERS - 2023

These numbers represent Emmanuel Haiti's ministry in 2023:

- Children and Adults at Emmanuel Children's Village: 83
- Boys at Transition Home: 36 plus 6 living and working at the Bakery
- Girls at Transition Home: 14
- Widows and Family Members at the Widows' Village: 15
- School Students: 600
- Community Scholarship Children: 111
- Secondary School Graduates: 9
- University Graduates: 2
- Students in Medical School in Cuba: 4
- Students in Medical School in Haiti: 1
- Young Woman rescued from trafficking, in transition home: 1
- Patients treated at Medical Clinic: 5000+
- Food: 300,000+ Meals distributed
- Christmas Meals for children: 520
- New Family & Refugee Homes built: 12
- Kitchens: built 2 at Emmanuel and Widows' Village
- Wells: drilled: 2 at Widows' Village and Boys' Transition Home
- New Garden and Orchard planted and Agriculture Program started
- New Water Tank Purifiers for Communities built: 5
- Weekly Attendance at Emmanuel Church: 350
- Weekly Attendance at Churches planted/built by Emmanuel Haiti: 5500+
- Trip to Santiago, Cuba to visit medical students
- Haiti 5K: 200+ participants, raised \$52,000
- Emmanuel Haiti Market Christmas Catalog: raised \$314,000 including 7 churches, 6 refugee homes, an upgrade for the Bakery, meals for 4 mountain schools, 144 school scholarships, 460 solar audio Bibles, 38 water purifiers for families and much more.

To learn more about Emmanuel Haiti, visit
EmmanuelHaiti.org.

MISSIONS

LOCAL



THE STOREHOUSE

The Storehouse is a new ministry in Robertson County in Cross Plains that shares the good news of Jesus Christ with lost and hurting people as we provide food and other assistance to persons in the geographical area of Robertson County.

ISAIAH 117 HOUSE

Isaiah 117 House provides physical and emotional support in a safe and loving home for children awaiting foster care placement. This year, we donated \$1,125 to support this ministry.

MY FATHER'S HOUSE

My Father's House is a cold weather shelter from November through March that houses the local homeless community on nights when the temperatures get 40 degrees or below. Mt. Carmel \$2,266 supports this ministry by providing meals and housing to the homeless during the cold weather.

OPEN DOOR PREGNANCY

This ministry empowers women and their families who are facing or have faced unexpected pregnancies to make life-affirming decisions. We supported this ministry through donating \$2,500 and supporting them through local mission trips by serving there on our Summer Sunday missions day.

DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

Our team helped on projects as they became available locally, helping families in need.

ANGEL TREE

We purchased gifts for 32 children. Food, gifts, and McDonald's gift cards for 8 families.

BENEVOLENCE

The Benevolence Team was able to help families financially and spiritually through financial assistance and counseling. We received \$3,740 in donations in 2023 and assisted 15 families in \$3,720.

STONE SOUP

Shut-ins were served a total of 1,262 delivered meals by 16 of our Stone Soup volunteers this past year.

WE CARE ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS WEEK

It is always fun to kick off the school year by providing lunch to the teachers at our local schools. We also had groups knock off some items on the schools' to-do lists!

GRACE NOTES

Each month, 25 volunteer writers sent out encouraging notes to people in our community and beyond. In 2023, over 562 cards were sent!

FCA Support

We support North Middle TN FCA through sponsorships and monthly support. We also support this ministry as Character Coaches for teams at our schools in the area.



MISSIONS

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REGIONAL

GALILEAN HOME

The Galilean Home cares for children of all ages from all over the world who have been abused, neglected, rejected, or need medical treatment. There are currently approximately 30 full-time residents living at the home. This year, we gave \$2,500 to support this ministry.

TN BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES

TBCH provides Christ-centered homes for children in hard places across Tennessee through compassionate on-campus homes and foster families. Care includes residential care, foster care, and family care. We support this ministry in various ways throughout the year. This year, we gave over \$8,766 to support this ministry.

RESCUE 1 - NASHVILLE

Rescue 1 Global is an anti-human trafficking organization based in Nashville, TN, that fights trafficking through prevention, rescue, and restoration. We supported them by giving over \$4,000 to care for those in care.

SILOAM HEALTH

We support this ministry in reaching all nations for the gospel and by giving \$3,500 to help support the needs of this ministry.

WAY MAKER PLACE

Way Maker Place (Chris & Susan Banning) will be a welcoming facility that can provide grace, care, stability, and safety for the individual and their family to meet them in their greatest needs and provide a place of hope in Christ Jesus. We helped them begin this ministry with a \$10,000 seed donation.

GROUP MISSIONS

Women's Circle Group 5

Our Circle 5 group supported missions by donating and collecting some of the following: Gift cards for church members, candy for Trunk or Treat, and meals for My Father's House. They also volunteered at Krisle and ERES book fairs and shopped for our Angel Tree.

Women's Circle Group 6

Our Circle 6 group supported missions by donating and collecting some of the following: baby dolls for nursing homes; food and detergent for The Storehouse; snacks for teachers at ERES, ERHS, and Krisle; \$20 gift cards for Open Door Pregnancy; gallon cans of vegetables for Masters Table.

Parent Group

Our Parent group helped with school projects at ER High and Elementary schools. They also served some of our church families with projects they needed help completing.

GLOBAL

EMMANUEL HAITI

This ministry consists of The Children's Village, School, multiple churches throughout Jeremie, Les Cayes, Kafou Sanon, Camp Perrin, Lasile & Laborde, Haiti.

There are also transition homes for both boys and girls, 29:11 ministry, medical clinics, and outreach.

RESCUE 1 - GLOBAL

Rescue 1 Global is an anti-human trafficking organization based in Nashville, TN, with branches in the Philippines and in Thailand. We fight trafficking through prevention, rescue, and restoration. We have continued supporting 2 missionaries monthly to be on the field in Thailand.



WORSHIP & MEDIA

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Our dynamic worship ministry incorporates over 20 people serving as vocalists, musicians, and media volunteers. We continue to see new faces, and very gifted people join our team. We have remained committed to introducing new songs while upholding the blending of older songs.

GROWTH

The worship ministry has been committed to growing deeper in our walks with the Lord, becoming not only a band but a family. We have added different pieces and instruments to worship in our transitions and how we approach worship so we can strive to always lead with a true and honest heart of worship, completely taking ourselves out of the picture and giving all the glory to the One who deserves it!

MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY

We have continued to improve all of our audio/visual systems to help usher people into the posture of worship. We have continued livestreaming our services as each week, we reach people from down the street to all over the world. We have increased our infrastructure to improve our stream each week and added iPads for our worship team for weekly use.

CHRISTMAS AESTHETICS

This year we streamlined our platform decorating for Christmas with updated layout, newer trees and lights, and electrical setup to make each Christmas a very special worship experience.



MT CARMEL STUDENTS



2023 MC STUDENT BAPTISMS



2023 was an amazing year that can only be described as the work of God in our students. It was a true year of growth both by the number of students attending each week and the number of students making decisions for Christ. There is so much to be grateful for. This next year we are going all in for God's glory. As Paul wrote to the church at Rome, "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen." That's what we are seeking to live out this next year as we experience growth in our walks with Christ, our relationships with each other, our service and our leadership abilities in and outside of the church. You won't want to miss all God is doing.

IT'S BEEN A GREAT EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH THE STUDENTS. I HAVE A LOT OF FUN GETTING TO KNOW EVERYONE AND ENJOY WATCHING THEM GROW IN THEIR WALK WITH CHRIST.

James Stiles
Middle School Boys Leader

MT CARMEL STUDENTS HAS HELPED ME FIND A PLACE, NOT JUST FOR ME BUT MY FAMILY. I'VE TAKEN MY NEXT STEPS IN CHRIST HERE AND IT HAS TURNED INTO MY SECOND FAMILY.

Zaiden Wells
Sophomore

SERVING THE STUDENTS HAS BEEN A REWARDING EXPERIENCE BECAUSE IT HAS GIVEN US THE CHANCE TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE MAY NEVER HAVE HAD AND SEE THE IMPACT A YOUTH LEADER CAN MAKE.

Brian & Cindi Holloway
High School Leaders

BY THE NUMBERS

10 STUDENTS BAPTIZED

40 ATTENDED CAMP

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

BEGAN WITH **22** & GREW TO **35**

STUDENTS EACH WEEK

11 CHRIST-LIKE LEADERS

23 ATTENDING EACH SUNDAY





Kids Church (Worship)

Kids Church is the weekly worship service made for kids at 10:00!

Our goals: worship freely, learn on our level, ask questions, eat snacks, and fellowship together. All of this happens while our parents are given space to concentrate in the main service.

Sunday Morning Small Groups (Discipleship)

Deep and Wide. We want our kids ministry to not just grow in number but also in depth and wisdom. At 9:00 we dig deep and focus on God's word through age based Bible Study.

Kids Club (Outreach)

In 2023, we hosted cooking classes, sewing lessons, outdoor games, indoor games, career fairs, and music lessons through our Kids Club. The hopes of all the fun? To attract and invite kids from outside of our church walls to participate in church! We feed them and also have a Bible lesson.

Kids on Mission (Serving)

Whether visiting a nursing home or cleaning out a closet, we want our kids to know that serving honors God. Jesus taught us by example that we are not here to be served but to serve others. Therefore, we dedicate time to teaching our children how to serve.

210 HOURS of Kids Ministry within our walls last year.



THE STATS

189 Kids attended church

22 First time visitors

49 One Day VBS participants

29 Kids went to camp

THE VOLUNTEERS

28 Monthly

10 Weekly

11 Midweek/ Kids Club

6 Student Helpers

26 Event Hands

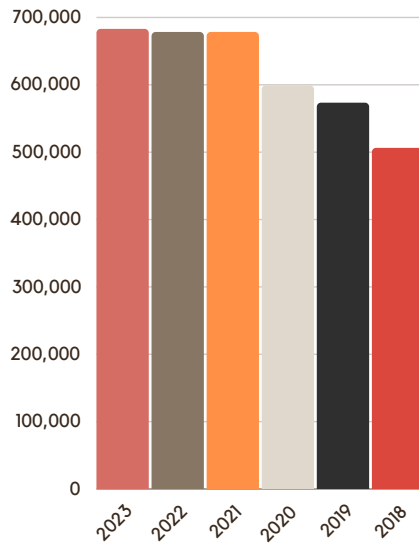
What people are saying....

We first visited in April of 2023 and immediately felt like we were home. Our son looks forward to church every week and that is a blessing. I was one who thought you didn't need church to be a good Christian and tried to teach him on our own, I was absolutely wrong. We needed Mt. Carmel's community in order to grow closer as a family. The kids program has been a great asset to my son and has reflected on many aspects of his life.

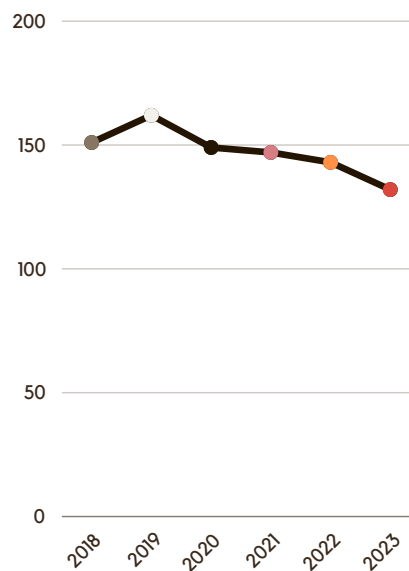
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



ANNUAL GIVING BY YEAR



NUMBER OF GIVERS BY YEAR



5TH SUNDAY OFFERINGS

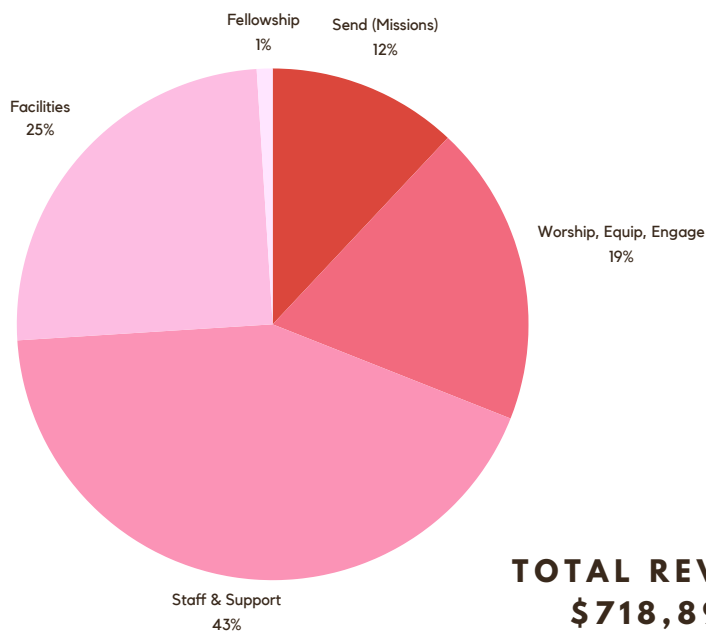
BENEVOLENCE
\$905

ISAIAH 117
\$1,125

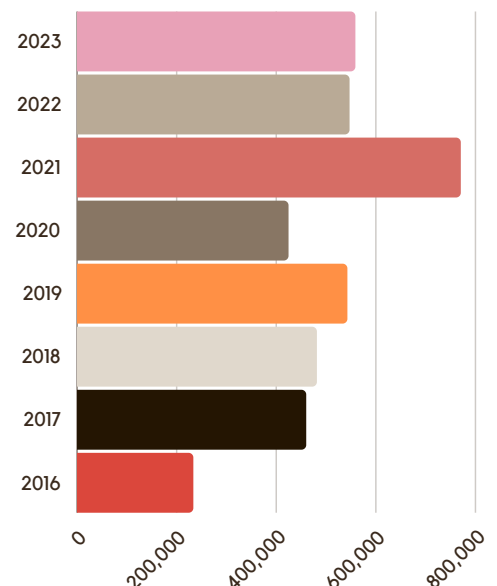
BACK TO SCHOOL
BIG GIVE
\$5,295

MY FATHER'S
HOUSE
\$1,750

EXPENSE PERCENTAGE



GIFTS RECEIVED FOR HAITI



TOTAL REVENUE
\$718,899

Dear Church Family,

The past year has been a journey of faith, growth, and unwavering commitment to our shared mission as a church family - helping people take their next step in Christ. Reflecting on the countless blessings, challenges, and triumphs, I am filled with gratitude for the grace of God that has sustained us through it all. We have witnessed the power of unity and love within our congregation, and I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to each member for your dedication, service, and generosity. Together, we have strengthened the bonds of fellowship, supported one another through times of trial, and celebrated the joyous moments that have marked our journey.

As we look ahead to 2024, let us do so with anticipation and hope. The challenges we may face are opportunities for God to demonstrate His faithfulness, and I am confident that as we continue to seek His guidance, our church will thrive and be a beacon of light in our community. Let's deepen our commitment to prayer, worship, and fellowship in the coming year. May we continue to grow in faith, individually and collectively, and may the love of Christ that binds us together be evident in all we do.

As we embark on this new chapter together, let us remain steadfast in our faith, fervent in our love for one another, and unwavering in our commitment to the Gospel. I am excited about the possibilities that God has in store for us, and I look forward to witnessing the continued growth and impact of our church. May the peace of Christ be with you and your families in the year ahead. Wishing you a blessed and joy-filled New Year!

In Christ's Love,



Pastor Russ



”

**THEREFORE, I URGE
YOU, BROTHERS
AND SISTERS, IN
VIEW OF GOD'S
MERCY, TO OFFER
YOUR BODIES AS A
LIVING SACRIFICE,
HOLY AND
PLEASING TO
GOD..,**

“



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