

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

EBENEZER  
CHURCH

Our mission is to  
**transform** lives  
through Jesus Christ  
as we **connect**, **heal**,  
and **bring hope** to  
the world.

## TRANSFORM

- The Love Your Neighbor Network of microchurches and fresh expressions brought church out of the building and into the community
- 19 adults and children professed their faith through Baptism
- 34 students plus 8 adult volunteers participated in the Axis fall retreat
- 32 students plus 20 adult volunteers participated in the day-long retreat to start the Confirmation program
- The staff spent a day at a retreat to reconnect with our mission and develop relationships with our new pastors

## PROVIDE HEALING

- Christian Counselor Keith Priest offered free counseling services to the community
- Empty Nesters experienced healing in nature through weekly Spirituality In Nature Group outings
- kNOw Hunger raised more than \$10,000, collected 1,000 pounds of food, and provided 450 meals for those experiencing hunger
- The 11th Go For Bo race attracted 300 runners and raised \$50,000 for Helping Children Worldwide

## BRING HOPE

- Stafford Hope support groups provided comfort and encouragement to those impacted by cancer, addiction, grief, divorce, dementia, and PTSD
- 42 high school students and adult mentors helped residents in need during the Axis Summer Mission Trip to Wilmington, NC

## 2021 IN REVIEW

What a year! God has been, is, and will be faithful. Ministry continued in powerful ways, adapting as needed through the joys, challenges, and changes of this year.

In June, we thanked Pastor Rob Lough for his four years of incredible ministry. I was blessed to become the new Lead Pastor alongside Jeff Harrison as the new Associate Pastor. Along with Pastor Monica Reynolds, we began a three-pronged approach to ministry: onsite, online, and offsite.

Onsite worship rebounded with outdoor Easter services, the addition of live music in the Sanctuary, and a week of Christmas worship experiences. Participation in our online livestream services continued to be strong. In the summer, Pastor Monica launched our offsite Love Your Neighbor Network of microchurches and fresh expressions.

We continued to bring church outside the building by letting our neighbors know that We Are For You wherever you are. We offered church members new ways to connect with others through Easter Eggsploration and S'mores kits, as well as New Neighbor Gift Bags. We participated in community events such as National Night Out and Band Together to Fight Hunger. We visited local workplaces to show appreciation for teachers, bus drivers, and first responders. Together with our ministry partners, we fought hunger and homelessness locally and around the world.

We are revising Focus 2025 to meet the shifting needs of Stafford. Our mission continues to be transforming lives as we connect, heal, and bring hope to the world. May God's unceasing love unite us in Christ, unite us with each other, and unite us in mission and ministry ahead.

Pastor Emily Moore-Diamond

## CONNECT

- An average of 217 worshipers gathered each week for in-person services featuring the Choir and Praise Band, while an additional 641 worshiped online
- 130 students were enrolled for in-person learning at Ebenezer Preschool
- Ebenezer sponsored the Via Bambini children's area at the inaugural Via Colori Stafford with more than 375 visitors
- The community was invited to enjoy a movie on the church lawn at Family Movie Night
- Families hosted Neighborhood VBS gatherings throughout the area
- Fuel Up With Ebenezer offered motorists free gas and an invitation to Christmas worship

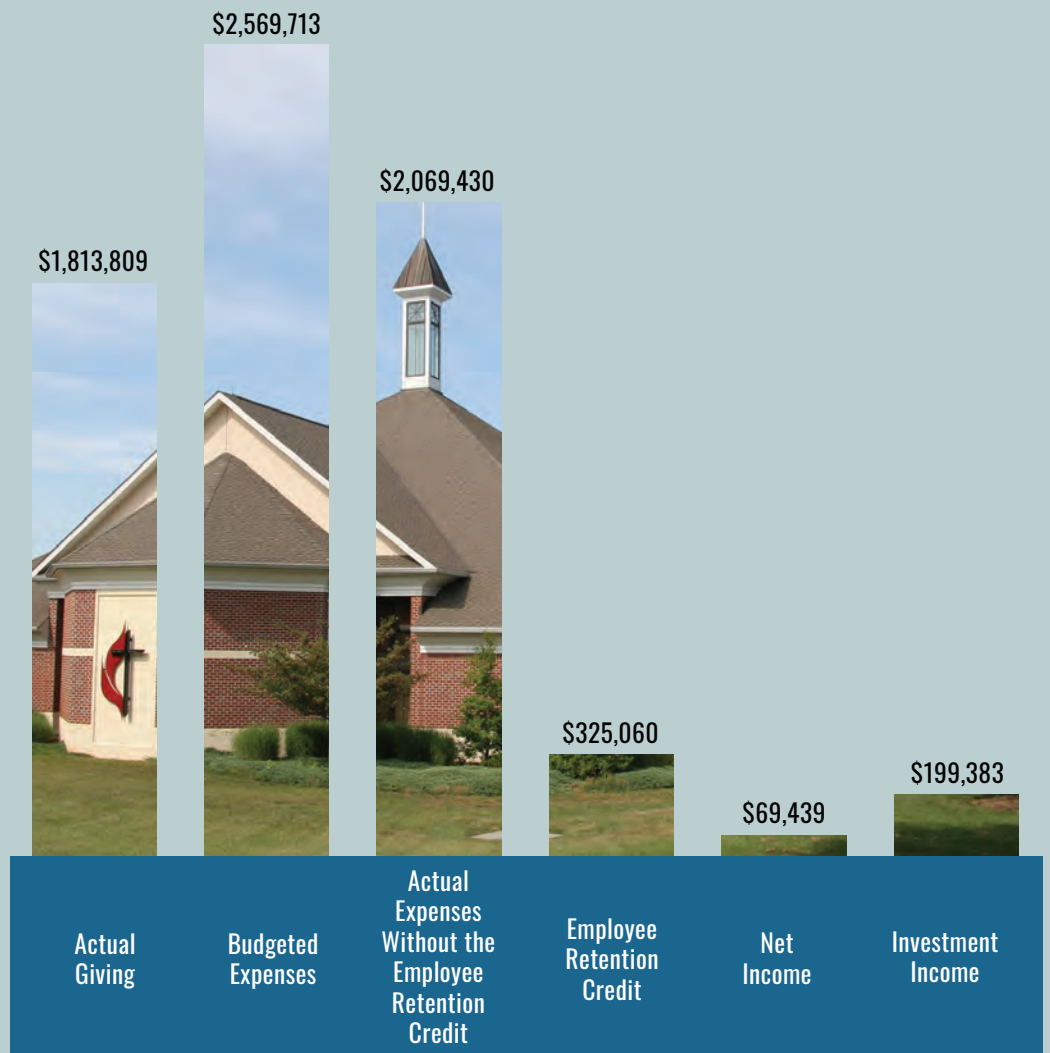
## GENERAL FUND AT EBENEZER

Total General Fund donations for 2021 were \$1,813,809, \$228,713 less than 2020 (11% decrease).

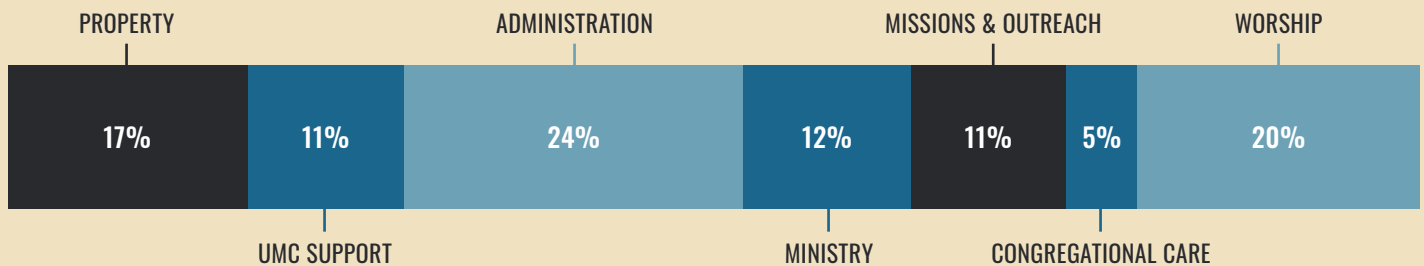
After reducing planned expenses by more than \$500,000, total General Fund expenses in 2021 were \$2,069,430, creating a deficit of \$255,621.

The church participated in a Federal program called the Employee Retention Credit, which provided \$325,060, allowing the church to end with a positive balance of \$69,439.

Additionally, the church earned \$199,383 in investment income in 2021, which is not recorded as part of the General Fund accounting.



## WHERE WAS OUR MONEY SPENT IN 2021?



**Property** – costs of maintaining the physical church

**UMC Support** – includes apportionments paid to both the district and the conference

**Administration** – general expenses associated with supporting all aspects of the church's mission, including general office, communications, finance, etc.

**Ministry** – includes children, student, young adult, and adult ministry expenses

**Missions & Outreach** – includes support of local, national and international mission partners and individual assistance

**Congregational Care** – includes counseling, connection services, and lay leadership

**Worship** – includes expenses associated with the pastors, worship leader, music ministry, and supplies associated with worship services