

Annual Business Meeting Agenda
January 25, 2026

- Call to Order & Prayer – Charles Brown
- Confirm Affirmation Vote Results: Elders, Deacons, Officers – Charles Brown
- Membership Report – Jonnie Ghetti
- Benevolence Report – Rex Milburn
- Financial Report – Melvin Rhodes
- Elder Motion:
 - a. Approve 2026 Budget
 - b. Coop Program – move from General Fund to Missions
- Elder Report – Stuart Harris
- Any Other Ministry Reports - TBD
- Discipleship Pastor Report – Joey Wood
- Worship Pastor Report – Matt MacLeod
- Senior Pastor Report – Jimmy Long
- Other Business – Charles Brown
- Closing Prayer – Jimmy Long

2025 4th Quarter Membership Report

Membership Changes in 4th Quarter

Total Membership end of 3rd Quarter 2025		398
New Members	16	
Members Deceased	1	
Members Transferred	1	
Members Removed since last meeting	7	
Total Change for Quarter	7	
Total Membership end of 4th Quarter		405

4th Quarter Candidates for Membership

Profession of Faith	2
Statement of Faith	1
By Letter	
Total	3

Total number of candidates for membership: 16

4th Quarter Membership Breakdown

Active Members	268
Inactive Members	137
Total	405

Benevolence Ministry Annual Report**4th Quarter 2025 & YTD 2025**

	<u>QTR</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Number of Benevolence Requests	6	39
Number of Contacts		143
Beginning Balance	\$15,703	\$23,521
Contributions through December 2025	\$17,328	\$27,258
Assistance Provided:		
Rent/Hotels	\$4,041	\$11,148
Utilities	\$1,672	\$4,742
Transportation	\$407	\$1,976
Food		\$290
Other		\$1,740
Greene County Food Bank	\$10,333	\$10,333
Greene County Christian Outreach	<u>\$6,944</u>	<u>\$10,916</u>
Total	\$23,397	\$41,145
Ending Balance of Fund	\$9,634	\$9,634

GRACE FELLOWSHIP FINANCIAL UPDATE
YTD Results Through 4th Quarter (Jan. 1st - Dec. 31st)

	Budget	Actual	Variance
FAITHFUL GIVING AND OFFERINGS	\$ 1,016,458	\$ 1,056,812	\$ 40,354
GEORGIA BAPTIST FOUNDATION OFFERINGS	\$	\$ 47,168	\$ 47,168
NET OTHER INCOME	\$	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,016,458	\$ 1,105,480	\$ 89,022
MISSIONS	\$ 167,525	\$ 161,328	\$ (6,197)
GENERAL PERSONNEL	\$ 506,025	\$ 475,910	\$ (30,115)
CHURCH GROWTH	\$ 92,630	\$ 65,825	\$ (26,805)
OPERATIONS	\$ 250,278	\$ 238,279	\$ (11,999)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,016,458	\$ 941,342	\$ (75,116)
COMMENTS			
YTD Tithes / Offerings are 104% of annual budget and \$128K above last year.			
YTD Expenses are 93% of budget and \$51K below last year spending.			
Avg Weekly Giving thru December	\$ 20,323		
Weekly Giving needed to achieve budget	\$ 19,547		
ADJUSTED RESERVE FUNDS (ARF)	\$ Amount	# of Months	
ARF as of 12/31/2025	\$ 427,366	5.05	

Grace Fellowship Financial Update
YTD Results through 4th Quarter (Jan. 1st – Dec. 31st)

<u>INCOME</u>	Budget	Actual	Variance
Faithful Giving	\$1,016,458	\$1,056,812	\$40,354
Georgia Baptist Foundation Giveings		\$47,168	\$47,168
Net Other Income		\$1,500	\$1,500
Total Income		\$1,105,480	\$89,022

Comments:

YTD Tithes/Offerings are 104% of annual budget and \$128K above last year
Avg. Weekly Giving thru December - \$20,323
Weekly Giving needed to achieve budget - \$19,547

Grace Fellowship Financial Update

YTD Results through 4th Quarter (Jan. 1st – Dec. 31st)

EXPENSES

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Missions	\$167,525	\$161,328	\$6,197
General Personnel	\$506,025	\$475,910	\$30,115
Church Growth	\$92,630	\$65,825	\$26,805
Operations	\$250,278	\$238,279	\$11,999
Total Expenses	\$1,016,458	\$941,342	\$75,116

Comments:

YTD Expenses are 93% of budget and \$51k below last year spending

<u>ADJUSTED RESERVE FUNDS (ARF)</u>	<u>\$Amount</u>	<u># of Months</u>
ARF as of 12/31/2025	\$427,366	5.05

	<u>2025</u> <u>Approved</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2026</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u>
<u>Missions Ministries</u>		
Non- Local Ministries	\$ 84,100	\$ 95,600
Local Ministries	\$ 83,425	\$ 71,300
Total Missions Ministries	\$ 167,525	\$ 166,900
<u>General Personnel Ministries</u>		
Salary/Housing/Benefits/COLA	\$ 491,524	\$ 511,699
Payroll Taxes	\$ 14,500	\$ 15,000
Total General Personnel Ministries	\$ 506,024	\$ 526,699
<u>Church Growth Ministries</u>		
Senior Pastor Expense	\$ 3,850	\$ 4,850
Worship Pastor Ministry Expenses	\$ 20,200	\$ 19,080
Discipleship Pastor Ministry Expenses	\$ 28,165	\$ 25,885
Student Director Ministry Expenses	\$ 12,000	\$ 8,935
Children's Ministry Expenses	\$ 15,265	\$ 14,570
On-Campus Outreach Expenses	\$ 7,850	\$ 5,350
Ministries Within Grace Fellowship	\$ 5,300	\$ 6,800
Total Church Growth Ministries	\$ 92,630	\$ 85,470
<u>Operational Ministries</u>		
Administration	\$ 70,970	\$ 72,315
Computer Management & Computers	\$ 35,500	\$ 41,795
Facility Operations	\$ 126,668	\$ 131,025
Risk Management/Insurance	\$ 17,141	\$ 19,635
Total Operational Ministries	\$ 250,279	\$ 264,770
Total Budget	<u>\$ 1,016,458</u>	<u>\$ 1,043,839</u>

Elder Council Annual Report

Grace Fellowship | Ministry Year 2025

As we look ahead with anticipation to the days God has prepared for Grace Fellowship, the Elder Council wishes to express our sincere gratitude for the trust you have placed in us. It is both an honor and a sacred calling to serve this church family, and we do not take that responsibility lightly. We covet your prayers as we seek the Lord's wisdom and direction, trusting Him to lead Grace Fellowship according to His will.

Each month, the elders gather with a shared commitment to prayer. We begin our meetings by lifting up specific needs within our church family—interceding for spiritual growth, physical healing, encouragement in trials, and God's provision. We want the congregation to know that your elders pray for you and welcome the opportunity to pray with you. Please feel free to share prayer requests with any elder at any time.

Faithful stewardship remains essential as Grace Fellowship continues to glorify God by bringing people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. During 2024, the elders recognized a concerning trend in giving that fell short of budgeted expectations. As a result, a carefully prepared and prayerfully considered 2025 budget was presented to the congregation in January.

While the giving trend continued into early 2025, the church was made aware of this challenge in May, and the Lord began to move in a remarkable way. Through your faithful generosity and the evident work of the Holy Spirit, giving strengthened significantly throughout the remainder of the year. By the end of 2025, contributions exceeded the approved budget by more than \$40,000. In addition, careful oversight of expenses resulted in spending approximately \$75,000 less than budgeted. We give thanks to God for His provision and thank you for your faithful stewardship.

God has also been at work in the life of our congregation through spiritual growth and commitment. During the past year, 45 new members joined Grace Fellowship, including 14 through believer's baptism. We rejoice in these testimonies of God's saving grace and the continued growth of our church family.

Missions continued to be a central focus of our church. On January 19, our Missions Team hosted a Mission Fair, providing an opportunity for several supported ministries to share their work and vision. We are grateful for the leadership and dedication of our Missions Team as they keep Grace Fellowship engaged in God's work both locally and globally.

The Elder Council welcomed AJ Hunt as our newest elder. At present, ten elders (including Pastor Jimmy) are serving our congregation, and we are thankful for the stability and continuity this provides, especially as no elders will be rotating off in 2026. The following officers were elected to serve in 2025: Steven Brondyke as Chairman, Randy Scott as Vice-Chairman, and Stuart Harris as Secretary. Additionally, each Elder was assigned certain ministry teams as Elder Laiason. This assures that lines of communication between the Elder Council and the various ministry teams remains open and clear.

Several practical improvements were made to enhance safety and ministry effectiveness on our campus. In April, six inches of new mulch were added to the children's playground to improve safety. Two classrooms on the C hallway were painted, along with other smaller items requiring attention. Long-standing concerns with the pavilion were addressed through a project completed in January of 2026. This was enabled through the generosity of one of our members. Additionally, several windows showing signs of rot will be repaired and reset in early 2026.

Pastor Jimmy began offering *Beginning with Grace*, our membership and inquirers class, during the 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning time slot in an effort to encourage greater participation. This reflects our ongoing desire to help people understand who we are as a church and how they can take meaningful next steps in following Christ at Grace Fellowship.

We also express our appreciation to Jim Bedsole for his faithful service as Moderator over many years. Charles Brown has since stepped into this role, and we are grateful for his willingness to serve.

As part of our responsibility to shepherd and protect the congregation, the elders reviewed and approved revisions to the Child and Youth Safety Policy, following recommendations from the Child and Youth Safety Team. These updates strengthen our commitment to providing a safe and secure environment for all who gather here.

In September, the Elder Council endorsed a Missions Team proposal to host *Kickin' for the Kingdom*, a community-wide kickball tournament held at the Greene County Recreation Department. The event benefited mission efforts at Wears Valley Ranch, BIG HOPE (Dominican Republic), and Global Samaritans (Zambia). The inaugural tournament was a joyful and successful outreach, raising approximately \$17,000, and plans are already underway for another tournament this coming September.

This fall also marked the successful launch of a Homeschool Co-op, hosted weekly at the church. The ministry began intentionally small with nine families and has already generated a waiting list for the 2026–2027 school year, reflecting both the need and opportunity for ministry in our community.

In early September, our church family gathered at the lake to celebrate the baptism of ten new members. It was a joyful day marked by strong attendance, heartfelt worship, and visible evidence of God's work among us.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the coming year, the Elder Council remains committed to shepherding Grace Fellowship with prayerful dependence on the Lord, faithfulness to His Word, and love for His people. We desire to continue strengthening discipleship, expanding mission engagement, caring well for our church family, and stewarding wisely the resources God has entrusted to us. With gratitude for what the Lord has already done and confidence in His ongoing work, we look forward to walking together in faith as He leads Grace Fellowship into the future.

Your Elder Council



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child has a remarkable origin story that demonstrates how a simple act of faith and generosity can have global impact. For those unfamiliar with its beginnings, this ministry was initiated through a miraculous phone call from London, England. This call marked the start of a movement that, over the past 32 years, has touched countless lives worldwide.

In July 1993, Franklin Graham received a phone call requesting a few hundred small gift boxes for children suffering in the Balkans, specifically Bosnia, Slovenia, Croatia, Herzegovina, and surrounding areas affected by war. Franklin agreed to the request but soon forgot about it amidst his busy schedule.

Two weeks before Thanksgiving, the young man called again to ask how many gift boxes Samaritan's Purse would be sending. Realizing the urgency, Franklin contacted Calvary Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, hoping their large congregation could help the orphaned and maimed children. Carol Rhoads, wife of Pastor Ross Rhoads, began by filling two shoeboxes—one for a boy and one for a girl—with simple gifts. She presented these to the congregation the following Sunday, and Pastor Rhoads mentioned the initiative on the Bible Broadcast Network. The response was overwhelming: instead of a few hundred, eleven thousand shoeboxes arrived, signaling clear evidence of God's blessing on this endeavor.

Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has continued to collect shoeboxes annually. The results have been extraordinary: more than 232 million children in over 170 countries have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. Additionally, 46 million children have enrolled in The Greatest Journey to hear the gospel message, and more than 24 million boys and girls have chosen to accept Jesus as their Savior. Many of these children now share Christ with their friends and families, further extending the ministry's reach.

The impact of Operation Christmas Child goes beyond delivering gifts. These shoeboxes find their way into places closed to missionaries or the gospel, bringing hope and joy to children who need it most. To meet the growing need for boxes, an "Item of the Month" will be posted, encouraging everyone to collect items throughout the year. This approach will help prepare for the December collection and reduce strain on holiday budgets, ensuring the ministry continues to thrive and reach even more children.

JANUARY: Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Mittens

FEBRUARY: Hair Accessories (bows/clips/headbands)

Comb/Brush Or Costume Jewelry

Children's Ministry Director

Cassidy Callaway

2026 Annual Report

January Planning for VBS began, and I met with local children's directors to fellowship and discuss VBS plans. Kids Cove attendance averaged 15.5, Kids@Grace averaged 11, and Wednesday night KidzLife averaged 13.

February The children and youth decorated Valentines cards to send to The Haven and Greene Point nursing home. Kids Cove attendance averaged 15.25, Kids@Grace averaged 9.3, and Wednesday night KidzLife averaged 12.3.

March VBS preparations continued. The tradition of sending out a 'virtual baby shower' email for our pregnant church members continued in order to welcome 3 new babies into our church family. During the month of March, VBS promotion and preparations continued. The children and youth all made a handprint craft to send with the Zambia team. Kids Cove attendance averaged 15, Kids@Grace averaged 11.7, and Wednesday night KidzLife averaged 16.

April We hosted our 'Journey to the Cross' Easter event- it went well and we had a good turnout, with plans to improve next year's event. Kids Cove attendance averaged 15, Kids@Grace averaged 8.3, and Wednesday night KidzLife averaged 12.6.

May VBS preparations went into full swing with a big push for registration and volunteers. The children's safety team met and discussed several topics like the enlistment process, the policy, married couples serving together, a potential self-station at check in, and more. Wednesday night Kidzlife wrapped up for the school year and Lisa prepared to transition the ministry into Water Wednesdays for the summer. Kids Cove attendance averaged 14.25, Kids@Grace averaged 11.6, and Wednesday night KidzLife averaged 11.25.

June All VBS! Grace held a baby dedication that included 5 of our church families! Kids Cove attendance averaged 13.2, Kids@Grace averaged 15, and Wednesday night KidzLife averaged 16.

July The church was transformed into the Alaskan wilderness for True North! We had a total of 36 adult volunteers, 16 youth volunteers, and 53 children registered. On average we had about 45 children a day, not including the 3-4 preschool children of volunteers we had each day. We had a great week, and each child was lovingly taught that they could trust Jesus as they explored the book of Matthew. Like last year, we've seen a

few new families back since they attended VBS. Kids Cove attendance averaged 15, Kids@Grace did not meet for the month of July again this year, and Wednesday night Kidzlife averaged 16.25.

August The discipleship team met to debrief the summer, and we began planning our fall outreach event. Kids Cove attendance averaged 14.6, Kids@Grace averaged 13.6, and Wednesday night KidzLife averaged 13.5.

September I began working on an iPad self-station for Wednesday night check in. I met again with the local children's directors, and I attended the SPARK conference. Kids Cove attendance averaged 17, Kids@Grace averaged 15.75, and Wednesday night KidzLife averaged 16.

October Our fall outreach event, Candy Quest, was held on October 26th. This was a trunk-or-treat with a twist- children had to search for Bible characters (our youth) who were dressed as Christ-types, receive a stamp from them after hearing how that character pointed to Jesus, and turn in completed Cards for a prize at the end. We had a free hotdog dinner and estimate over 300 in attendance. All guests received invite cards and tracts. We also had the prayer tent onsite and they reported 24 contacts. Kids Cove attendance averaged 17, Kids@Grace averaged 11.75, and Wednesday night KidzLife averaged 16.6.

November Gingerbread Bash preparations began, and registration reached max before the month was up. All children and youth made Thanksgiving cards to send with Bobby Thomas and the jail ministry to Washington State Prison. Kids Cove attendance averaged 20, Kids@Grace averaged 11.75, and Wednesday night KidzLife averaged 19.7.

December Gingerbread Bash was on December 6th with about 80 in attendance, including some outside families. We had a great night celebrating the birth of Christ! Matt had the idea to include our Kids@Grace kids (1st-4th grade) in the Advent reading one Sunday and they did a great job! We've seen many new faces in our department this year, and I try to reach out with a welcome email to each new family. Kids Cove attendance averaged 15, Kids@Grace did not meet during Advent, and Wednesday night KidzLife averaged 16.

Wednesday Night Kidzlife

2025 was an exciting year for Grace Fellowship's Wednesday Night Children's Ministry. The Children learned to trust God's plan just as Jesus does as we studied the book of Matthew. In August we kicked off our second school year using KidzLife curriculum studying the book of Acts. Wednesday evenings have a family focused feel, and attendance continues to grow. We enjoyed summer fun with a DIY slip-n-slide and our first annual glow-in-the dark party where the children learned that Jesus is the Light of the world. Christmas with KidzLife was so much fun as the children got to dress up in nativity costumes and take pictures with their friends and family. God has literally provided everything we need through faithful volunteers. From food, to cooks, to clean-up crews, teachers, helpers, and people willing to hop in and help out with little or no notice, and our students benefit most from such a servanthood example. What an amazing team of people who love Jesus. It has truly been a privilege to serve alongside in this eternal work for the young people of Grace Fellowship. Please consider praying about serving in Children's Ministry and get involved. You will not regret it.

All for Jesus

LisaMarie

Psalm 127:3

Administrator Annual Business Report
January 2026

January

- Completed proposed 2025 budget in collaboration with Finance Team members.
- Realigned groups and introduced a completely different expense and restricted funds chart of accounts.
- Completed re-classifying some 2024 expense codes to align with 2025 expenses.
- Assessed the status of all computers, updated those that needed updating, removed some Microsoft licenses for those personnel or computers determined unnecessary.
- Began
- Benevolence – was contacted 8 times

February

- Insured expense transactions in Bill.com and Divvy were coded to new account codes during transition
- Continued soliciting quotes for impact-absorbing materials for children's playground
- Benevolence – was contacted 3 times

March

- Bug House investigated wasps in Jimmy's office and nursery. Found no entry point between ceiling and roof at the north end of the building. Yet occasional sightings are still occurring.
- Inked Amber Sprinkler & Fire Extinguisher Inspection no-cost contract
- Tried to diagnose HVAC status, soliciting input from Superior Air Conditioning, ACS and WBAC. Conclusion: the unit that serves Halls B & C has a failing compressor. Members of the Building Maintenance Team unanimously recommended Superior to conduct the replacement scheduled for March 6.
- Continued to solicit quotes from 3 companies for impact-absorbing material (engineered wood fiber and rubber mulch) for the playground and collaborating with Robert Silber, Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Senior Risk Control Specialist to assure compliance.
- Benevolence – was contacted 9 times

April

- HVAC condenser for Halls B & C was replaced on March 6 for \$8,112.60.

- Obtained updated quotes for impact-absorbing material from 3 vendors. Stuart Harris solicited a quote from Dirt & Rock, 973 Harmony Road, Eatonton for \$2,179.65 for 6" coverage. Brotherhood Mutual accepted the product which completes the safety recommendations. Weed control and installation costing \$1,000 occurred on April 9. A photo of the playground was submitted to Brotherhood Mutual after installation.
- Developed an agenda for Child/Youth Safety Team meeting
- Cassidy brought to my attention the annual Nonprofit Security Grant Program. Waited on release of the FY25 Notice of Funding Opportunities from the GA Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency. Upon notification I will solicit input from the Child/Youth Ministry Safety Team whether to pursue.
- Continued dialog with Cassidy about a mobile device for check in and check out.
- For the Security Team: Jimmy recommended a Best Buy Apple Geek Squad Certified Refurbished 12.9-inch iPad Pro with Wi-Fi for \$518.39, which was ordered on March 31 and received on April 8. Mike Herb worked with TJ Mitchell to link the computer to the campus cameras.
- Benevolence – was contacted 8 times

May

- Child/Youth Safety Team met May 15

Began working with Jimmy on the transition now required for Text2Give which has to be completed by no later than June 2 2025. Mobile carriers have updated their regulations, discontinuing support for shared short codes and requiring additional security for text-based donations. Shared short codes allowed multiple organizations to send messages from the same number which led to spam complaints, misuse by bad actors and reduced SMS deliverability. Transition to upgraded Text2Give effective June 2 was smooth and seamless.

- Benevolence – was contacted 15 times

June

- Child/Youth Safety Team met May 15. The team began the process of clarifying several provisions, appearing likely to make minor modifications to the Children's Ministry Policies to be presented to the Elder Council.
- Collaborated with Jimmy to introduce a revision for giving by Text2Give that will become effective June 2, 2025 to announce to the congregation.
- Benevolence – was contacted 17 times

July

- Child/Youth Safety Team clarified several provisions to the Children's Ministry Policies which were presented to the Elder Council for review and comment.
- Collaborated with bdManagedIT to
 - replace 3 Windows 10 computers that cannot be upgraded and
 - forecast cost of Microsoft 365 nonprofit licenses for 2026
- Benevolence – was contacted 19 times

August

- Child/Youth Safety Team presented youth volunteer training modifications to the Children's Ministry Policies to the Elder Council for review and comment.
- Ordered 3 laptops to replace Windows 10 computers that cannot be upgraded; continued effort to forecast cost of Microsoft 365 nonprofit licenses for 2026
- Started project to identify current status and cleanup of various Teams folders
- Began to develop data for year-end 2025 and 2026 budget
- Benevolence – was contacted 17 times

September

- Presented youth volunteer training modifications to the Children's Ministry Policies to the Elder Council for ratification.
- Three laptops were shipped to beManagedIT for onboarding to replace Windows 10 computers that could not be upgraded.
- Continued reviewing cost of Microsoft 365 nonprofit licenses for 2026
- Continuing project to identify current status and cleanup of various Teams folders
- Continued to develop data for year-end 2025 and 2026 budget
- Benevolence – was contacted 11 times

October & November & December

- Children's Ministry Policy now updated as of September 16 2025
- Was advised by bdManagedIT the cost of Microsoft 365 nonprofit licenses for 2026 postponed until December 2025
- Continued project to identify current status and cleanup of various Teams folders
- Continued to develop data for year-end 2025 and 2026 budget
- Began preparing the Annual Church Profile for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board to be completed by November 1 2025

- Benevolence contacts – was contacted 12 times in October, 13 times in November

December

- Inadvertently deleted in Canva some files permanently to save subscription annual fee and to move from for-profit to non-profit status
- I began using a Google spreadsheet to record benevolence actions that Orion Motley developed. She made it available to participating churches and organizations who will enter data on a timely basis.
- Benevolence contacts – was contacted 11 times
- Number of contacts for year 2025: 143

2026

The cost of IT services have steadily increased and although accounting services have remained steady for the past couple of years, I have been charged, starting in late January, with seeking other options for IT/computer services and for accounting services to see if quality can be improved at a lower cost.

Hank Raehn
Administrator

2026 January Annual Business Meeting- Discipleship Report

2025 has been a year of meaningful growth, steady development, and strengthening foundations across every area of our discipleship ministry. We began the year with renewed momentum as our youth launched into weekly teaching and our team of twelve attended the Impact Discipleship Summit, gaining tools that shaped our approach throughout the year. Regular coordination with our leaders—Lisa, Jarvis, and Cassidy—kept us aligned as we studied Deep Discipleship and built shared purpose for the ministry ahead.

By spring, our ministry was deep into planning for the Easter season. March brought a productive discipleship conference in Tennessee, the development of our Small Group Leader Covenant, and preparations for the Easter Walk, which our Jr. Discipleship Team led with excellence. Throughout April, both youth and women's groups aligned their studies with Sunday's Revelation series, and midweek attendance held strong at 60–65. The Easter Walk and our mission work through Global Samaritans highlighted a growing desire for deeper training and discipleship both locally and abroad. May continued that momentum with the creation of a new young men's IMPACT group, the launch of women's IMPACT gatherings, and upgrades to the women's classroom.

Summer brought leadership development. June focused on planning for VBS, drafting leadership goals, and early preparation for the 2026 ZamJam mission trip. In July, we celebrated the successful leadership of our Jr. Discipleship Team in both VBS and our first Jerusalem Walk, while Impact Groups continued expanding as our long-term disciple-making model. Wednesday midweek ministries remained steady at around 65 in attendance, even during the summer dip.

As fall arrived, we have a new small group in the Del Webb community with around twelve participants, marking a meaningful step toward community presence and outreach. Our Discipleship Team completed the Deep Discipleship training and began transitioning into applied leadership training. We also launched a new college-age men's Impact group, providing intentional discipleship for our 18–25-year-olds.

We closed the year with continued progress across missions, midweek programs, and family ministry. December brought a strong finish to all Wednesday night groups, a successful end to our homeschool co-op's first year, and the completion of recruiting for ZamJam 2026. Though midweek attendance averaged in the 70s—short of our year-end goal—we saw new families enter the discipleship pathway, faithful service from volunteers, and encouraging growth across all ministries.

Looking ahead, 2026 will focus on expanding small group ministry—including the launch of our Morgan County group—beginning women's ministry development, raising small group and midweek engagement, implementing a leadership covenant and training series, several Foundational Study small groups, strengthening men's ministry, and continuing to

build a seamless discipleship pathway from childhood to adulthood. God has laid a strong foundation in 2025, and we step into the coming year with gratitude, clarity, and great expectation for what He will do.

Joey Wood
Discipleship Pastor

Pastor of Worship & Community Annual Report – January 2026

Over the past year, worship at Grace Fellowship has reflected a commitment to God honoring gatherings for His people to engage their hearts and minds to worship, to grow and to trust Him more. Through steady biblical teaching, meaningful engagement in song and other service elements, as well as a continuing emphasis on missions Christ has been glorified and present in this place.

The year began with a focused look at how Grace participates in God's work through missions locally, nationally, and globally. This emphasis worked to help encourage and challenge us all in how we live out our mission: to glorify God by bringing people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. It was a great start to our year!

Throughout the year, our services incorporated a variety of meaningful elements including communion, baptisms, child dedications, and the commissioning of several mission teams. Seasonal elements were intentionally prepared to include the new *Looking to the Cross* focus during the pre-Easter weeks which when combined with our Good Friday service provided meaningful space for reflection and preparation for our wonderful Easter celebration. Our traditional Advent weeks and Christmas Eve services emphasized the themes of hope, love, peace, and joy, with Scripture readings involving families, and a special reading by Kids @ Grace.

A great unifying thread across the year was Pastor Jimmy's teaching through the book of Revelation during which worship music and themes were intentionally planned to support the message each week. Some of the key themes included: God's holiness, sovereignty, salvation, and the ultimate victory of Christ. Many shared their appreciation for how Scripture and worship worked together throughout the year.

Mission engagement remained a consistent part of our gathered worship as well. Monthly mission spotlights, the mission fair, and testimony moments highlighted partners and ministries both near and far. Grace prayed over and commissioned mission teams serving in Zambia, Wears Valley, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba, and celebrated their ministry impact and how God used them in a combined celebration service. We further supported and participated in seasonal initiatives such as Operation Christmas Child, Annie Armstrong, and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

This year also reflected encouraging signs of growth and engagement. Average weekly attendance increased to 205, up from 188 the previous year. The strongest attendance was seen in the third quarter, averaging 216. Throughout the year we had 14 step into the water for baptism, including 10 at the lake, and we saw five families participate in baby dedications, pointing to both spiritual fruit and ongoing investment in families and the next generation.

October through December worship services seemed especially full, with nearly every weekend including additional worship elements such as focused prayer, responsive readings, a late season baptism, and continued missions emphasis.

The Christmas Eve service was a great culmination to the season and is often a highlight each year. With attendance exceeding 220 we saw a significant increase from the previous year, and even beat out our average for Sunday attendance.

Overall, this past year reflects a worship ministry that is Christ-centered, missionally engaged, and rooted in Scripture. We are grateful for God's faithfulness and look forward with expectation as we continue to worship, serve, and grow together.

We are thankful for:

- God's faithfulness to provide the people needed to accomplish His mission through Grace.
- Faithful serve teams on stage and in the booth.
- New team members who joined the band and tech team this year.
- The many serve opportunities that have been met by people from Grace through local ministry partners.
- The faithful giving to extra projects like: Baby Bottle drive (Pregnancy Center), Annie Armstrong & Lottie Moon offerings, Operation Christmas Child.
- The opportunity to encourage and impact lives through worship and ministry.

Looking to 2026 some things that are in the works include:

- In the area of technology: Updates to the Gather Space audio system, and hopefully the streaming system.
- Preparation for seasonal worship: Easter & Christmas
- Increased connection with our local ministry partners

Senior Pastor's Annual Report

Grace Fellowship | Ministry Year 2025

Church Family,

It has been a great joy to serve as pastor of Grace Fellowship this past year. God has been gracious to us, and together we have seen clear evidence of His faithfulness as we have sought to glorify Him by bringing people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. I am deeply grateful for the support of our Elders, staff, and faithful members as we continue this mission in our community and beyond.

Worship, Teaching, and Spiritual Growth

Throughout 2025, our church remained firmly anchored in the Word of God. We began and continued a verse-by-verse study through the book of Revelation, emphasizing the sovereignty of Christ, the hope believers have in Him, and the call to faithful endurance. To support this series, additional teaching resources were provided online to help individuals and small groups go deeper in their study.

Wednesday nights continued to grow and develop into a true “family night,” offering discipleship opportunities for all ages. A men’s small group was launched, focusing on lessons from biblical men in both the Old and New Testaments—highlighting how God uses imperfect people to accomplish His purposes. Our youth and women’s groups also benefited from church-developed study guides tailored to their needs.

Membership, Discipleship, and Baptism

God blessed our church with steady growth throughout the year. 45 people from all age groups united with Grace Fellowship, and we celebrated 14 baptisms—both in worship services and at our lake baptism service. This is a visible reminder that God is at work among us.

Our *Beginning with Grace* membership class continued to play a key role in helping new members understand who we are, what we believe, and how they can get connected. Offering this class during Sunday mornings helped remove barriers for participation and strengthened our assimilation process.

We also made progress in addressing our inactive membership list through the formation of a Membership Restoration Team. This effort reflects our desire to shepherd well, care personally, and pursue meaningful connection rather than simply maintain a list of names.

Missions and Community Engagement

Missions remained at the heart of Grace Fellowship in 2025. Early in the year, our *Grace on Mission* emphasis helped our church family see the breadth of ministries and mission partnerships supported through prayer, giving, and hands-on service.

We celebrated three mission trips this year and concluded the summer with a powerful Missions Celebration Sunday. One of the highlights of the year was the inaugural **Kickin' for the Kingdom**

missions fundraiser, which raised approximately **\$17,000** to support future mission efforts, including work in Zambia, the Dominican Republic, and Wears Valley Ranch.

Our commitment to the local community was also evident through outreach efforts such as hosting the National Day of Prayer, serving high school athletes through pre-game meals and prayer, caring for our local teachers at the elementary school, family events like the Great Grace Egg Hunt, True North VBS, Candy Quest, and Gingerbread Bash—all events that created welcoming spaces for guests and shared the good news of Jesus.

Leadership and Church Health

The Elders and staff worked diligently throughout the year to strengthen the health and structure of the church. This included reviewing policies, addressing long-term membership care, planning building updates, strengthening stewardship emphasis, and laying groundwork for future leadership development.

Looking Ahead

As we prepare for 2026, we are planning intentionally and prayerfully. Our calendar, ministry emphases, and strategies are being anchored in our mission, vision, and Elder-approved direction. In addition to ongoing church ministries, upcoming mission involvement includes pastor training in Zambia, partnership with Wears Valley Ranch in Tennessee, ongoing missions efforts in the Dominican Republic, a second mission trip to the Global Samaritans' orphanage in Zambia to conduct ZamJam, and a planned trip to Israel and Jordan open to church members and anyone interested in attending.

Our preaching calendar began with a focus on the five strategies found in our church strategic document: Prayer, Missions, Discipleship, Ministry, and Worship. I will begin a series in 1 Samuel that will carry us through the bulk of the year and lead into a very special Christmas season.

A Word of Gratitude

I want to express my sincere appreciation to our Elders, staff, ministry teams, and every member of Grace Fellowship. Your faithfulness, generosity, and servant hearts make ministry here a joy. It is a privilege to walk alongside you as we follow Christ together.

I look forward with great hope to all that God has in store in the days ahead.

The Best Is Yet to Come!

Jimmy Long

Senior Pastor
Grace Fellowship