

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHPOINT CHURCH

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LOVE GOD.  
LOVE PEOPLE.





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# Senior Pastor's Report

## Pastor Jack Hilligoss

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the year 35 charter members were sent out from South Lake Wales Church of God to plant a church in downtown Lake Wales. It began as Lake Wales Church of God meeting at the Woman's Club, became Burns Ave. Church of God, was renamed HighPoint Church, and two years ago moved to Scenic Hwy.

Our second year at our new location was another historic year for our church.

### Historic Growth

- We were forced to launch a third worship option for our church in February. We kicked it off on Super Sunday and had nearly 1100 in worship on that day!
- We had 1658 people in attendance on Easter shattering our previous single-day attendance record of 1182 on Easter Sunday 2022.
- Our average attendance increased by 33% from 2022 to 965 weekly.
- We have baptized 47 people in our church this calendar year (one more baptism will happen after I submit this report). That means we have baptized 110 people in the two years we have been here.
- We saw well over 200 people attend our Connection Track on Wednesday evenings.
- We also have witnessed God's blessing financially as we are on track to receive \$1.2 million in budget giving in 2023-an increase of 20% over last year. We also had over \$100,000 donated to the launch of Providence Academy!

### Historic Launch

Providence Center Steering Committee was formed and gave leadership to two big initiatives in 2023

- Providence Academy was launched in August of 2023! What a great day as we saw 93 (now 97) students and staff begin this new adventure. God is already using this school for generational change as we witnessed 18 of those students being baptized on September 8.
- Salt and Light-our Salt and Light group will eventually become the leadership hub of Providence Citizens Center. The group continued to work learning and engaging in local government in 2023. In August we hosted Rick Green's Patriot Academy and had over 100 people take part. Also in August, Salt and Light hosted its first annual Candidate Forum and had over 200 citizens show up!

## Big Challenges and Opportunities

When we moved into this new building in January 2022, none of us thought we would be facing a space challenge in less than two years...but we are! The growth of the church, of children's ministry, and of Providence Academy have us bursting at the seams.

Each weekday, every square inch of the church is utilized to educate the students of Providence Academy. The building is active almost every weekday night with small groups and ministry teams. And, of course, we are using it for 3 services every Sunday to accommodate the number of worshippers who attend.

This year, during our "Jubilee" celebration, I am going to ask you to begin giving towards the expansion of our current church building and the construction of an additional building we will need for Providence Academy. We currently have a Civil Engineer master planning our site and, in 2024, we are working to present the plans and concept drawings for those structures to you.

The idea of building again so soon is a bit overwhelming both financially and emotionally. However, it is also very exciting. We are not sure yet what the Lord will have us do but I am sure that when we know what he is asking, he will supply what we need financially and spiritually to move forward.

## Our Next 50 years

The arrival of our Jubilee anniversary this year started me wondering. Is there any way that those 35 people gathering at the Woman's Club could have imagined what this church would become 50 years later? And then, "What will

we look like; what will we be doing, 50 years from now?”

Many of us will be watching from heaven’s grandstand with the “great cloud of witnesses” by that time. My prayer is that we will be celebrating the fact that we left a good foundation for the next generation to expand the King’s influence.

Respectively Submitted,

Pastor Jack

# Executive & Missions Pastor's Report

## Pastor Bonnie Barker

2023! Last year as I was writing my report – I was thrilled to announce that we have been in our new building for 8 months – well a year later we have been in for 20 months and we are outgrowing it! That is crazy to think about, but it is true!

### Our church has grown in every way!

~ Attendance!

~ Ministry opportunities!

~ Giving!

~ We opened a school!

With growth comes opportunities to grow! We are learning to share our space, learning where to invest our finances and learning how to expand vision.

### As I look forward to 2024, I am excited about so many things!

~ Who will God add to our staff?

~ What will our next building(s) look like?

~ Who will we have the opportunity to meet and serve?

It is an honor to serve at HPC! This has been a year of incredible ministry opportunities! I am so thankful that you all are willing to take the chance to broaden your horizons! Please take the time to read individual ministry reports –they are inspiring! We have an amazing staff at HPC!

Looking forward to 2024!

Sincerely,

Pastor Bonnie

# Connection Pastor's Report

## Pastor Mike Willis

This has been our first full year at this incredible campus, and if we aren't careful the newness can wear off. New cars don't always smell new anymore, marriages don't always stay fulfilling anymore, health plans can tend to fizzle out. In each of these cases, we may start out with good intentions but don't continue with good follow-through. I'm thankful that hasn't happened after moving into this new building. We are still just as excited as we were when we moved in, and why wouldn't we be?!? When you look around, you'll notice there are still new people showing up and there are still new things God is doing in each of us. I love the passage in Isaiah 43 where we are reminded of that work of God continuing, and I think it is one of the most powerful chapters in the whole Bible. Read some of the words and you will get a sense that God worked in the past, but still has amazing things planned for the future.

***“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:18-19)***

God IS still doing new things in the lives and hearts of people that are here at HighPoint Church and I can't wait to see what He will do next. Please take some time to read over this review of this past year and be encouraged by what we saw God do, and then pray with me about what He will do next!

**STARTING POINT:** Each week, this ministry team goes above and beyond to help people start or continue their journey of faith here at HighPoint Church! I love the way they go out of their way to make people feel welcome, and we have 6 areas of service under this team. As the church grew this year, we saw a need to grow our numbers of people volunteering as well. This resulted in using the Connection Track to build some “ALL IN” nights – where we invited people to come and get involved in serving. This was all part of the process we implemented as we moved to 3 services...and it's a good thing we did. With record attendance and involvement, we were thankful for each person who stepped up to serve willingly – all because they wanted to be a part of what God was doing! We consistently say that this is not a church where guests come and sit down to



be entertained; instead, we want people to know they're part of this local body of believers that gathers together in community to use the gifts God has given them.

\*Ashlee Stohler became our Ministry Assistant and has been instrumental in helping streamline this process. She assists me with following up on people who have attended Connection Track so we can get them encourage them to serve. She has helped me design an effective follow-up system that provides contact information to leaders. Leaders are then strongly encouraged to reach out to guests as soon as possible. Here are the 6 areas of Starting Point, and just in case you are looking for a place to serve, we are always looking for more help.

**Parking Lot Team** – Helping people find a place to park and be directed to the building

**Greeters** – Helping guests find their way to restrooms, Children's Ministry, or even the Worship Center. This area of volunteers is instrumental in handing our Connection Cards to help others get connected here.  
*(Leaders: Rick & Darlene Knight)*

**Friendship Team** – This group follows up with people who submitted a Connection Card, making sure their questions are answered and their needs are met *(Leader: Lynn Miller)*

**Café Volunteers** – This area is responsible for keeping the coffee hot and the cookies served. They greet and welcome people to church each week *(Leader: Kandra Deal)*

**Connection Track** – Connection Track is that one-time session designed for helping guests learn who we are, what we believe, and how you can get connected here. They arrive to serve each Wednesday Night to set up and take care of guests who attend

**Response Team** – These volunteers respond to any need we have, such as security concerns, health issues, safety of children and staff. *(Leader: Adam Giordano)*

**GROUP LIFE:** Once people are welcomed in, their best next step is to find a small group to belong to and grow with. We believe that the best way to grow

in your faith is to connect with others in Biblical communities - this is where Group Life happens! Our groups have been going strong all year, and this Fall, we have 40+ groups being offered. Even though they have various areas of focus, they all have a spiritual component to them – where people devote themselves Biblical Teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. This is exactly what Acts 2 describes as a summary of what should happen in a healthy church. We believe God wants HighPoint Church to be like that, a church OF small groups (instead of WITH some small groups).

\*We have added in small group Sign-Up Events on Sundays this year, which has helped people get connected into community. We also have strengthened the process for potential small group leaders, offering them training and support to help them launch their group. In addition, we have begun having a small group display in the lobby, giving people the opportunity to talk with a group leader on Sundays.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY:** With the overall church growth we have experienced this year, we also have seen Celebrate Recovery (CR) grow. Our weekly attendance has doubled since moving into this building and we now average 60+ people here each week, with 8 small groups meeting. Each week, I continue to be amazed at how God uses this ministry to help people with any type of habit, hang-up, or hurt. This year, we celebrated our 5th anniversary of CR and we look forward to seeing what God does in the future. Our Leadership Team is expanding, and I want to thank Neva Hjort for her continued work as a Ministry Assistant in this area. She helps make sure we have resources that are needed and helps minister to people who belong to CR. They come needing help in areas of life that they are struggling in, and they are welcomed in here each week. This “church” meets every Sunday at 5:00 PM and offers worship, teaching, and small group support – we would love to have you join us!

For the greater good of God,  
Mike Willis  
Connections Pastor

# Production Director's Report

## Ben Hilligoss

### Live Stream-

2023 has been a year of growth and development for our Live Stream team. We've trained five new people this year split between Broadcast Audio and the Camera team with a few more still going through the process! It's been beyond exciting to see how God has provided people in areas of need who have a heart for serving and serve with passion.

Looking forward, I am excited to see how HPC develops with regards to the manners in which we are able to spread God's word through video production be it pre-recorded or live streamed. This is one of the most powerful tools we have that gets God's word beyond the four walls of our church and into the living rooms of people in different cities, states, and even countries.

### Audio—

With regards to our audio for the main sanctuary, we've added one new Audio Engineer with the plans on adding one more before 2024 officially kicks off. This would bring us to four knowledgeable operators for our Sunday morning worship services. I hinted at it in the Live Stream portion, but we also have three people currently trained on Broadcast Audio for our live stream with plans to introduce two new members by the end of this year. This would bring our totals for both "Front of House" and Broadcast to a comfortable number of people who can run these stations any given week.

We have plans, as well, to eventually mix our audio for our live streams in post-production. This would help us create a more captivating and effective full worship experience online with limited distractions.

### ProPresenter/Lights—

Our volunteers in these two stations have been superstars when it comes to weekly adaptability. We've had to send out several lights, our lighting board itself, and even deal with formatting issues for our main LED wall and every week our volunteers come in ready to face whatever challenges arise. Truly, they are a great foundation with which we can build off of to create immersive, worshipful environments. Everyone on our production team has been great at rolling with the punches, but these two stations have had to deal with the most, I believe.

We have a great rotation of volunteers on both Lighting and ProPresenter who go above and beyond to make sure things run smoothly week to week and help contribute to the broader goals of the entire Worship Team for our Sunday services.

### Final Thoughts—

It takes a special kind of person to want to serve in Production. You're largely hidden from the congregation in back rooms or separated away in the production booth, so I believe it showcases a true servant's heart. Our Production Team is full of selfless servants and I consider myself blessed to be able to work with such a creative group of people who understand that the weekly goal for us is to usher the congregation into an atmosphere of worship and meet that lofty goal head-on week in and week out.

Respectively Submitted,

Ben Hilligoss

Tech Director

# Worship Director's Report

## Rachel Pooley

2023 was my 26<sup>th</sup> year at HighPoint Church and my 25<sup>th</sup> year helping lead Worship in some capacity! The growth that our church and our ministry has experienced this past year has been incredible! It is exciting to see what God has done and I am honored to serve Him in this way.

The Worship Ministry of our church is constantly evolving. We bring people onto our team, and we send people out into ministry beyond our walls! One of the most amazing things our team has been blessed to see, is our volunteers gaining enough experience serving at HighPoint to be able to go out into the world and lead worship in other places. Knowing that we can be a part of equipping someone for ministry is a huge blessing for our team. Most Sundays, our team is training others to serve. Our onboarding process is constantly in motion. That's exactly how it should be!

In August, we were able to take 10 people from the Worship areas of our church (Adult, Children & Youth) to one of the largest Worship Leader Conferences in the World – Experience Conference. We were able to connect as a team in some awesome ways while we were there. We experienced some incredible worship services and attended many informative workshops. We brought back new ideas and ways to develop the worship areas of our church and will be doing that over the next year.

We have close to 50 people serving in the worship ministry areas of our church at any given time. It takes 18-20 volunteers every Sunday morning to make the worship part of our services happen. So, most of our volunteers are serving on average twice a month.

### These areas of service include the following:

- Tech Team (Audio/Visual: Sound, Projection Screen, Lighting, Tech Assistants)

- Live Stream Team (Camera Operators, Directors, Audio Techs, Tech Assistants)
- Platform Team (Instrumentalists & Vocalists)  
(Some of our volunteers serve on multiple teams.)

### **Facts About our Worship Ministry Area:**

- 3 Worship Leaders from the platform - Ashlee Stohler, April Lewis, Rachel Pooley
- 1 Band Director - Rhett Pooley
- Ongoing Platform Team Training
- Ongoing Tech Team Training
- Smaller Worship Teams lead Worship weekly for Celebrate Recovery Services
- 9 of our team members rotate leading weekly devotional and prayer times before our rehearsals
- We plan a couple of social gatherings during the year for our volunteers
- We mentor and work with the Youth Ministry Worship Director, Hallie Roe
- We have a Leadership Team of 5 people within the Worship Ministry that meets monthly to make decisions for our ministry – Rhett Pooley, Ben Hilligoss, Tim Coyle, Ashlee Stohler, Rachel Pooley

### **Worship areas where we serve at HighPoint Church are as follows:**

- 3 Sunday Morning Worship Services (weekly)
- 1 Celebrate Recovery Worship Service (weekly)
- Other Events (Good Friday Service, Light Up HPC Service, Funerals, Women's Ministry, VBS, etc.)

I am so pleased with the development of our team over 2023 and I can't wait to see where God takes us in 2024!

Respectively Submitted,  
Rachel Pooley  
Director of Worship Arts

# Band Director's Report

## Rhett Pooley

For my first annual report I would like to suggest that we have the drums front and center of the platform and new LED panels surrounding the riser.

### My role

I serve on the worship leadership team alongside Rachel, Ashlee, Ben, and Tim. My responsibilities as the music director are to focus on our track system we use for worship (Playback) and ensuring that the setlist runs smoothly.

I upload the tracks, edit them, and help direct the band on the music, although sometimes I do have to differ to Tim or Lucas for help on chords! I also speak with the band during our setlist in case something happens. If we get off time with metronome or we come in too early or late into a section of a song I do everything in my power to keep the ship from sinking. Unfortunately, things happen more than we would like but I hope that you haven't noticed them from the congregation! But keeping everyone on their toes including myself is a blast. I really enjoy my role on the team and am very appreciative that you all have allowed my role to grow on this team and in our church.

### Playback

I apologize if this is longwinded. I'm not sure if there has ever been an annual report on our track system so bear with me.

A track system is essential for any worship team. It provides an atmosphere that is easier for the congregation to worship in. Most churches worship teams are made up of volunteers. Volunteers may not always be the most talented but their dedication and love for the team and church is the most important thing.

Playback helps assist anywhere there is a void in the team Sunday mornings. Many songs may have two acoustic parts, two percussion parts or electronic drums, two piano parts, or maybe there is a part in a song that is very difficult to play and is essential to making the song whole.

Our job as the worship team is to make it as easy as possible for the church to worship. If a song doesn't sound good or a part is missing from the song, that could interfere with someone's experience.

## Upcoming?

Playback is not only just a track system. It has many features to ensure a setlist runs as smooth as possible. It can control our lights and ProPresenter as well. This does not eliminate a role for a volunteer, it will just change what that role looks like.

Using playback for ProPresenter and our lighting will ensure the words are always exactly on time and will give us more freedom with our lighting during the set. Instead of manually changing the lights we will be able to program them to follow along with the music to change right on beat.

Chartbuilder is another feature that allows the musicians to follow along hands free. All the musicians currently use a PDF file with either a chord chart or sheet music to play. Chartbuilder follows along directly with the track highlighting whatever section of the song we are in. It also gives more freedom to the team to engage and follow the congregation. If we want to go back to a section of the song, I would queue the track to do so and instead of flipping through 2 or 3 pages of PDF files Chartbuilder will automatically switch to the section of the song that was queued on everyone's iPad.

We are currently working on integrating Chartbuilder, hopefully we will be using it in the coming weeks. ProPresenter I think will be integrated in the near future. The lights are something that the worship team will have to work on. We are all still learning all the uses of Playback so hopefully in the future we can use it to its full potential.

## In conclusion?

I don't think I've written a report or a paper since 10<sup>th</sup> Grade. Sam wrote all my papers in college (Sssshhhh). But I did all of her math!

I think I can speak for everyone on the team on this. This is the most fun and healthy worship team I have been a part of. All people have strengths and weaknesses. Having Rachel, Ashlee, Ben, Tim, and I work together as team allows us to lean on each other to get better every week.

Respectively Submitted,

Rhett Pooley



# Children's Ministry Director's Report

## Melissa Hulen

As 2023 comes to an end, I am once again in awe of all that God has done at HighPoint and within our Children's ministry. We have so much to look forward to in 2024, but not without first reflecting on all that He has done and expressing gratitude for it.

This was my 5th year serving as the Children's Ministry Director and our first full year in the new building. A full year of Children's church, team trainings, celebrations, small groups, special events and of course, VBS! This building continues to provide a literal foundation for the spiritual foundations of the children that walk through its doors. It is a place of safety, laughter, friendship, learning, and growth for our team as well as our HighPoint families and their children.

### The Team

Our Children's Ministry team has grown to 82 people! Many of those people serve each and every week. They have made the commitment to attend a service and serve a service because they understand the importance of consistency when it comes to investing in the lives of our children and their families. 15 of the members of the team are youth in our church! What a gift it is to have that many young adults who want to come back and serve on the team that ministered to them for so long. It is so fun to watch them grow into leaders themselves and find their gifts as they take their place in serving. The team we have keeps this ministry going and I am so grateful for them!

### Kids' Church

Children ages 5 and up start the morning off in 'Big Church' where they are able to worship with their families, see our pastors, witness baptisms as well as communion and to be reminded that they are a large part of the body of the church! They are not waiting to become the church, they are the church right now and this serves as a great reminder of that.

Our lesson focus for 2023 was "The Bible in a Year". Children ages 2-12 went on a whirlwind journey from Genesis to Revelation. We utilize both whole group

and small group settings to teach the weekly focus and build connections with the children. We had our highest attendance this year with 247 children on Easter Sunday. Wow!

## Special Events

For Easter, our children's ministry team has hosted the event "Journey to the Cross" the past 2 years. It is an interactive and impactful way for families to hear the Gospel. This year, we partnered with other teams in the church to bring "EasterFest" to our community. We kept the 'Journey to the Cross' experience but added some other fun elements to create a spring time event that families could enjoy together. Families enjoyed a petting zoo, train ride, egg hunts and food trucks.

In the summer, we hosted VBS where over 150 children learned about Jesus and had a whole lot of fun doing it. Our team of volunteers created an energetic and electric atmosphere that kids couldn't wait to return to! Over 40 children prayed with leaders and made the decision to follow Jesus and 15 of them followed that decision up with baptism. The children who attended raised over \$1,000 for a local mission to help feed the homeless.

In the fall of 2023 we will be hosting a Family Game night and Open House. We hope this provides our families with an opportunity to have fun together but also to meet their children's leaders and see the Children's Ministry space.

This winter, we plan to have another Family Gingerbread competition and also participate in the Lake Wales Christmas Parade.

## Small Groups

Tribe 45 launched in 2023 with a lock-in on the church property. We had a great time together! This group is specifically designed for 4th and 5th graders, to aid in their transition to the youth group. Once a month, children are invited to join the youth group for worship and then go to a separate room for a time of study and some fun games. We hope this will allow them to build connections before they graduate from Children's ministry and for it to make moving up a less intimidating experience.

Several couples who serve on the Children's ministry team have begun meeting in a small group for a bible study. This is a time to connect and to support each other in parenting and maintaining a God honoring home.

## Nature School

HighPoint church is home to Nature School for Homeschoolers. This group meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays and has been a blessing to over 40 children and their families. Children attending spend the morning outdoors, in God's beautiful creation, where they participate in chapel time, nature activities, journaling and formal lessons. Homeschooled Children ages 4-16 attend and cover subject areas of Bible, Science, Math, Reading, Writing and Spelling. The development of problem solving and social skills are also in abundance.

## Social Media

HighPoint Kids continues to build and maintain a presence online through the Family Life @ HighPoint Facebook page. This serves as a means of communication but also as a resource for families. It is an online community to share information about events, what is being taught in children's church, parenting resources, and more. There are currently 344 members of the group.

## 2024

I am excited to see what God has in store for us all in the upcoming year. I pray that our team will grow and be filled with people who truly catch the vision and mission of this ministry. People who understand that ministry is about serving our Father and one another. I pray that families who never thought they would be "church people" feel an overwhelming love and sense of belonging that cannot be denied and is a direct reflection of Jesus Christ. I pray for refinement as we pursue the Lord and His will for our lives. It may not always be easy, but we can trust in this promise; "For the Lord God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right." (Psalm 84:11). In blessing and in breaking, let us Praise Him for all he has done and for all the promises that have yet come to pass. He is worthy.

Respectively Submitted,

Melissa Hulen

Children's Director

# Children's Ministry Assistant

## Katherine Nicholas

2023 has been a year of obedience and faith in our family. After 25 years of life in retail management, I decided to leave and pursue the plan that God had written for me. The day after I gave my notice, I was offered a staff position with Children's Ministry, and it's been such a huge blessing. Aaron is still currently serving in the Army National Guard for the State of Florida and recently began a new contract for the Department of Defense. Abby, Sam and Dominick are all doing great and growing into amazing adults. Sam recently switched schools and decided to earn a degree in education. And Dominick is finishing up his senior year of high school. He plans to attend film school after graduation. Then there is Wrigley, he is making strides in therapy every week and still making everyone smile, morning, noon and night.

### Program Overview:

The Wednesday Night Kids Ministry is a vital component of our church's commitment to providing a nurturing environment for children to learn about and grow in their faith. The program caters to children aged Birth-12 and their parents as they attend a Small Group, Connection Track or serve in Youth or Kids. It's a great way to minister and engage the family unit as a whole.

### Attendance and Participation:

Over the past year, the Wednesday Night Kids Ministry has witnessed consistent attendance and active participation from children within our congregation. On average, we have had approximately 40-45 children attending each session, with a steady increase in participation throughout the year.

### Curriculum and Lessons:

The curriculum for the Wednesday Night Kids Ministry is designed to engage children in interactive and meaningful ways. Our dedicated team of volunteers work diligently to create age-appropriate lessons that incorporate biblical teachings, worship, student led prayer, creative activities to explore the Bible and community service projects to give back.

### **Volunteer Engagement:**

The success of the Wednesday Night Kids Ministry is largely attributed to the dedicated volunteers who selflessly give their time and talents. We are grateful for their commitment and passion in serving the children of our church. These volunteers serve weekly on Wednesday nights and work hard to create a relationship with every child.

### **Parental Involvement:**

We have actively encouraged parents to participate in various events, volunteer opportunities, and parent-child activities to strengthen the bond between the church and families. Starting in October '23, a monthly newsletter will go home with each child. The newsletter will highlight activities and teachings that we are working on for the month, a look forward to the following month and activities that families can complete together at home.

The Wednesday Night Kids Ministry at HighPoint has continued to thrive and make a significant impact on the lives of children within our congregation. We are grateful for the support of our dedicated volunteers, parents, and church leadership in making this ministry a success. Looking ahead, we remain committed to providing a nurturing and engaging environment for children to grow in their faith and develop a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Katherine Nicholas

# Youth & Local Ministry Director's Report

## Hallie Roe

### Local Missions

This year, I focused our local outreach at HighPoint on supporting our local elementary schools in the area. One way we were able to support our local schools was through assisting FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) in getting into all the elementary schools in our area, for the purpose of teaching students about the life-changing love of Jesus Christ. Therefore, last school year, FCA was active at Hillcrest Elementary, Babson Park Elementary, Polk Avenue Elementary, Spook Hill Elementary, and Janie Howard Elementary. FCA partners with local churches, so that we as the body of Christ are able to go into our surrounding schools and share Jesus Christ. Our church specifically committed to going to Janie Howard Elementary, once a month, to teach the students about Jesus. I also had the privilege last school year, to sometimes help host FCA at Polk Avenue Elementary, and Spook Hill Elementary. During our time there we would typically open with a game, had a short time of worship, and then a time of teaching. We would have the students pray to open/close our time together, and we simply just loved on them and shared who Jesus was to them, weekly! About 400 students accepted Christ throughout our local elementary schools—which is incredible! I am so honored and blessed I was able to be a part of that. This year HighPoint is still committed to going to Janie Howard once a month and doing FCA with the third and fourth grade class (last year we did it with 2nd and 3rd, so we have the same kids). We went for the first time last month, and we had a blast! We have a team of four ladies from our church going monthly, to disciple and love on the students at Janie Howard. A hope I have for our church is to possibly get more volunteers on board, so we are able to take on even more grade levels, so they can hear of the love of Christ and be disciplined. And what's so cool, is that FCA is still active in ALL our local elementary schools this school year as well. God is good!!!

Another way we supported our local schools last year was through supporting the Spook Hill Elementary Schools teachers by being their prayer partners. So I, and six other ladies were paired up with a specific grade level, and we committed to praying for all the teachers in that specific grade level. We started the growth in numbers, it's been beautiful to watch our team grow in their

the year off by providing the staff with breakfast, and for our ladies who were prayer partners to get to know their teachers a bit better. Another way we supported them last year, was buying the staff gifts, to celebrate the different holidays; like Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, etc. The wonderful Lynn Miller, really took the lead on the planning and organizing what gifts to get the staff, depending on the holiday that was coming up. It was awesome! One time, she even made homemade cupcakes, and our team helped to decorate them, and deliver them!! Those cupcakes were all the hype with the Spook Hill staff. We are still prayer partners this school year, and rather than buying the staff gifts for each holiday, we are supporting them by going every month, and delivering birthday gifts to all the staff who's birthdays fall within that month. Lynn just recently sent a mailer to the ladies on our team, and we are seeking to expand it, to invite more ladies to come aboard! At the start of the school year we went to pray over the teachers, and it was the sweetest time. We opened up the floor to ask what they needed/wanted prayer for, and the Holy Spirit's presence was definitely there. I believe the teachers felt seen and valued, and I know our cups were filled as well.

### Youth:

This June, I stepped into Youth Director position. I work with an incredible team of about 15-20 adult volunteers. We meet every Wednesday, 6-7:40pm, consistently having 40-50 students coming on those nights. On Wednesdays, we have a teaching team rotation of three people. We have small group time after the teaching, where the boys and girls are split, and from there the boys/girls are then split into the middle school and high school small groups. We want our students to know, believe, and understand the love of Jesus' and the freedom that is found in His perfect love. We also offer a Youth Service every 2nd and 4th Sunday, during 2nd service, consistently having anywhere from 30-40 students attending those services. It's been so awesome to see students who attend the Sunday service, have now begun attending the Wednesday service.

Last year, I was not yet the Youth Director, but I was over leading, discipling, and growing our Youth Band. When I came on staff in June 2022, leading the Youth Band was one of my first responsibilities. I quickly fell in love with spending time loving on, and mentoring the students we had on this team. Since being given the responsibility of being over the band, I've seen the band and tech team grow from six students, to fourteen. But more importantly than

leadership, and humility. I have seen their confidence in who God was created them to be, come alive; and I know I will continue to do so. Our Youth Band last year led every fifth Sunday, of last school year, and this school year they will lead every fifth Sunday, except for one.

### Goals For Youth:

- Students who serve in tech, shadow the adult volunteers in their specific area, to learn and grow. I am hopeful that they will one day be able to one day lead on the cameras, lights, live stream, etc. on fifth Sundays as well.
- Have a day where our adult tech volunteers come and direct our youth tech team on how to correctly use the equipment we have.
- Implement a devotion time for all our student volunteers (Youth Band, Tech Team, Greeters, etc.). Right now we have a devotion specifically for the Youth Band, but I believe it's crucial to have a time of devotion for anyone pouring out on Wednesday night, so they can be poured back into.

We are eager to see all that the Lord continues to do in and through our youth this year!

Respectively Submitted,

Hallie Roe



# Creative Ministry Director's Report

## Nick Stohler

2023 has been a year of continued growth and exciting development in the Creative Ministry at HighPoint Church. We have achieved multiple goals set from the previous year and have expanded our role as a ministry with the persistent development of Providence Center through Providence Academy and Providence Voice. Along with the growth as a ministry, I have been challenged and positioned to grow in my involvement as part of the teaching team at HighPoint Church.

This report includes achievements as a Creative Ministry and the adjustment in my role as part of the teaching team led by Pastor Jack and my leadership in Gate Keepers.

### Highlights from 2023:

- Website Development ○ Our website is still performing well in the sense of growth and effectiveness. Engagement, development and exposure are all happening at an increasing rate and in an organized fashion.
- Site Membership has grown from 298 at the time of the 2022 report to 464 at the time of this report. This reflects site engagement and is directly connected to GroupLife activity via our website.
- In 2022, our highest month of interaction the website was August with 2,100 site sessions. 2023 saw April accruing over 4,200 sessions and only two months falling below 2,100 sessions.
- Year-over-year, we have increased our traffic sessions by 63% with a current total over the past 365 days of 27,927 site sessions (meaning times our website is visited).
- Providence Center is growing on the website with its prominent presence being Providence Academy and soon to be Providence Voice. Providence Academy's main page ranks third on the list of most visited pages, only behind our main page and our live stream page.

### Marketing/Communications Development

- Sermon Series Design - We have continued to lean into our goal to develop creative engagement with our sermon series designs and presentation. We have created unique atmospheres and marketing pieces throughout this year for our

community to participate in and we have put our best foot forward when handling how we present the gospel to the unbeliever.

- Marketing Pieces - We created multiple mailers, social media directed visuals, handouts and signage as part of our invitation campaigns and calls to action for our church community to invite others.
- YouTube - We have steadily grown in our viewership, subscriptions and engagement on YouTube. In the entire year of 2022 we had 5,852 views of our YouTube content. To date, in 2023 we have 7,165 views of our content. This is exciting because we did not have to increase our workload to achieve this increase - this is a direct result of our continued systematic approach and consistency.
- Ministry Support the Creative Ministry
  - ◇ HighPoint Youth Redesigned
  - ◇ Providence Academy Designed, internal web function built & managed
  - ◇ Kids' Closet Designed
  - ◇ Highland's Women's Ministry rebrand begun.
  - ◇ Providence Voice Designed and prepped for launch.
- HighPoint Blog - We have more than doubled our writers for the blog aspect of our Creative Ministry, totaling approximately 14 writers. We saw our highest number of views on a single blog article as written by a new writer. We have seen increased interest in participating in the blog writing ministry.
  - ◇ Providence Academy leaders have agreed to contribute to their own blog as a way to communicate to the church community and to parents. We will continue to develop this opportunity.
- Creative Team - This group has grown to approximately 10 people with others offering their gifts when possible. The group is constantly communicating and dreaming of new ideas and ways to present our message within and beyond the church. As part of this growth, we have developed organized days for creative work and focus for the church. It has already served our efforts well and will continue to do so.
- Providence Voice - I have worked directly with Providence Center to develop

Providence Voice in hopes to create a systematic approach to podcast production. This endeavor is ongoing, but very exciting and will serve our community well.

## Beyond the Creative Ministry

As part of the adjustment in my job description during the year, I have been included as a part of the teaching team led by Pastor Jack. This is a humbling assignment, yet one I am honored and excited to be given. As part of this assignment, I have been included in a weekly teaching team meeting, I have preached 3-4 separate times to the congregation, and I have co-led the group/ministry Gate Keepers with Pastor Derrick Blue. As part of the Gate Keepers ministry, I have served as an altar worker during Sunday morning worship. I also still volunteer for the worship team in sound production and playing drums.

- Teaching Team - This team has been a blessing to me. They have supported me and encouraged my learning and development as a teacher & preacher. We are only scratching the surface of how this team will grow and make an impact.
- Gate Keepers - This group is taking root and doing so in well prepared soil. We have seen immediate results in how the group has influenced the atmosphere in Sunday morning services. We have also witnessed a desire within the church for deeper engagement and discussion about spiritual growth, maturity and gifts. We started our first round of classes at the end of September. I believe this group will help shape the core culture of our church. I am trusting the God will continue to bless this ministry.

## Going Forward to '24:

- Providence Voice - I will directly work with Providence Center to help bring this vision into fruition and to help it grow and succeed.
- Creative Team - Further solidify the team and continue to add members as necessary. Find video editor and graphic designer.
- System Development - Create better systems to regulate our communication process for internal communication and external communication.
- YouTube - Capitalize on the growing exposure to this medium in hopes to drive growing traffic into disciples of Jesus!
- Alternative Creative Efforts - Help create new ideas separate from sermon series-driven content.

- Blog - Find a leader for the blog writing ministry. Archive and organize blogs from the past that are no longer relevant.
- Repurpose Content - Find new ways to utilize the content we create on a regular basis to interact with our church community and beyond.
- Gate Keepers - Fully develop curriculum and video-based teaching and double our altar workers.
- GroupLife - Coordinate with GroupLife to reimagine our GroupLife system through the website.
- Teaching Team - Ask questions and learn from this wise group of experienced leaders, teachers, & preachers. Begin my ordination process.
- The Creative Ministry is alive and well. God has blessed us throughout 2023 and I expect the same throughout 2024. I intend to grow as a teacher and to see others grow through Gate Keepers. I also hope and pray that the work we put into the Creative Ministry, the Teaching Team and as a church family will result in a plentiful harvest.

Respectively Submitted,

Nick Stohler

# Digital Media/Assistant to Staff

## Ashlee Stohler

The role of Executive Ministry Assistant is to be a direct line of support to the pastoral staff of HighPoint Church. At this time, I am primarily assisting Pastor Mike with the Connections process and the other pastors when needs arise.

I am heavily involved in the Connection Track process. Here are my responsibilities for the Connection Track process:

- I attend every Wednesday welcoming new attendees by checking them into Breeze. This helps us run reports to track how many people are coming through the class
- Assisting in the tour of the facility
- Preparing & serving food when needed
- Organizing & overseeing the schedule for the cooking team to provide meals for our guests
- First initial follow up email within a week of their attendance at Connection Track
- Assigning ministry directors and pastors follow up tasks to be sure every person who comes through the Connection Track course gets where they need to go based on their interests from the Connection card

I have helped Pastor Mike streamline this process by optimizing the use of our church management system, Breeze. We can keep all communication between leaders and church members within Breeze. This includes how pastors are tagged to follow up with people. This has been a huge time saver and it allows us to track things more efficiently.

### Other Ministry Directors I closely assist:

Worship Director- Rachel Pooley

I serve on the Worship Lead Team as one of the worship leaders. On this team, I help lead the worship team and congregation in the worship

- experience and assist Rachel in team management

## Creative Ministry Director- Nick Stohler

- Nick and I work closely together with the Creative Team. I help manage this team, organize communication and meetings. Our team has grown from 3 people to 10 people in the past 6 months. Our team consists of graphic designers, videographers, and digital media content creators.
- On Oct 1, 2023 We had our first BATCH CONTENT DAY. Nick Stohler, Ben Hilligoss, Megan Tedder, and myself led this. These content days are where we gather the Creative Team and other volunteers from church to come together and create branded, themed content for the church. During these special meetings we capture a ton of content to spread across the worship experience on Sundays, sermon series, social media, website, and other areas of the church. This allows for many to be a part of the creative process with direction and vision. This also allows for consistent communication and optimization of what we capture to be used effectively across ALL of our platforms!

## Digital Media Director

I also serve in the Digital Media Director role. I manage all of our social media accounts for HighPoint Church (Instagram, Facebook, YouTube). This includes content creation, communication, team building and enrichment, scheduling content, and growing the platform. Our social media platforms have grown significantly this year. I believe it is due to more consistency in design and communication and the giant blessing of growth in the Creative Team who helps create content for our channels..

### Goals:

- Utilize a scheduling platform for all posts (Hootsuite or Sprout Social)
  - Organize a team for our Canva account
- Collaborate with pastoral staff to create a content calendar for content creators
- Set processes in place to be 1-3 months ahead with outgoing communication information on social media. This will help our content creators know what to create and how to create effectively

- Potentially lead a portion of Connection Track to help the pastoral staff and to encourage diverse voices
- Continue to help build up and enrich the teams I am assisting with
- Organize Batch Content Days with Nick Stohler, Ben Hilligoss, and the Creative Team for Christmas, New Years, Easter, and our annual giving initiative. I eventually would like to have it consistently support each sermon series throughout the year, but I realize that will take time to grow into
- I'd love to better support other core ministries within our church through the creative process & communication- Group Life, Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashlee Stohler







PROVIDENCE

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C E N T E R

# Providence Center Businesses & Ministries Providence Academy

Providence Academy was founded this fall and it has been an incredible experience and journey for all involved. Our school ranges from PreK4 to 5th grade. When we opened the enrollment period for Providence Academy this year, we prayed to receive 100 applications and be able to take about 60 -70 students. God had much bigger plans for PA and continues to provide each and every day for each student, family and staff member.

## Currently we have:

- 99 students enrolled

- 163 applications for enrollment

- 33 students on the waiting list for 2024-2025 school year

- 8 students on the waiting list for 2023-2024

- 15 staff members

Even with all of this, the most incredible parts are the things that only God could have completed. To date, we have baptized 23 of our students and staff members. These individuals have stepped out on faith to follow Jesus each and every day. When we started the year, about 37% of our students and families did not attend a church regularly. Since the beginning of the year, almost half of those families have started to call HighPoint Church their home.

As we look ahead to 2024, we ask that you join us in prayer for a few things. We will continue to pray about the building and how God will provide for our expansion as we move into 6th grade next year and the rest of middle school and high school in the future. We also ask that God continues to provide the students and families that we will guide them with the best education possible as well as build them up spiritually. As we grow, we will need to hire more staff. We ask that God continue to show us the correct staff choices and prepare their hearts for their time at PA.

A huge thank you to HighPoint for committing to this ministry and helping support each one of us associated with Providence Academy. We look forward to the work God will continue to do for each and every one of us.

Kari Richards  
Director

Jordan Barker  
Dean of Students

# Providence Center Businesses & Ministries

## Bakery 2:Ten

Bakery 2:ten had another wonderful year utilizing the kitchen at HighPoint Church. It has been such a blessing to have a commercial kitchen to run the business in. We made excellent use of amenities of the kitchen once again this year. The counter tops provided us with ample space to make doughs, batters, and icings, as well as a work area to ice and decorate cakes and cookies. We designated much of the space in the fridge and freezer to store our products. We also were able to bring in additional shelves to store our growing stock of supplies. The commercial oven and sinks made baking and cleaning up very easy for all our orders. My favorite part, however, was the addition of the washer/dryer unit which allowed me to do all of bakery laundry on site.

Over the last year I saw lots of growth in our business. The two main areas I noted were in wedding and drop cookie orders. The beautiful church lobby offered us an excellent space to host wedding consultations. Many of our customers noted how nice and professional the setup was and were eager to book their wedding desserts with Bakery 2:ten. In many months of the previous wedding season, we had wedding orders almost every weekend with some weekends having up to three weddings. As of right now, we have at least one wedding a month booked for the next 5 months! I also saw a growth in drop cookie orders. This is due largely to the advertising we get every Sunday by making the cookies for service. Customers began to realize that we offered delicious fresh baked traditional flavored cookies that they could order and pickup for almost any occasion. This was especially popular for Thanksgiving and Christmas of last year, and its popularity has continued throughout this year.

Although the business has been flourishing, I have felt since January that God was calling me in a new direction. In January of this year, I began a caregiving position for a dementia patient. In caring for this wonderful soul, I came to realize that I was being called to pursue a career in nursing. In May, I began taking prerequisite nursing classes and in September I was accepted in the Nursing Program at Polk State College which I am to start in January of 2024. I am very excited to see where God leads me down this new path of life and where this leads the bakery.

Respectively Submitted,  
Jackie Sherer

# Providence Center Businesses & Ministries

## Salt & Light

The mission of Salt and Light is to see America's biblical and moral foundations restored by training and equipping Christians on how to become Biblical Citizens.

God has blessed our efforts through a faithful group that has grown from as little as five in attendance to a recent gathering of more than two hundred! Without God's blessing and our core group of supporters none of our accomplishments would be possible.

Here at HighPoint we have been very successful at placing Godly people in positions of local and county government which includes eight elected officials and eight board appointments, thirteen of these attend HighPoint Church. As a group we have attended City Commission, Planning & Zoning, Code Enforcement and Polk County Regional Water meetings. We have also helped to start two additional Salt & Light groups in neighboring communities. In addition we have rolled out a plan called PROJECT 17. This is a comprehensive plan to put Godly people in government positions in all 17 municipalities in Polk County.

Based upon the success of our Salt & Light group, Highpoint Church is now looked upon as a nationwide model on how Christians should engage their local governments. As a keynote speaker, Pastor Jack has shared our success story on many occasions with several organizations in Florida, West Virginia and will soon be speaking in Pennsylvania.

Respectively Submitted,  
Jim Abney

# Providence Center Businesses & Ministries

## Arise Counseling

Attached you will find a PDF file of my revenue report from October of 2022 to today, October 5th. This past year, I had a baby and took maternity leave in the months of January and February. When I returned, I cut my time back to one day a week in the office. Since October of last year (with a maternity leave), I have been able to counsel 214 sessions. I am currently leading a grief group and will be hosting my first mini retreat for 10 women this Saturday, October 7th. This year I have lowered my rates to \$75.00 an hour and offer a sliding scale for individuals who need financial assistance.

In this upcoming year, I plan to focus on more groups, workshops and retreats. Groups will be capped off at a certain number and will be private. This will be a more intimate and confidential setting for group counseling to take place. As of right now, the following are in the works for groups...

- Grief
- Healing from Sexual Trauma
- Taking Your Thoughts Captive (Depression and Anxiety)
- Fully Satisfied (Freedom from food addiction)
- Identity (Young Women)
- Parents and loved ones of individuals struggling with sexual identity

Workshops will be more of a lecture/ interactive classroom style. I will be teaming up with experts in the field to create life enriching and helpful content for the church body.

### The following workshops are in the works:

- Date Night - this is where marriage coaches and counselors create a fun environment for couples in the church to work on strengthening their marriage.
- Boundaries - Learning how to set healthy boundaries with yourself and others in your life.
- Communication Workshop -how to listen, speak assertively and argue well

I am so thankful for the opportunity to be a part of Providence Center. God shows up in ways that blow me away. His hand is on this place and it is a precious gift to be a part of it. Thank you!

Respectively Submitted,  
Megan Tedder

Monthly Revenue Report for all payments in date range 10/1/22 to 10/5/23, broken down by clinician.

	Not Allocated	Megan Tedder	Totals
10/1/22	0.00	1,245.00	1,245.00
11/1/22	0.00	1,180.00	1,180.00
12/1/22	0.00	670.00	670.00
1/1/23	0.00	0.00	0.00
2/1/23	0.00	0.00	0.00
3/1/23	0.00	345.00	345.00
4/1/23	0.00	745.00	745.00
5/1/23	225.00	1,170.00	1,395.00
6/1/23	115.00	1,625.00	1,740.00
7/1/23	0.00	1,015.00	1,015.00
8/1/23	0.00	1,020.00	1,020.00
9/1/23	5.00	640.00	645.00
10/1/23 (partial)	0.00	905.00	905.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>345.00</b>	<b>10,560.00</b>	<b>10,905.00</b>

# Providence Center Businesses & Ministries

## Providence Voice

Providence Center was developed to fulfill the an important part of our Kingdom Mandate. The Providence Voice is the Arts & Media portion of the Providence Center family. PV will be a VOICE to the Nations. Our motto proclaims “Be the VOICE, Not an Echo”. God has commanded His people to speak boldly and be a light.

***Isaiah 58:1 “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, shew the people their transgressions and the House of Jacob their sins.”***

### 1. Podcasts

This area will house 3 of our main core church areas. Sermons, our pas tor’s own show and the HP Women ministry podcast show.

- *High Point Church*
- *The Man, The Mayor, The Mandate*
- *HighPoint Women*

### 2. TV Show Programming

This area will have a curated menu of programming available for the Christian viewer. Everything from talk shows, fashion, lifestyle, news, media and politics.

- *Let’s Talk About It!*

This show will be a behind the scenes look at the HP Church sermon series. As well as a segment entitled “On the Cutting Room Floor” which will be the parts of the sermon that didn’t make it to the Sunday platform. This show is hosted by Pastor Jack Hilligoss and his entire preaching team: Pastor Mike Willis, Pastor Derrick Blue and Nick Stohler

### The future of Providence Voice:

The goal of Providence Voice is to cover every area in media so when a viewer turns on a wholesome and educational show or a listener is looking for a Christian voice to listen to via podcast or even a audio book we will have that covered.

### 1. Streaming App

- This application will house a menu of curated content that is produced and directed by Providence Voice.



## **2. Book Publishing**

- This area will be utilized to publish Christian and faith based literary works. As well as audio book recordings and e-books.

## **3. News & Politics**

- This area is very important to the Kingdom. Where we get our news and what is happening in our government. The voice that comes from this area has to have the people in mind.

## **4. Radio**

## **5. Plays & Productions**

## **6. Short Film**

## **7. Music (composing & writing)**

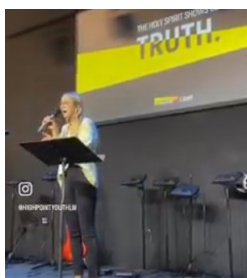
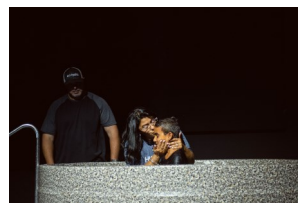
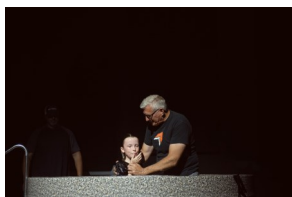
Respectively Submitted,

Melanie Blue

# A Year In Review

## 2023





# HighPoint Church

## 2024 Proposed Budget

### INCOME

	Budgeted	Proposed
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Tithes/Offerings/ Capital Income	\$974,951.00	\$1,195,349.00
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME</b>		<b><u>\$1,195,349.00</u></b>

### EXPENSES

	Budgeted	Proposed
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Employment Expenses		
<b>Total Employee Exp.</b>	<b>\$491,117.00</b>	<b>\$595,165.00</b>

### Operating Expenses

	Budgeted	Proposed
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>Total Operating Exp.</b>	<b>\$359,434.00</b>	<b>\$440,684.00</b>

EXPENSES CONTINUED

	Budgeted	Proposed
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Ministry/Missions Exp.	\$124,400.00	\$159,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b><u>\$1,195,349.00</u></b>

# **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING:**

**Wednesday, December 6th, 2023**

**6:00-7:00 pm**

***(Q and A - Sunday, December 3rd, 8am, 9:30am & 11am)***

***Q & A will be held in the Ministry Room***

*We will be voting on the proposed 2024 budget along with ratifying members of the Board of Servant Leadership*

**Prior to the meeting, all eligible voters will receive written notice via mail or email.**

## **ARTICLE IV-Constitution and By-laws**

**Section 1 - The voting membership of this corporation shall include persons who meet the following conditions:**

1.1 They profess Jesus as Savior and Lord of their lives and that they are committed to living according to His teaching and example as recorded in the Bible.

1.2 They must be sixteen (16) years of age or older.

1.3 They must have worshipped regularly with the congregation for a period of six months prior to the meeting at which the right to vote is to be exercised.

1.4 Must have a record of regular financial support of the general budget of the congregation for the previous six months which can be established through a review of their giving records by the congregations Treasurer and Chairperson.

1.5 The criteria herein stated governing eligibility for voting shall apply to business meetings alone, and shall not affect the religious rights and privileges of the members.



