

2023 Generosity Update

A Note from Pastor Matt

Each year at Columbia Presbyterian Church we put out an Annual Report on the ministry that is done with the tithes and gifts that our congregation gives. We tend to do that in February. However, over the last two years, I started to realize that this practice makes no sense. We cannot ask you, our congregation, to pray and discern what you are called to give each fall without giving you a picture of our shared impact. This small report is intended to give you **a glimpse of Columbia Presbyterian's Kingdom Impact**, so that you can best decide how to support CPC in 2024.

We have worked very hard to close a \$200k gap in our budget that we had planned to cover with reserves. This gap is not due to overspending. In short, like many churches in the U.S., we are experiencing the fact that many people are not returning to church for a number of reasons post-COVID. This has had an impact at CPC too, but, we have reduced expenditures, managed our budgets, and still have found ways to grow our ministries. We may be able to close that funding gap by the end of the year. The reason that is important is because it allows us to **dream about how to fund the right kinds of ministries going forward that will give glory to God in Clark County**. Remember that we are called to bless the city where God has us and that we are blessed to be a blessing.

Let me give you a picture of where we are in terms of ministry and what we are pondering going forward...

Areas of Excitement

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We are so excited about the work of Tifny Mathena and the Children's Ministry Team. The preschool has always played a critical role at CPC, however we made an intentional decision to reinvest in our connection this year. Tifny has restarted the MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) program with fantastic results. We are seeing 20-30 women engaged each week. We are seeing some of them in worship and, due to the growth, we are struggling to keep up with childcare in terms of cost and staffing.

CONNECTION AND BELONGING

This is our first on our list of goals for the next 3 years. We have been working to tackle pastoral care collectively as a staff. We have been sending out cards to congregants every few weeks. And each program staff member has worked to create a set of personal goals that represent their desire to live into the goals that the Session has set for the church.

THE COLUMBIA FUTURE FORGE

Our mentoring and life skills ministry is moving forward by hiring our first Executive Director. This will free me to focus on other aspects of CPC's life. We are also exploring some new opportunities because people from the community have reached out to us from schools and the business community!

PASTORAL CARE AND VISITATION

Pastor Ted has done a phenomenal job tending to Congregational Care at CPC. Part of that has been Ted's personal gifts, but he has also done a good job helping the Deacons and several other groups add layers to our contact with a broader section of CPC. Additionally, the whole program staff is working to tend to people of every age and segment of life. We have a multitude of concerns at CPC at every age level. It isn't just older folks who need a check-in and a visit. This good work that starts with Ted is now owned more broadly, which is an important sign of God's compassion.

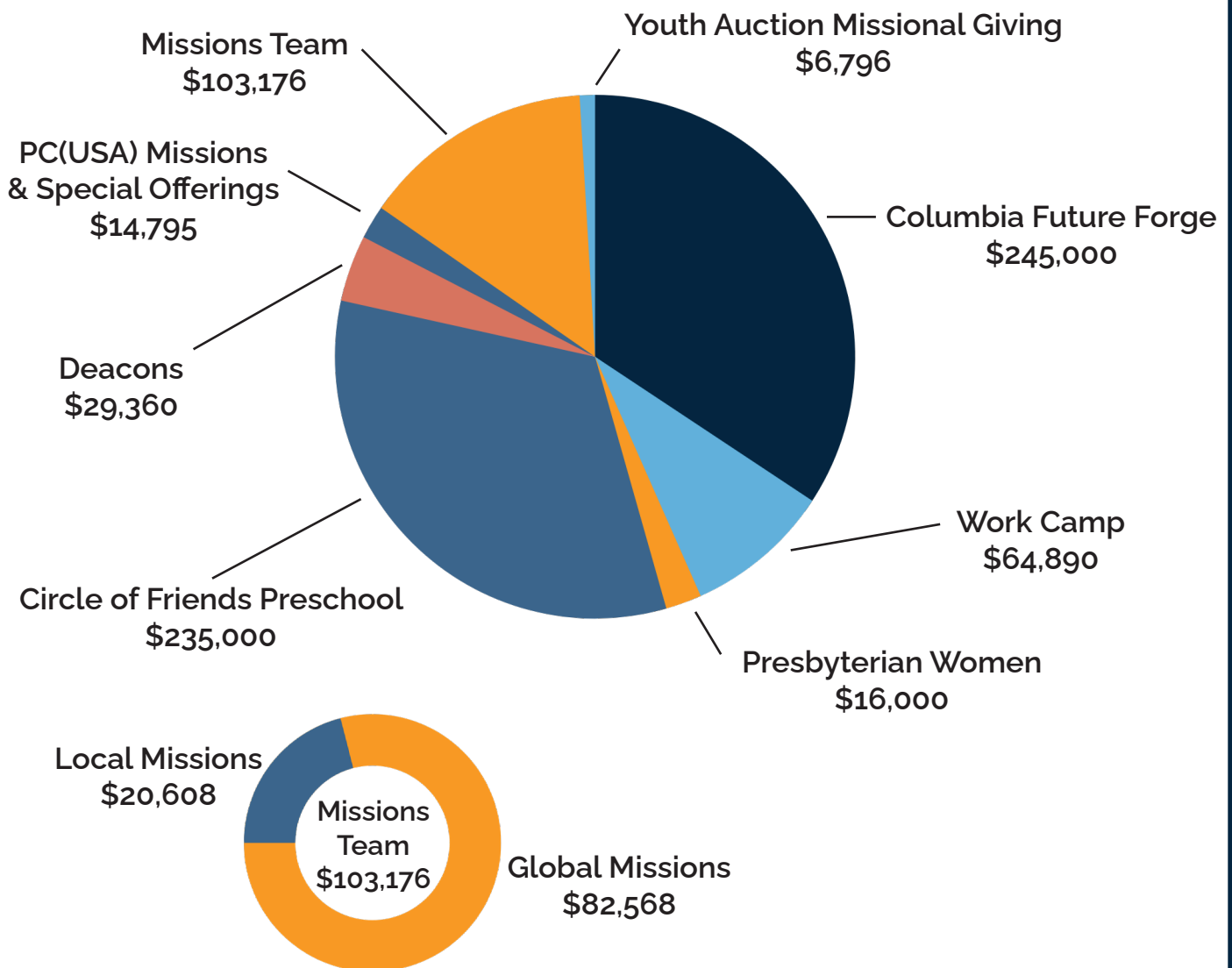
Snapshot: CPC's Human Impact

148	Children receiving education through Circle of Friends Preschool
52	Children being disciplined and cared for through CPC Children's Ministries
50	Middle and High School Youth being disciples through CPC Youth Ministries
80	Young Adults Mentored through the Columbia Future Forge
31	Local and Global Missions Supported Directly and Financially
23	Small Groups and Bible Studies across all age groups
10	Adolescent Parents ministered to through YoungLives

MISSION TEAM

Our team is becoming rejuvenated and refocused- part of my new role is to oversee the Missions Team at CPC. Right now, I am excited because they are working at redefining their role at CPC, and are working very hard to meet with each of our mission partners. They want to make sure that we are supporting the right missions and that each of our mission partners, both locally and globally, feel supported by CPC. We are also excited because we have had several new ministries reach out to CPC who would like us to engage with them. CPC is becoming known for its missional footprint in Clark County! This is exciting. I wonder what we can do to help these ministries flourish?!

Snapshot: CPC's Financial Impact



2023 Expenses Year-to-Date

Ministry Needs We are Pondering

OUR FACILITIES

Simply put, we have to keep the lights on! We love mission and many groups are now using our building to advance the Kingdom. All of that has a cost and our Trustees have come to realize that we are behind on tending to our facility. We have some parking lot issues, lighting issues, security issues, disability issues, etc. Our building is an instrument for mission and community and there are areas of our facilities that need some love.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

It has been a long time since we had a female pastor. Other women have expressed that they would like a dedicated staff member to focus on women's ministry. This could be a pastor or a women's ministry director. We do not yet have the resources to accomplish this.

OLDER ADULTS

We have started to wonder whether we need more capacity in this area than we currently have. Given the age of our church, we might.

YOUTH MINISTRY

I know that it seems we are youth-focused, but the reality is that we are spending about 30% less on youth ministry than we did 5 years ago. This didn't matter until our student numbers started to recover this fall. We need to fund college internships and our Work Camp, which is headed to Mexico next summer. Energy has returned!

HISPANIC LATINO MINISTRY

If you haven't noticed, we have a number of Hispanic Latino families who are a part of our church. We are housing two families in our Beacon House whose children attend our preschool. The preschool has also hired its first bilingual teacher. And, Hispanic Latinos are the fastest growing segment of the American Church. We don't know if we are called to reach into this segment of Clark County, but we have begun to wonder if God is speaking.

I could keep writing about all of this, but I hope this gives you a glimpse that our church, as a place and as a people, matter. I know that you believe **the gospel matters more than ever**. We know that you are charitable in many ways and at many different places. While we know that for many of us, these are not financially easy times, there is good ministry happening at CPC. Please consider whether you are called to focus more of your resources at CPC for 2024.

**Blessings,
Pastor Matt**