



# MISSION IMPACT REPORT 2023





# Dear church family,

Happy New Year! 2023 was a year full of changes for Alpharetta Methodist; we have been challenged, stretched, and faced with many decisions. However, amidst the changes some very important things have stayed the same, and for that I am thankful.

It has been shared that in some ways we are a new church, with a new name, and a new identity. In some ways, we continue to remain the same. We continue to be a church based on The Holy Word of God and a church focused on sharing the love of Jesus with others through our service and generosity.

Our church is full of generous individuals that believe and support the mission and vision of the church as we grow into all that God has called us to be.

Last year's Mission Impact Report challenged you with this: "In 2023, what will missional service look like in your life? Who is your neighbor? How are you to put their needs first before your own? Who are you supposed to support, encourage, love?"

You answered those questions and more by showing with your actions who your neighbor is. In 2023, as a church, we continued to serve others in their time of need by giving our time and resources to provide support after natural disasters through Disaster Response Team. We helped provide housing during times of homelessness and great need through partnerships with Family Promise, The Drake House, and Habitat for Humanity. We helped partner with families to meet their hunger needs through our partnerships with Manning Oaks Elementary School (MOE), Backpacks of Love, and North Fulton Community Charities. Our gifts allowed hungry bellies to be filled and for people to know they are loved, seen, and important. We supported the staff at MOE by providing meals and supplies to help make their year successful. Through Blanket Ministry and Buddy Bags, people were shown that they are loved even when times are tough. We supported our ministry partners in the United Kingdom, Russia, Ecuador, Honduras and Paraguay in their mission to spread the gospel. We did this through financial support, and by sending workers to work hand-in-hand with the families dedicating their lives to the Lord through missions. Our partnerships allow them to see that they are not alone in their mission. There are also countless other ways that our church has stepped up to serve the next generation, our neighbors, and the nations.

None of these projects or gifts would be possible without your service and generosity. Every role is important, from those who cut down trees to those who sew blankets to those who are generous with their finances; you make a difference. Thank you for all you have done to support and love our community, our region, our state, our country, and our world.

I will leave you with the same questions as last year. In 2024, what will missional service look like in your life? Who is your neighbor? How are you to put their needs first before your own? Who are you supposed to support, encourage, love?

We can't wait to see where God takes each of us at Alpharetta Methodist. We are here to love and support you along the way. Thank you for being a part of God's love to our world.

*together in service,*

David Walters, Senior Pastor  
Allison Nye, Director of Discipleship and Connections  
Maggie Brannon, Director of Outreach

Visit [amchurch.com/serve](https://amchurch.com/serve) now  
to learn how you can make a difference today.



*discipleship*

*by the numbers*



**400+**

**Adults in Sunday School**

**300+**

**Adults in Bible Study**

**120**

Average Number of Kids + Students in  
Sunday School

**100+**

Average Number of Kids in Kid's Worship



*we care about community*

**650**  
People at the  
Back Together BBQ

**1,200**  
Average Sunday  
Attendance





# Next Steps



## *Membership*

We welcomed over 115 new adult members.

## *Baptism*

We had 27 individuals get baptized.

## *Discipleship Pathway*

We created and launched four online self-paced courses.



# Beyond Our Walls

Our focus on making disciples and caring for others has continued to grow to include those in our community who are no longer able to be as connected to our church as they would like due to aging, mobility, and transportation limitations. Some practical ways we are ministering to this community include:

**Rides Ministry:** We have 3 drivers who help bring up to 14 church members from Cottonwood Estates Senior Living to our services on Sunday mornings and special events throughout the year.

**Bring The Church:** Our ministers and church members regularly provide opportunities for communion, devotion, and connection to local Senior Communities including Vitality, Village Park, Dogwood Square, and Addington Place.

**Caring Connections:** Volunteers are partnered with individuals who cannot be as involved in church as they want to be. These volunteers call, send cards, pray, visit, and help these individuals remain connected to the church even when they cannot be here in person.



# Prayer And Praise

Our weekly prayer services every Tuesday at noon provide a space to refocus on what is most important: God. These services, led primarily by our clergy, generally follow the ACTS model of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. The leader walks the participants through prayer prompts that fall into each of these categories. Everyone in attendance is invited to pray out loud at the same time if they feel comfortable. Then, space is provided at the end for silence to allow God to speak. One of the most important things we can do is spend regular time in prayer together as a community.

Worship continues to be a focus of Alpharetta Methodist. In 2023, we introduced additional nights of prayer, praise, and healing as we walked through the difficult process of disaffiliation together. 2023 also saw the fantastic-as-always Christmas Concert, 6 Christmas Eve services, and Kids' Choirs along with our regularly scheduled 4 Sunday morning worship services.



# The Next Generation: Club45

THE PURPOSE OF CLUB45: FOR PRETEENS TO EXPERIENCE GOD, INGRAIN HIS TRUTH IN THEIR HEARTS, AND ANCHOR THEIR LIVES IN HIS WORD.

IN 2023, CLUB45 MOVED INTO A NEW ROOM DUE TO THEIR CONTINUED GROWTH.

## God has taught me...

"THAT HE WILL DO ANYTHING FOR THOSE WHO PRAISE HIM, AND EVEN DO ANYTHING FOR THOSE WHO DON'T."  
-FLETCHER, 5TH GRADE

"THAT IF YOU ASK AND PRAY FOR SOMETHING IT WILL HAPPEN."  
-CALEB, 5TH GRADE

"THAT HE IS ALWAYS BY MY SIDE AND TO NEVER GIVE UP."  
-ASHLEY, 5TH GRADE

"A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE AND ITS MEANING"  
-GABE, 5TH GRADE





"I LOVE WATCHING THESE CHILDREN (PRETEENS) BLOSSOM FROM SHY THIRD GRADERS TO QUESTIONING AND INQUISITIVE FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS. SINCE I HAD THE PLEASURE OF TEACHING MOST OF THE CURRENT FIFTH GRADERS SINCE THEY WERE IN THIRD GRADE, I HAVE SEEN THEIR GROWTH FIRSTHAND. I LOVE SEEING HOW GOD HAS WORKED IN THEIR LIVES FROM JUST REALLY EXPLORING THE BIBLE IN THIRD GRADE TO DIGGING DEEPER IN CLUB 45. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WILL DEEPEN AS THEY MOVE INTO YOUTH GROUP NEXT YEAR."

-BETHANY SUMRALL, CLUB45 ADULT LEADER

## *By the Numbers*

**50+ PRETEENS**

**20 ADULT LEADERS**

**30 PAIRS OF  
PRAYER PARTNERS**

**1 NEW CLASSROOM**

"SERVING PRETEENS IN CLUB45 HAS BEEN SUCH A BLESSING FOR OUR FAMILY AS IT SERVES AS A SAFE SPACE FOR OUR KIDS TO NOT ONLY DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS, PRAISES, AND CHALLENGES THEY FACE ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS, BUT ALSO TO HAVE THE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS INVOLVED IN THESE EXPERIENCES AND EVEN HAVE US AS PARENTS SHARE OUR OWN. IT'S A WONDERFUL WAY TO GROW TOGETHER IN FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP THROUGH OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY."

-MEGAN WHITTINGTON, CLUB45 ADULT LEADER

**Mission: Bringing men closer to Jesus Christ through loving experiences that transform lives.**

The AMen (Alpharetta Men's Ministry) was blessed in 2023 with new members, new programs, and greater focus on mission and service.

With the Holy Spirit's help, 2024 will see continued growth in missions and service, focusing on the individual and family.

*men's ministry*

**250**

attendees at the Chili Cook-off

**33**

attendees at the leadership meeting

**25**

monthly breakfast attendance

**4**

service projects

**2**

new events

**45**

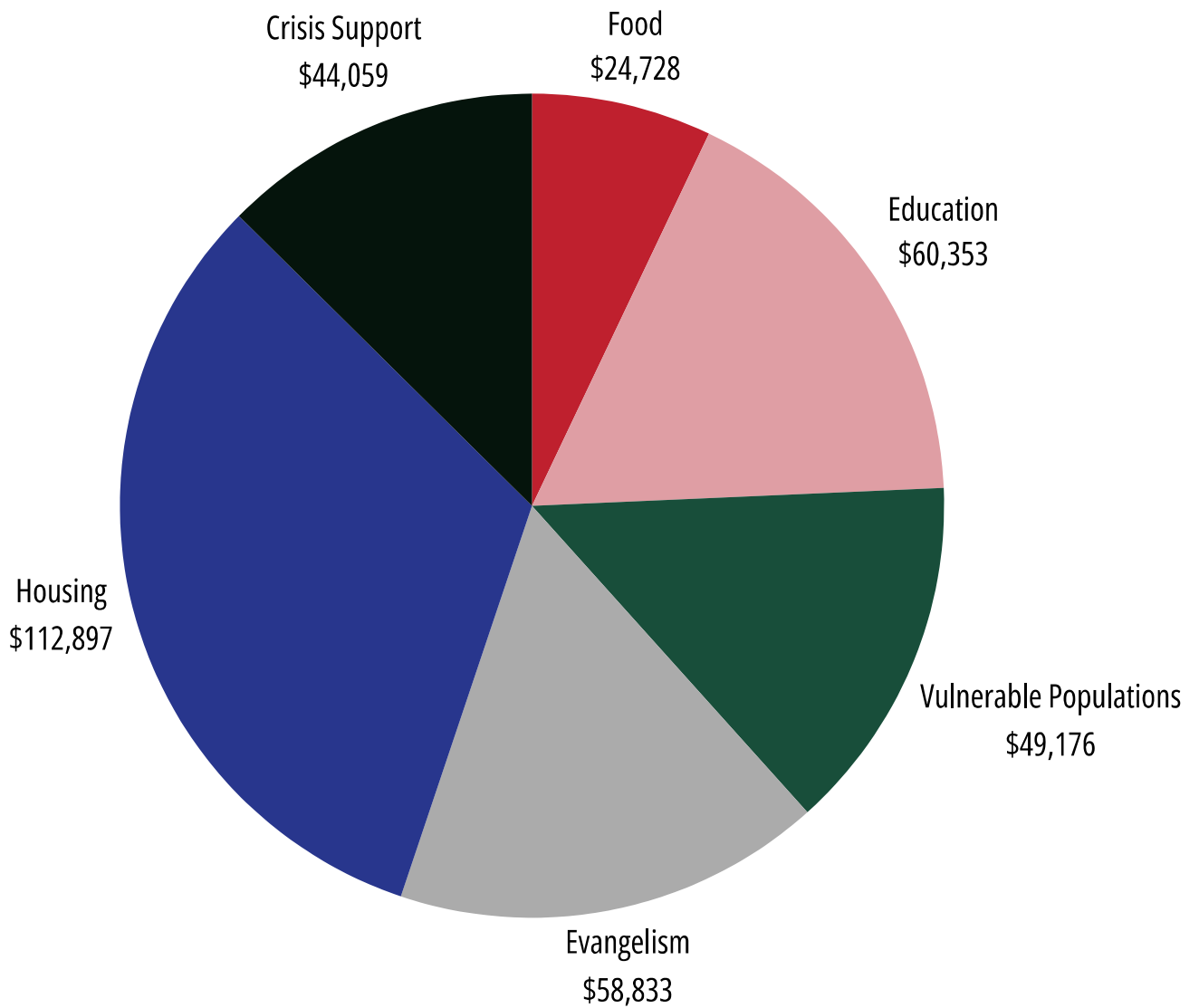
attendees at Fall Kick-off



*fraternity.*  
*service.*  
*accountability.*







# *missional giving*

In 2023, we distributed over \$350,000 to our partner organizations and individuals in our community who needed extra financial support.

## Family Promise

Family Promise supports local homeless families by providing rotational short-term shelter for them. This is more than a place to stay, it's a place to rest, feel supported, seen, and loved. We had the privilege of hosting 5 weeks of shelter serving 7 different families, 8 adults and 17 kids. Each week requires at least 55 volunteers, and our church met this need for each of our hosting weeks in 2023.



## Disaster Response Team

During 2023, the Alpharetta Disaster Response Team deployed 13 times and logged 3,337 service hours impacting many lives.

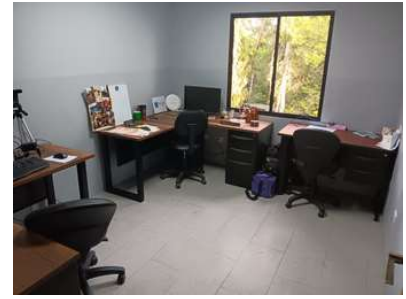


## Manning Oaks Elementary

As a church, we collected thousands of school supplies and set up a "free school store" at the open house for MOE. Families were allowed to shop for their school supply list free of charge. Families left with huge smiles on their faces and felt loved and important. It was so fun when asked, "How much do these items cost?" to be able to say, "Everything is free! We are here because we love you and your child." Through the last year, we have been blessed to build a stronger connection with the families and staff at MOE through paying off the lunchroom debt to protect and love on families with food vulnerability and providing meals and treats for the staff as support the students so well.

## Blanket Ministry

During 2023, the Blanket Ministry worked hard each week to provide warm blankets to our community. These blankets remind people that God's love is always here to wrap us up and we are never alone even in our darkest days. The Blanket Ministry distributed almost 4,000 blankets this year.



## *Jungle Kids for Christ*

Jungle Kids for Christ (JJC) empowers children of the jungle so that they can break the cycle of poverty and abuse and share that message of transformation with their family, community, country and world.

Their mission is to provide an opportunity for these children to choose to be in right relationship with God, through providing education and thus breaking the stronghold of poverty for all future generations.

In 2022, we provided a large financial gift to help JJC construct much needed new classrooms. In early 2023, JJC approached us with an opportunity to help them finish the second floor of these new classrooms in order to provide office space for workers. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide \$25,000 to help them towards this goal. This gift was in addition to our monthly support, the 45+ students that are sponsored by church members, and the yearly mission trip to JJC by our Student Ministry.

Construction finished in November, and the spaces are currently in use (see pictures above)!

The offices serve 8 people spanning four different departments within ministry (school, basketball, short-term teams, and community development). One office is being used as a library now, too. The open lobby area is home to 4 other people (3 missionaries in various roles and the property manager who is Ecuadorean). Plus, this area has a large conference like table to serve as a "catch all" for extra people or visitors who need a space to do some work. In total, 13 people are working out of these offices full-time.

**4 OFFICES**

**1 LOBBY**

**2 CONFERENCE  
ROOMS**

**13 FULL-TIME  
WORKERS**





## Drake House

The Drake House is a nonprofit organization that works to respond to the growing number of single mothers and their children who are experiencing homelessness in North Fulton. They involve members of the community in the effort to keep families united under one roof as they work toward self-sufficiency.

In 2023, Drake House was given the opportunity to purchase the piece of property directly in between their administrative buildings and apartments. This old day care facility was in need of love and repairs. Because of your generosity, our church was able to provide \$50,000 which allowed for the complete renovation of this building, providing space for laundry, supply storage, and offices. Our Men's Ministry was able to provide hands-on support by volunteering to paint parts of the interior as well as help with the exterior landscaping. This building will be a blessing for many years to come.

In addition to this one-time gift, we also sponsor an apartment and provide support to this family through a role called the Family Advocate.

"I have recently been involved with The Drake House by helping to make welcome baskets for the new families that are moving into the apartment sponsored by the church. Once the family demographic is known, I use that info to fill the basket with items that the families might need and enjoy. I also worked as an advocate with one family to support their transition to a new and independent home, which is the goal of the program. The support given to The Drake House by Alpharetta Methodist is a wonderful way to help single moms get back on their feet."

-Kathy Gould, Church Member and Drake House Volunteer



## Buddy Bags

The Buddy Bag Ministry celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2023 with a move from an on-campus trailer to the historic home on our campus, The Bagley House.

Coincidentally, the Bagley House also celebrated its 100th birthday with this well-deserved update.

The Buddy Bag Ministry's mission is to share Christ's love with children in crisis by providing them with comforting Buddy Bags. A Buddy Bag consists of a canvas bag containing the following: a teddy bear, a Blanket Ministry blanket, a coloring book and crayons, a reading book and a pocket folder filled with paper.

**857 BAGS DISTRIBUTED    17+ ORGANIZATIONS SERVED    28 REGULAR VOLUNTEERS**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the perfect handmade gift bags, blankets, and Teddy bears you sent us for our children. The smiles they brought and the love they stood for were beyond words! My own two grandchildren were amongst the devastated families that lost just about everything. They sleep with their bears every night and wrap up in the throw to watch TV. Nettie, the 7-year-old, said one morning, "Look, Nana, I'm wrapped in love." All I could respond with was, "Yes! You are!"

-Kathy, Sunday School Teacher  
Denham Springs, LA

In the past ten years 8,033 children have received Buddy Bags!

Buddy Bags' distribution area is geographically unlimited. Deliveries are made wherever there is a need. Some of our distribution partners are:

Fire/Police/Sheriff's Departments, Salvation Army, Department of Family and Children's Services, My Sister's Place, Rainbow Children's Home, Northside Forsyth Emergency Department, Storm Victims, Coroner's Office, Hope Center, Jesse's House, and Family Promise.

Twenty-eight women volunteers meet every Tuesday morning to cut out bears, sew bears, stuff bears, organize books, shop, order online, put bags together, tie tags on bags, load cars and make deliveries. There are many tasks and Buddy Bags invites new volunteers to come and be a part of the Buddy Bag Ministry.

Buddy Bags also provides service opportunities for students and has partnered with our church's Club45 Ministry and Student Ministry and Manning Oaks Elementary's Girl's Leadership Group.

# England

In addition to the support we provided our partners in England during the trip, we also support them financially on a monthly basis. We have also supported their van build project which included the purchase and refurbishing of a cargo van. This van allows them to have conversations about Jesus in a comfortable and safe location. Additionally, they have team meetings in the van and use it during camping outreach events.

For Christmas, we provided an additional financial Christmas gift to all of our mission partners. Our partners in England were able to use these funds to purchase new laptops which are essential to their ministry.

In September 2023, we were blessed to send our first volunteer team to work alongside our mission partners in the UK. They are working to meet people where they are, to step in and help welcome refugees and asylum seekers as they are trying to acclimate to their new home and culture. Our team joined them by doing prayer walks asking God to break down barriers to His Gospel and to soften hearts. We also had the opportunity to volunteer at the local English language school which allows individuals to learn English in a non-threatening, nonjudgemental environment. The English conversation groups allow for real conversation to happen and the love of Jesus to be shared in a tangible way. The most important thing we were able to do was to encourage and show our support to the missionaries serving full time in this capacity and to allow them to see that we are there for them on this journey. We are excited to see how this partnership will continue to grow stronger.  
-Maggie Brannon, Director of Outreach and Trip Participant





# Dunamis

Dunamis is a non-profit organization in Quito, Ecuador serving underaged girls who have been rescued from sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and violence. They aim to teach them life skills while providing a Christ-centered environment focused on restoration to enable them to reintegrate into the world as healthy young women.

Their vision is to be a model in Ecuador first, and then Latin America, in providing a safe place for girls who have survived sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and violence, and be a tool for transformation in their lives through Jesus Christ.

## Trip Snapshot

5

Trip Participants

1

Playground Built

"I have watched my now college-aged daughter go on the mission trip to Ecuador for many years with the youth. When Alpharetta Methodist announced a first-time adult mission trip to Dunamis, I felt God nudging me to do something that was out of my comfort zone. The week was filled with time with the girls, building a playset, having nightly worship, and teaching American football to kids in the community. God is in this place as those girls come from such darkness and to Dunamis to experience more beauty, love and peace than I have ever witnessed."

-Pam Grigorian, Trip Participant





# Christmas Giving

**50 Stockings for the Drake House**

**9 Foster Children Sponsored Through Dream Weavers**

**740 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes**

**500 Toys Donated to NFCC Toyland**

**25 Grocery Gift Cards for Manning Oak Elementary School**















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