ASCENT CHURCH
**VIRGINIA BEACH, VA**

# 2026 ANNUAL REPORT




NOV. 2025 – OCT. 2026

SEEK OUT THE LOST

SEND OUT THE FOUND

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01

# PSALM 134

## A SONG OF ASCENTS.

1 Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord who minister by night in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord.

3 May the Lord bless you from Zion, he who is the Maker of heaven and earth.



“Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: ‘I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.’” Exodus 15:1-2

God did so much this year and there is so much to return thanks for.
I pray that you take a moment to reflect on who He is and what He has done this year.

He is the God who remembers. He has heard our prayers.
He is the God who delivers. He has come to our rescue.
He is the God who makes a way. He will lead us home.

I pray we never forget this as we reflect on 2026 and move forward. God has done so much this year and our team is eager to both share and celebrate with you. We hope you enjoy viewing our Annual Report, seeing just a portion of what God has done. We are thankful that God continues to move in the life of our church. Thank you for your sacrificial and consistent generosity and know that God works through your generosity to change lives.

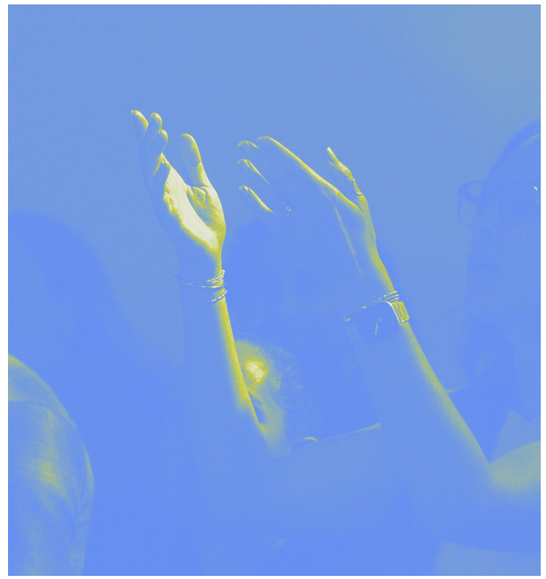
God put us here for a reason. I believe we are still just getting started.
Our best days are still before us.

In Him,

T Lane

02

# IMPACT



## SALVATIONS

**171**

2,140 salvations since launch

## BAPTISMS

**88**

641 baptisms since launch

# STORIES



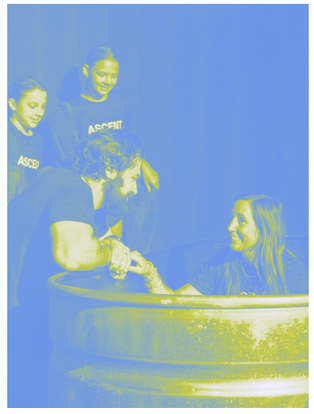
## RIDGE SMITH

I started attending Ascent regularly back in February of this year, after coming from a larger church. What's interesting is that my journey to Ascent actually started with a small interaction with Pastor T back in 2023 when I was visiting different churches. I ran into him again at American Brew sometime in 2025, and he simply asked me, "How have you been?" It may seem like a small thing, but knowing that a pastor who shepherds hundreds of people remembered me and took the time to acknowledge me really meant a lot. It made me feel seen, and that interaction played a big part in my decision to start attending Ascent. When I first came, my intention was simply to grow in discipleship and find community. I wasn't expecting much beyond that, but God had other plans.

About eight years ago, I started teaching myself guitar, and for roughly six of those years, I was just a bedroom guitarist. I remember being in college in Boston and praying to God for an opportunity to play in a band. Little did I know that God would eventually bring me into His house in 2023 to use that same gift to worship and serve Him. Fast forward to this year, I auditioned for Ascent's Worship Team and was given the opportunity to play lead guitar for Easter service. I was genuinely shocked, but more than anything, I felt grateful. Looking back at where I started, I never would've imagined that the guitar I spent years learning alone in my bedroom would become something I could use to glorify God.

Through this journey, God has been teaching me a lot about trust and humility. I'm learning to trust His plans even when they look different from what I originally envisioned, and to remain humble knowing that the gifts and opportunities I've been given are ultimately from Him. I'm grateful for how God has already been working in my life through this church, the people I've met, and the opportunity to serve. What started as a desire to find community and grow in my faith has become another reminder that God's plans are often greater than what we imagine for ourselves.

# "GOD HAD SOMETHING SO MUCH BIGGER PLANNED THAN I COULD HAVE IMAGINED.



## SHANNON GOWER

A friend kept inviting me to join her Moms Group at church. And, of course, I thought to myself, "Do I really need one more thing on my plate?" But the answer was yes. A thousand times, yes! Little did I know that one small yes would change the direction of my life and my family's life. As a wayward daughter who had only recently found her way back to the Lord, I realized these were the women I had been missing my entire life. I felt a sense of peace and belonging that I didn't even know I had been longing for. God knew exactly what I needed, exactly when I needed it.

The ripple effect of that one invitation continues to reach further than I could have ever imagined. Perhaps one of the greatest gifts has been the friendships. There is something so special about having women in your life who pray over you, pray with you, encourage you, and walk alongside you through whatever season you're in. And now, I get to be that kind of friend for someone else. I don't think I fully understood how much I needed Christian community until I experienced it for myself.

And as if all those blessings weren't enough, being part of this community group led me and both of my girls to baptism! We had all been baptized as babies, but I came to understand the beauty of making that decision for myself. To publicly declare my faith in Jesus as an adult, and to watch my daughters make that same decision, was truly life-changing. It's something I will treasure forever.

When I look back, I am overwhelmed by how God used one simple invitation to change the trajectory of our family. What started as just another thing on my calendar became something I didn't even realize my heart had been searching for. I am forever grateful that God had something so much bigger planned than I could have imagined.

03

# AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

GROWTH

**1.83%**

**1,313**
October 2025

**1,337**
October 2026



# NEXT GEN

## A-KIDS

FIRST-TIME KIDS

460



## STUDENTS

FIRST-TIME STUDENTS

89

**68 SUMMER CAMP ATTENDEES**

# A-TEAM + GROUPS

795
## SERVANT LEADERS

A-TEAMS

13



490
## PEOPLE IN GROUPS

TOTAL GROUPS

51

# ONLINE

## YOUTUBE

VIEWS

**66,191**

274,299 views since launch

## PODCAST

PODCAST DOWNLOADS*

**19,911**

176,942 downloads since launch

* WITH LISTENERS ACROSS 164 COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES

# SERMON SERIES



# NEXT STEPS

Next Steps is a two week interactive session that invites people to hear our vision, establish their purpose, get equipped with resources, and empower others through serving. Our main purpose for Next Steps is to connect people to the life of Ascent Church and come alongside them as they take their next step in faith.



**234**

PEOPLE WHO MADE ASCENT CHURCH THEIR CHURCH

04

# LOCAL OUTREACH

## 4
## LOCAL PARTNERS

We Are ECHO
Union Mission
Manna Ministry
AIDNOW
Crisis Pregnancy Center

# SEND WEEK

For the first time ever, our church stepped into Send Week—one mission, one city. Our goal: 1,000 hours of service.

Throughout the week, our people showed up: cleaning parks, sharing gratitude to first responders, supporting local schools, giving blood, landscaping the home of an injured military service member, making blankets for children in local hospitals, and even transforming our A-Kids hallway—creating a space where the next generation can experience the love of Jesus.

**1,253**

HOURS SERVED

## PARTNERS

Red Cross
AIDNOW
Samaritan House
Manna Ministry
Foodbank
Shelton Park Elementary
Holland Elementary
Plaza Middle
Linkhorn Elementary
Crisis Pregnancy Center
Norfolk Christian School
PiN Ministry










# GLOBAL OUTREACH

## 6
## GLOBAL PARTNERS

World Vision
Water for Good
Global Christian Relief
Nourish International
Evangelical Free Church of America
Cru

# COUNSELING

## 569
## FREE COUNSELING HOURS PROVIDED

(APPROXIMATE)



05

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL BUDGET

**$1,792,039.56**

CURRENT HOLDINGS

**$2,676,389.67**

DEBT OWED

**$0.00**

# OPERATIONAL BUDGET

CHURCH LEADERSHIP + DEVELOPMENT **11.82%**

PREACHING + SERVICE PROGRAMMING **16.37%**

FACILITIES + I.T. **15.94%**

NEXT GEN **10.23%**

ADMINISTRATION **10.95%**

OUTREACH, GROUPS, + COUNSELING **18.78%**

COMMUNICATIONS + CONNECTION **15.91%**

06

# ASSOCIATION OF RELATED CHURCHES

We are a cooperative of independent churches from different denominations, networks, and backgrounds who strategically resource church planters and pastors to help them reach people with the message of Jesus. We do this by providing relationships, resources, and opportunities to leaders of new and existing churches so that they can thrive.



“In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed.
In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.” Exodus 15:13

As we look back, let us never forget we have been redeemed.
As we reflect, may we never forget the gospel: that He has rescued us by his unfailing love.
May we press forward, knowing His strength will guide us.

I invite you to be a part of what God is doing here at Ascent Church. If you don’t already, I invite you to call Ascent Church your church and your home. I invite you to join us in our mission to seek out the lost and send out the found. I invite you to pray for the future of this city. I invite you to fight for the next generation. I invite you to honor God by investing financially here. If led, you can support this ministry by going to ascentchurch.net and schedule monthly giving online to prepare the way for God to move in this city.

We believe we are now better positioned than ever to make an increasing impact for the gospel. Thank you for every prayer, every invite to a friend, every small group meeting, and every interaction on social media. Thank you for every financial investment you have given to make this move of the gospel a reality. God is working through you. We truly believe our best days are ahead and cannot wait to see what He has in store for us in 2027.

In Him,

T Lane

If you have any questions, please email
**info@ascentchurch.net**