



The Heights Church

20
23

Annual Report





*I give thanks to my God for every
remembrance of you, always praying
with joy for all of you in my every prayer,
because of your partnership in the gospel
from the first day until now.*

Philippians 1:3-5



Heights Church Family,

One of the core practices of the people of God is stopping to look back to name, remember and celebrate the faithfulness of God. Each year we produce this report in order to help us do just that together: name, remember and celebrate.

As I reflect on 2023, it's hard to put into words what a phenomenal year of growth and favor it has been for us as the Body of Christ. Right before our eyes, Jesus is delivering on his promise to build his church and we want to stop to take time to reflect and celebrate His work through our hands.

2023 was "The Year of Authentic Community." We spent a full year looking at what it looked like to build a haven of relational beauty in the church that would shine the light of Christ to the world. On January 8, 2023, I preached a sermon out of Acts 2 on the three foundations of the New Testament Church: Truth, Power and Discipleship. By God's grace we have seen each of these foundations laid over the past year.

We spent the majority of our year centering ourselves around the truth of God's word in the book of 1 Corinthians. We covered some of the most controversial topics of our time and allowed God's voice, through his Word, to be the clarifying center of everything we do. I am proud of us for the way we stand on Truth.

But, truth alone doesn't work. We also need the power of the Spirit of God. We need the same wind and fire to fall on us as they did on the church in Acts 2. As I reflect on 2023 I am encouraged that it seems the Spirit is doing a fresh work in many of you. The fruit of the Spirit is abundant and the gifts of the Spirit have been unleashed in new ways. I am proud of us for the way we are "walking in the Spirit."

And where Spirit and Truth come together, discipleship to Jesus happens. And this is what I am most thankful for. As you will see, we baptized more people this past year than we ever have in our church's short history. The lost are being found through the Alpha course. The found are being discipled in the many new environments we have launched over the past year (institute, Bible studies, community groups). Works of mercy and justice are being multiplied through Lovewell Colfax. I am proud of how we take discipleship to Jesus seriously.

As a pastor, I could not be more thankful to be a part of what God is doing among us. I am thankful for you and your sacrifice, generosity, and passion for the gospel. It is a gift to be one of your pastors.

Corbin Hobbs
Lead Pastor

2023 at a glance

{ FEBRUARY }

We celebrated 6 years of meeting together as The Heights Church.



{ MARCH }

We launched a second service to create more space for new people to follow Jesus together.



{ APRIL }

Our gathering had the highest attendance to date with 700 people worshipping Jesus!





{ JUNE }

Lovewell Colfax launched to build relationships with our unhoused neighbors and give everyone in Denver access to a restored life!



{ SEPTEMBER }

Celebrated 9 baptisms on our Fall Kickoff Sunday and launched men's and women's discipleship spaces as well as The Heights Institute.



{ OCTOBER }

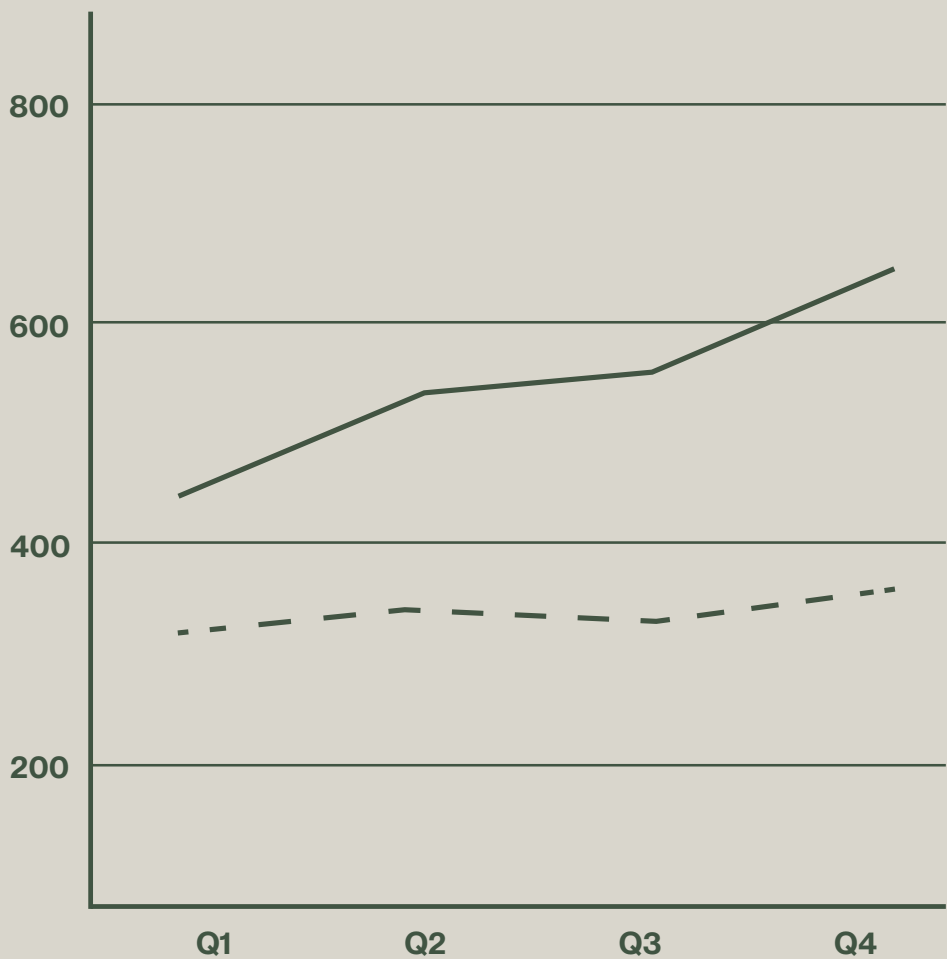
We hosted our first ever Candypalooza for The Heights Kids. Volunteers and kids alike dressed up and had a blast!



{ DECEMBER }

Celebrated Advent while hosting 724 people in average attendance for the month.

Assimilation & Attendance



— 2023

- - - 2022

	2022	2023
Q1	295	412
Q2	320	514
Q3	314	536
Q4	340	635

From the very beginning of The Heights we have wanted to be a place that creates space for people to experience the personal renewal that comes through discipleship to Jesus. Throughout our brief history we have constantly had to make what felt like risky sacrifices to create more space for more people to belong to our community. In March of 2023, we multiplied to two services to create space for more people to experience the personal renewal that comes through discipleship to Jesus. Since then, we have seen both deep and wide growth as God reminds us that He is building His church.



**531 first
time guests**

Connect Cards Filled Out



**432 Connect
Class attendees**



**75 % of CC attendees
meaningfully connected**

Quinn's Story

I was lost. When I looked at our world I could see only the possibility of more hatred, war, poverty, sickness and unhappiness. As for myself; the hedonistic pleasures of life along with the desires for wealth, power and recognition were not enough to keep me moving forward. My life was marked by sin which caused me great shame. This dark outlook brought me depression and crushed my spirit.

Jesus found me and renewed my passion for life. In Him I saw a greater power I could rely upon and a model for what a truly meaningful life could be built around. No longer did I have to bear the burdens of this world alone. One day last December I walked by the Heights and decided to come to the service on Sunday where I was warmly welcomed. I enjoyed a service unlike any I had attended before and have been coming ever since. The weekly sermons and guidance I received from the staff and community were pivotal for me on my journey back to faith.

I now wake up every morning and strive to be more like Jesus as he helps me grow in the fruit of the Holy Spirit. My selfish desires are being replaced with the desire to love God and others. Now everyday I'm overwhelmed by the joy in my heart. God has blessed me with incredible new friends and a supportive church in the loneliest time of my life. He has given me strength and discipline to be a better man. I now look to Jesus to relieve me of my sins and replace the shame in my heart with love. And even though I know there will be hard times ahead; I now have an ultimate hope for the future - to be with God and enjoy him forever.







Natalia's Story

I was not raised in the Church. I was raised in a home with parents who didn't want to impose any belief structures on me, so I could explore and make decisions for myself. This left me curious and seeking, but I found myself seeking in the wrong places. I wound up deep in "New Age" spirituality, and it became a very dark place. This spirituality was oriented around psychic work, and I had opened myself up to so much I didn't comprehend. I began to experience intense spiritual warfare. I deeply isolated myself and alienated people dear to my heart. My participation in this community almost ruined my life.

But two very important people didn't give up on me. One is my boyfriend, who patiently held on while I drifted off. The other person who didn't give up on me is Jesus himself. What I have come to know on this journey is that God, that Jesus, didn't give up on me. He loves me, he loves us, so much.

Rebuilding after I got home was a slow process. I attended the Heights off and on, but a year after my return to Colorado, I was struggling. I was listening to a sermon on the miracles of the New Testament Church, and had just finished hearing about God showing himself through wind and fire at Pentecost. I started praying to God, tears streaming down my face, when the back door blew open. I said, "Ok, God. I surrender. Show me your plan." I read C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity* and listened to every single Heights sermon on Spotify in about a month. This summer I went to Alpha and was able to ask more questions and share my current understanding with other participants and our amazing facilitators. During the week where we discussed the Holy Spirit, I let someone pray for me for the first time and felt so much emotion come over me. I wasn't ready to say it out loud then, but I knew I would be up here before the year was over.

Now, I am a part of the Women's Bible study, diving into the word of God in community for the first time. I still have questions and curiosities, but I know that Jesus found me, that he died in my place, and that he was raised from the dead so I could be forgiven, and as I sit here in a horse trough in front of you all, I do so with deep gratitude and awe for who Jesus is, and how he saved me.





Alessandra's Story

I was lost – I was in an abusive relationship, I felt trapped, and I was depressed. I was unhappy with who I was and the course that my life was taking. During the lowest point in my relationship, I felt called into a deeper relationship with God. I felt curious but confused and even scared.

One day, my uncle, who is Christian and knew what I was going through, gave me a call. He said “if you want your life to change, hand it over to God.” In that moment, I knew I had to go all in. I started reading the Bible every day and learning about what it meant to have a relationship with God. I recently read the Gospels and began to truly understand who Jesus was and his mission on this Earth. Jesus came so that we could live in freedom and that we could experience an abundant life with him forever. Since I made the decision to seek God’s word daily, I have gone through an extreme makeover of my mind and heart.

One night when I went to bed and the anxiety was so overwhelming that the tears would not stop falling, I did the only thing that brought me comfort. I prayed with all my faith: “Jesus, if you are willing, please take this away.” And just like that, my thoughts and feelings were still. I felt at ease and I knew Jesus was with me.

God has provided for me every day since I made the decision to follow Him. I was able to leave that abusive relationship, move to a different state, and get a new job.



Discipleship Spaces

At The Heights, we're not interested in being converts, but rather we believe that Jesus calls us to be deep disciples. A disciple of Jesus is someone who has been saved by Jesus and now orients all of life around him and his kingdom.

This year, we took a big step in creating new spaces for discipleship to happen here at The Heights. We launched 4 new discipleship spaces: Women's Bible Study, Men's Bible Study, The Heights Institute, and Alpha. Each of these spaces supplemented the discipleship happening in community groups around the city by providing dedicated environments to grow deeper.

Not only was this a year of significant WIDE growth (attendance, membership, baptisms), but it was also a landmark year for DEEP growth with the launch of these new spaces.



18

New Community Groups Launched

From Jan. 2023 to Jan. 2024



Alpha

This past year we launched Alpha in a brand new space! Alpha is a space for agnostics, atheists, and skeptics to explore faith. God was gracious to us by giving us a free place to meet over at Bruz on Fax. The new location has created an environment that feels more welcoming to skeptics and we have seen Alpha grow with over 35 attendees this year.

Men's Bible Study

In 2023 we hosted 4 Men's breakfasts to lead up to the launch of our brand new Men's Bible study. We saw over 90 men sign up to participate in the Bible study as a result of these breakfasts.



Women's Bible Study

In 2023 we launched a women's Bible study with two different meeting times. We now have over 100 Women enrolled in these Bible studies.

Heights Institute

In September we launched The Heights Institute -- an intensive, 24 week course that walks through Christian theology and the Christian story. Twenty students began the Institute and will finish up this spring. A new class will begin in the fall with applications opening soon.



The Heights Kids

2023 was a landmark year of God's faithfulness to our Heights Kids ministry. We began the year in January averaging 42 kids each Sunday, and in December averaged 92 kids throughout the month!

We also hosted so many fun celebrations during the year! We hosted friends at a trampoline park party in February, celebrated Easter with an egg hunt at Crestmoor Park, partied at Kids Camp in June, wore costumes to church and played games at Candypalooza, packed bags for unhoused friends at our Christmas Lovewell bag packing, and celebrated Christmas with over 40 kids at our Elementary Christmas Party.

42

*Average Kids
Attendance in*
January 2023

92

*Average Kids
Attendance in*
December 2023



April | Easter Party



June | Kids Camp



October | Candypalooza



December | Elementary Christmas Party

Lovewell

*Launching a permanent mercy
and justice initiative in our city.*

In 2023, we launched Lovewell as our primary strategy to love our unhoused neighbors right here on Colfax by giving them access to a restored life. Over the past year we have been building relationships with these neighbors every week through our outreach teams by providing food, clothing, resources, and friendship.

2k 101 3.9k

Care Bags Distributed

Trained Volunteers

Meals Distributed



"The first day of Lovewell for me I tried to think of every excuse to say that I 'couldn't go.' Thankfully the Holy Spirit swayed my heart towards going. I showed up nervous and unsure. Ever since that first day of walking on the Corona to Broadway route I knew my heart was stirred to a new passion I did not expect to have. I drive the whole strip of Colfax everyday going to work and then going home so I definitely took notice of similar faces and when Lovewell was presented there was a hidden interest stirring in me. God has radically shifted my heart since doing Lovewell. I have walked with a broken heart for many people and what life has brought them but I also have been filled with a hope I can't say I had felt before. A hope in the eternal restoration of God's children. I would say that heart shift has changed me the most. The humanity in this world has been made more clear to me and in seeing that I have made more friends on Colfax and gained a deeper understanding of Jesus' love for his children."

Holly Bauchert, Lovewell volunteer

Church Planting

We take the great commission seriously. We believe that one of the best ways to fulfill Jesus' command to us to take the Gospel across the street and around the world is through the planting of healthy local churches. These are the churches and missionaries that we are able to write a check to every month to see the Gospel go forth in these communities.



Lollett Family
Reality Miami
Miami, FL



Torrado Family
Iglesia Gracia Redentora
Vega Baja, PR



West Family
Redeemer Queens Park
London, UK

ng & Missions



PT + Rachel Tidwell
South Asia



The Park Family
*Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia*



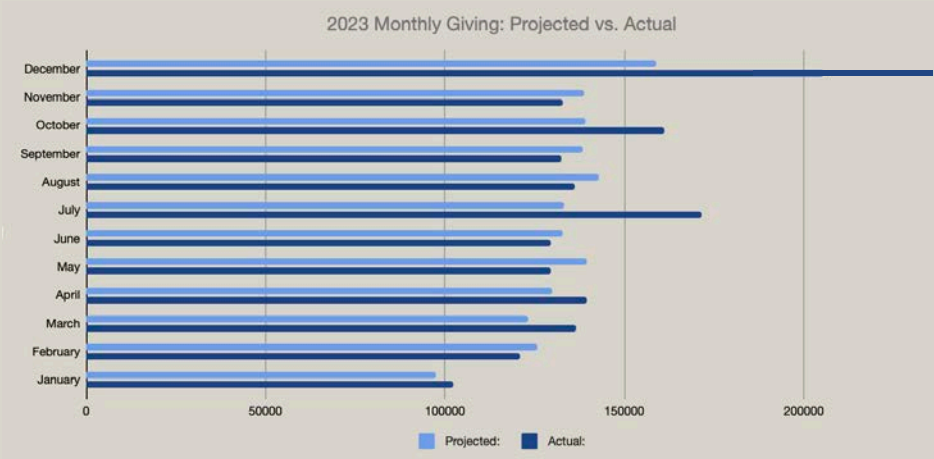
Wariuhu Family
*Mercy Nairobi
Nairobi, Kenya*



Josiah + Rachel Rothlisberger
South Asia

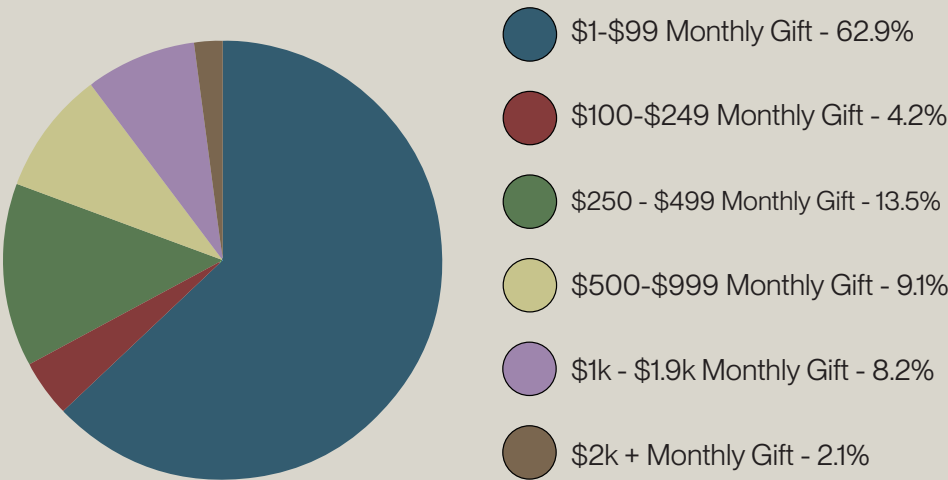
Giving & Budget

2023 Giving: Projected vs. Actual



**See chart on opposite page for details*

Monthly Average Giving in 2023



2023 Giving: Projected vs. Actual

Month:	Projected:	Actual:
January	\$97,600	\$102,201
February	\$125,920	\$120,879
March	\$123,200	\$136,364
April	\$129,760	\$139,371
May	\$139,360	\$129,521
June	\$132,640	\$129,358
July	\$133,120	\$171,552
August	\$143,040	\$136,146
September	\$138,400	\$132,305
October	\$139,200	\$161,051
November	\$138,880	\$132,754
December	\$159,040	\$1,705,291
Lovewell Christmas Offering		\$193,939
Total Revenue:	\$1,600,160	\$3,390,732

Giving & Budget

(continued)

2024 Budget

Missions & Ministry	608,000
Operations & Facility	417,000
Personnel	1,037,000
Operating Budget Total	2,062,000
Cash Reserves	138,000
Total	2,200,000

Proposed Growth

Growth through increased attendance

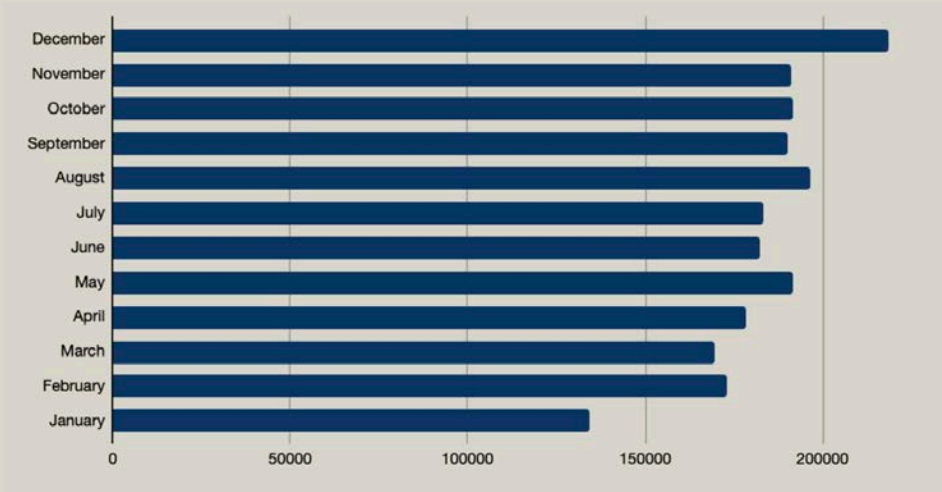
Growth through increased avg attendance	Monthly Impact	Annual Impact
<u>+ 200 adults</u>	\$ 41,400	\$ 496,800
<u>+ 400 adults</u>	\$ 82,800	\$ 993,600
<u>+ 600 adults</u>	\$ 124,200	\$1,490,400

Growth through increased generosity

Growth through increased generosity	Monthly Impact	Annual Impact
<u>+ \$100 per month</u>	\$ 20,700	\$ 248,400
<u>+ \$200 per month</u>	\$ 41,400	\$ 496,800
<u>+ \$300 per month</u>	\$ 62,100	\$ 745,200

2024 Expected Monthly Giving

Month:	Amount:
January	\$134,200
February	\$173,140
March	\$169,400
April	\$178,420
May	\$191,620
June	\$182,380
July	\$183,040
August	\$196,680
September	\$190,300
October	\$191,400
November	\$190,960
December	\$218,680
Total Revenue:	\$2,200,220



Leadership Development

We are convinced that leadership development is essential to seeing the mission of Jesus go forward. In 2022 we launched our Internship and Apprenticeship programs in order to train up future leaders for the church. We are so excited to have four people currently in our leadership development pipeline, as well as one ministry apprentice who recently joined our staff full time!

DENNIS FLOWERS

Completed ministry apprenticeship in December 2023; joined Heights staff as Groups Coordinator January 2024. Seminary degree received December 2022.



JACK LOPEZ

Ministry Apprentice - Care, seminary degree in progress



AVERY RIKARD

Ministry Apprentice - Justice & Mercy and Missions, seminary degree in progress

WILL READ

Ministry Apprentice - Discipleship and Prayer, seminary degree in progress



HALEY MEARNS

Heights Kids Coordinator, seminary degree in progress

5 Prayers for 2024

1. Salvation of the Lost

Luke 15 “more joy in heaven” | *100 baptisms*

2. Hunger for deep discipleship

Matthew 28 “teaching them to observe” | *Double discipleship space participation*

3. Growth in mercy and justice

Isaiah 58 “this is the fast I choose” | *Lovewell with location by EOY*

4. Provision of new leaders to lead and serve

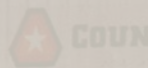
Luke 10:2 “pray to the lord of the harvest” | *Elders, deacons, staff, apprentices, serve team leads, community group leaders*

5. Healing from anxiety and depression

Healing and Philippians 4 | *A fresh sense of healing and relief from anxiety and depression*



The Heights Church.



**The
Heights
Church.**