



**EXODUS**  
**CHURCH**  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
**2021**



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**EXODUS CHURCH  
SEEKS TO BE A  
REDEEMED PEOPLE  
WHO WORSHIP  
AND SERVE GOD  
IN THE WORLD**

Exodus,

As we take a look back on 2021, we want to celebrate God's grace to us. He has been so kind, gracious, and faithful.

First, let's celebrate God's grace in providing **Gospel-Shaped Leaders** in 2021. God has appointed Tyler Boyette and Thomas Griffin to be elders at Exodus. We have new CG leaders, deacons, and team leaders who are serving faithfully. We are hopeful that God will develop more gospel-shaped leaders here at Exodus.

We have also seen **Gospel Community** in 2021. We have community groups that continue to faithfully engage one another. We have ministries like Exodus Women, Exodus Men, Exodus Students, and Exodus Kids that are making a huge difference in many lives. There is so much to celebrate.

God has allowed us to develop more and more around **Gospel Mission**, being careful to devote ourselves to good works. We are actively involved in multiple local ministries. We continue to fund church planting and missions around the world. We are building out The Orchard Initiative to train, develop, and launch pastors and church planters. God has been so kind to allow us to play our part in His story.

Finally, I want to celebrate God's grace toward us in developing **Gospel Generosity** at Exodus. You'll see in this report how we have stewarded the finances God has entrusted to us. He has been so generous to Exodus Church. We want to be a conduit of His blessing, so that it flows through us and out into the world. As you read this report, remember that everything we celebrate has been funded by gospel generosity.

So, Exodus, praise be to God. He and He alone is worthy of praise for all that we have accomplished in 2021 and all that we will accomplish in the coming year.

Join us in praise of His glorious grace.

Sincerely,

## THE ELDERS



**TYLER BOYETTE**  
Pastor of Discipleship  
& Development



**THOMAS GRIFFIN**  
Pastor



**TYLER GRIFFIN**  
Pastor of  
Family Ministries



**BEN HOERSCH**  
Pastor of  
Stewardship



**BRIAN LOWE**  
Lead Pastor



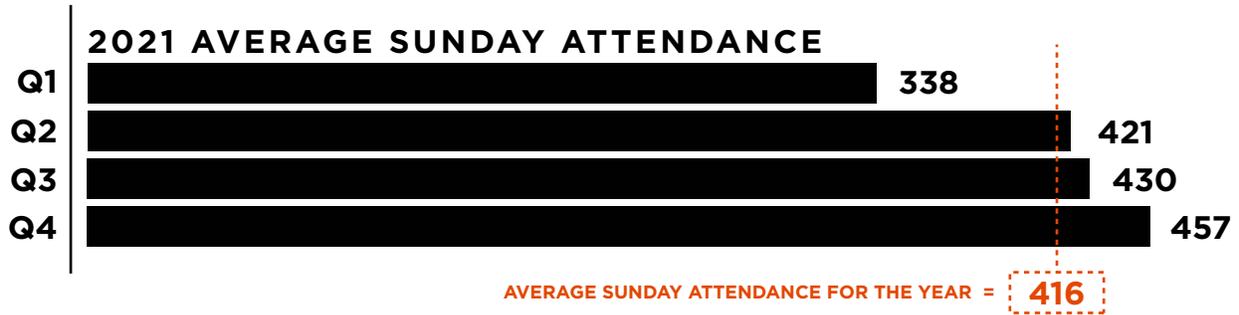
**ANDY WILSON**  
Pastor



# ENGAGEMENT



## SUNDAY GATHERING



## ONLINE



27,126

TOTAL ONLINE VIDEO VIEWS  
ACROSS ALL PLATFORMS IN 2021



13,314

TOTAL SERMON PODCAST  
LISTENS IN 2021

## MEMBERSHIP

43 PEOPLE ATTENDED NEXT STEPS

25 NEW MEMBERS

## MOST SUNG WORSHIP SONGS IN 2021

1. MY WORTH IS NOT IN WHAT I OWN (9 WEEKS)
2. BEFORE THE THRONE (6 WEEKS)
3. DOXOLOGY (6 WEEKS)
4. KING OF KINGS (6 WEEKS)
5. ANCIENT OF DAYS (6 WEEKS)

## MOST DOWNLOADED PODCAST IN 2021



**MATTHEW 8:1-17**  
OUR KING AND HIS POWER - WEEK 1  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

**127 DOWNLOADS**

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- We debuted a new website that highlights the content most people are looking for about Exodus Church—our services and our ministries. The new website features a simplified system to locate our latest sermon podcasts and videos.
- While our highest attended service officially counted was on December 5, 2021, at 558 people, our highest estimated service was our Easter service on April 4, 2021, which was estimated at around 620 people. Since that service was outside, it was difficult to determine an exact number.



# COMMUNITY GROUPS

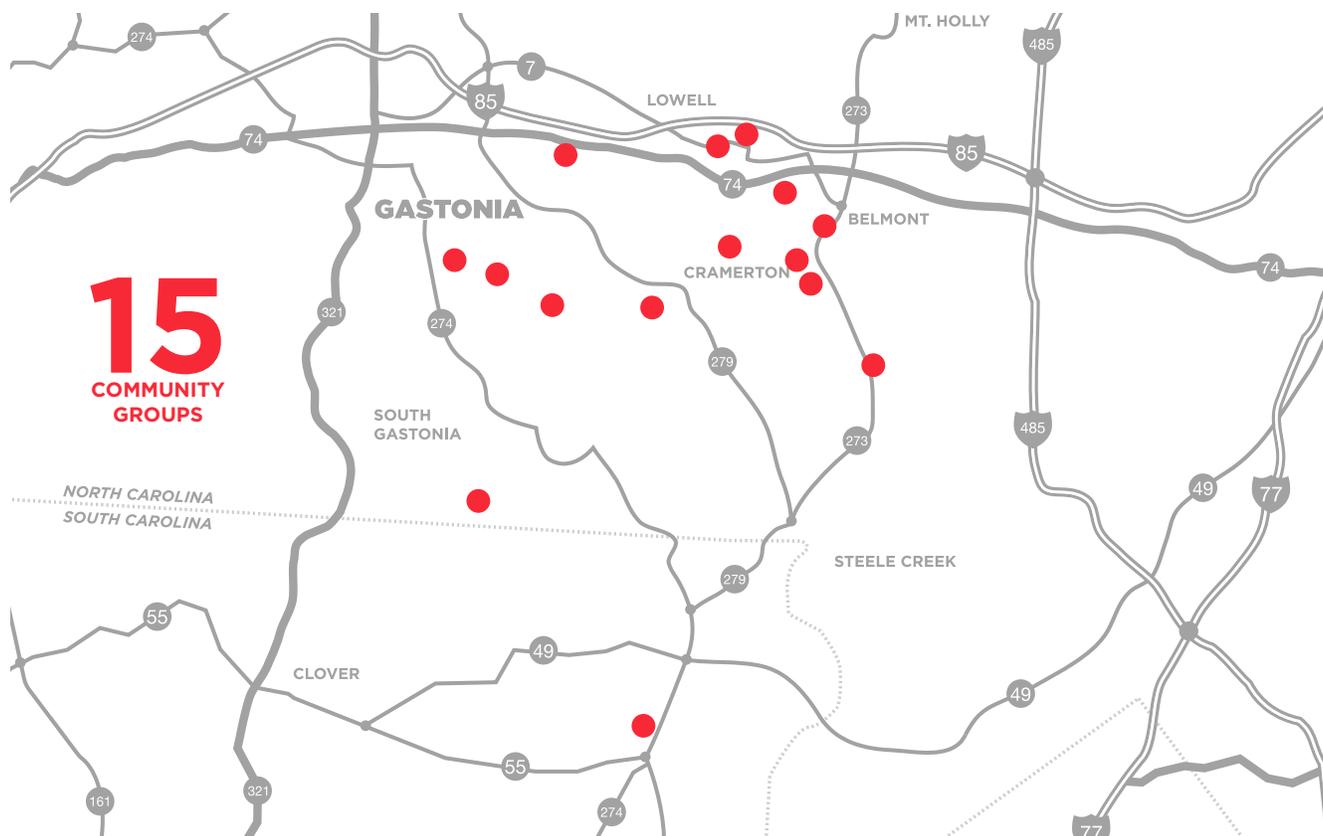


# COMMUNITY GROUPS PURSUE ONE ANOTHER SO THAT JESUS IS SEEN AND DISCIPLES ARE MADE

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Community is one of those words we all use, but few of us seem to ever really experience what the Bible describes. We live in a culture that is highly individualistic, lonely, and busier than ever. And yet, in each of us is a desire to know and be known, to belong. The primary place to know and be known at Exodus are Community Groups.

We met the changing needs of our members and community group leaders by disbanding some of the previous CGs and launching three new ones, ending the year with a total of 15 CGs and several new ones on the horizon for 2022.



## PARISHES

Last year, we implemented a parish structure that groups our CGs together with several others for leader support and fun events. Our parishes celebrated throughout the year with backyard cook-outs and holiday parties that ignited a stronger desire for true community within our six parishes.

## CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Our CGs do an amazing job of caring for their people in so many ways. During 2021, we had many in our church family experience loss and grief and our CGs were instrumental in coordinating care and walking through the dark times alongside those who were hurting. CGs also provided help for their members after surgeries, hauled furniture during moves, changed tires and gave rides, and celebrated new babies and marriages.

FROM A THRONE OF ENDLESS GLORY  
TO A CRADLE IN THE DIRT

# FINANCES



# OUR GENEROSITY HELPS FUND GOD'S MISSION THROUGH EXODUS

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We want those who call Exodus home to be faithful and sacrificial in giving so that our ministry can be multiplied and the mission of God can be accomplished.

Each year, the Elders craft an annual budget with skill and prayer to bring before the church. The budget is voted on by our members and then set into motion. This guide for our spending shapes ministry decisions and the leaders of Exodus seek to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to our care. The following is the story of God’s provision and our prayerful and careful stewardship of these kingdom investments.

We are thrilled to see how God worked in this way.

## GIVING



We received gifts toward our general fund totaling \$1,325,046.30, which exceeded our general giving budget of \$1,320,000. Praise God! Additionally, there was \$163,029.74 of other giving in 2021, which includes gifts to the Restoration Project, Benevolence, The Orchard Initiative, International Offering, and Missions.

Exodus also received \$30,935.15 of rental and interest income.

## EXPENSES



Our operational expenses came in at \$1,276,931.36, which was \$73,068.64 under our \$1,350,000 budgeted expenses. This includes giving away \$169,145.01 toward church planting and missions activities outside of Exodus, primarily through the support of our domestic and international partners. Additionally, we gave an extra \$37,000 through our International Offering in December.

## OPERATING BUDGET

	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>			
Tithes and Offerings	\$1,320,000.00	\$1,325,046.30	100.4%
Other Income	\$30,000.00	\$30,936.05	103.1%
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,350,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,355,982.35</b>	<b>100.4%</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Personnel	\$607,500.00	\$563,805.36	92.8%
Facility	\$297,843.00	\$296,178.21	99.4%
Missions & Church Planting	\$162,000.00	\$169,145.01	104.4%
Ministries & Discipleship	\$135,000.00	\$133,074.64	98.6%
Administration	\$59,747.00	\$60,279.08	100.9%
Staff & Leadership	\$30,070.00	\$23,438.81	77.9%
Service Programming	\$30,840.00	\$31,010.25	100.6%
Reserve	\$27,000.00	\$0.00	0.0%
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,350,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,276,931.36</b>	<b>94.6%</b>

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

In addition to our Operating Budget, our members passed a Capital Expenditures budget, allowing us to make larger one-time investments into the facility and equipment to be able to better serve the needs of our church family. We completed things such as new signage on The Exodus Mill, new speakers and window shades for the worship space, and a long list of other behind the scenes improvements. Additionally, we were able to start a conversation with a local architect for what might be next at The Mill.



Once our members approved The Orchard Initiative, we used funds that were previously saved to move forward with purchasing the home located at 108 Orchard Street (home closest to the parking lot to the west of The Mill). We are currently raising the funds necessary to purchase a second home next to the first that we can use as housing for the pastoral residents and their families who will join us in the fall of 2022.

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PROJECT

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 exoduschurch



# RESTORATION

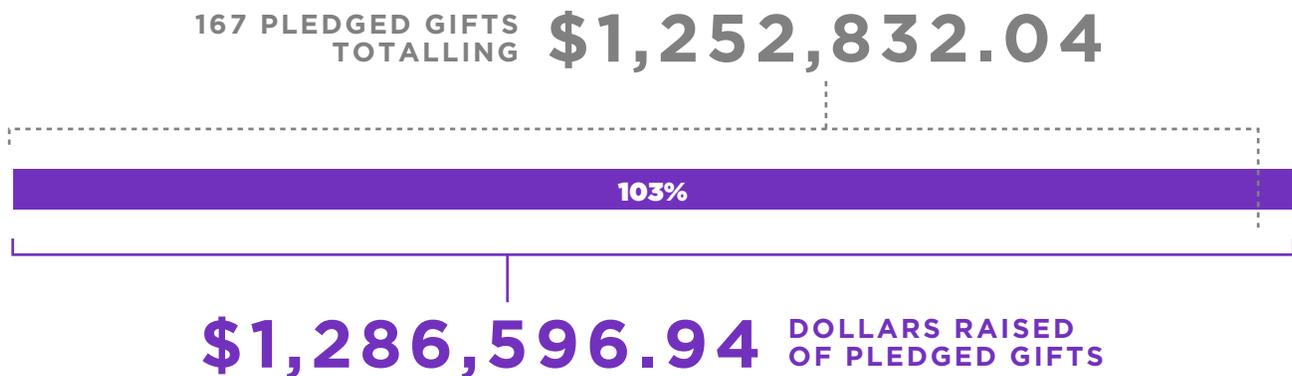
P R O J E C T



**THE RESTORATION  
PROJECT IS A  
CAPITAL  
CAMPAIGN  
ESTABLISHED TO  
PURCHASE AND  
RESTORE AN  
OLD MILL TO BE  
OUR NEW  
CHURCH HOME**

In early 2018, our church family set out to raise \$1.25 million to cover the cost of purchasing and renovating a local historic textile mill. The purchase was complete in January of 2019 and the months that followed were filled with work to restore The Mill. August 2021 marked our second year in The Exodus Mill, a beautiful, amazing place where we will continue to serve God in our community for many years to come.

The Restoration Project included a 3-year pledge from our church families to financially support the work of restoring The Mill. Our members were generous and faithful and the pledges were wrapped up in 2021.



We raised almost 103% of our pledged amount, which is absolutely phenomenal!

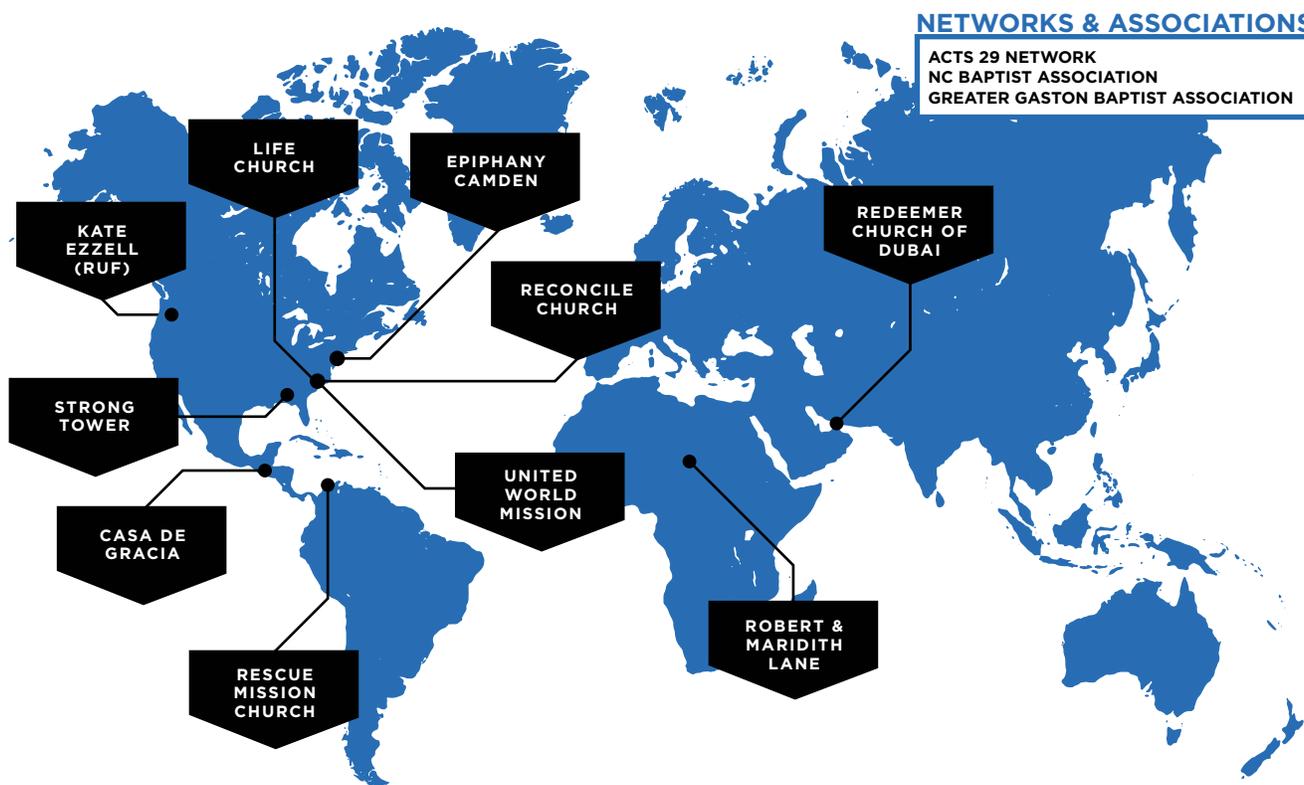
The Restoration Project has officially come to an end, but the work of restoring The Exodus Mill and renovating more of the available space will continue.



# PARTNERS



We were able to continue to be a people who serve God in the world through our domestic and international partnerships. By God's grace, we were able to be more involved with our partners, give more to our partners, and add new partnerships in 2021.



**\$169,145** + **\$37,000** = **\$206,145**

GIVEN TO OUR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS FROM OUR GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET      RAISED AND GIVEN TO OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS FROM OUR ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL OFFERING      **TOTAL GIVEN TO OUR PARTNERS IN 2021**

NETWORKS & ASSOCIATIONS
Acts 29 Church Planting Network
NC Baptist Cooperative Fund
Greater Gaston Baptist Assoc.

DOMESTIC PARTNERS
Epiphany Church Camden, NJ
Life Church Charlotte, NC
Reconcile Community Church Greenville, SC
Strong Tower at Washington Park Montgomery, AL
UWM - Ryan Claytor Gastonia, NC
RUF - Kate Ezzell Seattle, WA

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS
Casa de Gracia Guatemala
Redeemer Church of Dubai United Arab Emirates
Robert & Maridith Lane Chad
Rescue Mission Church Colombia

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

### NEW DOMESTIC PARTNER

We added Kate (Stranathan) Ezzell as a domestic partner. A former member of Exodus Church, Kate went on staff with Reformed University Fellowship at the University of Washington in Seattle in order to evangelize and disciple college students in one of the most unchurched cities in the country.

### CHURCH PLANTING STORIES

We hosted our first “Church Planter Stories” as Juan Hernandez and his family came to visit from Barranquilla, Colombia, to tell us about how God is at work in and through Rescue Mission Church.

### MISSIONS TRIP

We sent a small team of 12 students and adults back to Camden and Gloucester City, NJ, as we were able to take our first Student Family Missions Trip since 2018.

### ADDITIONAL GIVING

We were able to give an additional \$20,000, divided among our domestic partners.

### INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

We raised \$37,000 for our international partners through the International Offering.

### HELPED A RELAUNCH

We helped our domestic partner, Accelerate Church in Camden, NJ, as they reopened in a new location in Camden. They celebrated their relaunch service with 335 attendees, where 75 people gave their lives to Jesus and 65 signed up for their Next Steps class.



# LOCAL OUTREACH



2021 was a great year for going deeper in our community outreach efforts. Our members were quick to share their resources of time, money, and effort with those in need.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

GASTONIA STREET MINISTRY  
GASTON COUNTY YOUNG LIFE  
NORTH BELMONT ELEMENTARY  
TODAY'S DAILY BREAD  
SALVATION ARMY  
CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER OF GASTON COUNTY

## HIGHLIGHTS

### GASTONIA STREET MINISTRY

Gastonia Street Ministry restarted their in-person events to share the gospel and good food with the homeless and hurting population in downtown Gastonia.

### GASTON COUNTY YOUNG LIFE

Gaston County Young Life partnered with Exodus Students during our Fall Kickoff event by putting on a funny skit for our students.

### NORTH BELMONT ELEMENTARY

This year, a new serving team has provided breakfast to the faculty at North Belmont Elementary twice a semester, blessing the teachers during the hard days of teaching.

### TODAY'S DAILY BREAD

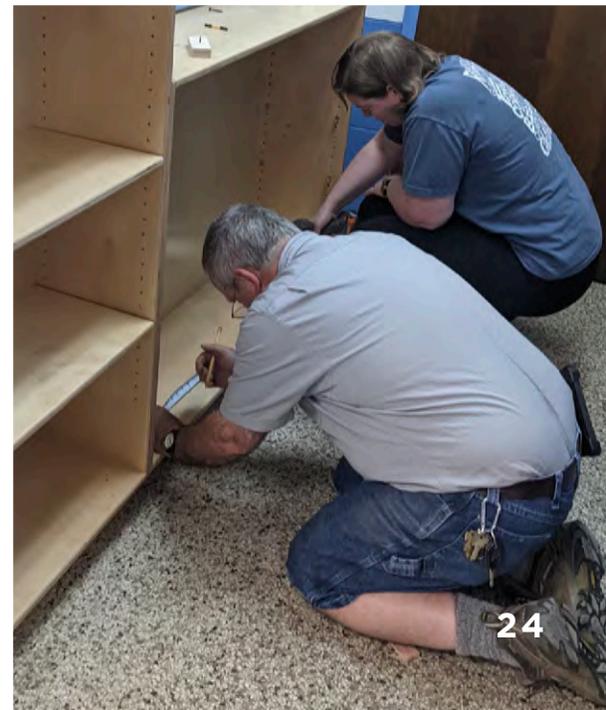
We continued helping Today's Daily Bread deliver lunches to kids without transportation during the summer.

## ANGEL TREE

In addition to 59 tags for North Belmont Elementary, our Exodus family filled 150 Angel Tree tags for Salvation Army. We created a new serve team to lead the Angel Tree program this year and they did an incredible job.

## CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER

Exodus partnered with Crisis Pregnancy Center where we collected over \$3000 for their Baby Bottle Blessings fundraiser.





  
exodus  
Kids



**IN 2021,  
WE USED  
THE LESSONS  
WE LEARNED  
AND THE  
RESOURCES  
WE DEVELOPED  
IN 2020 TO  
IMPROVE OUR  
EXODUS KIDS  
MINISTRY**



Approximately 102 children attend Exodus Kids each week.



We have 38 volunteers who serve each week in Exodus Kids.

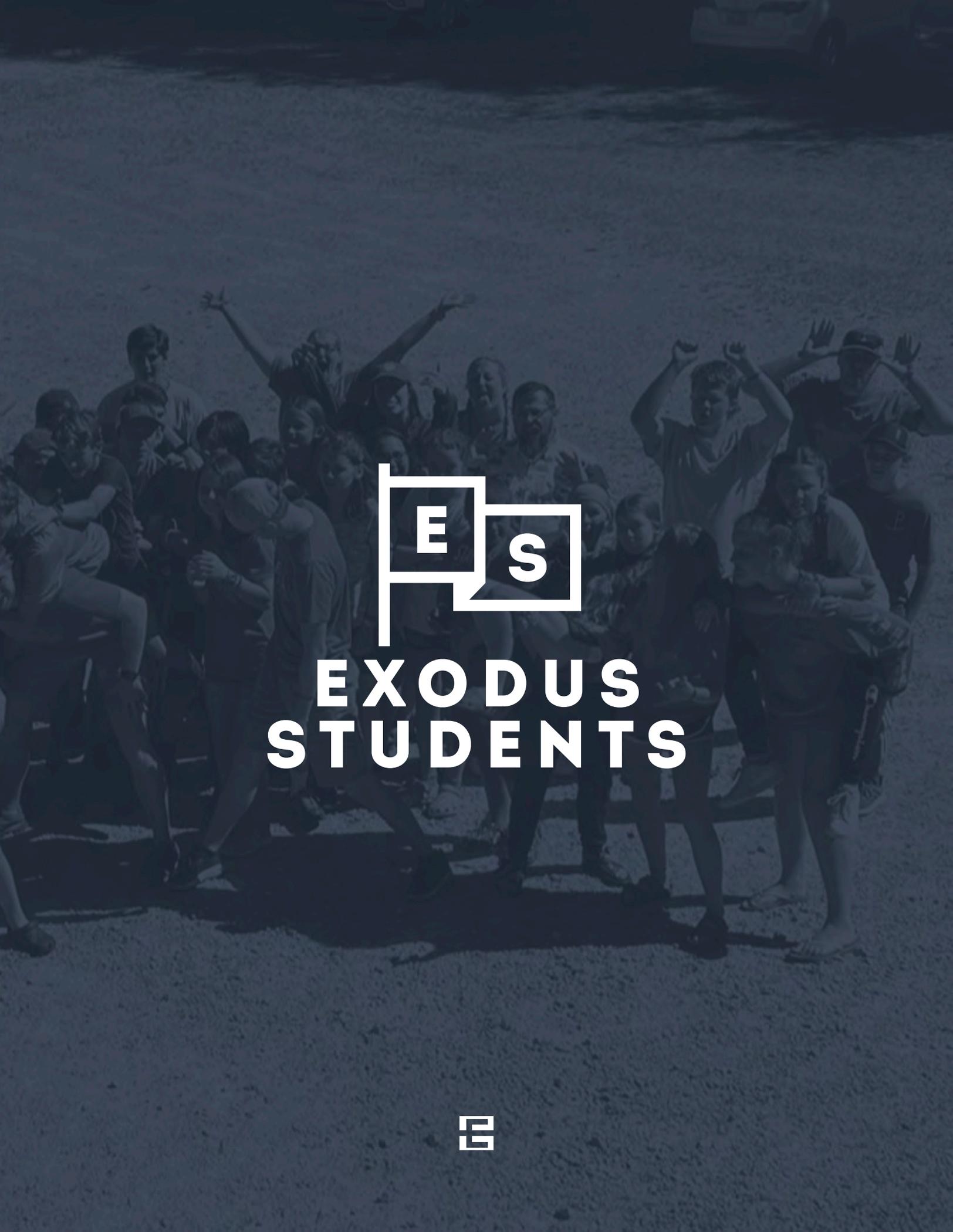
## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

### NEW DIRECTOR

When our Exodus Kids Coordinator, Kelsie Mery, made the decision to step away from the role to stay home with her new baby, we began the search to find a new coordinator. Lyndsi Valenti, a long-time member and volunteer in the kids ministry, was a natural fit for the job and began in June. Lyndsi has been such a joy to us and all the families involved in Exodus Kids.

### EXODUS KIDS EXTREME

This year we were able to have Exodus Kids Extreme for the first time in The Mill. It was an exciting time and a huge turnout, with 140-150 kids attending each night and over 95 volunteers. We ended the week with Family Night, which included pizza, music, games, bounce houses, and snow cones. The kids raised \$1,300 for Accelerate Church in Camden, NJ, who used the money to serve families in their community through a laundromat. It was the highest amount of money ever raised at EKE!



# EXODUS STUDENTS



**EXODUS  
STUDENTS,  
MINISTERING TO  
OUR 6TH-12TH  
GRADERS,  
CONTINUED TO  
GROW IN  
NUMBERS AND  
IN GOSPEL  
FOUNDATION**



Approximately 41 students attend our Wednesday night gatherings each week



We have 19 leaders who serve each week, guiding discussions, and providing support for our students.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

### RENOVATUS WEEKEND

In 2021, we didn't participate in 180 Weekend due to a date change and covid-related uncertainties. Instead, we held **Renovatus Weekend** for our students. We had large group teaching and worship and small-group studies in host homes, and our students had a great time. Our theme for the weekend was "Redefined" as we looked at what Scripture has to say about who we are in Christ as opposed to who the world says we are.

### SUMMER RETREAT

This was the first time in Exodus Students that we tried our hand at a "summer camp". We traveled to Camp Awanita in Marietta, SC. Our students got to spend time in God's word, and have a lot of fun swimming, zip lining, playing games, and destroying their leaders in Archery Tag. Our speaker, J.T. Hoover, also did a great job teaching us about what it means to be lost and how Christ finds us and rescues us.

### MISSION

We took a small team of students to Gloucester City, NJ, in order to help Epiphany Church Gloucester City. Our students got to spend time running kids camp, serving people in the community, and building relationships with the students and families of Gloucester City.

### FALL RETREAT

We returned to Crowders Ridge this year for our 4th Exodus Students Fall Retreat. We had a great time learning about God's holiness from our speaker, Stewart Neely, and Johnna Lunsford and her game team did an awesome job planning the activities this year, including "The Insane Game". The highlight for everyone this year was that this was the first year that our student worship team helped lead the music and they did a great job!



EXODUS

# Women



**WE BELIEVE  
THAT WOMEN'S  
MINISTRY IS NOT  
JUST MINISTRY  
TO WOMEN  
IN THE CHURCH,  
BUT IT IS MINISTRY  
BY WOMEN  
FOR THE CHURCH**

Exodus Women was launched as a ministry in 2019 under the leadership of our Women's Shepherding Team, which provides leadership and oversight for the programs and events of Exodus Women, and comes alongside the elders to provide care for the women of the church and coach community group leaders. In 2021, the original team completed their two-year term of service. We honored them during a service in July, and thanked the members who were stepping down from the team to serve in other areas: Valerie Stranathan, Debbie Miller, and Claudia Turkson-Ocran. Heather Weeks and Heather Mitchell have committed to a second term of service, alongside Joy LaPrade, who serves as Deacon of Women.

## START WITH THE WORD

Exodus Women began the year with a Scripture reading challenge. "Start With the Word" was an email and small group discussion reading plan that helped participants understand and pray through Book 1 of the Psalms in January and February. More than 80 women and men signed up for this program.

## TITUS TALKS

In February, we held our annual Titus Talks, a morning brunch event featuring women from our congregation sharing short talks on spiritual and practical topics. This year's speakers discussed hospitality, personal Bible study, and caring for aging parents, among other topics, and nearly 70 women attended.

## TOGETHER IN PRAYER

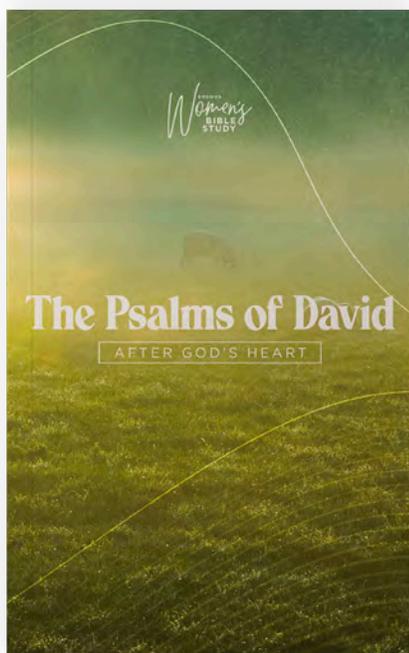
In the fall, our Together in Prayer team worked with the worship team to coordinate a church-wide back to school prayer night. More than 50 people attended this evening to pray for students, teachers, and administrators, and to anticipate God's faithfulness for the coming school year.

## BIBLE STUDY

Our women's Bible study continues to grow. Our spring study on the Psalms of David had 5 in-home discussion groups watching our teaching video in addition to the regular Monday and Thursday groups at The Mill. In the fall, more than 100 women signed up for our study of the women in Jesus' genealogy.

Improvements to our women’s Bible study format have allowed many more women to participate. We began publishing our own study guides, which are written by the members of the Biblical Literacy Team. To accommodate covid precautions during our spring study, we published teaching videos to YouTube for small groups to watch at home. The Exodus Women podcast, which launched in the fall of 2020, continues to publish the weekly Bible study lesson during our spring and fall studies.

Some of our women have recruited friends and family to participate in the Exodus Women studies, by sharing podcasts or mailing study guides: “I was able to send them to friends out of state who wanted to do a Bible study but didn’t know where to begin,” said one participant. The podcast has been downloaded in more than 24 states and has even had a few international listeners.



2021 SPRING STUDY



2021 FALL STUDY

“Pie Night” has become a tradition for our women—a night for dessert and fellowship to celebrate the end of our spring and fall Bible studies. More than 60 women attended each of our Pie Nights, where we also presented prizes to those who attempted the Scripture memory challenge. More than 20 women memorized our Psalm challenge and over 30 completed our fall theme verse from 1 Corinthians.





**EXODUS**  
**MEN**



**EXODUS MEN  
SEEKS TO  
DEVELOP MEN  
TO BE SACRIFICIAL  
SERVANT LEADERS  
FOR THE HOME,  
THE CHURCH,  
AND THE WORLD**

In 2021, we launched our new Exodus Men's ministry with two introductory events. So far the story of Men's Ministry is one of anticipation. Over and over again, we have had men walk up to us and tell us how excited they were to see this happening at Exodus. They would tell us that they had been praying for this for years and how amazing it was to see God answering their prayers. It has become evident that the men of Exodus have been craving and desiring this ministry and we are humbled to see the way God has had His hand on what we are doing. Our purpose is to develop servant leaders in the home, the church, and the world. We are so excited to step into our first year of Exodus Men and see what God has in store for us.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

### **EXODUS MEN LAUNCH NIGHT**

We had more than 80 men show up for good food, good conversation, and some friendly corn hole competition. The story of the night wasn't the food or the fun, it was in the relationships that were started. Everyone that was there met at least one person that they didn't know. It was a great start to what we know will be an amazing year in 2022.

### **T214**

T214 is a year-long initiative where men will be holding one another accountable to praying and reading God's word on a daily basis. 60 men attended our interest meeting at the beginning of December to hear what God had laid on our hearts for the coming year, and over 80 men signed up and committed to the program. We are so excited to see how lives are going to be shaped by God's Word.



# The Orchard Initiative



**THE ORCHARD  
INITIATIVE IS HOW  
EXODUS WILL  
SEEK TO TRAIN,  
DEVELOP, AND  
LAUNCH PLANTERS  
AND PASTORS  
SO THEY CAN  
LEAD FAITHFUL  
AND FRUITFUL  
CHURCHES**

The Orchard Initiative will be an onsite residency program for those who aspire to become pastors or church planters. There is a tremendous need for experience and support for these men and we believe that Exodus could serve as an excellent training ground through intentional mentorship and experiential learning.

The Orchard Initiative will provide training and development for future pastors and planters that is...

### **ROOTED IN GOSPEL CULTURE**

We want pastors who not only have gospel doctrine and drive, but who have experienced a gospel culture. We believe that the Jesus we demonstrate is as important as the Jesus we declare. These pastors and planters will experience a gospel culture at Exodus.

### **WATERED BY GOSPEL DOCTRINE**

We want pastors and planters who are steadfast and immovable. Our only hope for that is the gospel of Jesus Christ that saves and sustains all who hope in Him. These pastors and planters will be grounded in the gospel message.

### **NURTURED IN GOSPEL MINISTRY**

We want pastors and planters who do more than endure. We want to train and develop men who will enjoy the ministry and engage the people God has entrusted to them. These pastors and planters will be invested in gospel ministry.

### **PLANTED WITH GOSPEL GENEROSITY**

We want pastors and planters to be launched with generous hearts and funds to support the work to which they are called. Not only will we be generous with these planters during their time with us, but also after they are sent out.

In 2021, we cast the vision for The Orchard Initiative and voted as a church to approve the new training program. We also purchased the first of two houses near The Mill to house the pastoral residents. In 2022, we will purchase the second house, select two pastoral residents, and begin the training program. We are so excited to see how God will use Exodus Church and The Orchard Initiative to further the work of His Kingdom.

## PASTORS



**TYLER BOYETTE**  
Pastor of Discipleship  
& Development



**THOMAS GRIFFIN**  
Pastor



**TYLER GRIFFIN**  
Pastor of  
Family Ministries



**BEN HOERSCH**  
Pastor of  
Stewardship



**BRIAN LOWE**  
Lead Pastor



**ANDY WILSON**  
Pastor

## STAFF



**REBECCA ADAMS**  
Community Assistant



**KIRK BROWN**  
Creative Director



**AMBER DIFFLEY**  
Family Ministries Assistant



**JOSH GROTKE**  
Ministry Associate



**SCOTT HARRIS**  
Facilities Director



**MATTHEW LUNSFORD**  
Worship Director



**ABBY PERDEU**  
Kids Ministry Assistant



**ALISON SMART**  
Financial Admin



**VALERIE STRANATHAN**  
Communications Director



**LYNDSI VALENTI**  
Exodus Kids Coordinator



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