



living generously

LOVE JESUS. LOVE LIKE JESUS.

FINANCIAL FAQ SHEET – January – December, 2023

Proper stewardship of all money given to the church is a high priority for leadership. Your contributions matter, and we are grateful for your generous giving practices. Our goal is to be transparent with how money is handled and how your contributions support our mission to “Love Jesus, Love Like Jesus”. This FAQ sheet provides answers to some basic questions.

What does it take financially for our church to generously carry out our mission?

The Church Board prepares an annual budget to set projections for our annual income and expenses. We use the income received from tithes and offerings to take care of operating expenses.

- Provides for staff, including pastors, administrative personnel, and custodial support.
- Underwrites local church ministries like worship, small groups, discipleship classes, etc.
- Covers the investment needed to operate and care for our facilities, including a 40+ acre campus with church building, recreation area, two houses for staff pastors, and more.

To learn more about how generosity connects with your personal spiritual development and our church’s ability to pursue our mission, go to <https://www.belairchurchmd.org/living-generously.html>.

Who handles the church’s money?

- The Church Treasurer is responsible for the oversight of all finances of the church and reports directly to the Church Board.
- A Financial Secretary, voted on by the Church Board, is responsible for the accurate counting of tithes and offerings. Sunday offerings are counted by at least 2 people and likewise deposited in the bank by designated persons. They also record giving data in the database.
- Our books are audited on a regular basis; the most recent was in March of 2023.
- The Office Manager occasionally records checks sent by mail or other monies turned in to the office.

How many staff members are employed by BC church?

- Full-time Pastors: Gregg Alsbrooks, Krystal Holl & Derek Parson
- Part-time Pastors: Noah Tharp, Heather Ingram and Lara Murphy
- Office Manager: Deb Sword
- Administrative Support: Kathy Sprole, Marianna Miche
- Custodial & Facilities support: George Miller, Andy Wallis, Terry Decker.

Is the church in debt?

No, we have not had any debt for over 20 years.

Is the church able to meet its regular operating expenses at current giving levels?

We continue to make progress, but we are not there yet. Giving for 2023 was up 6.4%. For 2023, we did not have a balanced budget. However, with extra income in some areas, and less expenses in other areas, we only ended up \$13K in actual expenses over actual income, based on the budget. (We had expected to be at much as \$148K in expenses over income.) For 2024, we still do not have a balanced budget (we are anticipating as much as \$96K in expenses over income. Our plan is to have a balanced budget in 3 years, through a continued increase in tithes and offerings, getting our Facility Usage Fee paid by our daycare at the right amount, and cutting expenses where it will not affect ministry.

Does the church have reserves?

Yes, we have strong savings. We have just over \$800K, with approximately \$95K designated as endowments for mission trips and summer camps. These funds are valuable assets for future capital projects on a 20+ yr old building, such as a new roof and HVAC system.

Has giving changed over the past few years?

Like many churches and non-profit organizations, giving percentage-wise has been on a downward trend for several years. We have been tracking this carefully and in the first quarter of 2023, we are beginning to see signs of increased financial giving. We are hopeful that this trend will continue in the future.

2023 annual - \$479,984 vs. 2022 \$450,700

2022 annual - \$450,700 vs. 2021 annual - \$537,733

2021 annual - \$537,733 vs. 2020 annual - \$567,150

In addition, \$87K remains from a PPP loan (turned into a grant) to be used for ministry partnerships. Post-COVID we are as financially strong as pre-COVID thanks to unbudgeted income from our daycare ministry that filled some budget shortfalls.

Does church attendance affect giving?

Yes. While we have seen a 10% increase in attendance in 2023, our attendance has not fully recovered yet from the effects of the COVID pandemic. We are hopeful this trend will continue in the up direction.

How can the church best meet financial challenges and stay on mission?

- Continue to live with a generous mindset and use Biblical practices for giving. Commit to storehouse tithing. Practice generosity with our time, talent and treasure as an expression of our love for Jesus.
- Pray individually and corporately. Ask God to reveal how each of us can remain generous as we meet future challenges. Generosity is in our DNA. We give first and foremost as an act of worship to God. We give back a portion of what is already His to thank Him and acknowledge how He has blessed us.
- Continue to excel in sound stewardship of all finances. Be transparent and accountable.

How can I help the church?

- Pray with us for a spirit of generosity to exist in our lives and in the church.
- Give specifically to BC Church to express your belief in our mission to “Love Jesus, Love Like Jesus”. Every ministry we do here is used by God to build His kingdom in our church community, our families, the local community around us, and the global community impacted by our church partnerships and by the International Church of the Nazarene.

How can I give to Bel Air Church?

For financial contributions, you can give online by using the link in our website under “giving”. You can also use our church app or Venmo account. If you prefer, you can give by check made payable to ‘Bel Air Church’. Boxes are available on Sunday morning in the sanctuary and at the Welcome Center, or mail your check to Bel Air Church of the Nazarene, 2430 Conowingo Road, Bel Air, MD 21015.

To volunteer your time or talents, contact the church office to be directed to the person who can talk with you about what you have in mind and who can help determine the fit for the ministries presently taking place.

How can I find out more about the church finances and where our money goes?

A copy of our latest financial statement can be made available upon request. Contact the church office at 410-838-8290 or email dsword@belairnazarene.org.