

# ANNUAL REPORT



# FROM THE ELDERS

**Dear Open Door Family,**

As we reflect on the past year, we are overwhelmed with gratitude at God’s faithfulness to Open Door Church. This Annual Report is not a collection of metrics but rather a testimony of what happens when a local church chooses to faithfully pursue becoming more like Christ together. Our regular rhythms of worship, discipleship, fellowship, service, and mission have proved fruitful in amazing ways. As we’ve walked through the Bible together this year, we have been strengthened by the faithfulness of God to provide for us what we can’t provide for ourselves. In Christ, we find redemption, purpose, unity, and hope! And as we live out our faith as a church family, the work of God’s Spirit becomes evident through every act of service, every gesture of generosity, and every expression of grace. We want to pause and sincerely thank you for your commitment to our mission as we have sought to love God and make His gospel known. You are the hands and feet through which God continues to build His Kingdom. How exciting it is to be a part of that!

Looking ahead to a new year, we know that the work of advancing His kingdom requires us to recommit ourselves to the unshakeable truth of God’s Word. Our prayer for this next season is that we continue to be a family of Christ followers who are committed to a growing faith that is expressed in fruitful living. The world around us so desperately needs to hear the good news and see the love of Christ in action. Our gathering together each week not only strengthens our faith, but it also provides an opportunity for us to invite others to experience our living Savior! Please continue to invite people to Open Door. We have been so blessed by the many guests that have come through our doors, and for the many that have started or strengthened their relationship with Christ.

So let’s stay anchored to Christ through His word. Let’s be committed to living on mission as we serve our community through our ministries and ministry partners, and as we have the opportunity to take the gospel to our nation and the world. Your elders are so thankful for your support and participation, and are excited to step into the new year together as we go with the Gospel.  
For the sake of the Gospel,

*Pastors Dwayne, Mark, Eric, Nathan, Ryan, Seth,  
Chris, Stephen, and Jay.*

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# WHO WE ARE

believe → live → share → multiply

LOVE GOD AND MAKE HIS GOSPEL KNOWN

Our Mission

Our mission is to love God and make His gospel known. We invite you to join us as we pursue a growing relationship with our glorious God. Open Door is a church family made up of believers in Jesus Christ from various cultural and social backgrounds. It is our desire to tell our community, nation, and world about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Open Door is a New Testament church that exists to make disciples, teach the saints, and plant churches. We believe Christ’s life, death, and resurrection are God’s plan to heal and redeem our fallen world, and we’re dedicated to being a part of what He’s doing here in Raleigh and throughout the nations.

MEANINGFUL MEMBERSHIP

GATHER REGULARLY  
ABIDE IN CHRIST FAITHFULLY  
SERVE DILIGENTLY  
LOVE SACRIFICIALLY  
GIVE GENEROUSLY  
LIVE MISSIONALLY

# OUR NUMBERS

215  
First-Time Guests

64  
New Members

12  
Baptisms

31  
Care Groups

511  
Average Attendance



# CHURCH PLANTING



**Dwayne Milioni**  
Lead Pastor

## Twenty Church Plants in Twenty Years!

I was recently asked to contribute a chapter to a church-planting book, highlighting Open Door’s commitment to training, equipping, and sending teams to plant churches across our nation. As of this year, we have sent twenty teams to “go with the gospel” and plant local churches to the glory of

Christ. God has been kind to us and has blessed these efforts.

Even more, several of our plants have now planted churches of their own— “grandbaby” church plants! It’s a joy to watch the mission of Scripture unfold through our local church.

As we end this year, please continue praying for several families we’ve sent recently, shown on the right.

Thank you for your prayers and your financial partnership with those we have sent. Your faithfulness is fueling gospel work far beyond our walls.



**Yamin & Eunji Park**  
Queens, NY

Faithfully gathering and shaping a core team amid above-average challenges. Ask the Lord for protection, favor, and fruitful evangelism.



**Reggie & Courtney Johnson**  
Pittsburgh, PA

The church is growing—even as every potential gathering space seems to have boiler problems (and winter is coming). Give thanks for recent baptisms and pray for a warm, stable meeting place.



**Michael & Emily Guyer**  
Ann Arbor, MI

Now in their 4th location in 4 years, pray this move brings long-term stability and open doors for discipleship. For all those we have sent and continue to support, please pray Paul’s words over them from Galatians, “Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don’t give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith.” (6:9-10)



# MISSIONS



**Chuck Wade**  
Missions

Open Door's Mission Team is committed to supporting the international workers sent out by our congregation. One of the primary ways we achieve this goal is by organizing accommodations and gathering essential items that these workers need while they are back visiting with us. This year has proven to be particularly busy, as we welcomed back four families: Sissy and Mulberry, John and Jen, and Thiago and Liana. Currently, Kyle and Megan are with us, and we look forward to hosting Olivia in December.

Our congregation has shown incredible generosity in the support of our missionaries, providing nourishing meals and other requested supplies as they visit. This collective effort by our members is immensely appreciated by both the Missions Team and our international workers, who feel the support from our church family.

In addition to hosting these families, several of our members participated in two trips aimed at supporting church planting efforts in different regions. One of these trips was led by Jay Veverka to Colombia, where the team engaged with the local community with the help of a partnering church, Rescue Mission Church. They returned enthusiastic, reporting an incredibly

fruitful experience at our Members Meeting. The second team, under the leadership of Mark Armstrong, traveled to Queens, NY, to visit Yamin and Eunji Park. They participated in local outreach initiatives and provided support to the church.

On November 9th, we hosted our first International Missions Sunday in years. This day was designed to deepen our congregation's connection to the missionaries we support. After both Sunday services, we welcomed members to informational tables, showcasing our international workers and the various global mission efforts happening through our church. This event proved to be incredibly valuable, leading to greater awareness and engagement within our congregation regarding how they can contribute to these mission efforts.

Looking ahead, we are excited to hold the annual Lottie Moon banquet early this December. This Christmas event is filled with good food and fellowship as we raise money for international workers. Attendees will also hear from our international workers about their experiences and challenges in the field. We invite all members to participate in this event that strengthens our commitment to missions and our international partnerships.

*"Our congregation has shown incredible generosity in the support of our missionaries."*





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



At Open Door, we desire that the gospel of Jesus Christ would be the heart behind everything we do. It's the reason we gather regularly to worship Christ together as a local family of believers. To see the gospel advanced is the reason we plant churches and send missionaries all over the world. But the gospel is also the reason we live missionally as individuals believers, and as a corporate body of believers. The great commandment found in Matthew 22:37-39 says:

*"He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.""*  
- Matthew 22:37-39

Loving God is our highest priority. And from that flows love for our neighbor. This kind of love should be characterized by our love for their well being. But that is a complex kind of love. It includes their spiritual well being as well as their physical well being. Just as God desires to see them flourish, we share that same desire and try to find our place in bringing that to reality. To help us stay focused, as a local church we have made the commitment to this approach to outreach:

- We will work **hard** through acts of justice & mercy to help others who suffer
- We will work **harder** through evangelism to keep people from eternal suffering
- We will work **hardest** to treasure Christ above all & bring glory to God

This allows us to remain faithful to the great commandment to love God supremely, while also being active in loving our neighbors. This happens in so many exciting ways throughout the year. We serve our neighbors each week through regular distribution of food, while also getting to know each client and



pray for them. Our ESL ministry welcomes students from all over the world, and creates a safe opportunity for them to learn English, while hearing the Gospel and experiencing the hospitality of the local church. Our annual events like Neighbor Fest and Party on the Block provide an ongoing opportunity for us to welcome our neighbors to our campus, and show them the kindness of the Lord through our service. In addition, we had one of our largest turnouts for Soccer Nights, as we hosted the community for a fun week of soccer at Abbotts Creek park.

Our ministry partners also provide an opportunity for us to live on mission as we partner together for the sake of the Gospel. You can read more about our partners on [Page 10](#).

Additionally, we are grateful for the increase of first time guests that we have had on Sunday mornings, many of them having been invited by YOU! Our Connections Team seeks to welcome them warmly, just as Christ has welcomed each of us into His family.

It is our prayer that as we are strengthened by the Gospel each week through preaching, teaching and worship, that we will be evermore committed to "going with the Gospel" to the community around us!



Front lawn at the annual Neighborfest outreach event.



# MINISTRY PARTNERS

## GATEWAY WOMEN’S CARE

Gateway Women’s Care is a faith-based non-profit organization committed to serving women and men in the community by providing medical, educational and support services and resources related to pregnancy and sexual health without condemnation or manipulation.

## NEIGHBORHEALTH

Open Door is partnering with NeighborHealth to assist the growing number of people in Wake County without access to healthcare. Their model provides an innovative way for people to call NeighborHealth Center their medical home since receiving care will not depend on one’s working status, lack of insurance, or a co-payment.

## DENOMINATIONAL PARTNERS

Open Door Church supports the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board, fostering impactful international and local mission endeavors. We also partner with the Pillar Network to plant and strengthen churches all over the world.

## GOSPEL OF GOD MINISTRIES

Gospel of God Ministries proclaims the gospel worldwide, with partner churches and volunteers, until faith becomes action, allowing God’s Holy Spirit to transform people.



→ WORKING TOGETHER

## LIFELINE CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Lifeline Children’s Services exists to equip the Body of Christ to manifest the gospel to vulnerable children. We partner with them to see vulnerable children and their communities transformed by the gospel.

## APARTMENT LIFE

Apartment Life is a faith-based, non-profit organization that has been serving the apartment industry since 2000. We believe every individual is created for community and that we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves. Our goal is to live this out while providing strong business value to apartment owners.

## LOVELIFE

LoveLife is uniting and mobilizing the church to create a culture of love and life that will result in an end to abortion and the orphan crisis. Our church partners with them to stand for the unborn and for mothers in our community.

## COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

We partner with nearby schools to provide under-served students with necessities through the Backpack Buddies program and through other opportunities as they arise.



# DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY



It has been a joy to step into this new role of Adult Discipleship Minister in 2025. Making disciples was the final command of Jesus (Matthew 28:16-20), so it must remain important in the life of the local church!

Life on life discipleship at Open Door happens primarily through our Care Groups. Since that is the focus of a separate report, discipleship ministry here focuses on two main areas for 2025: events and spiritual disciplines.



## CULTIVATING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### Events

Our discipleship events at Open Door vary from churchwide initiatives to smaller events that focus on a certain demographic. Our Spring and Fall Weekend Workshops are open to the entire church for discussion around a particular topic. This Spring, our workshop considered parenting in various seasons of life. In the Fall, we addressed “Going with the Gospel” as we considered how Christ impacts every area of our lives.

Adorned for our Open Door women continues to take place every Spring while our men’s Anchored event happens every Fall. The men’s retreat this March studied Psalm 15 and the “Portrait of a Godly Man.” In place of a women’s retreat this Fall, we had our first marriage retreat in several years in partnership with another Pillar church, Christ Fellowship Leesville.

On a regular basis, our discipleship ministry includes weekly fellowships that meet on campus. Bible Fellowship meets at 11am on Sunday mornings in the Mirror Room, and it is open to anyone who desires to come have a Bible study opportunity with church family. New opportunities this Fall include our Young Adult Fellowship and Singles Fellowship, which meet regularly for specific audiences within our church.



### Spiritual Disciplines

We never outgrow the basics when it comes to discipleship. Each year at Open Door, we hope to emphasize one of the spiritual disciplines as a way to encourage one another to continue to grow in these areas. For 2025, the spiritual discipline we have emphasized is Bible intake or reading. Our Bible Reading Plan this year has challenged members to read through the Bible in an entire year! I have been encouraged to hear from many members who have taken this challenge seriously and have been reading all the way through the Bible for the very first time. Pastor Dwayne’s Jesus Daily Bible and our new Equip & Edify podcast have both been helpful tools to aid members in pursuing this discipline.

In 2026, we plan to emphasize prayer. Our Equip & Edify podcast will examine different prayers in the Bible weekly while we will continue to encourage members to attend our monthly men’s and women’s prayer meetings. In addition, our 2026 summer preaching series on prayers in the Bible will allow God’s Word to shape and sharpen our prayer life.

Discipleship is a constant pursuit for the local church. I hope these events and resources equip your family to love Jesus and His bride more deeply each year. It is a blessing to serve alongside you all as we continue to fulfill the final command of Jesus.





# CARE GROUP MINISTRY



**Kenneth Brock**  
Adult Discipleship Minister

Our Care Groups continue to serve as the backbone of our Discipleship ministry at Open Door. We often hear that Open Door is not a church with Care Groups, but a church of Care Groups. With several hundred members and multiple services, finding a sense of community can sometimes be challenging. Through Care Groups, we believe that not only can members find community, but we believe these groups are the best way to live out the membership expectations of Open Door.

*“to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ,”*  
*Ephesians 4:12 CSB*

## Equipping Care Group Leaders

In Spring of this year, I had the pleasure of visiting each of our Care Groups at Open Door (shoutout to my bride who was at home with two little ones for many of these nights!). I walked away amazed at how the Lord has been working through Care Groups. From testimonies of gospel conversations to being encouraged through the Scriptures, the weekly meeting of Care Groups is where “life together” truly happens.

With these visits, I was able to sit down with each of our leaders to hear from them. I am thankful to all of our Care Group leaders not only for opening their homes for these visits and their regular meetings, but also for the way they serve Open Door in a variety of ways. From these visits, we put together an online onboarding course for Care Group Leaders over the summer to address some needed areas of training. Going forward, this online course will be helpful in equipping Care Group leaders to serve in this role.

In 2025, we have spent a lot of time trying to simplify the processes around Care Groups. These have included assimilating new members into groups, providing onboarding for potential leaders, and identifying areas of our community where it might be helpful to have new groups. I am happy to report that of our goal to start 5 new Care Groups by January, we have already started 3, with others on the way. We have also seen many members, some new and others longtime, join Care Groups for the first time! This time next year, I hope to be able to report the birth of many new Care Groups and members to fill them!

## Being Outward Focused

At a recent Care Group Leader training, our focus was on being outward-focused with our groups. We discussed ways in which our groups can serve together, such as our OD Food Pantry or connecting with our various ministry partners in and around Raleigh. Serving diligently is one of our membership expectations at Open Door and is best lived out and encouraged in these groups!

With the focus of serving, we also discussed the priority of evangelism. We serve not only to meet basic human needs, but to share the good news of the gospel that meets our deepest spiritual longing. It is my hope that we see our Care Groups not only as encouragement for discipleship, but as brothers and sisters who challenge us to live out our faith.

# COUNSELING MINISTRY



**Chris Smith**  
Elder & Biblical Counseling Director

We end every worship service at Open Door by encouraging those attending to “Go with the Gospel”. While we rightly understand this to include sharing our faith with unbelievers, this phrase applies to every aspect of the believer’s life. In fact, going with the gospel is one of the chief goals of our counseling ministry. Our counselors strive to bring the hope of the gospel as they meet people in the midst of trouble, difficulty, confusion and trials. We believe that Christ is able to help people and we want to share that help with others.

Open Door’s Biblical Counseling Ministry exists to provide Christ-centered, biblical hope to people amid their problems. In a fallen world, everyone is affected by sin, producing challenges that can be difficult to process alone and impossible to overcome apart from Christ and the hope of the gospel. Trained counselors within OD’s counseling ministry strive to minister to the hurting every week. Intentional, regular meetings between counselors and counselees have continued throughout 2025

and are projected to operate similarly through 2026. While this ministry is often performed without the knowledge of many people in the church, God continues to work through His body to help people who are hurting, confused, lonely, and need support, encouragement, and guidance. Beginning in the fall of 2025 some OD members began counseling training in the hopes of expanding our ministry in the coming years through equipping more members to be counselors. Additionally, the counseling ministry continued to coordinate members of OD to be available at the end of each worship service to talk and pray with folks who needed a listening ear and an empathetic heart. It is a joy to witness the Spirit of God work through members of the body of Christ to help other members of the same body with their struggles.

Looking to 2026, we hope that the counseling ministry will be able to continue to provide one-on-one counseling, worship response personnel, and offer more group counseling style classes. The ministry also anticipates having a men’s purity group in 2026. If anyone has questions or desires to serve within the counseling ministry, please contact me.  
[chris@opendoorlife.com](mailto:chris@opendoorlife.com).



# INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

## SPANISH FELLOWSHIP



**Albert Rodriguez**  
Spanish Ministry Director

The Spanish ministry is growing in various ways. This year we walked through the book of Joshua, Judges and the doctrine of the Bible in our Sunday morning class. We have two care groups and we are working on maintaining the music ministry. We are having monthly fellowship times and once a quarter we are inviting other care groups to join us so we

can further integrate our ministry with the rest of OD. We are looking forward to the revival of the International Day in OD to highlight all international ministries.

We are hoping our ministry will continue to grow this upcoming year, and that we will become more visible within the church family to promote that we are a multicultural church, start plans to add Spanish-speaking counselors to the OD counseling ministry, and faithfully lead our ministry to our only true hope, Jesus Christ.



Weekly Hispanic Fellowship on Sundays at 9:00 AM.

## CONGOLESE FELLOWSHIP



**JG Powell**  
Congolese Ministry Director

We are a French fellowship reaching French speakers in the Triangle area, representing multiple French-speaking countries within our ministry. We want to express our gratitude to the Open Door family for their ongoing support and for the fellowship we share. This year, the Lord has been faithful and has accomplished many things in our ministry, both nationally and internationally.

### Nationally

- We fellowship every Sunday from 12:45 pm.
- We pray and share the word of God every Wednesday at 8 pm.
- Ladies pray every Friday at 8 pm.
- Intercession in the morning and praise team practice every Saturday at the Church.
- Ladies, women, and youth meet once a month in separate meetings.

### Internationally

- We had a trip to DR Congo on August 15th.
- We encouraged our two planted churches.
- Led a network conference on life together
- Trained leaders
- Cared for orphans and widows.

### Prayer Requests

- Pray for commitment, Gospel opportunities, and growth.
- Pray for financial provision to build facility for orphans and windows on the land that we already have.
- Pray for DR Congo Pillars network.

## CHINESE FELLOWSHIP



**Josiah Jin**  
Chinese Ministry Director

In 2025, our Chinese Ministry continued to focus on teaching God’s Word as our first priority, fostering mutual love and care, building fellowship, and reaching out to others. Our goal is to build a spiritual home in the Lord where individuals and families can grow closer to God and to one another.

Each Sunday, we hold a Chinese-language worship service from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m., followed by Bible study from 11:00 to 12:15. Our sermons follow Pastor Dwayne’s series, adapted to the Chinese context while remaining faithful to Scripture. Our Bible studies (11:00-12:15 each Sunday) move book by book through the Old and New Testaments, leading to steady spiritual growth and transformation among our members.

This fall, we held our annual retreat in Blowing Rock, welcoming attendees from Fayetteville and several unbelievers. The retreat offered time for reflection, deeper understanding of God, and closer relationships. We also host meal gatherings as outreach opportunities and provide pastoral care to meet the needs of our community. The Ladies’ Bible Study continues every Thursday morning, offering encouragement and growth in God’s Word.

We thank God for His faithfulness this year—for strengthening our fellowship, deepening our love, and guiding us to share His grace with others.



# 2026 CALENDAR

## EVENTS

### JANUARY

Men's Prayer	2, 3
REVIVE	4-6
CrossCon	5-7
Members Meeting	11
Game Night	23
Women's Prayer	24

### FEBRUARY

Men's Prayer	6, 7
Adorned	20
Women's Prayer	28

### MARCH

Men's Prayer	6, 7
Members Meeting	8
UnitedNC (Students)	13-14
Men's Retreat	20-21
Ann Arbor Mission Trip	25-30
Neighborfest	28
Women's Prayer	28

### APRIL

Men's Prayer	3, 4
Good Friday	3
Easter	5
Women's Prayer	25
Soccer Nights	27-30

### MAY

Men's Prayer	1, 2
Members Meeting	17
Women's Prayer	23

### JUNE

Men's Prayer	5, 6
FUGE Camp	23-27
Women's Prayer	27

### JULY

VBS	13-16
Int'l Family Reunion	19-24
Women's Prayer	25

### AUGUST

Men's Prayer	7, 8
Members Meeting	9
Women's Prayer	22

### SEPTEMBER

Men's Prayer	4, 5
Colombia Mission Trip	10-16
Anchored	11
Women's Prayer	26
Members Meeting	27

### OCTOBER

Men's Prayer	2, 3
MediMemo	23-25
Women's Prayer	24
Party on the Block	31

### NOVEMBER

Men's Prayer	6, 7
Members Meeting	22
Women's Retreat	TBD

### DECEMBER

Lottie Moon Banquet	2
Men's Prayer	4, 5
Christmas Eve Service	24

## MISSION TRIPS

### Ann Arbor | March 2026

Join us March 25–30 as our church family travels to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to partner with the Guyer family and serve Treasuring Christ Church. We will help to promote and host an Easter egg hunt as a community outreach opportunity while enjoying time of worshipping with their congregation and giving their volunteers a well deserved break! To learn more and secure your spot, please contact Drew Hill.

[drew@opendoorlife.com](mailto:drew@opendoorlife.com)

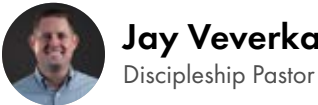
### Colombia | September 2026

We're returning to Barranquilla, Colombia! This mission trip holds a special place in our hearts, and we're eager to continue the work we started there. If you've ever wanted to experience international missions or if you're looking to deepen your faith through service, this is your chance. To learn more about this incredible opportunity or to secure your spot, please contact Pastor Jay. Let's make a lasting impact in Colombia together.

[jay@opendoorlife.com](mailto:jay@opendoorlife.com)



# NEXT GENERATION



**Jay Veverka**

Discipleship Pastor

2025 has been a year of equipping in Open Door’s Next Generation Ministry. Of course, the primary means of equipping the church is by God’s word:

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 CSB*

The word of God is central to our life at Open Door, and this extends to our ministry to kids, students, and their families. Equipping happens by God’s word and through the ministry of members using their gifts to build up the body of Christ:

*“And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ,” - Ephesians 4:11-12 CSB*

I want to highlight the ways in which equipping has

strengthened our Next Generation Ministry in the past year. We gathered our OD Kids team in August and January for training. While August is focused on the basics and getting new team members onboarded, in January we spent time reviewing our elementary curriculum and introducing a new emergency response plan. It was a fantastic time discussing how to respond to various scenarios to keep our children safe. This year, we also introduced a new elementary-age program on Sunday evening called Kids’ TREK. Kids’ TREK consists of a variety of classes, or “tracks,” that train our children to think biblically about the world we live in and apply biblical truth to their lives. It provides a word-centered environment of growth that enables exploration and outreach. Casey and Rebekah Clark have done a phenomenal job leading this new ministry and equipping its leaders to disciple kids from kindergarten through fifth grade.

In January, we added Drew Hill to our staff as the Student Ministry Director. Drew further developed our Equip Group leader training, allowing those leaders to step into their roles with clarity and confidence. In August, Carrie Armstrong joined the Open Door staff as our LEAN Ministry Director. In her short time on staff, she has been working to further develop key leaders who can multiply the care and capacity of our

LEAN Ministry. The spring and summer are busy times for Next Generation Ministry. Open Door hosts two significant outreach events for kids: Soccer Nights and Vacation Bible School. These two events require an army of faithful disciplers who have been equipped to serve over 250 children from Open Door and the surrounding community. Our Next Generation Ministry is striving to ensure that all kids and students, no matter their age, background, or ability, have access to the gospel of Jesus.

For our students, FUGE Camp is a special week of worship, fellowship, and growing in the Lord. Several students made first-time professions of faith or recommitted their lives to Jesus.

Thirteen adults took a week out of their summer to invest in the lives of these students. God used these adults in humble, faithful, powerful ways to impact these students for eternity and equip them for ministry. An increasing number of students participate in Equip Groups. Equip Groups consist of 3-5 students and an adult, allowing for intentional discipleship at a personal level. These groups are bearing tremendous fruit as students respond to the time and attention given to their spiritual lives. Because

*“Several students made first-time professions of faith or recommitted their lives to Jesus.”*

Equip Group leaders and others like them have committed to investing in the lives of students, we’ve seen nine students baptized in 2025.

Of course, our Next Generation Ministry isn’t solely focused on kids and students. Our team desires to invest in parents and wants to equip them in their role as disciplers in the home. In 2025, Open Door hosted a Weekend Workshop focused on parenting. We also continue to provide parents with resources,

such as the Wise for Salvation and The Way podcasts. These short, simple podcasts aim to help parents and their children have ordinary but intentional conversations around God’s word. We know that kids and

students face lies daily about who they are and the God we worship. Through our staff, parents, and fellow disciple-makers at Open Door, we equip the next generation to walk faithfully with the Lord and be a witness to the lost in their schools and communities.



The stage during the annual VBS camp, themed “Magnified!”.



# LEAN MINISTRY



**Carrie Armstrong**  
LEAN Ministry Director

Our LEAN ministry, which stands for Loving and Equipping All Needs, is the special needs ministry of Open Door. Our desire is to partner with families to provide opportunities for gospel access and community in our body here at Open Door. We believe that every person is made in the image of God and has the ability to learn about the love of God and be disciplined while also using their gifts in the church. Our ministry supports children and families in a variety of ways. We offer one-on-one assistance from our Buddy program during Sunday morning and evening activities. Additionally, we support children in our LEAN classes which is a calmer setting on Sunday mornings at 9:15 and 11:00. These supports enable our friends of all ages to participate with their peers and also provide a quieter space in our classrooms when needed. The LEAN classroom also functions as a sensory room, equipped with a trampoline, bean bag chairs, soft mats, and various sensory supports for friends who require an environment as such.

This year we were able to start adapting our children’s bible curriculum to help friends access the gospel in new ways. We are excited to continue to consider other ways that we can offer more avenues to learn about God and His word!

We enjoyed having several families from our community participate in VBS this Summer. VBS is a great outreach to families and we hope to continue to provide opportunities for our OD families and others in our community to attend and enjoy learning about Jesus with friends in the summer.

In the past year we have been focusing on and praying through integration of our children and families with special needs into our church body. We want our families to experience community and one way we do this is through offering childcare for families that may need it for Care Group.

In the Fall this year, our moms have been able to participate

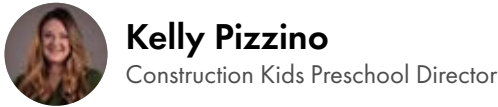


in a virtual book study together! Amanda Griffiths has led this study and it has provided a great source of encouragement and connection for our moms who sometimes don’t get the opportunity to connect with other moms in this way. Having virtual study allows flexibility and the ability to participate without leaving the house and or having to find childcare, which can be challenging.

This year we have also been praying through helping our older children use their gifts to serve. We have been able to partner with Open Door’s food pantry in recent months and are thinking through ways for some of our friends and families to serve with this ministry. It has been a blessing to see our friends using their gifts to serve our community in this way! We are thankful for our food pantry and the partnership we have with them. We look forward to prayerfully considering more ways for our friends to serve and use their gifts.

We hear from parents almost weekly about the blessing it is to have support in place for their child to come to church and learn about Jesus in ways that are meaningful to them. We look forward to 2026 and all that God has for our LEAN ministry as we seek to love and equip all friends to love and serve God.

# CONSTRUCTION KIDS PRESCHOOL



**Kelly Pizzino**  
Construction Kids Preschool Director

Construction Kids Preschool preschool emphasizes Christian principles and teachings as children interact and participate in activities centered on living and learning. We facilitate children’s spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, and social growth by providing a creative and nurturing environment led by skilled and creative teachers. Our program incorporates Biblical curriculum, along with purposeful play, to enhance each lesson. We foster a sense of community through encouraging interaction among parents, students, preschool staff, and local organizations.

The weekday preschool is in its seventeenth year of ministry. Children aged eight weeks to five years old fill our twelve class rosters. This year’s annual theme is the Armor of God from Ephesians 6:11. Teachers spend time each month sharing with the children different aspects of this scripture and how important it is to learn God’s Word. Additionally, students have Bible lessons each day, and the 3s through Transitional Kindergarten classes attend chapel each Wednesday, which Open Door’s Pastors and Ministers help teach.



The Lord has blessed the weekday preschool ministry with an amazing staff this year of thirty-three employees, four of whom also serve as team leaders for each of their age levels, five administrative staff, a Special Services Coordinator, and a Specials Teacher for art and music & movement. Preschool employees, as well as our preschool classes, begin each day in prayer and are encouraged to find ways to intentionally pray and care for our weekday preschool families.

Construction Kids Preschool also hosts an annual four-week summer program in June for children one to five years old. We praise the Lord for His faithfulness to sustain this ministry for over a decade and a half, allowing Open Door to share the gospel of Jesus with so many families with young children in our local community.

The weekday preschool’s annual community outreach program Learn to Give Care Share hosts three separate annual events to teach students how they can be a part of serving others. The fall “Snack Attack” drive collects snacks and treats for our local firemen and police officers who visit the preschool during Community Helpers week. The annual winter “Pack the Pantry” food drive collects hundreds of non-perishable food items benefitting Open Door’s food pantry. The spring clothing drive collects gently used clothing for a local clothing charity that benefits families struggling with clothing insecurity.

Prayer is needed for the weekday preschool ministry as our employees seek to build relationships with our families throughout each school year. 43% of our families report that they attend and are members of a local church from various denominations. 42% report that they attend a local church and are not members. 15% are not members of a local church and do not regularly attend church. Please pray for our administrative staff and teachers as they engage with families at our various events throughout the year to be able to boldly and lovingly share the gospel with families.

We thank Open Door’s members for their prayers and the many ways they support the ministry of the weekday preschool!



# WORSHIP MINISTRY



**Jimmy Cooper**  
Worship Minister

The Worship and Production Ministry at Open Door exists to “Show Them Jesus” in everything we do. From the songs we sing and the stories we tell, to the lighting, audio, video, and livestream systems that carry the gospel beyond our walls, every element is designed with one goal: helping people see Jesus and respond to Him.

This year has been marked by significant growth and impact. Our team expanded as we welcomed six interns and two residents, the largest group we have ever had. These individuals have served in both worship and production roles, bringing fresh energy and new ideas while receiving hands-on training for real ministry. The internship has been one of the best parts of my year, and it has been a joy to pour into these young leaders as they grow into confident, Christ-centered servants who can support any local church.

We also auditioned and added several new team members, increasing our capacity both on stage and behind the scenes. On the production side, we strengthened our volunteer base in audio, lighting, ProPresenter, and livestream. Their work might not be seen, but it is essential, and I’m deeply grateful for their commitment. Every lyric displayed, every camera angle that serves those who cannot be in the room, and every mix that keeps the congregation engaged plays a part in showing people Jesus.



One of the clearest signs of God’s work this year has been the increased engagement of our congregation in worship. These have been some of the sweetest moments at Open Door. Our intentional use of a cappella moments has allowed the voices of the church to be heard more clearly than ever. These moments remind us that worship is not a performance but a collective act of praise from the body of Christ.

Technically, we took a major step forward with the implementation of Playback as our primary tool for multitracks and click tracks. This shift has improved our consistency in live sound and streamlined how both worship and production volunteers prepare each week. Playback has made it easier for our musicians and production team to stay aligned, rehearse confidently, and serve with excellence.

This year also included key upgrades to our production systems that improved reliability and strengthened our livestream ministry, ensuring that those who cannot be in the room still receive a clear, Christ-centered experience. These improvements have also equipped our volunteers with tools that support the level of excellence we aim for each week.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on two priorities. First, we will continue investing deeply in our people, training and discipling worship and production team members so they have the knowledge, skill, and passion to serve any local church. As a hub for church planting, we see this as part of our calling, and this year we were able to send volunteers to support several local congregations. Second, we will continue refining every aspect of our ministry. There is always room to grow, new opportunities to serve better, and new ways for worship and production to “Show Them Jesus.”

The Lord has been faithful in 2025. I am deeply grateful for every volunteer, intern, resident, and staff member who has made this ministry thrive. As we move into 2026, we are eager to see how God will continue to use worship and production to proclaim the gospel and build His church.





# CREATIVE MINISTRY

 **Miranda Roy**  
Communications Director

The Creative Ministry at Open Door has experienced an exciting year of growth and change! In 2025, we successfully transitioned into a new creative team following the departures of Daniel McDill and TJ Cople, while welcoming myself, Miranda Roy, as the new Communications Director. Over the past year, Logan Voigt, our Media Coordinator, faithfully carried the majority of our media responsibilities to keep the ministry thriving until the Lord provided the opportunity for me to join the team. From managing print and brand design projects to editing videos and podcasts, Logan consistently used his gifts to inspire and equip the church with media that shares the message of Jesus Christ.

In June, I officially stepped into my role as Communications Director and have spent the summer fully transitioning into the position. My husband and I moved to North Carolina from Georgia in 2024 after a recommendation from a friend led us

to visit Open Door. After just one service, the Lord made it clear that this was to be our home church, and we soon began getting involved. I’ve always had a passion for communications and social media, which were areas I previously served in at my former church, and my willingness to learn has helped equip me with the skills needed to serve in this role. Much of my work involves coordinating the behind-the-scenes details for our major events and collaborating with our ministries to ensure our congregation stays connected and informed about all that Open Door has to offer. I also have the incredible opportunity to manage our social media platforms to ensure our church stays up to date on everything happening at Open Door!

One of our primary focuses this year has been mentoring our creative interns, teaching them a variety of skills to further God’s Kingdom, such as video and audio editing, graphic design, and camera operations. We’ve been blessed to have Titus McKinney join us in the spring and Nathan Forrest in the summer and fall, each contributing to a wide range of media projects. Our interns have edited Sunday sermons for YouTube, created sermon shorts for social media, edited podcasts, and

designed graphics and event posts that have helped engage our congregation. These internships provide middle school and high school students, as well as young adults, with the opportunity to grow their gifts, gain real-world experience, and use their talents to share the message of Jesus Christ.

This year, we also took a significant step forward in expanding our church’s digital presence. We launched brand new audio podcasts, enhanced our website, developed fresh social media strategies, and introduced updated branding for various events and ministries. One of our key goals has been to ensure our congregation stays informed and connected, which is why we’ve focused on using Instagram and Facebook to share updates and promote upcoming events. Additionally, we’ve made our website more user-friendly and added new features such as an online prayer request option to better serve our church family.

*“We launched brand new podcasts, enhanced our website, and developed fresh social media strategies”*

Branding has been a cornerstone of how we highlight our events and ministries. This year, we created a full media package for Kids’ TREK, including the logo, brand identity, posters, info cards, banners, and notebooks, all led by Logan’s creative direction, which played a key role in the program’s successful launch. We’ve also had the opportunity to rebrand other church events and areas, helping each reflect the heart and vision of Open Door.

As we all look ahead to the coming year, our prayer remains that the Lord will continue to use Open Door’s Creative Ministry to advance His Kingdom through a variety of mediums. We are deeply committed to serving the local body and supporting the ministries God has entrusted to us. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and prayers as we seek to grow the creative ministry. It is truly an honor to serve this community.







# ANNUAL MEETING BALLOT ITEMS

APPROVE THE 2026 MINISTRY BUDGET OF \$1,690,000.

REAFFIRM THE FOLLOWING ELDERS FOR THE 2026-2028 TERM:  
DWAYNE MILIONI, MARK ARMSTRONG, SETH BIBLE, STEPHEN  
ECCHER, RYAN HUTCHINSON.

AFFIRM CHRIS APPEGATE AS A TRUSTEE FOR THE 2026-2028  
TERM.



GO  
WITH  
THE  
GOSPEL