

2020 - 2021

Annual Report
Christ's American Baptist Church



Mission:

To know Christ better, and to make Him better known.

Vision:

To draw others to the saving knowledge of Christ by living like him in the way we love and serve one another, our neighbors, and the world.

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:16



Senior Pastor Report

Pastor Todd Witmer

Children's ministry, music and technology folks transform the children's Christmas play into a movie so everyone can see it.

As you have seen in and around the sanctuary during the month of May, I am frequently reaching for a sticky note to remember a task yet to be completed or a person to be contacted. The notes on the margins of this page represent expressions of love I have seen in the past church year. Look them over. See if you agree.

Church leaders - staff, elders, deacons and committees - continue to meet in Zoom sessions while the building is closed.

No one keeps giving when he or she can't even get into the building...or looks into a cell phone on a tripod to sing, give an announcement, share special music or preach, or sit at a computer for an hour talking to others in little rectangles on the screen...or tunes in Sunday morning to watch a service when he or she could be sleeping in...unless they are committed to sharing the love God has shared with us!

I am honored to serve with you. The leadership of CABC worked through this year with a determination to do whatever was needed to be done and to have the conversations necessary to carry out ministry. CABC attendees have remained connected in ways few of us would have imagined a couple of years ago.

Our Sunday morning worship songs come to us from the Euslen family living room with their newest furniture- a keyboard and drum set.

This is obviously a time of transition in the life of our congregation but the resilience demonstrated in this past church year gives me confidence in CABC's ministry for the coming year. There are people in our community that need to hear the message of Jesus' love, forgiveness, and new life. They also need to see this love lived out. May the Lord give all of us the strength, courage, and His Spirit to live it out accurately. By the time you read this report, I will have said my goodbyes. So, I will say THANK YOU one last time. It has been a privilege.

We don't pass offering plates for over a year and we still have what we need for ministry and missions!

Serving with you, in another place,

Todd

Pastor Josh and LC keep us online, streaming services each Sunday, even if it requires transporting computers home to broadcast from multiple pieces of equipment at once.

Members of DES take gift bags and fan out through the area to connect with CABC regulars during Valentine's week

Jess learns how to utilize green screen technology for custom backgrounds in her online children's lessons. She also learns how to duplicate herself in these lessons!

A technology team gathers in the sanctuary with Lancaster Bible College communications staff to evaluate and improve our equipment capabilities for livestreaming services.

A team gathers in the sanctuary on a Saturday afternoon to record a worship service in anticipation of a Sunday morning snow storm. The technology we had in place for COVID made worship possible for all when the storm made travel impossible that Sunday.

Elder Report

Herman Crawford & Brian Reigart



When the Moderator's annual report was written last year, little did we realize that the COVID-19 lock down, lock out, social distancing, and face mask wearing was just getting started. But here we are a year later and, as a Church, God has continued to bless us greatly. You, the members and attendees of CABC, have been so faithful in attendance (in person and online) as well as with your continued tithes. There have been many Churches that have had to lay off staff and even close their doors because of finances. But because of your faithfulness, we have been able to continue the CABC ministry with some changes.



Our staff adjusted their work and responsibilities and accomplished the task so that ministry continued in a mighty and wonderful way. God prepared CABC for this Covid time when He brought these staff members to this body in prior years. When Covid hit, they had been working together and knew each other's strengths. As a result, they were able to get CABC online in record time when it became impossible to meet in person as a Church or in committee. As with anything new and different, there were some technical issues but overall it worked and worked well. So, a big, BIG shoutout to our staff for an outstanding effort during a difficult and challenging year.

With the beginning of the new Elder year this past January 2021, the Elders began to look at the way Eldership had been working over the past several years. It seems that the Elder Board had gotten away from the spiritual aspect of Eldership and was serving more as Trustee Elders where we were managing the machine (the Church), not emphasizing protecting, feeding, leading, and healing of the members and attendees. Elders are called to be shepherds and it was felt that the Elder Board of CABC needed to refocus on maturing and protecting those within the Church. The Board will continue to be involved in the business of the Church but we will not continue to look over the shoulders of the Deacon Board. Pray for the Board as we move forward in this refocusing effort. As we move forward into the next fiscal year of CABC, there are some significant changes taking place. Jess Slenker has resigned her position as our Children's Ministry Director, not because she didn't love her job, but due to needs of her family. A search team has been formed and they are currently looking for candidates to fill the Children's Ministry position. Jess' shoes will be tough to fill. Please pray for the search team and Children's Ministry moving forward.

Another big change is the retirement of our senior pastor. Todd has been a part of CABC for 25 years, the last 14 years as our Senior Pastor. As much as we truly hate to see Pastor Todd retire, there comes a time when one season of life ends and another begins. Todd is about to embark on that season known as "retirement." Elder Board members come and go every year but he has been part of the Elder Board the entire time he has been our Senior Pastor. Todd has shown God's love and mercy to all of us over the years. He has served this Body well and has been faithful to God in carrying out his calling. Thanks Pastor Todd for your loving heart and serving nature.

As Pastor Todd prepares to leave, a Pastoral Search Team has been formed to seek a senior pastor. The team is working through ABCOPAD and with our Executive Minister, Reverend Frank Frischkorn, as we go through the search process. Continue to pray for this group, pray for Pastor Todd and Lori in their retirement, and pray for the staff as they, Todd-less, continue to do the daily business of the Church.

As we begin a new fiscal year, our prayer is that God will continue to bless CABC. We see some challenges ahead in several areas of Church life. For example, trying to get children's ministry programs fully functional again, trying to get the adult School of Christian Living classes going again, trying to get Sunday morning worship back to normal (in several ways), re-establishing a volunteer group for various functions within the Church, etc. We ask that you continue to pray for the staff, Deacons, ministry leaders, and the Elders as we continue to serve together. Pray that the challenges ahead will teach us to trust and rely on God, the One who has the answers, rather than on ourselves.

May God bless you and CABC.

Herman Crawford and Brian Reigart



Worship



Laura Enslen



As this year has brought us back into the building in person at CABC, our worship team has shifted from the quarantine of last year. Volunteers have been able to return and we have been able to serve you with a complete band most Sundays. I continue to lead worship most weeks; Michael Freeman, Paul Cole, and Heidi Bortner have been familiar faces leading worship over the past year as well. But we have had some exciting changes with two young adults stepping up into some leadership roles: I am excited to introduce Miriam Fodor and Micah Roth to this rotation. Both are skilled on their instruments and love the Lord and desire to see Him lifted up in praise.

Lamentations 3:23 states, "Great is His faithfulness. His mercies begin afresh each morning." We are preparing to sing this song in worship on Sunday as I write and I cannot help but speak of God's great faithfulness to our church body this year. It was a hard year. It brought challenges and difficulty. I don't know about you but sometimes I've felt that the devil was working overtime to get a foothold in this world. We saw the overarching fear that a pandemic brings and then the divisiveness that we saw lived out on our very streets over so many issues. "Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father. There is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou changest not thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be." He does not change! He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow! God met us in the midst of this difficult year. We grew closer as a church body as we worshiped in many different settings and as we defined what it means to be a body that loves each other and cares for each other. We have raised our voices in corporate worship, spurring each other on in faith and love of the Lord and others. Psalm 89:1 states, "I will sing of the loving devotion of the Lord forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations."

In this year of focusing on love, loving God, and loving others, let's live out the words of this song "God So Loved". Come to Him who is able and willing to love you with a love so unconditional...and let's extend that love to those around us and love like Jesus.

"God So Loved"

Come all you weary
Come all you thirsty
Come to the well
That never runs dry
Drink of the water
Come and thirst no more

For God so loved
The world that He gave us
His one and only
Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him
Will live forever

For God so loved
The world that He gave us
His one and only
Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him
Will live forever

Come all you sinners
Come find His mercy
Come to the table
He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness
Find what you're
looking for

Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down
At the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there
With open arms
See His open arms

The power of hell
Forever defeated
Now it is well
I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved
God so loved the world



Thank you for continuing to allow me to serve in this capacity for another year. I am humbled by all the Lord chooses to do through us and I look forward to serving you, our neighbors, and most of all our great God. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Songs we sang the most:
"God So Loved"
"The Blessing"
"Raise a Hallelujah"

14 new songs this year

30+ volunteers that
continue to serve on Sunday
worship teams and behind the
scenes!

A huge THANK YOU for their
commitment to music at CABC!





While these past 12 months have been dominated with the COVID-19 pandemic, an event new to each of us, it is one that our missionaries around the globe experienced as well. It is a true rarity when we can share living under the same circumstances as those in other countries. It has challenged our missionaries to become even more resourceful as they looked to meet needs and share about our Savior in new, sometimes very limiting ways. Now, being able to reflect on those experiences, one thing held constant – God's love and goodness. The church body at CABC did not miss the opportunity to stand behind these missionaries – always responding with effort, donations, contributions, and prayers when needs would arise. Thank you so much for your loving hearts for the less fortunate! From your Missions Committee, we want to say we are in awe of how much you care and we love working with you to make a difference.

No changes took place with the missionary areas we support, with four local, three national and four international missions groups. Below is an update about each of those, which are the areas that received the \$63,752 provided from our church's 2020-2021 budget.

Nehemiah Mission (Brenda Jurek)

This past year has been a very trying year because of COVID-19 but with God's guidance, and the loving giving of our congregation, Nehemiah Mission had the needed funds to put together Thanksgiving dinner boxes. We were so blessed that we could make this yearly event happen. Pastor Todd helped me lead this major ministry effort, being the great mentor that he is. He helped me determine how many dinner boxes we could do, based on donations received. We put together 215 meals, with 204 meals given out for Thanksgiving! God was with me through this whole process, as this was my first experience in such a role. He provided wonderful volunteers so this project went smoothly.

As only God can do, he connected me with the Community Progress Council (CPC), headed by Rhonda Contress, also a volunteer. She provides 20 Thanksgiving dinner boxes every year and at Christmas she seeks donations for Christmas gifts for these same families. These families, all in the Spring Grove area, have young children and are on fixed incomes. She collects necessary personal and housekeeping supplies for each family. Through discussions with her, she explained that she had been getting donations through a bank but it had closed. She was happy to hear that we would see if our congregation might want to help. The CABC family ended up providing donations of the items and money to buy others. The extra 11 Thanksgiving boxes were given to Rhonda for distribution where she saw fit. This additional project allowed the body of CABC to show our love for our community in an extra and beneficial way. It was a joy to help fill Rhonda's truck when she came to the church to pick up everything.

I feel very blessed to be connected to CABC and feel the love of everyone there. Thank you, CABC family!

Other Local Missions supported:

Lifepath Christian Ministries (Jeff Kreuer, Board Chairman)

The CABC church body extended God's love with many trips made to their warehouse back door in York. These donations from our church body provided food and necessities that were regularly shared online on their weekly "Immediate Needs" list.

Tender Care Pregnancy Centers (Vince Pacelli, Director)

We shared the love of Christ through our Women's Ministry's support of the virtual banquet. We also provided clothing donations, diapers, and filled baby bottles. Our MOPS walked their own pathways to support the Walk for Life fundraiser in May.

Youth For Christ

(Gary Grecco, Director)

With all of their fundraising events cancelled, their team adjusted to the COVID-19 imposed limitations by creating new ways to connect with the area's youth.



Anadarko, Oklahoma (Redstone Baptist Church, Christian Center in Anadarko, and Riverside Indian School)

It has been a trying year for the Sullivan and Smith families. Almost all the family members had been diagnosed with COVID-19 at one time or another. Brenda Sullivan has been battling for months and still is on the road to recovery. In the midst of it, they have shared that the love of Christ, through the prayers and support of the body of Christ, has sustained and carried them through it all.

The Redstone Baptist Church has struggled this year, losing several of their older members to Covid. But something to celebrate with them is Pastor Ken and Brenda Sullivan's 50th wedding anniversary this November. The Christian Center in Anadarko, under the leadership of Ben Sullivan, is currently closed. The severe cold temperatures in Oklahoma this past winter damaged some pipes at the Center and help is needed to repair them. The Riverside Indian School has been closed but Laughter Smith is expecting students to return in the fall of 2021.

Alysha Smith (Shanney and Laughter's daughter) is still battling an eye disease disorder called Vogt Koyabagi-Harada. She is getting infusions which have helped to stop the progress of losing her sight and reduce the inflammation.

While ministry has been limited, God's presence in the church and community has continued to sustain the families in this area. They praise God's planning to have delivered coats from CABC for both the students and the local community of children – well in advance of the cold winter they experienced. They thank our church body for the continued prayers and support. They continue in prayer as well, praying and knowing that ALL things work together for GOOD!



Dominican Republic (School at Batey 35 and Elza Phanord at Baraca church)

Although the pandemic caused the school to close for a long period of time, it created an opportunity for ministry to continue in other forms. Thanks to the planning and hard work of the school administration and teachers working with Savenit Polo (who is getting to be a very familiar face to folks at CABC), worksheets were distributed on a regular basis to the kids in the various bateys to keep up with their studies and food was purchased, packed, and delivered to the students and their families. Polo has continued leading this process through the pandemic, with repeated trips to these families in an effort to bless and sustain them.

While the CABC Dominican Republic missions trip was canceled this year, the team that was to travel packed boxes of donated items and the boxes and financial gifts were sent to cover the cost of food that is typically distributed while our team is there. Elza Phanord continues to provide God's Word and Truth along with vital provisions needed to the families she oversees through the Baraca church and Joe Hartman School staff and students. She and Polo are often able to team up to meet challenging ministry needs, which became even more difficult to accomplish this year. Plans are being developed to make next year's trip a very special one. They know how much the kids and people there count on our annual pilgrimage. You will see a video this summer that shares the distribution work of the gifts sent from all of the generous contributions from the CABC and other church families this past spring.

Savenit Polo has accepted an Associate Pastor position at the Maranatha Church, which is a major step in what he believes is his calling to share the Gospel to the people of the Dominican Republic, which includes predominantly Haitians at this present time. He leaves a good position with the sugar cane company to enter this full-time ministry position. Please keep Polo, his wife Racquel, and their three boys in your prayers as they step out in faith to serve God in this way.



Missions



(completed)



Russian Missions (Pastor Sasha)

While it has been a trying year for our ministries, like Job, our focus remains firmly set on the Lord's love for the people of Russia. As Job realized thousands of years ago; "The Lord gives and the Lord takes always. Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21). Our outreaches across the Russian landscape have not ceased during COVID-19 but are a bit different. Our radio ministry is reaching beyond our shores to people who have no hope. We met with the head of a public organization called "Sovenok", which assists needy individuals and families. With their help and approval, we offered a pre-Christmas program, which had an emphasis on hearing and experiencing the Good News of Jesus. The participants could hear and feel God's love and power in their lives – for many, it was for the first time.

Additionally, we met with the principal at a school located in a disadvantaged area. He shared the names and addresses of destitute families whose Christmas holiday would certainly be bleak. We shared God's love with every household, giving them previously prepared gift boxes. It was well received and in many cases we were invited into their homes to personally share about Christmas and the Gospel. All to the glory of God! What an awesome and mighty God we have! Praise God! We really appreciate your support in spite of your personal 2020 difficulties and experiences. Together we have seen God work miracles in these troubled times, calling people to faith in His Son and trust in His Word. "From him the whole body...grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Ephesians 4:16.



Windows of Hope (Jacqui Everett-Forde)

Windows of Hope has been committed to reaching the present generation in Uganda with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ for over 25 years. Jacqui Everett-Forde began Windows of Hope to show God's love in practical ways to children who had lost all hope for a better future. Giving HOPE and a FUTURE, one CHILD at a time. The ministry has evolved and grown from the initial baby steps of giving hope to AIDS orphans, with the same children now having a positive impact in the lives of others. God has expanded their work to helping poverty stricken communities and strengthening families and local churches. In addition to her regular duties administrating the school and other related programs, Jacqui is an AIDS counselor, conducts children and teacher workshops, and partners with other ministries in the area.

Jacqui has shared with us that this past year has presented new challenges to solve because of COVID-19. But with God still in charge of it all, answers and solutions were found. Very big news for the students at the Aunt Elvi School, where 300 children are enrolled, is that the new dormitory construction has been completed. The new dormitory for girls was dedicated in memory of the beloved school founder and Jacqui's husband, Wesley Forde, who passed away due to cancer in 2019. Wesley always wanted the children at the school to have a safe and conducive environment for learning. The closure of schools this year due to the pandemic has been very difficult, especially for girls. There has been an increase in adolescent pregnancies, early marriages and gender-based violence. The community is very excited that the girls at Aunt Elvi now have a secure accommodation and living environment.



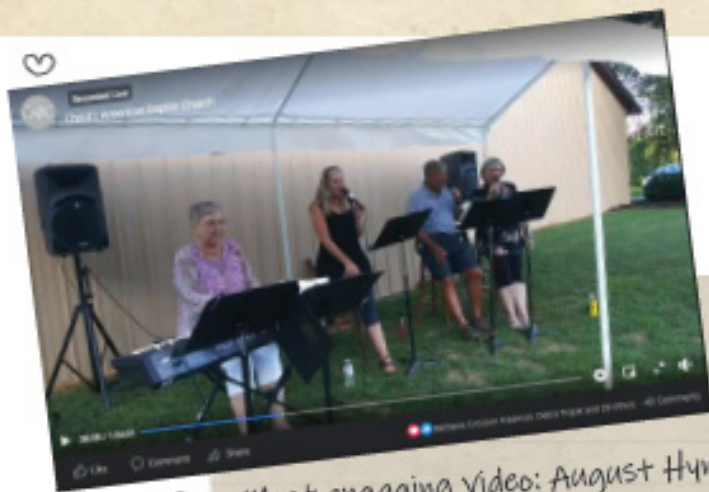
For more information on all CABC missionaries and ministries, please visit www.christabc.org/missions

This is a shout out to each of you reading this. I (virtually) attended a workshop recently that stated that social media is not just a tool for ministry, it IS a ministry. That really spoke to me. I often think of my work as a supporting role to promote and draw attention to all the amazing ministries here at CABC. But especially in this past year of Covid, I've seen how this ministry of social media and digital connection is so important in sharing the love of Christ with others.

When Christ gave us the Great Commission, He didn't give limitations to the command of "Go". So why would our going be limited to our bodily movements? Because in today's day and age, I can "go" and talk with people from all over the world in a few keystrokes. And the words and images I choose to express on a daily basis (whether personally or professionally) no longer affect those just in my close proximity. They travel and can be seen by almost anyone, anywhere.

You all have adapted quite a bit in the last year, as I shared in last year's Annual Report. But I want to express my thanks, appreciation, and gratitude for the ways in which you've adapted: sharing Sunday messages, sharing graphics and images, interacting with posts, commenting and tagging others to join the conversation... "showing up" even when you couldn't be here in person. And because you did that, someone else, somewhere else, heard God's Word, saw Christ's love in action, found hope in fear, found truth in confusion, and maybe, just maybe, found God Himself in his or her life.

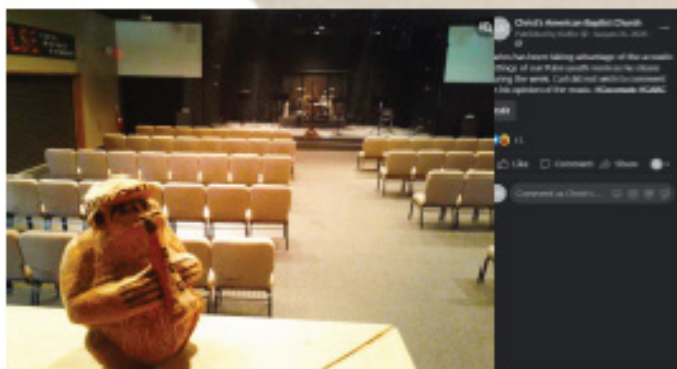
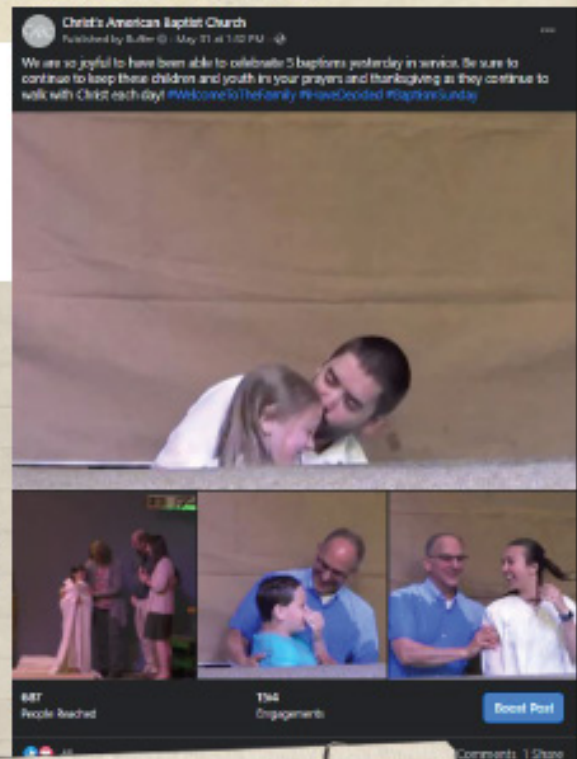
My job, my ministry, accomplishes very little without you all. So thank you for the ways you've shown love this year, shared love this year, and brought the love of Christ to the forefront of someone's screen. <3



Most engaging video: August Hymn Sing

Most engaging post: Baptism Sunday

Favorite Carl/Carlos post: Acoustic benefits



Most Viewed Webpages:

1. Live
2. Messages
3. Our Staff
4. Children
5. Calendar

FB Likes:

320 (June 2020)
370 (June 2021)

FB Followers:

390 (June 2020)
440 (June 2021)

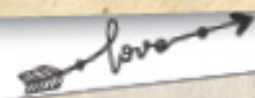
Children's Ministry ~ B: Jess Slenker

What a year! There were so many changes and new things to learn this year. Children's Ministry was no exception. We started off the 2020-2021 year with our first ever Virtual VBS-Pool Party! We would have much rather been together in person but times being what they were it was safer to stay at home with our families. We were able to give out 82 kits to kids in the area and there is no count on how many children saw the lesson videos that were done by our awesome volunteer teachers. Although the delivery wasn't the same as other years, the heart was the same: to get the Word of God to our community so that others may know Jesus either for the first time or to grow closer to Him.

This was the thought behind everything that was done for the rest of the year. There was a whole new way to getting His Word out. This happened in person and online. The options were there for everyone to experience God. We have become germ killing experts and tech gurus this year here at CABC, all in the name of Jesus. Thank you to our church body for being patient with us and walking through this year in a new way. It was amazing to see our church family come together at Christmas to support our Highway Kids first ever Christmas Movie. Who knew we had movie stars gracing us with their presence at our hometown church in Spring Grove?

Things were different this year but we have all worked together to make sure that the heart of CABC has not changed...and that is to reach as many as possible with the Love and Word of God! There is no way to measure all that was accomplished this year and we all saw that God is bigger than any trouble that will come our way.

Dear God, thank you for leading us through this trying year. Thank you for guiding us to new ways of doing things so that everyone was still able to hear Your Word, no matter where they were. You are an amazing God who gave the gift of an amazing Savior. Please help us to continue to shine Your light into the world in new ways. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Virtual VBS 2020 - Pool Party

- 82 known participants
- 28 volunteers
- \$2,416 raised in offering
- provided 60 uniforms to students in D.R.



5 baptized at CABC!
♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡

58 attended Easter Family Fun Day

♡ Virtual participation in scripture readings, Chrismons, Christmas movie, parable skits and more!
♡

Christmas Play turned Christmas Movie!

15+ children participated as actors, choir, and stage crew

10 adult volunteers



Superbook Shakedown:

2020 - 45 packets mailed out for virtual lessons

2021 - currently teaching Jesus's love on Sundays at CABC!



CABC Preschool

Crystal Johnson

What a wild and wonderful year for CABC Preschool! Our 10th year was supposed to be filled with fun, excitement, and celebration. Instead, we spent much of the year sanitizing and praying that we could stay open for one more day, for one more week. I am beyond proud of our precious preschool, the parents, and the kiddos for adjusting, planning, rescheduling and calculating our way through this unprecedented time. I was and continue to be impressed with the 34 children enrolled and how quickly they became acclimated to not just school but also to wearing masks and face shields, not being able to share certain items, and eating snack in the big gym, at the big table, and on big chairs!

34 total students

10 of those kiddos are
CABC kids or have a
connection to CABC congregation

8 of them have Mommies in MOPs.

16 have siblings who are or have
attended CABC preschool

Kids raised \$4,071.00
to benefit St. Jude

*** this is the largest amount
we have raised to date! ***



1 pandemic that we would
like to get rid of

0 students that have
contracted COVID-19

21 students took part
in the 10th annual
CABC Preschool
Graduation on May 21



Women's Ministry

Kristine Gardner

We ended 2020 with KNOW.... to know Him, to know how to continue to grow as sisters in Christ, and to know how to be His hands and feet as the pandemic continued. That all led us into 2021 with LOVE, loving Him and sharing His love with others. Though there were many restrictions, that did not hold back the amazing ladies on the WM team with their great ideas and blessing others with their gifts/talents or the faithful support from CABC's congregation.

We finished KNOW with our September meal prepping, which looked different from previous years. There was no mess for Carl to help us clean up this time and the CABC family helped us stock the freezer with homemade and store-bought meals. In November and December we found different ways to let others know that they are loved and cared for with Thankful Bags and Christmas Carol calls.

The Women's Ministry Bible Study this year was led by Chris Thomas. The ladies focused on two studies by Max Lucado, Because of Bethlehem and He Chose the Nails. Chris said:

We looked at Jesus's birth and crucifixion through the eyes of Max Lucado. What a wise man! In the past, I think I only attended one other women's Bible study. I had all kinds of excuses not to participate. But once I heard God's calling me to this one, I stepped out of my comfort zone and I'm so glad I did! The women were from all walks of life, different family dynamics, and all ages. And each one brought something to the table that we all needed to hear. If you feel inept, insecure, unqualified, or doubtful about attending a small group, let me tell you that it is so worth it! Even if you only make one session, you'll be blessed. I loved just listening to the other women share their thoughts, their ideas, their wisdom, their life challenges, and their accomplishments with each other. We pray for each other, encourage each other, and laugh with each other. We all have one thing in common: our faith in Jesus Christ...and that makes us Soul Sisters! I encourage each and every one of you to give it a try. I certainly came out of it a better woman.

The year of LOVE was kicked off with a time of "Coffee, Connect, and Love" in January. The ladies enjoyed a time of making love jars for each other and many cards to help Devon & Debbie in their card ministry. February was full of love and sweets with Galentine bags assembled and delivered. And we had our first virtual auction, too! It gave us all a chance to connect online with laughter and friendly competition as we battled to get the highest bid in on time, all while supporting needs in the Dominican Republic. The ladies gathered in March and April for a time to get to know each other, grow our friendships, and know how to love and support each other. We enjoyed a night of "Praise and Paint" and a morning of "Chicks and Chatter". Through these times of connection, we heard and saw the need of fellowship and just spending time loving each other. With that, we would like to start planning monthly lady fellowship times and include the young ladies from ninth grade and up to join us.

Women's Ministry is looking forward to the rest of the year of LOVE and seeing the joy that will come with loving Him and one another.

60 caroling calls made

14 love jars made & filled with encouraging words for one another

28 Galentine bags delivered

Raised over \$1,100 for the D.R.

21 attendees for Praise & Paint

10 ladies joined a fun time of fellowship & laughter at Chicks & Chatter

Men's Ministry

Michael Freeman

Cliff's Notes version of this report: While this world may seem to be spinning out of control, God is still in control... we at CABC are doing our best to meet trying circumstances with love and resolve and to create meaningful fellowship opportunities...oh, and hymns are cool.

I grew up in a church where, in the back of each pew, you would find only two books – a Bible and the hymnal. Worship was filled with the sound of a massive pipe organ and the verse, chorus, verse, chorus of many popular hymns. This has resulted in two things: the love for the rich theology and tradition of some ancient words and the ability to often have a few choruses rattling around in my head or having those words spring to mind in a variety of circumstances.

This year, as we look at Love as a congregation, I have had a few of those old hymns spring to mind. At the King's Table, where 15-20 men would gather each month, before we dive into God's Word, we begin with praise by rolling the hymn books out of Laura's office and selecting a few. I will say there is nothing quite like the acoustics of the gym or Pulse rooms to mix the sound of men's voices raised in praise in a way that takes me back to my childhood. There are even times that I can almost feel the deep resonance of those organ pipes in my bones once again.

Throughout this year of COVID and masks and gathering restrictions, it seemed at times as if the whole world was conspiring to keep the church fractured and to discourage fellowship in a way that simply made the church body less of what it was capable of being. In true hymn lover's fashion, I could hear the rousing chords play in defiance of this spiritual battle. "Onward, Christian soldiers! Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus going on before."

Sure, the coffee and doughnuts were gone from our fellowship time and even the doors were locked for a season while services moved to Facebook and YouTube... but the church of Christ endured. When the building reopened, His people returned. We gathered in small masked groups in the parking lot to exchange stories and encouragement. And that glimmer of hope of Christian fellowship made Sundays a shining beacon upon a hill in the midst of quarantine, lockdowns, and frightening news reports. "Like a mighty army moves the Church of God; brothers, we are treading where the Saints have trod. We are not divided; all one body we: One in hope and doctrine, One in charity."

The church gathered before Holy Week to work side by side to take care of the building that serves us all so well. The young and the young at heart worked to mulch and weed, to clean and scrub, to chainsaw down trees and haul brush, and to fix broken things. Even more than 30 York Marine recruits showed up with SSgt Peterson to clear a path through the woods to our sign and to begin the process of reclaiming our back yard... a proposed site of future church fellowship activities. The Pulse students lent their hands at deep cleaning the kitchen and washing every window in the church inside and out. The prayer garden was open for business again with a facelift and some much needed projects were accomplished around the church, even before all of that work would bear fruit with a complete reopening of the building. There was such care and goodwill shared amongst this body of believers. It was good to see God's plan for his people lived out. "We will work with each other, we will work side by side... And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love."



Men's Ministry

(continued)

No, it hasn't been a normal CABC year of ministry... but the church has persisted. We have grown more intentional about what activities we do plan and what fellowship we create. We have grown more intentional about reaching out to one another, those in our midst, and those who, this year, have been apart from us. One thing we have held onto... God's love is true and because He first loved us, we are to show that same love to one another and radiate it into our communities. "Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made, were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade, to write the love of God above, would drain the ocean dry. Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky. O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure The saints' and angels' song."



Staff Relations

Bethanie Freeman

What a year we have just walked through! Staff Relations has been meeting virtually over this year to update several policies and support the amazing staff at CABC. I am incredibly thankful for the Staff Relations Committee consisting of Keith Bortner, Wes Hallman, Allison Hann, and Mary Reigart. Herm Crawford served as our Elder representative for the first half of the fiscal year before passing the torch to Keith Bortner. This group is dedicated to serving our staff and encouraging them in their ministry, and for this I am grateful.

Just when I think that the staff at CABC can't possibly get any more incredible, they end up showing up in even greater ways to love the congregation and community. The Lord has created such gifted, wise, creative, and wonderful people that have served so lovingly through the pandemic, and I know that I can speak for everyone by saying thank you for every single way that you have each stepped up in the new and different ways this year. You have worked hard to remind us that the Church is not about a building or a staff member or a specific event but that the Church is about loving each person that comes into contact with us in any setting. The Church is about sharing the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through our words, our actions, our testimony, and our lives. This is what our staff has shared with each of us throughout the pandemic and we know that it was only through the help and support of the Holy Spirit that they were able to do this so well.

As we move into a time of change with several staff positions, we acknowledge that the congregation and the remaining staff will be filled with a number of emotions. We are here to walk with you through this time and are available to support you during the transition. While we are so grateful for the care and leadership from both Pastor Todd and Miss Jess during their years of service, we know that the Lord's plan for the future of CABC is already known to Him. We thank Him for loving His people so much that this transition is important to Him.

Our hope is that our congregation will join us in prayer over the decisions to be made, that we will seek the Lord's will in all of our steps, and that we will all be an example of Christ's love through each part of this process. Take time to share some encouragement and love with our staff for the wonderful job that they do each day to serve the Lord according to their calling.



SOCL

Terry Hess & Bethanie Freeman

After a fairly long break from SOCL due to COVID-19 gathering regulations, the SOCL committee and leadership were extremely excited to jump into a short 6-week study together during April and May. With some planning, we decided to offer the series "Love Like That" by Les Parrott, which looks at several characteristics of how we, as Christians, can learn to love more like Jesus.

We offered three classes that included a youth and young adult class that was facilitated by Joe and Brooke Arney, a virtual class that was facilitated by Pastor Josh Trojak, and an in-person adult class that was facilitated by Bethanie Freeman. We had more than 35 people taking these classes weekly. None of these classes would've been possible without the coordination of Children's Ministry, so we are incredibly thankful to Jess Slenker and Kristine Gardner for creating a wonderful plan for the children from nursery age through 6th grade. The rotating volunteers that cared for and taught the children were a perfect example of loving like Christ so that all parents could participate in SOCL this Spring.

Each week we delved into a new topic of how Christ showed His love for others during His ministry on the earth. The study included personal testimony, countless scripture references, self-assessment surveys, great teaching, and practical application to help us learn how to grow in the area of loving others. Jesus was a man who was mindful of situations and people around him, approachable to people of every walk, grace-full in all situations, bold in speaking the truth, and self-giving to the point of an excruciating death. He demonstrated these character traits to be able to draw others in by His unconditional beautiful love and He longs for us to show this love to others, to draw them towards His saving love. The study is available on RightNow Media, and we would greatly encourage you to check it out. Are you willing to learn how to love like that?

Love

LOVE
LIKE
THAT

DR. LES PARROTT

Small Groups

Pastor Josh Trojak

This year has not seen new groups created but it has seen connections strengthened amongst the groups that currently meet. Some of that connection was via phone calls, some over Zoom, some outside, and some with masks. It was not the year many of us expected but it was a year that needed those connections in so many different forms. We were never meant to walk this journey with Jesus alone. Our goal is to continue to strengthen our existing groups and create new opportunities for others to grow in their relationship with God and His people in the coming year. Will you be connected?

Hess Small Group
10 Attended

Pastor Todd's Small Group
6 Attended

Schumacher Small Group
9 Attended

Young Adult
Small Group
Leader: Trojaks
10 Avg. Attended

Marriage Small Group
Leaders: Pastor Josh & Deb Trojak
6 Adults Attended
9 Kids

Marriage Small Group
Leaders: Mike & Laura Euslen
Host: Mark & Vicki Hudak
12 Adults Attended
24 Kids

King's Table Men's Group
Leader: Michael Freeman
15 Average Attended

Women's Ministry Bible Study
Leader: Chris Thomas
10 Average Attended

Pulse Youth

Pastor Josh Trojak

This year has seen its ups and downs in large part due to the ongoing needs of the COVID-19 pandemic. We did not have any summer mission trips. The fall retreat and typical River Valley Ranch retreats were also not options. But connection still happened! We had weekly outdoor youth events over the summer that were a welcomed reprieve from the Zoom-only options of the spring. With a focus on testimony, the youth got to hear many different adults share their stories and many of the teens shared their own stories too.

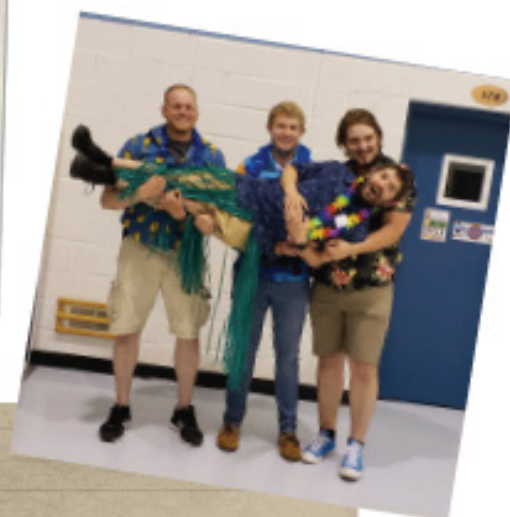
Those summer nights led us into a school year of different. As we headed indoors, we had masks, distancing, and altered programs. With the exceptions of a couple of weather-related adjustments, we have met together this school year without breaks. That is a huge blessing from God in a season of unknown circumstances that changed weekly. We held our first ever retreat/lock-in in March. This was a time to do all the things we hadn't had the opportunity to do in the previous year. It included the fun of time together, some focused time looking at our goals in life in connection with our faith, serving alongside our church body during the all-church work day, and growing closer as a group throughout the event.

As we approach the summer of 2021, we hope to return to some of the events through which we have seen the youth enjoy and grow. The Home Town Mission Trip and the Erie County VBS Mission Trip are both back on the calendar. Along with other fun connection events, we hope to take this summer to grow closer to God before a new school year begins. We have five seniors who are starting their next chapter in the fall and we will be saying goodbye to them as well. Every year brings change; this one had no shortage of that but I did get to see God at work in the lives of our teens and volunteers in awesome ways. I trust that He has a plan for moments to come in the year that lies ahead.

3 events/retreats
(Hometown Mission Trip
2020, VBS Mission Trip
& Fall retreat) cancelled
due to Covid.

And yet...

45 Wednesday Youth Groups
5 Virtual Wednesday Youth Groups
6 Sunday youth classes
30+ Youth Impacted
5 Seniors Graduated
Countless Lives Changed



Winter Lock-In/Retreat:
12 Teens & 5 Adults

2021 Dessert Auction Fundraiser
Theme: Hawaiian
Total Raised: \$6,513.74
Deposited to each student's account: \$500

20+ volunteers helped make youth events this year possible!

Property



Dandy Kessler

To continue from last year, we are a year in with our Custodians and they are doing a fabulous job of keeping the building clean and ready for all of us as the building is starting to get busier.

We did have an all church work day this spring on March 13. There was a list of many items needing attention to keep things maintained. Mulch was spread, as well as stone between the buildings. Electrical work, plumbing work, and tree trimming also were completed. We had an offer of help from SSGT Kyle Petersen and his Marine recruits—they all worked very hard and came in very handy for clearing out the area behind the playground and also for restoring the paths in the woods that lead to the CABC sign on Old Hanover Road.

We also continued our work with Aero energy to update our heating and cooling systems this past year. After several meetings, Aero located all of our equipment, documenting serial numbers, model numbers, and manufacture dates. All of this was put on a plan and all equipment was labeled and numbered. The church office can now call for service and let them know the unit, location, and model of what is not working.

There also was a meeting with Aero to develop a plan to update old equipment; several units are 17 years old! We will update our propane service delivery system, with the addition of a second 1000 gallon tank, put pressure regulators on needed equipment, and also make some sizing changes to gas lines where needed. We will do some air delivery changes through zoning controls in the foyer and office spaces. We had much less propane use this past year and so this work will be completed with the funds remaining in our budgeted propane account.

We also will replace one furnace before the start of the school year in the fall and this will be budgeted for in the new budget.

As always, I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve CABC in this capacity. If you have a gift you would like to use in this capacity, whether with practical tasks or task coordination, let me know. We can always use more help.



Service



Help Wanted:

Seeking an individual to work with all ministry teams and church staff to plan events that provide opportunities for our church family to fellowship together in addition to worship.

Must be full of God's love and have a desire to share it with others through fellowship opportunities.

No professional experience necessary.

Responsibilities include: coordinating volunteers for Wednesday Night meals, maintaining kitchen area & supplies, coordinating meal arrangements as needed for memorial lunches & funerals, helping organize and plan all-church meals and fellowship functions.



Covenant Membership

Member	Joined	Member	Joined	Member	Joined
1. Abbey, Donald	1998	53. Johnson, Troy	2011	105. Thomas, Chris	2011
2. Bair, Maryann	2012	54. Johnston, Mark	1998	106. Trojak, Debra	2016
3. Bair, Tony	2015	55. Johnston, Rochelle	1998	107. Trojak, Joshua	2016
4. Bakke, Judy	2011	56. Kessler, Jeanette	1995	108. Vincent, Pam	2019
5. Bange, Vicky	2017	57. Kessler, Randy	2001	109. Walters, Bethany	2018
6. Barton, Robin	2019	58. Kindig, Barbara	1996	110. Walters, Paul Damian	2018
7. Becker, Joseph	2003	59. Kirk, Diane	2020	111. Witmer, Lori	1997
8. Becker, Mike	2018	60. Kirk, Scott	2020	112. Witmer, Todd	1997
9. Becker, Sara	2018	61. Kress, Pamela	2007	113. Wolfe, Deb	1996
10. Becker, Vicki	2003	62. Kuhn, Brian	2007	114. Wolfe, Fred	1996
11. Bentzel, Patricia	2005	63. Kuhn, Laurie	2004	115. Zeigler, Linda	2005
12. Bortner, Heidi	2017	64. Lighty, Linda	1998		
13. Bortner, Keith	2017	65. Lighty, Robert	1998		
14. Bortner, Ruth	2003	66. Luckenbaugh, Bryan	2003		
15. Brogan, Debby	2016	67. Luckenbaugh, Phyllis	1994		
16. Brogan, Devon	2016	68. Luckenbaugh, Sharon	2003		
17. Bynaker, Ron	2016	69. Marble, Ben	2020		
18. Bynaker, Sarah	2016	70. Marcionette, Dean	2020		
19. Cahill, Rebecca	2015	71. Marcionette, Donna	2020		
20. Chronister, Judy	2020	72. Miller, Lee	2015		
21. Coddington, Janet	2011	73. Miller, Sally	2015		
22. Coddington, Robert	2011	74. Miller, Steven	2015		
23. Courtney, Ethan	2017	75. Mummert, Beverly	2015		
24. Courtney, Laura	2017	76. Mummert, Lary	2015		
25. Crawford, Caroline	2015	77. Myers, Amy	2017		
26. Crawford, Herman	1994	78. Myers, Barry	2016		
27. Crawford, Ruth	1994	79. Myers, Melissa	2016		
28. Gress, Terri	2011	80. Oberholzer, Charles	2007		
29. Donner, Ethel	1994	81. Prowell, James	2013		
30. Downing, Carole	2017	82. Prowell, Terri	2013		
31. Erslen, Laura	2011	83. Raigart, Brian	1995		
32. Erslen, Michael	2011	84. Raigart, Mary	1995		
33. Freeman, Bethanie	2017	85. Schumacher, Barbara	1994		
34. Freeman, Micah	2020	86. Schumacher, Mark	1994		
35. Freeman, Michael	2017	87. Scipioni, Paul	2013		
36. Gardner, Kristine	2020	88. Seibert, Deborah	1994		
37. Gardner, Mike	2020	89. Seibert, Jeffrey	1994		
38. Gist, Anthony	2014	90. Shearer, Dan	1995		
39. Gist, Mel	2018	91. Shearer, Sherri	1995		
40. Gross, Greg	2013	92. Sheridan, Donna	2005		
41. Hallman, Wes	2016	93. Sheridan, Larry	2005		
42. Ham, Allison	2016	94. Shifflet, Karen	2002		
43. Ham, Willy	2016	95. Siegrist, Amanda	2012		
44. Hess, Beverly	1993	96. Siegrist, Joshua	2012		
45. Hess, Terry	1993	97. Slenker, Jessica	2013		
46. Hice, Christina	2018	98. Slenker, Jon	2013		
47. Hice, Jeffrey	2018	99. Smith, Dean	2005		
48. Hoff, Shawnee	1996	100. Smith, Stephanie	2005		
49. Hoff, Terry	1996	101. Smith, Troy	2020		
50. Inners, Connie	1997	102. St. Ledger, Jim	2003		
51. Inners, Daniel	1997	103. St. Ledger, Lisa	2003		
52. Johnson, Crystal	2011	104. Thomas, Casey	1998		

Additional membership information
for fiscal year 2020-2021

New Members

Diane Kirk
Scott Kirk

Baptists

Joe Arney
Logan Becker
Abby Bortner
Helen Bortner
Sarah Czapp
Mark Erslen
Molly Erslen
Kaylee Trojak

Finance Report

Mike Emelen

I am honored to be completing another year as Treasurer of CABC. As we have worked our way through this year of changes, slowly making our way back into the building and adding programs to the weekly calendar, I have been continually reminded of the giving nature of our body – not just financially but through the giving of time and talents as well. Thank you CABC for continuing to give so much of yourselves!

GENERAL FUND	BUDGET	FCST FINISH	VARIANCE
Total Income	\$ 361,952.10	\$ 353,122.73	\$ (8,829.37)
Total Expense	\$ 366,932.00	\$ 355,703.76	\$ 11,228.24
Net Income/(loss)	\$ (4,979.90)	\$ (2,581.03)	\$ 2,398.87

MISSIONS FUND	BUDGET	FCST FINISH	VARIANCE
Total Income	\$ 63,752.00	\$ 58,000.00	\$ (5,752.00)
Total Expense	\$ 63,752.00	\$ 63,752.00	\$ -
Net Income/(loss)	\$ -	\$ (5,752.00)	\$ (5,752.00)



Shown above is a summary of the General and Missions Funds – the approved budget vs. where I forecast we will finish the year (as of late May). We budgeted the year at a deficit in the General Fund, and while the forecast shows we will finish at a deficit, it is a smaller gap. The positive variance here is due in large part to under-spending across many ministry areas – the largest being Staff, Children, Youth, and Media. Savings in these areas helped to offset giving which was below budget by almost \$9k.

One expense area to highlight is Property. This year we encountered many HVAC issues which led to high-dollar repair and replacements across the systems that heat and cool our building. Without these costs, the positive variance in overall expense shown above would have been closer to \$25k and we would have seen a rise in the General Fund balance during the year. Considering the impact of these larger costs, we plan to do a Building Fund reset at the end of Fiscal Year 2021 and use the General Fund to bring the Building Fund back into a positive balance (current balance is around -\$49,000). While this change will reduce the General Fund balance to a five-figure number that we have not seen for many years, it allows us to begin using the Building Fund for larger capital purchases that should not be hitting our general operating budget.

The Missions Fund summary shows an expected shortfall of \$5,752 for this year. As always, this will be covered by the General Fund and we will reset to start Fiscal 2022.

On the next page you will find the General Fund and Missions Fund budgets for Fiscal 2022 (starting July 1, 2021) that I will be presenting for approval at the Annual Meeting in late June. For reference, it is compared to the current year budget and our forecasted finish.



Love



Finance Report

Continued

GENERAL FUND	20-21 Budget	20-21 Fcst	21-22 Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 361,952.10	\$ 353,122.73	\$ 354,144.11
Expenses:			
Children's Ministry	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 6,540.08	\$ 10,800.00
Family Life Ministry	\$ 600.00	\$ 363.38	\$ 675.00
Leadership/Discipleship	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 885.36	\$ 1,270.00
Youth Ministry	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 2,086.29	\$ 6,900.00
Worship Ministry	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,776.75	\$ 2,600.00
Missions Ministry	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Administration	\$ 13,410.00	\$ 12,359.42	\$ 13,160.00
Media/Publications	\$ 5,994.00	\$ 3,789.11	\$ 5,921.00
Property	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 50,213.59	\$ 39,800.00
Service/Fellowship	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,740.67	\$ 4,012.00
Finance Committee	\$ 12,053.00	\$ 13,751.02	\$ 13,084.00
Staff	\$ 274,825.00	\$ 258,198.09	\$ 253,766.98
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 366,932.00	\$ 355,703.76	\$ 352,988.98
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (4,979.90)	\$ (2,581.03)	\$ 1,155.13

MISSIONS FUND	20-21 Budget	20-21 Fcst	21-22 Budget
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 63,752.00	\$ 58,000.00	\$ 62,600.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 63,752.00	\$ 63,752.00	\$ 62,600.00
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ -	\$ (5,752.00)	\$ -

For 2022 we are presenting the first balanced budget in the past few years. Note that on the income side our expectation for giving is conservative and just slightly above this year's forecasted finish. For expenses, you can see that in some ministry areas we are budgeting back to pre-Covid levels as more programs return in the coming year. This is offset by savings on the staff line. As search committees work to fill two open positions, we have a period of time without costs there which helps to balance the budget. Also included in staff costs is a continuation of our 3-year plan to raise the pay rates for our hourly positions – these rates will change in January 2022. Finally, the Missions budget has been set slightly lower than fiscal 2021, as we maintain the level of 15% of giving for this area.

As we continue to focus on financial education for the congregation, I plan to provide periodic updates in Sunday service during the coming year. Also, Don Abbey will be facilitating the next class of Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University this coming fall.

In closing, I'd like to thank everyone who gives his or her time and talent to the finance ministry: the tellers who count the money each week, our Financial Secretary Bev Hess, Bookkeeper Don Abbey, committee member Jeff Seibert, and Elder representatives Josh Trojak and Troy Johnson. In addition, our staff and ministry heads are partners with us in using funds appropriately and I appreciate their diligence in this area! And I'd like to thank all of you in the congregation once more for being faithful in giving to the Lord, so that we can meet the financial needs of CABC and continue to serve Him so well.



And I pray that you,
being rooted and established
in love, may have power,
together with all the Lord's
holy people, to grasp how
wide and long and high and
deep is the love of Christ,
and to know this love that
surpasses knowledge—that
you may be filled to the
measure of all the
fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17





*Christ's American Baptist Church
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