# ANNUAL REPORT

CHRIST'S AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

2021-2022



## MISSION:

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

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.

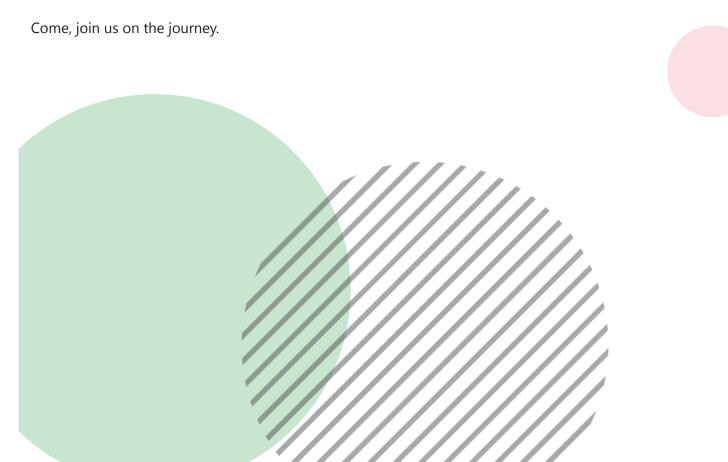
VISION:

Wow. A lot has changed over this past year. As we struggled with the changes of the world around us, we also had some major changes to the staff and direction of ministry. For most of this year, our Children's Ministry has been led by committee and I am incredibly thankful for all the volunteers who put in countless hours to make sure the children of our church were not left behind as we sought God's plan for that ministry. You will have opportunity to hear all that went on in this area throughout this report, but I do believe God was at work in the lives of our kids and volunteers this year. It is exciting to say that we will go into next year with Kristine Gardner at the helm.

This year also saw the transition for me out of my Associate Pastor role and into that of Senior Pastor. I am extremely thankful for the hard work and time put in by our team of youth leaders as my previous position has remained unfilled. The youth group didn't seem to miss a beat as they forged ahead with Wednesday nights, retreats, and even the annual dessert auction. The year has looked different for the teens but I believe they have continued their connection to each other and to God. As the one who moved on from that piece of CABC's ministry, I am grateful for God's continued work in the lives of these young people.

Now to the role I have been in for close to a year. First, I need to say how thankful I am for the trust you have placed in me to be in this role. I have been blessed to be a part of this body for six and a half years; this year, a year of transition, has also been a blessing, despite the ups and downs. Covid disrupted plans for my installation as well as our Christmas services. We have had to say goodbye to some good people from our body. But we also have seen many people come back to worship with us in person—or new people join us in worship. We had the return of many of our Bible studies, small groups, and School of Christian Living classes. We had a baptism and child dedications and provided a space for those who were grieving the past two years in our Service of Remembrance and Loss. Our church has continued the work of supporting the body and reaching outside of our walls. And for all this, I am grateful.

Is there more work to do? Yes. Are there ways in which I as your pastor and we as a body need to continue to grow? Most definitely. That is what makes looking back on the past year enjoyable. We can see where God was working in us, through us, and despite us. Prayerfully, we can look back on this coming year and see God finding us even more faithful to the work to which He has called us. I am excited to see what He has in store.



#### Elder Report

Where has the time gone? It seems as if I just finished last year's Moderator Report and here we go again. In the Moderator Report last year, the impact of Covid and where we were at the time was the top story. Unfortunately, a year later Covid is still a part of our life and it appears that it will be for some time. One of the issues facing CABC about this time last year centered around Covid and how safe or unsafe various gatherings that we enjoy as a part of the Church body might be. But it seems that we have come to terms with where we are and how we react to any Covid issues as they appear. As a result, the Church is starting to reengage as a body, social distancing is gone, lots of hugs are back, and it begins to feel right again.

God has blessed CABC, as a Church and as a people, in so many ways this past year. As was mentioned last year, a team was formed to find replacements for Jess Slenker as Children's Ministry Director and Pastor Josh as our Youth Director. Despite all the hard work by the search team, things did not go as smoothly as hoped. But I have found over the years that God in His perfect timing is not as interested in instant gratification as I am. After a very long year of trying to keep Children's Ministry afloat, we were able to bring Kristine Gardner on as our Children's Ministry Director. This is a part time job, about 20 hours per week. Be sure and encourage Kristine as she moves to do wondrous things with children's ministry.

While still talking about Children's Ministry, I would like to thank all those who volunteered over this past year. It absolutely could not have happened without your willingness to help. I know many of you were afraid to answer your phones or check your emails and texts because it might have been someone (me) looking for help. But almost every time, you readily agreed to assist. It sure made things so much easier. You are a blessing to the Church but especially to our CABC kids. Thank you, thank you.

We continue to look for someone to fill the position needed for the youth. The Elder Board will have met (May 12th) with the Diaconate and Finance Committee by the time you read this to discuss making this position very similar to the one Pastor Josh filled when he came on board. You will hear more about this as decisions are made and we move forward. Keep the youth and the search for the person to lead them in your prayers.

Pastor Josh has been our senior pastor since September of last year (2021). He has blessed us as a Church by continuing to faithfully bring us teachings from God's Word each Sunday. Much of the feedback that I hear is the appreciation for the preaching/teaching that Pastor Josh does from books of Scripture each Sunday. I am reminded of the letter Paul wrote to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:2-4) where he says: "In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear." Continue to pray for Pastor Josh as he fulfills God's plan for CABC in reaching out to those who need a Savior, to those who are hurting, to those who need a welcoming place.

In the Moderator Report last year, I mentioned that the Elder Board was going to spend some time refocusing the Board attention on Church spiritual matters. As part of this effort, we have discussed and studied the role of Elders and we have also begun a study on Biblical doctrines, what they are, do we need them, why are they important, etc. We have only recently begun the doctrine study but will continue as we move into the coming year. Doctrines are Scriptural teachings on theological truths. What are theological truths? It is easy to see the necessity of knowing exactly what these truths are so that doctrines can be faithfully taught and faithfully followed by CABC. Can't teach and live what you don't know.

Earlier this year in a Diaconate, Elder and Staff (DES) meeting, Pastor Josh told those gathered about a study he had read from pastor and researcher Thom Rainer. Rainer had researched and wrote on reasons why he felt that people were not returning to their churches post-Covid. It was such an eye-opener that the DES Team felt that Pastor Josh should speak to this from the pulpit (which he did). Some key points that Rainer made on why folks are not returning to church (and CABC is probably no different) are as follows:

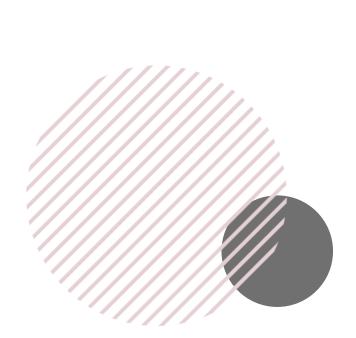
- During Covid, people simply got out of the habit of going to Church.
- Those who felt disconnected from the fellowship of the Church saw no reason to return.
- Many who watched services online continued to do so even as restrictions began to go away. Rainer found
  that these individuals tended to then drift away completely, giving up on online services as well.
- Many were only fringe attendees so to stop attending was not too big of a deal.

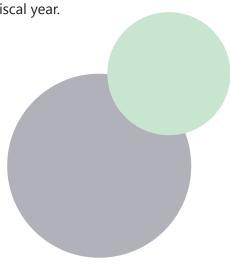
The Elders have been looking and will continue to look at what can be done to bring the Church family home. We are attempting to make contact with those who have not been attending to see if there are issues we can address to make their return easier. We have started looking at small groups with the idea to increase the number of groups so that everyone can be connected. If you are not a part of a small group and wish to be, speak to me, one of the Elders, or Christina about joining. These connections provide a feeling of belonging and inclusion in the Church and, as Rainer pointed out, will help us stay connected as a Church.

Pray for the Elders as we work this issue. Do your part as well and check on your friends and family within the Church to see why they are not returning. Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us to "consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Help your friends and family (and maybe even yourself) not get into this habit of not meeting together.

This year the Elder Board added two new Elders – Michael Freeman and Mark Schumacher. The Board now consists of six men: Michael and Mark, Pastor Josh, Keith Bortner, Troy Johnson, and Herman Crawford. Pray for the Board at all times, please.

Thanks for you for your faithfulness. God bless us as we move into this next fiscal year.





## **Worship Report**

In an example of the love we shared with our sister Judy Elicker, her family so generously donated her baby grand piano to our church after her passing this past fall. We will miss Judy, her love for music, and her beautiful ability to make music dance across the keys as she played for us in worship many Sundays and evenings of hymn sings. It's with sadness at the loss of this friend but also joy that we accepted this gift, which now resides in its new home on the right side of our stage. We have been able to use the piano for various preludes and special music selections already. Singers and piano players alike have gathered around to sing and play together on a Wednesday or Thursday evening, and we look forward to many opportunities to extend Judy's legacy of worship through her piano in service to our Lord. If you take a moment to sit at the bench, you will see a plaque that was purchased to honor her family's gift to CABC. May we continue to worship that great God and look forward to the day when we will be reunited with our sister, Judy.

"Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised!" Psalm 96:1-3

This year we are looking at ways we can look outside of ourselves and be a blessing to those around us using the gifts that the Lord has uniquely given us. In worship together, we are confronted with a Holy God who deserves all our adoration and honor. Our prayer is that our time together in worship spurs on our service to Him in our daily lives. Like the words of this chorus say, let's allow the knowledge of His gift of salvation and the realization of His great love compel us to serve those around us that He places

in our paths!

I will build my life upon Your love It is a firm foundation I will put my trust in You alone And I will not be shaken

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me
"Build My Life" Housefires

around
40 volunteers
serve on
worship team
(both on stage and
in the booth)

It is an honor to serve alongside these musicians and technicians. Many are taking on leadership roles, whether leading the whole team, leading out vocally in a song, or leading the band and it is a joy to come alongside and support these new leaders! We pray together that the Lord if y Him, that you would not see us on stage but you would see

would use us to glorify Him, that you would not see us on stage but you would see Jesus. I'm so thankful to serve alongside such a dedicated group who loves to serve the Lord.

We sang **285** worship songs in services this year!

#### **Most Sung:**

"Is He Worthy,"
"Goodness of God,"
"Same Power,"
"The Lion and the Lamb,"
"This is Amazing Grace"

#### **New Songs:**

"Rescue" "Battle Belongs" "Good God Almighty"

# Oldies But Goodies: "God is Good, All the Time" "He is Yahweh"

Thank you for the opportunity to serve CABC in this capacity yet another year. I pray that we continue to Know, Love and Serve Him in new ways this year!

#### Missions

#### Laurie Kuhn & Mark Schumacher

What an awesome church! That's what CABC is! Let me share some key areas about this ministry year and about the wonderful ministries God has directed and allowed us to support – with your help and prayers.

We recently had a Zoom meeting with Russian Missions head, Pastor Sasha, on the situation in Ukraine. With Russian Missions having their missionaries on the ground right where the need is, it means the funds go straight to them - with the Mighty hand of God overseeing relief in the midst of tragedy. Pastor Sasha's plea for help for the people of that country was immediately met by our church body and CABC raised \$3,050.00!

Our annual short term mission trip to the Dominican Republic was the end of February into early March. It was the best trip ever--ask anyone who went! Plans are in the making for next year already, including days with the staff and kids at Batey 35 School, food drives, clothing giveaways, light construction, and an all-church picnic, suggested by Elza Phanord. Elza has been instrumental in planting about five churches in the DR. The picnic will be on a Sunday, the only day the men in the Bateys have off, and gives a chance for families to be together. A new generation is rising up to stand in the shoes of those who are growing older. **Praise God for those who keep loving on the people in the DR!** 

Zoom has opened a door to be with our Missionaries where they are. We Zoomed with our Oklahoma/ Riverside/Christian Center of Anadarko missionaries, Brenda, Ken, Ben, and Shanney Sullivan during our April Missions meeting. Brenda is gradually getting better from her recent illness and Ben is starting an online discipleship program for the Christian Center. Ken also will help with the program. Shanney and Laughter's daughter, Alysha, continues to get infusions for her rare eye disease. Keep Riverside School in your prayers as they are just starting to let the students off campus.

Tender Care's biggest fundraiser is the Virtual Walk-a-thon, held May 7 this year. They hoped to raise \$60,000.00.

"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you," is the beautiful greeting from Jacqui Forde of Windows of Hope. She says they are facing many challenges with the high price of goods but gives thanks to the Sovereign Eternal God for His protection, provision, and providential care.

Youth for Christ continues to minister to students in our area. **The Break Away Youth Conference in Ocean City, MD drew 350 students, staff, and volunteers.** The past two years have been difficult for students and the conference was a time of love, worship, and rededicating oneself to the Lord Jesus Christ. This organization has been going strong for 75 years!

LifePath Christian Missions (formerly York Rescue Mission) meets many needs. The paper drive CABC held went well and many volunteers signed up to help serve meals at the Mission throughout the year. **The City of York desperately needs our prayers.** As I drove by the front of the Rescue Mission, after delivering some of the donations, a lot of people were lined up in front of the building to get something to eat. That doesn't include the many people inside the building who live there. So many are in need.

Nehemiah Mission did an outstanding job in putting together turkey dinner meals for families for Thanksgiving and delivering them. Thanks be to our Lord for the volunteers and Brenda Jurek for organizing such a much-needed outreach.

I would like to conclude this report by saying this - what a wonderful body of believers we have here at CABC. You give generously of your love, time, and finances!

KEEP LOOKING UP!

#### Media Report

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love." (Galatians 5:13)

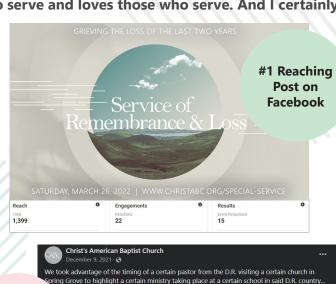
In this past fiscal year, we've been focused on the themes of "Love" and "Serve" and I think that pretty well sums up the heart of this church in general. Ministries have been encouraged to plan and internally focus on these themes as they make decisions on events, lessons, outreach, etc. But what's interesting to me is that if I look at the posts that have been published on our social media accounts over these past ten months, it is those actions of service that have received the most love.

As I stated in my past annual report, you all have done an amazing job remaining connected and engaged over the past two years. But of all the funny (or at least what I think is funny or try to make funny), made-to-engage, and open-ended posts I've published over the past fiscal year, those that have had the most reach (seen by the most number of people) and engagements (interactions via likes, comments, clicks, shares, etc.) generally have been those focused on the service of this church body. So below are some pictoral examples of that love. I think they are a perfect illustration of how this church loves to serve and loves those who serve. And I certainly





but apparently this church loves its coffee





Social media subscribers & followers

YouTube: 147 subscribers
Facebook: 480 follows
Instagram: 91 followers

**Twitter:** 27 followers

#### Michael Freeman

I have been involved in Men's Ministry at CABC, in a variety of capacities, for over two decades now. One of our first Sundays visiting CABC, while still trying to decide if the church my wife grew up in would be the church our children would also grow up in, former (former) Pastor Eib (who married us) was giving one of his last messages. During that message, he announced that men's ministry had a new group starting the next week. That seemed a little fast to me to commit to a small group but I knew my tendencies for procrastination; if I didn't get involved right away, I would continue to find excuses to postpone joining a men's group. (Time always seems in short supply but the excuses are plentiful.)

So, the very next week I showed up to the house of a man I had never met before (way outside of my comfort zone) and since then you could say I've been hooked.

I knew that I didn't want to just attend a church on Sunday morning, put in my weekly hour and a half, and go home. I needed relationships, accountability, and people that would force me back into God's Word and give Godly wisdom and guidance as I was fumbling my way through being a husband and a father. I needed men who had already been where I was headed and could point out the pitfalls. I needed men who would provide a loving word when I stumbled... again. I also needed men who were trying to figure it all out right alongside of me. Men who were trying to raise kids in this world of too overbooked schedules and cell phones and social media. **That is exactly what I have found in Men's Ministry...mentors and co-conspirators.** 

Men's Ministry has changed since those early days of Mighty Men. I attended many more home groups. I began to help lead a group that became The King's Table and I continue to fellowship with the men of CABC through Marvelous Men (a Christian fellowship excuse we have come up with to watch Marvel movies and eat at Buffalo Wild Wings... God's work!) After the movie, the men analyze the film, bash DC, and swap stories about their favorite baseball team or football player. You know what? Even though I rarely have a clue what the heck they are talking about, I still look forward to those conversations. There is power in watching Christian men laugh and smile in fellowship with one another. I love these men for the impact they have had on me. It is far deeper than I am sure many of them know. I smile and watch their interactions and thank God that I get to be a part of a church family that actually enjoys spending time together.

Through the Men's Ministry, I have met men who have become friends and friends who have become brothers. We dive deeply into scripture together. We fill the gym with the sound of men singing a cappella hymns of praise and worship. (The acoustics in that space are quite forgiving.) We witness men pray in earnest for loved ones to come to know the Lord...for Him to bring healing...and for Him to offer forgiveness. Over the years, we have grieved and mourned together. We have lost powerful voices and watched new ones rise up. I also have gotten to watch these same men, who mean so much to me, begin to pour into the lives of our youth. They take such care to include them and make them feel welcome. Micah has started bringing a group of college friends all the way from Lancaster to join in on our study. They share their insights, ask good questions, and help us finish any extra desserts that may be lying around.

There is a renewed interest in forming a Men's Ministry steering committee this year. Ideas for other men's fellowship activities are already in the works. I am excited to see what will come from these discussions. Ultimately, it is my sincerest hope that we will continue to grow together as the body of the church, focused on knowing God through His Word, striving to love others like Christ would love them, and serving out of the depth of gratitude for everything that God has done in our own lives.

PS. If you are waiting for an invitation to participate in a group like this, consider this your altar call at the end of the message. We weren't designed with the capabilities to live this life on our own. We were designed to rely on God and one another for the strength and wisdom to represent Christ well. There is always room at our table... plenty of food, fellowship, and lessons to be learned.

This past year Women's Ministry focused on the theme "Love" and then transitioned to "Serve". As we wrapped up "Love", we asked the church to bless kids at the park with bubbles, sharing God's Word and CABC information attached to the bubbles. We had some great fellowship time with Family Game Night, prepping freezer meals for those in need for the year, and putting together the Thankful Project for our members at CABC. We ended 2021 with some of the children making Christmas caroling calls to our members that we have missed seeing in person.

We kicked the year "Serve" off with a ladies' breakfast, with food, a time of fellowship, and asking how we can serve each other. February and March were two great months of serving our Galentines and the community with "Loads of Love", homemade laundry soap that was delivered to the local laundromat. We had a blessed Ladies' Luncheon with fellowship, food, and ideas being generated by the ladies in the church for Women's Ministry.

The Women's Ministry Bible Study this year was "Cozy Mountain Lodge"; it was a time of reflection with the story of Ruth and Naomi and understanding the meaning of making God our foundation. Through the study, the small group of ladies that gathered had the opportunity to open up and share their truths and struggles and grow in our relationships with each other.

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. -Psalm 46:1

#### Team:

Kristine Gardner
Caroline Crawford, Diane Kirk
Amy Hallman (joined in Feb.)
Jami Potts (joined in Aug.)
Deb Trojak (stepped off in May)
Courtney Weichert (joined in Feb)

Goals for the upcoming year

Bubbles in the Park
Family Game Nights
Freezer Meal Preps
Thankful Project
Christmas Caroling Calls
Ladies' Breakfast
Galentine's
Loads of Love
Ladies' Luncheon
Bible Study

Events this year

To grow our relationships with God and each other with a different approach in Bible Study

Make fellowship a focus to get to know the ladies in the church body more

Service Projects to serve each other and the community

## Children's Ministry

It has been an interesting year trying to provide some continuity in Children's Ministry with the departure of Jess Slenker. I truly had no idea, no concept, of what went on in Children's Ministry when this all began a year ago. One of the prime things that I have learned during this past year is what an awesome group of volunteers CABC has that serve our children. Everyone who volunteered did so bringing great excitement and love to the kids. Plus, the children were given wonderful Biblical instruction. God's Garage was always a crazy place to be and I, for one, am not sure I could have functioned with all the activity going on back there. They had fun and enjoyed learning from Miss Tina, Kardyn, and others. I would go back to check to make sure everything was going okay or to see if Tina needed anything but never got too far into the room and away from the door. Didn't want to get sucked into all the activity. Crazy and fun room. John and Miranda Sellers alternated as the teachers in Toddlers with Devon Brogan and one or two teens during first service. Again, always excitement in there with lots of laughter and a few tears on occasion. Most of the time, the tears were from the kids. I noticed John spent a good deal of time cleaning tabletops of crayon marks as well as other unidentified stuff. The nursery was staffed each Sunday by a different volunteer during first service, again with the assistance of a teen. The teens worked out well in nursery because they could get up and down off the floor a whole lot easier than the adults. So, to everyone involved in the Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings, thank you. Teens (and sometimes younger), you were great. We could not have done it without you. Thank you.

A big shout-out to Jess Slenker for the way she left things in Children's Ministry. Things were so organized that it did not take me long to figure out how to keep things going. Thanks Jess.

Another key volunteer during this past year has been Christina Hice. She took care of the program that is used for scheduling the volunteers. She was there to answer any questions and help in so many ways. I have had all types of problems with the copy machine this past year, but Christina would come in, hug the machine, and it would hum and print extra bright colors just for her. Thank you, Christina.

The Biblical teaching that I mentioned earlier, except for God's Garage, came from a series entitled "The Gospel Project." All classes, all ages, are taught the same story each Sunday but the lesson is age appropriate. The series runs for three years and then begins again. As a child moves through the Sunday school system, he/she may study the same story a couple of times but it will be at a different age-appropriate level. The toddlers are taught what the A2Jers are taught on any specific Sunday, but at a level that can understand. The teachers have been committed and faithful to this teaching plan. The material is very good and covers both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

This past year, during our 2nd hour Sunday school time, Children's Ministry continued to provide Biblical instruction to our CABC children, visitors, and friends. There was a Nursery during the 2nd hour during most of the year but with only one child, we found that it worked out well to bring him over to toddlers, freeing up two volunteers. The 2nd hour in the Toddler class is primarily a time of play as the kids received their Bible stories and activities during the first hour. There was no 1st and 2nd grade class this year. With only one 1st grader and an occasional visitor, it did not seem to justify two volunteers each Sunday. Therefore, the lone 1st grader was put into Mrs. C's Frogger class (3rd and 4th grades) where she made out fine. She told Mrs. C, "Once a Frogger, always a Frogger." In addition to their Sunday teaching from "The Gospel Project", the Froggers continued to collect pennies during the year for a yet-to-be-named missionary.

On Wednesday nights this past year, Mandy Siegrist and Sara Becker have provided the leadership for AWANA. There were not as many children as in previous years but everyone still had a great time. Lots of Bible verses were memorized, Bible stories were told, and games were played in the gym (thanks Mr. Mike). Thanks to all of you who helped Sara and Mandy this year. It was a good year.

As Children's Ministry looks ahead to the coming year, we can celebrate (Yahoooo!!) knowing that Kristine Gardner is now onboard as our new Children's Ministry Director. She is excited and looking forward to growing and reenergizing the program. Welcome aboard, Kristine!

#### Children's Ministry

(continued)

As Kristine comes onboard, many of the scheduled events for the remainder of the year are already being planned and staffed by, you guessed it, volunteers. VBS for the summer is being led by Crystal Johnson and Vicky Bange. AWANA is planned for the fall with Mandy Siegrist and Sara Becker stepping up again to lead and coordinate the Wednesday night activities. The ladies heading both of these events will be working hard to make these programs a success, but they will need our help. When they approach you, be generous with your time. If you are not approached, they would have no problem if you came to them and volunteered to help. For this summer, various teachers and teens will be presenting "The Miracles of Jesus" for children in grades 1-6 in God's Garage. Kristine will be looking at teaching material for the toddlers this summer. In the fall, we begin again with "The Gospel Project" studies.

Thanks to many volunteers, Kristine will be coming on without a tremendous amount of pressure to put lesson plans and activities together over the next few months. This will give her an opportunity to see how Children's Ministry currently functions and to think about what lies ahead. Pray for her as she takes on this huge responsibility. Try to find some time to volunteer. It is so necessary for the success of the children's programs.

Thanks to each of you for sharing your children with us this past year. I think they had great teaching. Encourage your friends, family, and neighbors for this coming year to bring their children. They will have fun and learn about Jesus at the same time.

#### **AWANA**

Mandy Siegrist & Sara Becker

Matthew 19:14 states, "Jesus said, let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these." When the year began, we wanted a safe place for children to come and learn about Jesus, to learn about how much He loves them, to learn about how He can be our safe place in a time of chaos, and how we can lean on Him and know that He will direct our path. As we think back on the year, we have seen God work in many BIG ways. We have learned just as much as the children about our Heavenly Father. What an amazing year!!

God brought us 41 children this year. This is what some of those children said about why they like to come to Awana. "I get to learn about God. "It's fun." "Game time is the best!" "I like craft time with Miss Devon." "I get to see Cubby Bear puppet at the end of the night." God also brought 17 amazing volunteers to help instruct, guide, and lead these wonderful little ones. Thank you!!!

Here are some highlights and God-moments from this year. We learned about Jesus and His Word. We had 16 theme nights in which the children participated. The children brought in 173 items for homeless veterans in Hanover. We also had a "bring a friend" to Awana campaign in March that went over so well we extended it through April. One child even brought a friend the last night of Awana! That child stated, "I am coming back next year!" In April, we had a Kindness Calendar with a suggested act of kindness for each day. Children were challenged to spread some kindness in this chaotic world. The children reported 462 acts of kindness. God truly smiled down on these children for I know there were even more acts of kindness that were not reported. But the most amazing gift that God gave us this year, which only He could provide, was that one child came to know Jesus as her personal Savior. What an amazing blessing.

Dear Jesus, we thank you for such a great year in Awana. We thank you for your goodness and faithfulness. We thank you for these children and how wonderful they are. We thank you for the new believer in Christ that has come into your family. We know you will guide and direct and bless this precious child and all of our children. May you be praised in all we do! Amen.

#### **CABC Preschool**

The 2021-2022 school year has been pretty good to CABC Preschool. We finally had a school year that was mostly back to "normal," pre-Covid. What a welcome relief that was!

As I am sitting here writing this, reflecting on our 11th year (11 YEARS!?!?), I am also in the midst of planning our 11th graduation. This year we will have 23 children sitting on the stage graduating from CABC Preschool, and 22 of them will be heading off to kindergarten in the fall. In the past 11 years, approximately (I may be a few numbers off, but not many) 191 children have graduated from CABC Preschool. This current school year (2021-2022) was the first year that I can say that we have kiddos in every school building from elementary to high school. The very first graduating class of CABC Preschool graduated in 2012 and are currently finishing their first year of high school.

To say we have grown and accomplished much in our "short" existence is an understatement. Our growth has been steady and so is our waiting list. I am so blessed to be a part of the preschool ministry that at times I am simply overwhelmed. We started with absolutely nothing and relied heavily on donations of toys, books, and art supplies. Now I can go into the preschool storage room and marvel at all of the things we now have at our fingertips for the classroom and the kiddos.

On to our next exciting adventure! Slowly, but surely, CABC Preschool has grown. Once all of the surrounding area public school offered full day kindergarten, we have been consistently full in both of our 4-year-old classes as well as our 3-year-old class. Due to Covid-19, many preschools and early childhood learning facilities closed for the 2020-2021 school year; many never re-opened their doors. This naturally led to a long waiting list and three full classes for us. In order to accommodate our kiddos and families, continue to grow (just a little bit), and still offer a high-quality program, CABC Preschool is moving! But don't worry; we're not going far.

It is our hope to be moved to the modulars by the time the 2022-2023 school year starts. We will have a busy summer of work, doing some modifications and upkeep to the interior and the exterior. Our storage room will get moved to the smaller room and we will use the bigger room as our classroom. This will benefit the preschool in many different ways and also will allow all of the Sunday school classes to be in one general location. Preschool has been working with Deacons and the Children's Ministry Steering Team with this move and it is the hope and prayer of everyone that this move will be a blessing to all ministries concerned!

CABC Preschool is in for some exciting times! Stay tuned for next year's edition of our amazing journey serving the Lord and His children.



Over the past year, we slowly have been able to work our way back to normal as Covid cases kept going down. We have enjoyed having a youth group every Wednesday and not needing to use Zoom for any of them. We were able to have our VBS Missions Trip to Erie and were able to go back to one of the youth favorite retreat centers, River Valley Ranch. We have a new sense of joy and appreciation for the little things in life and I truly feel all the kids have grown closer over the last year and have created a strong family.

Over the summer of 2021, we focused more on our testimonies and the importance behind them. We shifted our focus for the school year to finding your spiritual gifts and using them for God's kingdom. God worked in a great and amazing way because the theme for our winter retreat was how beautiful and unique God has made us all. Our youth have really enjoyed not only getting to learn more about themselves but also about each other and how they can be there for their brothers and sisters in Christ. This year has been great and a huge learning experience for all of us. All four of our leaders (the Arneys and the Fodors) have taken on a large responsibility, have grown closer together over the last year, and can't wait to see what comes next.

As we get closer to the summer, we know it definitely will look different then it has in the past. For this year, we aren't able to plan as many summer events since we have the starting of a family for the Fodors and personal schedules are busy. We still are planning on holding fun game nights and events over the summer, but as of now, no missions trips will be happening.

Even though the youth group has been a little different this year, we still have grown by 11 new kids that have started to attend throughout the school year. We have six youth that will be graduating this spring and will be starting their new journey come the fall. We are beyond excited to see what the Lord has planned for them.



# **Small Groups**

Pastor Joshua Trojak

As our current small group ministry goes, we have a strong and steady base. Many of these groups, leaders, and participants have been actively doing life together for many years. A small group of individuals that has committed to spending time going through God's Word together is such a valuable thing. As we review this past year, I am thankful for the support each of these groups were able to be for each other. I am also challenged to think about how this model of group support can be grown to benefit even more people from our church and community in the coming year. My prayer is that we see further growth in the groups we have and more connections made in groups that form over this next year.

12 active groups this year

60+ adults impacted by a group this year

#### Staff Relations

Our Staff Relations committee has the privilege of walking alongside CABC's staff as a support to their various ministries. We meet with, pray with, pray for, and work with our staff to help them with needs that pop up in their ministry areas. We encourage with cards, words of affirmation, gifts, and times of fellowship. Our committee, which includes Mary Reigart, Allison Hann, Wes Hallman, Keith Bortner, and myself, finds joy in working together to uplift the staff of CABC.

As I reflected on this past year, contemplating what to write in a report that focuses on a year of continued transition, I found myself seeking some inspiration from scripture. We have learned over the years that change is inevitable, but in that change, our God remains unchanging. This section of Romans stood out to me as not only a charge to our small committee, but also to our staff and our congregation. Let's take a few moments to look at Paul's words and see how we can put them into practice as we move into this new fiscal year.

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." (Romans 12:9-13)

"Love must be sincere"- I'm pretty sure that we all can spot a fake pretty easily...a fake smile...a fake greeting...a fake compliment. Are we being sincere in our love toward others? Paul isn't suggesting that our love be sincere, he states that it must be sincere. We will make Christ known by our sincere acts of love to those with whom we are in contact. Be genuine in your interactions with those in leadership, on staff, in the chairs (even if they took "your" chair), in the parking lot, and as you go about your daily living. Really struggling with loving someone in particular? Pray that God's love pours out of you as He works out tough situations in your life.

"Hate what is evil; cling to what is good"- There is so much evil that we see every single day. It is easy to become beaten down by the evil in this world. It is just as easy to overlook it and pretend that it doesn't exist. So, what is good? In the D.R., we sang a very peppy song with many repetitions of "Dios es bueno"—God is good. He is who we cling to. In a world of evil, are you drawing near to Him in prayer, in studying His word, in fellowship with believers, through worship in song, in times of struggle, and in times of joy? Are you clinging with all of your might to the One who is good?

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourself"- It is an uncommon practice in our society to love someone with great loyalty and to honor his or her needs above our own needs. We are a selfish society, and this isn't new. Paul didn't make this statement because it was something that came naturally to the people of his time. He shared this as a reminder of the work that it takes to be devoted...to stand beside and behind and with other Christ-followers for the mission of drawing others into the family. He gave this as a reminder to people of all ages that it's not all about us and what we want, feel, think, believe, and need.

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor"- I am supposed to have energy and enthusiasm in my walk with the Lord and my fellow believers so that I can maintain an intense passion for Christ? Maybe you are thinking that you barely had the energy to make it to church, or maybe you think that is the job of the Pastor's sermon or the Worship Director's song choice...after all, we pay them to do that, right? Fortunately, Paul is not suggesting that our source of energy is from paid employees or flashy lights or just the right worship song played exactly how you like it. He isn't looking for a fleeting emotion. The Holy Spirit wants to fill you with life and joy that is unimagineable. Paul is encouraging us to be so in tune with our Heavenly Father that we are so excited to share the good news with others and to spur others on in their faith.

"Serve the Lord"- It took me long enough to get here; after all, this is the part of our vision for the church that we are focusing on in 2022. This is not a complicated direction. It does not say "Be served by others." Serve the Lord. This is action. He wants you to do something that points others to Him. He has graciously gifted each person with skills, talents, money, time, and more. Don't know how to serve? Neither did most of the disciples. Fellowship with Christ, seek His will, and take a step out in faith. Not really feeling it? Do it anyway...fill a need, keep it simple, get involved. Serve the Lord.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer"- Our hope is not found here on Earth...our hope is in the Lord and the truth that He has prepared a place for those that love and follow Him. We will face trials, but Paul reminds us that we are to be patient and to faithfully pray throughout the struggles that fill our days. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray for wisdom and guidance for CABC as we seek to follow His will for our congregation and community. Pray that others will come to know the Lord so that all of heaven will rejoice. Pray that the hope of eternity is ever present in our minds, so that we seek to share it with others.

"Share with God's people who are in need"- The needs are abundant but you must keep your eyes and heart open to meet the needs of others. See the person who longs for a friend, the person who needs an encouraging word, the person who cannot get his or her life back on track, the person who has no idea how he will survive another day, the person who does not know where she will get food for her family, the person who has been abandoned, the person who is filled with grief or shame or pain or anger. Share from your abundant wealth.

"Practice hospitality."-Seek out new faces or "new to you" faces. Introduce yourself. Sit and have a cup of coffee after service with someone you don't know well. Invite someone to Sunday School or Bible study or lunch. Make others feel welcome.

You may be wondering why in the world this is the Staff Relations annual report. Honestly, I'm not 100% sure myself, and I wrote it. I had no idea what to write when I started this but I prayed that the Holy Spirit would guide me with my thoughts and words to impact those who call CABC their church home. May you be spurred on and encouraged to follow the charge of Paul found in Romans 12:9-13. May you continue to Know God, Love Others, and Serve the World.

## School of Christian Living

Terry Hess

I would like to start by thanking the committee members (Don and Chris Abbey, Bethanie Freeman, Wes Hallman, and Barb Schumacher) who put in countless hours going through material, looking at RightNow Media, and attending meetings to offer some of the best studies we have ever had. Also, I would like to thank the teachers who steped up and spent time and effort to prepare for classes (the Johnsons, the Schumachers, the Enslens, the Slenkers, Jeff Seibert, Michael Freeman, Don Abbey and Pastor Joshua Trojak). Without each of these folks, there would have been no SoCL. Thank you for devoting your time and hearts to giving CABC the best studies we can to advance the Kingdom of Christ.

If you have attended the classes, what do you like and dislike about the classes? Are there studies or classes you would like to see in the future? If you have not attended School of Christian Living, I urge you to give it a try.

"Do not conform
any longer to the pattern of
this world, but be transformed
by the renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to test
and approve what God's will is,
His good, pleasing, and
perfect will."
Romans 12:2

Classes offered "Bringing Up Boys"

"The Power of Jesus' Names"

"The Power of Knowing God"

"Advent Experience"

"Revelation"

"S.H.A.P.E."

"40 Verses to Ignite Your Faith"

"Parables of Christ"

"Crazy-Making"

"Financial Peace University"

#### **Property Report**

2021-2022 was a much better year for the Property Committee; the church was open and being used! And with a little maintenance, we got through the year without the HVAC issues of the previous year. The new budget year brought continued upgrades for the HVAC systems in the building. We upgraded the propane delivery system throughout the building to deliver the correct pressure to the units and added another 1,000 gallon tank to ensure we don't run out. There are still two original HVAC units in the building. The right side of the sanctuary has a unit installed in 1985 and is scheduled to be replaced in the upcoming budget year. The second one is for the right side of the gym and was installed in 1991. It also has a schedule to be replaced.

The parking lot lights were also upgraded. If you attend any evening functions or an evening meeting, you will notice the difference. You can feel much safer walking out to your car now. They were donated by a member of the congregation.

There was a spring work detail the first Saturday of April. The flower beds were re-mulched, gutters were cleaned, gutter guard was installed on some areas, and some general maintenance was completed. Thank you to all who turned out to help.

A new mower also was purchased this spring through a donation from the congregation. Thank you!

## Service Report

Diane Kirk

After a conversation at a church dinner, it was laid on my heart to volunteer to become the Service Ministry Deacon. Wow ... something that was completely out of my comfort zone but also something that I could not stop thinking about. I guess that's what they mean when they say God is speaking to you! I volunteered and the whirlwind began.

I set up a table at the Service Ministry Fair and as a result we had 10 people attend our first meeting! What a joy and encouragement that was! Since the end of January, we have had two funeral luncheons, one Remembrance Service luncheon, one pop-up Wednesday night dinner, and Easter breakfast. As I write this, my kitchen smells of pizza dough for the Awana pizza party tonight. We will start the CYA'LL luncheons in May and plan to begin Wednesday night dinners in the fall.

In my short time with the Service Ministry, I have met some fantastic people. I could not do any of this without the support of my church family. We will continue to meet monthly and see where God leads us. If you are interested in joining the Service Ministry, we would love to have you—just check the church calendar for our next meeting. The purpose of this ministry is to fellowship – talk – get together. So, let's talk .......





# Loving to Serve at CABC





## Finance Report

We're at the end of another fiscal year here at CABC and I have a lot to share with you. This past year has been a good one for the church's financial health, although it is partially due to being short on staff for most of the year. Our income will likely come in lower than budget, but with the large expense savings we have been able to add significantly to the General Fund balance and have a good cushion as we head into fiscal 2023.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	BUDGET	FCST FINISH	VARIANCE	
Total Income	\$ 354,144.11	\$ 335,673.90	\$ (18,470.21)	
Total Expense	\$ 352,988.98	\$ 278,276.00	\$ 74,712.98	
Net Income/(loss)	\$ 1,155.13	\$ 57,397.90	\$ 56,242.77	

MISSIONS FUND	BUDGET		F	CST FINISH	VARIANCE		
Total Income	\$	62,600.00	\$	60,820.00	\$	(1,780.00)	
Total Expense	\$	62,600.00	\$	62,600.00	\$	<del></del> (	
Net Income/(loss)	\$	17	\$	(1,780.00)	\$	(1,780.00)	

Shown above is a summary of the General Fund and Missions Fund, budgeted amounts vs. where I expect we will finish the fiscal year. We approved a General Fund budget with a slightly positive variance but are forecasted to close out fiscal 2022 with an increase of more than \$57,000 to the General Fund balance. As mentioned above, a large piece of the savings was due to being without some key staff positions for most of the year (those overseeing Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry). Some other areas of savings came from Children's Ministry, Administration, and Service/Fellowship. With the expected savings for the year, a group was formed to assess a growing need for improvements in our sanctuary sound system. At the semi-annual meeting in January, we discussed a proposal with those in attendance and voted to approve spending about \$24,000 on the upgrades, which should be completed by the middle of this summer. I will note that this full expense is included in the numbers above. I am thrilled that we were able to use this opportunity of savings to update our system and improve the overall sound quality in the sanctuary.

For the Missions Fund, we are estimating a shortfall of about \$1,800 for the year. This is the smallest shortfall we have had in recent years, and I believe that is due to so many in our body that give faithfully to this area. We have for many years spent 15% of the total budget to support local, national, and international missions and I pray that we will be able to continue to do that into the future. As always, at the end of the current fiscal year we will cover any Missions shortfall from the General Fund so that fiscal 2023 can start with a zero balance.

On the following page are the General Fund and Missions Fund budgets for Fiscal 2023 (starting July 1, 2022) that I will be presenting for approval at the Annual Meeting on June 12. For reference, it is compared to the current year budget and our forecasted finish.

I first want to point out that we are presenting a deficit budget (expected to decrease in the General Fund by about \$2,700). The reason for this deficit budget is that for fiscal 2023 there are 27 pay periods, while a normal year has only 26. This is an anomaly, as both the 2022 and 2023 calendar years have 26 pay periods, and fiscal 2022, 2024 and 2025 do as well. In a year with normal pay cycles, the budget presented here would show a surplus of more than \$10,000.

Developing a General Fund income estimate for fiscal 2023 was difficult. In the current year we have been following trends, and although the trend shows a slight upward movement into the future, our expected finish on income is about 5% below budget. In addition, there is cause for concern about the economy and some believe we are headed for a recession. But being faithful that God will provide what we need to operate the church, I am using

## Finance Report

GENERAL FUND	21-22 Budget		21-22 Fcst		22-23 Budget	
TOTAL INCOME	\$354,144.11		\$335,673.90		\$345,744.12	
Expenses:						
Children's Ministry	\$	10,800.00	\$	5,726.00	\$	8,622.00
Family Life Ministry	\$	675.00	\$	1,078.00	\$	600.00
Leadership/Discipleship	\$	1,270.00	\$	682.00	\$	1,450.00
Youth Ministry	\$	6,900.00	\$	4,269.00	\$	8,000.00
Worship Ministry	\$	2,600.00	\$	27,004.00	\$	2,590.00
Missions Ministry	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
Administration	\$	13,160.00	\$	12,180.00	\$	12,570.00
Media/Publications	\$	5,921.00	\$	5,757.00	\$	5,486.00
Property	\$	39,800.00	\$	45,366.00	\$	42,504.00
Service/Fellowship	\$	4,012.00	\$	2,774.00	\$	4,012.00
Finance Committee	\$	13,084.00	\$	14,973.00	\$	16,888.00
Staff	\$	253,766.98	\$	157,467.00	\$	244,726.36
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$352,988.98		\$278,276.00		\$348,448.36	
Net Income/(Loss)	\$	1,155.13	\$	57,397.90	\$	(2,704.24)

MISSIONS FUND	21-22 Budget	21-22 Fcst	22-23 Budget
TOTAL INCOME TOTAL EXPENSE		\$ 60,820.00 \$ 62,600.00	12.0
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ -	\$ (1,780.00)	\$ -

year as a guide, and projecting a 3% lift in giving. The rationale for this estimate includes growth that will ne by getting back to full staff, a return to passing the plate in service, and continued financial education for our rch body. On the expense side, in addition to the pay-period impact mentioned above, the budget includes an ociate Pastor position overseeing Youth and Young Adults with an estimated September start. It also includes increases for our hourly employees in January which completes the three-year plan to improve the pay rates pass all positions.

an to continue regular financial updates to the congregation in the coming year and Don Abbey will again be litating Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University this fall. I welcome anyone with questions about the church's inces, or finances in general, to reach out to me at any time.

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

# Membership

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

<sup>\*</sup>Baptism: Krumrine, Luke

## Leadership

Elders:

Crawford, Herm (Moderator, began 1/27/2019) Trojak, Joshua (Senior Pastor, began 9/1/2021) Bortner, Keith (began 2/14/2021) Freeman, Michael (began 1/30/2022) Johnson, Troy (began 1/27/2019) Reigart, Brian (began 1/27/2019; finished 1/30/2022) Schumacher, Mark (began 1/30/2022)

**Nominating Committee:** 

Abbey, Don (began 1/30/2022) Slenker, Jess (began 1/30/2022) Hess, Terry (began 2/14/2021) Deacons:

Enslen, Mike (Chair, Treasurer, began 7/1/2019) Chronister, Judy (Clerk, began 7/1/2020) Freeman, Bethanie (Staff Relations, began 7/1/2019) Kessler, Randy (Property, began 7/1/2019) Kirk, Diane (Service, began 1/30/2022) Kuhn, Laurie (Missions, began 1/30/2022) Schumacher, Mark (Missions, finished 1/30/2022)

Ministry Heads:

Courtney, Laura/MOPs Freeman, Michael/Men's Ministry Gardner, Kristine/Women's Ministry Jurek, Brenda/Nehemiah Mission Slenker, Jess/CABC Preschool

<sup>\*\*</sup>Child Dedications: Ayers, Cayden; Deno, Gavin; Hallman, Grace; Weichert, Grayson

