

* Read Ministry Reports
and rejoice in God's
faithful provision
for His church!

Celebrating God's Goodness and the Health of our Ministries

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



East White Oak
BIBLE CHURCH







Table of Contents

MINISTRY REPORTS

Pastor Scott Boerckel, Senior Pastor	5
Pastor Traig Whittaker, Senior Associate Pastor	8
Pastor Walt Baertsch, Youth and Young Adult Ministries	10
Pastor Justin Waples, Outreach & Discipleship	12
Pastor Jeff VanGoethem, Spiritual Development & Missions	14
Beth Fromme, Children's Ministries	15
Sophie McCree, Youth Ministries	16
Jen Gerber, Women's Ministry Director	18
Calvin Fehr, Men's Ministry Director	19
Ron Miller, Missions Team Chairman	20
Kim Smith, Senior Saints Director	22
David Congdon, Safe-Secure Team	25

BUSINESS REPORTS

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes	26
Vital Statistics	27
Leaders Who Served	28

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Report	30
Proposed Budget	32
Proposed Missions Budget	34
Missions Special Giving	36

“ Welcome to the 2025 edition of our annual report!

In here, you will find the rich treasure of the goodness of God upon our fellowship over the past fiscal year. It is appropriate to begin such a report with a review of our focus statement and vital signs as described in the first article of our church constitution. These words remind us of who we are and why we are here.

You will see this language used throughout our annual report.

—Pastor Scott

”

Article 1

FOCUS STATEMENT AND VITAL SIGNS

The focus of this Church is—
“Seeking to be worshipers, maturing in Christ.” As we grow as worshipers, we will glorify our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We measure our effectiveness in that focus by three Vital Signs: Rooted in Scripture, Growing in Christ, and Making Disciples.

Rooted in Scripture

We preach and teach the Word of God, seeking to establish every person available to us in a deeper understanding of, and a more complete obedience to the triune God, as He is revealed in His Word, the Bible.

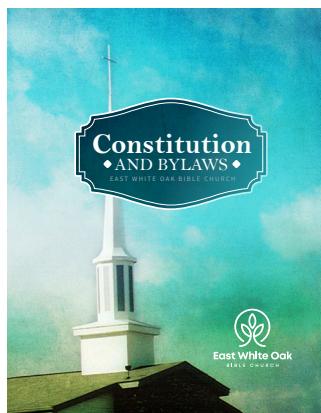
Growing in Christ

We teach the Word of God so that the scriptures will equip and prepare believers of all ages for Christian living and service, in the church and in the world, as people who are growing in Christ. We will live in community with one another in the Christian fellowship that genuine growth in Christ brings.

Making Disciples

We will be a people with a bold witness for Christ in our local area (in cooperation with other like-minded churches and believers). We will with equal zeal seek to extend the witness of Christ all around the world by our giving, sending, going, and mobilizing to make disciples of all nations.

East White Oak Bible Church is a fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ who are “seeking to be worshipers, maturing in Christ.” This means that we are committed to biblical doctrine and have experienced personal faith in Christ. Being organized under qualified leaders, we are committed to fulfill our focus. We recognize that our progress depends on the working of God’s Spirit through prayer, and that the ultimate goal is to do all to the glory of God and our Savior Jesus Christ, while “seeking to be worshipers, maturing in Christ.”



Copies of our church constitution are available by request in the church office.



MINISTRY REPORT

Pastor Scott Boerckel

Senior Pastor

"I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!" Psalm 27:13

This year, I have reflected upon the goodness of the Lord. In our current series of messages on the joy and pattern of worship, we see God's goodness written over all His words and works.

Consider His goodness in His forgiveness of our sins and folly: Psalm 25:7 "Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!" The reflection upon God's goodness animates our worship. See: Jeremiah 31:12a "They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord."

I have so enjoyed the goodness of the Lord in preaching the Word of God this year. I see that as my primary ministry here at East White Oak, and I am thankful that the elders and people of East White Oak see just how important the preaching of the Word is to the vitality of our church. Indeed, the preaching of the Word is a vital part of worship. My continual prayer is that the proclaimed Word will enable us all to be worshipers, maturing in Christ. The preaching plan for this past year, as always, was driven by our Vital Signs of being Rooted in Scripture, growing in Christ, and Making Disciples. This fiscal year, we concluded the series in 2 Timothy, "Gospel Words for Gospel People". Then, we embarked upon a short summer series of messages of "Short Stories of God's Goodness" by looking at all of the one-chapter books of the Bible—Obadiah, Philemon, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude. Then, for the rest of 2024, we engaged in a series of messages on "The Promise of God's Goodness in a World of Deceit" which covered the lives of Isaac and Jacob. We saw clearly how God's goodness continually overcame the brokenness and sin that impacted these patriarchs.





Pastoral Retreat

Our pastors spent several days in study, prayer and fellowship. Pastor Traig took this photo of their opening session together.

I enjoyed the goodness of God in my connection with our pastoral staff. Pastor Justin's teaching and counseling ministries were enlarged this year in ways that reflect the goodness of God. His leadership of our Small Group ministry provided needed direction and focus. His guidance of our outreach ministry to reaching out to our neighbors helped us all in communicating the goodness of God to those around us who do not know our Savior. Pastor Traig capably pointed us to the goodness of God in his leadership of our children's ministries and ABFs. His oversight of our administrative staff also made the ministry team reflect God's goodness. I particularly enjoyed doing the "Ask Scott" podcasts with him. Pastor Walt reflected God's goodness in his leadership of our Youth Ministries. It was a particular delight to see how our young adult ministries have thrived this year. Pastor Jeff shows us the goodness of God by engaging our hearts in prayer and by showing us the harvest field of the world. His leadership of our prayer meeting is outstanding. The direction that he gives to our missions team helps us all to engage that vital sign of Making Disciples, not only here but around the globe.

Our staff team reveals the goodness of God. Monica Ball always does her work with excellence. This year, I have particularly noted just how many times she anticipates opportunities or difficulties. This makes the ministry a better reflection of God's goodness. Emily Henard provides such excellent communications and materials.

Her compilation of the OakLeaf (haven't they been great this year?) and her work on making my sermon slides look so appealing have stood out to me this year. Shelley Jun shows the goodness of God in the details of our church finances as our financial secretary. Beth Fromme points her amazing staff of volunteers and the boys and girls under their care to the goodness of God every Sunday. Lindsey Studnicki serves us administratively, but she does it with such a ready smile and caring heart that the goodness of God shines through. We know the goodness of God because He gave us Bruce Jacobs as our maintenance director. His management of our building and operations, along with his labors in A/V and technology are such a blessing that we see the goodness of God in them. We also welcomed Sophie McCree to our Youth Ministry team as Administrative Assistant for Youth Ministry and Director of Girls' Discipleship. She has been a reflection of the goodness of God in taking on ministry with great joy and zeal.

Our pastoral team reads books together. One reason for this is to see the goodness of God in light of the sinful world that we live in. We read two books by Christian authors about how the world is messed up, and we read two books by non-Christian authors about how the world is messed up. By contrast, we saw and sought joy in the goodness of God. We read the following books and discussed them together:

- ***Five Lies of our Anti-Christian Age*** by Rosaria Butterfield
- ***Christianity and Liberalism*** by J. Gresham Machen

- ***The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*** by Jonathan Haidt
- ***The Certainty Trap*** by Ilana Redstone

In the planning of our Sunday worship times, I have so appreciated how our worship leaders have revealed the goodness of God in selecting music that corresponds to each message and provides a biblical and God-glorifying means for us all to praise our triune God. Paul Jones, Doug Kinzinger, Jason Landes, Dave Osenga, and Andrew Thompson are to be commended, as are all of our worship team members, for the wonderful ways that they help us to see the goodness of God. We appreciate not only their work week by week, but we remember with great joy how they have drawn us to praise and worship on special events and occasions, especially at Easter and Christmas times.

We have witnessed the goodness of God at East White Oak by seeing our church plant in West Bloomington, Living Stone Communities, now fully independent from us. The work that they did at The Junction in ministering to the tent city next door to them was

“God’s goodness is revealed when we can anticipate needs and opportunities.”



truly a revealing of the goodness of God. That work continues, though the tent city has been disbanded. Keep praying for our dear daughter church, Living Stone Communities, and Pastor Larry Van Gundy.

As we look ahead to the coming fiscal year and beyond, your elders recognize that God’s goodness is revealed when we can anticipate needs and opportunities. There is opportunity in planning for the succession of leadership. No matter the age of a team of people, we need to plan for making good the transition of fulfilling the ministry from one generation to the next. Our elders are keenly aware of the need for such planning, among themselves, among the pastoral staff, and among key leaders in our church ministries. Please pray for them as they continue looking at succession planning and what that could look like at East White Oak.

There is opportunity in ministering to single adults. Only 47% of adults in McLean County are married. This represents an opportunity for us in thinking about how we might reach single adults in our community. While we must continue to minister to married adults and their families, there is opportunity in seeking to minister to unmarried adults and their families too.

There is opportunity in seeking to have more and more folks who call East White Oak their church home to participate in all three of our Pathways of Discipleship. Lots of things can hinder that, so we are praying about how we can make the goodness of God compelling in our Pathways so that people find the wonderful delight that so many others have found in these Pathways.

I cannot think about the goodness of God without reference to my precious wife and family. Carol is truly my partner, both in life and in ministry. I thank the Lord for how East White Oak encourages and supports Carol in her gifts. I am grateful to each of my three sons, their wives, and their children. What a gift of grace it is that my children and their wives walk with the Savior! As my grandchildren grow, my prayers grow more fervent for Christ to be formed in them as well. What a great thanksgiving to God for His blessings!

I am witness to the goodness of God, especially as I look back on this past fiscal year. Thank you to each one who has helped me see it more clearly. Your prayers, especially for my brother Jim in his trial with cancer, have shown me anew just how the family of God puts the goodness of God on display. I trust that the Lord has also been pleased to use me to help you see the goodness of God too.



MINISTRY REPORT

Pastor Traig Whittaker

Senior Associate Pastor

"...be thoroughly equipped..." 2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV

On July 8 I stood where Patrick Hamilton was burned at the stake. His death was slow and painful. The flames that eventually consumed him would not stay burning, and time after time the fire needed to be rekindled. His death came six hours after the horrific execution began.

He must have committed a heinous crime, but what was his offense? He held privately and proclaimed publicly that salvation was by faith alone in Christ alone.

Patrick Hamilton was the first martyr of the Scottish Protestant Reformation. This past summer I had the privilege of traveling to Scotland and exploring the events of those remarkable years (1524 – 1689) that culminated in the establishment of the protestant church.

John Knox is perhaps the best known of the Scottish reformers. In response to the martyrdom of George Wishart in 1546, Knox joined the chorus of reformers speaking out against the unbiblical teachings of the Catholic church as well as the blasphemous and immoral lifestyles of the church's leaders.

While early reformers were executed by the Catholic church as heretics, the later reformers' struggle was with the monarchy. The royal family and many of those faithful to the crown believed in the divine rights of the king, whose authority was not to be confined to issues of state but instead extended to the church.

I stood in the place where Andrew Melville confronted the king at Falkland Castle. His message was this: there are

two kingdoms – The State with James as king and The Church with Christ as king. Reformers thus became considered rebels and traitors, disloyal to the crown. Pastors became wanted men, sentenced to death.

It was too dangerous to gather for worship in churches, so congregations met to hear God's word preached in fields. Attending such a conventicle was a violation of the king's decree. Consequences included imprisonment and/or the confiscation of property.

Things had deteriorated so badly by 1684 that Christians who dared to defy the king were no longer arrested; they were simply shot on sight. The next four years in Scotland's history are referred to as "The Killing Times."

Protestant pastors and congregations persevered while efforts were made to send educated Catholic churchmen into communities resistant to the king's authority over the church. Though it was thought that surely peasants and their country preachers could be persuaded by those so much more educated, the report to the king was that these people knew their Bibles so well that they could be persuaded by nothing but the word of God.

By the authority of the newly crowned king, William of Orange, The Killing Times came to an end in 1689.

Why tell this story? What difference does it make? If you are not a Christian, the actions of these reformers may seem very strange to you. Why would they be willing to die for Jesus as king and the Bible as authoritative? That seems foolish. Someone once famously said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose." The truth is that this life



AWANA

One of the many ways that we seek to disciple children by learning God's Word

is temporary, and your eternity is forever. These 17th century Christians understood that, and that understanding influenced in a profound way what they lived for and what they were willing to die for.

If you are a Christian, you have people like the Scottish reformation pastors and their congregations to thank. They risked everything to stand for Jesus as authority over the church and the Bible as the authoritative word of God. There may come a time in our future when the government will say to us, "You cannot worship in your churches; the building belongs to us now. You cannot pray those prayers. You cannot preach those sermons." What will we do then? Will there be men and women, boys and girls who will stand up for Jesus and the Bible? Are we a church producing those kinds of lives? I pray that by God's grace and with His strength we will stand for Jesus and the Bible. It could be that someday generations who come after us will look back on the courageous stand that we took and be thankful.

I am so grateful to be in partnership with so many East White Oakers who are involved in Bible-teaching. An important part of living for Jesus is being deeply rooted in God's word, and I am thrilled that so many of my responsibilities facilitate the spiritual nurture of both our children and adults as those roots grow.

Our Sunday morning ministry to children includes weekly age-appropriate Bible lessons, a new systematic way of committing biblical truths to

memory through questions and answers, and a Read-Through-The-Bible-In-Six-Years plan for our kids. Our Wednesday night AWANA program focuses on memorizing Bible verses. Adult Bible Fellowships are committed to studying the Bible in a faith-nurturing community.

We bring biblical truth to bear on the subject of human sexuality through our Your Body, God's Plan events. The YBGP team is committed to partnering with parents to raise up a generation of young men and young women who honor God with their sexuality.

I serve as the editor of our church newsletter, the Oak-Leaf. In partnership with the wonderful contributors, articles focus on the Bible's influence on everything from politics to how we spend our summer vacations.

Using technology as a means of establishing biblical roots has been an important part of the past year. The Ask Scott podcast is a way of further engaging with the biblical text preached on Sunday morning. Streaming our Sunday services and other special events is a way for the message of the Bible to reach beyond the walls of the church.

In my role serving the administrative team of the church, I place an emphasis on thinking about ways the truths of the Bible can equip us and encourage us in doing our work as unto the Lord.

The freedoms that we enjoy as Christians are ours without guarantee. If we are to be prepared for an uncertain future, we must know our Bibles as our Scottish brothers and sisters did 300 years ago. It is an honor to serve the Lord among people who are committed to sinking their roots deeply into the word of God.

Ask Scott Podcast

Answering questions about Pastor Scott's sermon





MINISTRY REPORT

Pastor Walt Baertsch

Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20–21, ESV)

When I was asked to think through my annual report with the theme “God’s Goodness and the Health of Our Ministries” in mind, my thoughts went to the above passage.

When I first came to East White Oak, I had no idea that I would still be here this much later. I’ve always tried to minister with the long-haul in mind and trying to keep my focus on what God might do long-term in our students’ lives, but the last few years in particular have been particularly rewarding as I’ve been able to see some of the fruit of ministry in the past and that gives fuel for looking far into the future once again.

In part, here is what I wrote to Pastor Scott as part of my annual review process in response to the question: “[In] what ways have you been able to incorporate our church-wide focus, Vital Signs, and Pathways to discipleship into your ministry? What ways are still a work in progress?”

Rooted in Scripture – Scripture is the foundation in all our teaching and in our philosophy of ministry. Without it, we’d be nothing, teaching nothing.

- Biblical teaching is the basis of all we do.
- Students have demonstrated continued growth in desire for God’s Word and truth.

Growing in Christ – We have demonstrable spiritual growth in all areas of youth and young adult ministries. We continue to target growth patterning from each stage into the next stage while giving concrete opportunities to trust God and His word more and more from stage to stage.

- Students at each level with a desire to worship God in many varied forms

- Students trusting Christ
- Many students are self-feeders, Growing in Christ and in knowledge and application of God’s Word.
- Students serving in Children’s Ministry, Missions, Music, Youth, Women’s Ministry, Tech, and many other areas, including custodial

Making Disciples – We have demonstrated success in growing fruit-bearing disciples who are now in process of making more disciples. This is demonstrated in current students as well as former students (including now adult parents) living out their faith over the course of time while continuing to desire to grow in their faith, and worshipping the living God, while also bringing their children to knowledge of the Lord, participating in the life of the church, and making still more disciples. Many singles are now full participants within the church, whereas just a couple of years ago, most of our local singles graduated into oblivion or to (other churches).

You will notice that in all of the above I wrote “**we**” because none of this is “me” – it’s all of us together powered by the Holy Spirit. I’ve written numerous times that we have a remarkable, humble, God fearing, God loving volunteer staff, many of whom have decades of experience in Youth Ministry and as Christ followers.

- We have three couples (Phinneys, Scotts, and Lemans) who have given much love, care, time, cooking skills, and teaching to enable us to have **strong vital Young Adults Groups!** God brings tears to my eyes frequently when I sit in church and look around and see the MANY young adults who have called East White Oak home and have become involved in vital ministries within the church, and with many becoming members of East White Oak.

- We have many **students from amazing Christ-fearing, God-loving families** where parents are living out their faith in discipling their children.
- **We attend a fantastic church** that loves God and His Word deeply and preaches and teaches it faithfully.
- We have **amazing volunteers in our children's ministries** that send many students up the progression to Youth Ministries already with a great, deep love for Christ and His Word.
- And most of all, **we serve a loving God who gives us the Holy Spirit** who empowers all of the above way above anything we can imagine.
- Any success that any of us have is ultimately due to **God working in and through us as we cooperate with what He is doing** in each of our lives and the lives of those with whom we work.

I just get to come along for the ride. And what a ride it is!

Some Highlights of the year in brief:

- This year is a “rebuilding” year as we’ve graduated out 50 seniors in the last couple of years, and the next couple of years have smaller, **but very mighty students for Christ.**
- God is doing great things in our students this year as well. We have had many join us this year for the very first time both in Junior High and Senior High. **We’ve seen God bring a lot of spiritual growth this year**



as well as numerical growth. We’ve also had at least a few who have come from very post-modern backgrounds with NO spiritual teaching previous to coming to one of our events, that have started to call East White Oak home. We are in the process of helping them to “catch up” and to even gain a basic Biblical background knowledge.

- **This is the first year of the “second generation”** with the Goodyear girls (Zoe and Leah) joining us. Kelli (their mom) was a freshman when I came to East White Oak. She grew up and went off to college, then came back and volunteered. She met Jonathan (their dad) who was also a volunteer, and they started dating. Along the way I got a call asking if I would marry them. Along came a couple of twins and now, the girls are old enough to be in Junior High! Weird how that works, but how fantastic!
- **This year has been a year of giving away a lot of ministry** because I/we need to be mentoring the younger generation to fill our spots as we grow older. It’s been pretty amazing to have adult volunteers who have returned from their schooling and are now in careers, getting involved as volunteers (not only in youth/young adult ministries, but in various ministries in the church), pouring their love of Christ back into the next generation.
- **Having Sophie McCree on full-time staff has been amazing!** She has done a great job of not only administrative tasks, but she has tackled some larger assignments and is also doing a great job of building discipling relationships with the girls in all three groups (Jr High through Young Adults). God knew when we could use her and brought her to us at just the right time. (I could go much longer on this. Talk to me if you’d like to know more.)

To summarize: It’s been a great year. Thank you all so much for praying for us as we continue to try to keep up with all that God is doing in the Youth and Young Adult Ministries!





MINISTRY REPORT

Pastor Justin Waples

Associate Pastor of Outreach and Discipleship

“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness.” – Joshua 24:14

When the Israelites settled in the Promised Land, God renewed His covenant and challenged them to serve Him sincerely. His faithfulness is a gracious act, contrasting our unfaithfulness.

Joshua 24 emphasizes Israel’s duty to worship the Lord. We should celebrate how God has used us and rejoice in “Seeking to be Worshipers Maturing in Christ!” Reflecting on the past year of Outreach and Discipleship Ministries, let’s examine the church’s Vital Signs to measure the health of our ministries and our church body, both corporately and personally:

- **Rooted in Scripture** - Did we prioritize Biblical principles over programs?
- **Growing in Christ** - Was volunteer leadership development God honoring?
- **Making Disciples** - Are people coming to faith in Jesus and discipling others?

Praise the Lord for our spiritual growth and answered prayers! Congregants have shared biblical truths with their neighbors. We’ve witnessed baptisms and launched new Small Groups, resulting in inspiring stories of hope and restoration. Let’s thank the Lord for His goodness and commit to serving Him faithfully. I want to express my gratitude to all our volunteers for their dedicated efforts! Whether you served coffee, led Small Groups, coordinated the Men’s and Women’s Ministry teams, organized Senior Saints events, ushered, greeted newcomers, helped at the welcome center, contributed to the Care and Outreach teams, or assisted with the church picnic, your work does not go unnoticed. Thank you for all you do for the glory of God!

Outreach & Local Neighboring

Eight neighboring articles featured testimonies from people in our church, sharing how God has used them in Making Disciples. They are available on our website under the Outreach page. I met with the International Student leaders to discuss how our church can serve international students in our community. Several Small Groups prepared meals and offered resources for incoming students. The Outreach Team distributed Gospel Story training, testimony guides, and Community Engagement Guides. Our church participated in NAMB’s “Who’s Your One” prayer guide, where we prayed for one person for 30 days who was far from God. Thousands of Gospel tracts, Jesus Film DVDs, Story Bracelets, and more have been handed out in our community! We had a fantastic picnic with over 775 attendees! We pray we will see even more guests, neighbors, and international students as part of this whole church outreach effort!



Discipleship and Assimilation

We welcomed numerous guests, many of whom connected into Bible Fellowships, Small Groups, and church membership. I was excited to create an Easter devotional booklet on the Majesty of the Word for distribution on Easter Sunday. We are grateful for God's goodness in our church and seek many in our community who do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior to join us in our Pathways of Discipleship. Preaching and teaching the Word of God fills me with immense joy. Serving our congregation through several Sunday sermons over the past year has allowed me to study and share biblical truths with our congregation.

Small Groups and Pure Desire Ministries

We praise the Lord for dozens of Small Groups. Many utilized sermon topic-based studies to enhance biblical literacy, while others incorporated free RightNow Media video-based discipleship content covering topics from parenting to marriage to finances. The Pure Desire Team, consisting of John and Gretchen Hoefer as well as Dan and Heidi Lancaster, offered two men's "7 Pillars of Freedom" sexual addiction support Small Groups and one "Betrayal and Beyond - Healing from the Trauma of Sexual Betrayal" Small Group for wives whose husbands struggle with unwanted sexual addictions. Hear from John and Gretchen as they share how God was so good helping couples grow in Christ: "We're grateful to be a part of guiding individuals and couples on their journey toward integrity and healing from trauma. Several members are moving into leadership roles for future groups and will be able to offer more groups! We pray this year will bring opportunities for more to join this healing journey, for greater awareness in the church, and for parents to be equipped to have challenging conversations with their kids."

Orphan Care

God's heart for the fatherless is evident and we serve them through our Adoption, Foster, and Global Orphan Care ministry, led by Abigail Waples. East White Oak offers financial grants, interest-free loans, a list of online resources, and several books in our library. Many adoptive families at East White Oak are ready and willing to answer your questions. We pray that this ministry, in partnership with Lifesong for Orphans, will continue to seek to serve those in need.



Fostering Community Through Small Groups

Meeting together regularly provides real friendships and allows for deeper conversation and growth.

My wife, Abigail, continues to faithfully serve our Lord, our home, and our church. I couldn't ask for a better partner in life and ministry! We were thrilled to welcome our fifth child, Susannah "Susie" Elouise Waples, born on May 20, 2024 (weighing 7 lbs and measuring 19 inches). Susie is standing on her own, developing a delightful belly laugh, and eagerly trying every new food we offer her! Meredith "Merry" (2) has shown incredible growth and resilience as she battles hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, a condition caused by insufficient oxygen and blood flow to the brain at birth. She is on long-term medication to manage her constant micro-seizures. She attends occupational, speech, physical, and developmental therapy weekly. We praise the Lord that her medication is effectively preventing physical seizures. We are grateful for wise and compassionate doctors, the miracle of her life, and the healing wonders the Lord has provided! Merry truly is a walking, talking, singing, dancing, hugging, snuggly miracle! Merry will continue to have yearly EEGs until she turns 21, after which she will transition to an adult neurologist. Gideon (5) and Felicity "Lici" (4) love AWANA Cubbies, building structures with MAGNA-TILES®, riding bikes, and joyfully launching themselves off any piece of furniture we own! Meanwhile, Karoline (11) is thriving with her home education, performed in The Nutcracker Ballet at ISU, is excited to join her dad at Cedine, and even graduates to the Youth Group this summer!

From our family to yours, may God bless each of you in your ministry. I am truly grateful to partner with each of you!



MINISTRY REPORT

Pastor Jeff VanGoethem

Associate Pastor of Spiritual Development and Missions



All Church Prayer Meeting

October 12, 2024 East White Oak gathered to pray for the upcoming election and for revival in our country.

I continue to lead the Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30 each week. Over last fall we prayed diligently about our elections. We often pray for revival in our churches and country. We host guests who serve the Lord in various capacities and pray for them. We pray for one another and we learn about the life of prayer. All are welcome.

I continue to meet in our regular meetings with the Pastors and staff, the Missions team, and the Elder team.

I meet for prayer monthly with a group of local pastors. Most of them are from the small towns north of the cities.

My records show about 25 preaching opportunities for the last year in various ministries and locations.

I substitute teach in our ABF hour and usually teach one of the annual electives. I officiated at four memorial services this past year.

I continue teaching Doctor of Ministry classes at Dallas Seminary and have two scheduled for this coming year. I am also supervising and reading dissertation projects.

I again taught one class at the Word of Life Bible Institute in Hungary and am scheduled to do so again in 2025.

I continue to serve on the board of the Rural Home Missionary Association and attend some of their gatherings.

I traveled to Germany with a missions team this past year to serve at the annual Cru Student Leadership Conference. We plan to do this again in March of 2025.

I have been available to those who contact me for pastoral advice or counsel from time to time.

Let us continue on with hand to the plow and swords raised as we serve the Lord in this world, while warmly and hopefully awaiting His soon return. Even so *Come Lord Jesus*.



MINISTRY REPORT

Beth Fromme

Director of Children's Ministries



Summer Ministry

Sundy morning programming with a Super Hero theme!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-14

This passage has been our focus this year in Children's Ministry. Test your kids and see if they can recite it to you! This is just one way we have sought to encourage our kids to know Jesus and be Rooted in Scripture this year.

Here in Children's Ministry, our aim is the same as the rest of our church – to use our three Pathways to grow and mature children in being Rooted in Scripture, Growing in Christ, and Making Disciples. This year, we have worked toward these Vital Signs using several approaches.

Our summer program theme was "Bible Superheroes," where children learned about some important Bible characters who did great things for God, but ultimately, we learned that Jesus is the real Superhero! We learned about how God's character always supersedes our own and how His story in the Bible leads us to Jesus as our Savior each and every time.

We have also begun memorizing a key passage of scripture each year, which will store God's Word in the hearts of our children and will never be returned empty or void! We pray these words from the Bible stay in their hearts and minds for years to come.

In November, we began kids' Bible Reading Challenges, which encourages our kids to get into God's Word daily. We know that by reading God's Word, God reveals Himself to us in the pages of scripture and we desire that our children read their Bibles daily. If the children follow this Bible reading plan starting in first grade, they will have read through the entire Bible by the time they leave sixth grade! We think that is a worthy and beneficial goal!

In our children's classes, our teachers have spent countless hours praying over your children, planning and prepping classes, and spending time with the children of East White Oak each week in order to point them to our Savior. Our heart is that each child experience Jesus, have opportunities to pray, worship, ask questions, see prayers answered and learn more about God and His Word each week as they attend class. Children who attend regularly will see and learn God's complete story from beginning to end, and the time spent to bring your children to their Bible Fellowships will never be wasted! We desire to see each and every child of East White Oak at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings and 10:30 AM (Toddlers through Second Grade). I know I can speak for all of our staff that we love and cherish the children we teach and desire more than anything that they love and serve Jesus with their lives.



MINISTRY REPORT

Sophie McCree

Youth Ministries Administrative Assistant and Director of Girls' Discipleship

My senior year of high school, I mentioned to someone that I was planning to study Youth Ministry, and their response was, “You should come back and work at East White Oak after you graduate.”

I chuckled and brushed it off, thinking that the likelihood of there being a job opportunity for me here was crazy talk. God has a funny way of working things out, though, because three years after that conversation, I was accepting a job offer and making plans to move back to Illinois. I've been so grateful for the opportunity to jump into vocational ministry within a congregation that I love, in a town that's familiar, surrounded by family and longtime friends. What a gift these last nine months have been! To say I'm overwhelmed by God's kindness would be an understatement.

As the dust was settling from our summer trips and the school year was beginning, the senior high girls gathered to arrange flowers and hear from God's Word at our first ever “Girl Talk” event. It was such a hit that we held another in February, complete with waffles, friendship bracelets, and a guest speaker. My hope is that these evenings will continue to be a place where our girls can gather to be in fellowship with one another and make space for biblically based conversations about the real issues that they're facing as teenagers in today's cultural climate, ultimately aiming to help them mature as worshipers of Jesus who are Rooted in Scripture, Growing in Christ, and Making Disciples.

I also have the privilege of coordinating and overseeing our student worship teams. We have been blessed with lots of incredibly gifted students who graciously give of their time and talents for the sake of leading our group in musical worship. My favorite weeks are the ones where I get to step off the stage and be led in worship by a team entirely made up of students; my heart swells with joy as I get to watch them use their God-given gifts to serve His

church, and my prayer is that they would grow not only in their musicianship, but more importantly as disciples of Jesus who seek to worship Him with their lives, both on stage and off.

As we were driving up to Wisconsin for our Junior High retreat at the beginning of January, I sat in the passenger seat of the van, every now and then peeking into the back to catch a glimpse of the shadow puppets that were being cast onto the ceiling by students (and leaders). The chorus of a song rang through the van speakers – “We will never see the end, we will never see the end of your goodness” – and I found myself tearing up, overwhelmed in that moment by the reality that I get to show up every day to a job where I am witnessing the goodness of God firsthand. I get to see it in every coffee shop conversation; in every worship song, and dollar game, and photo on the youth room wall; in every sleep-deprived retreat weekend; and even in every piece of New Year's Eve confetti that's hanging on for dear life between the cushions of the youth room couch. God is certainly at work among us; it's not lost on me what a privilege it is that my job gets to be in service of His Church. On at least a few occasions, I've had students come up to me at different youth events to remind me, “Sophie, this is your job,” and my response is usually something to the effect of, “Dude, I know – it's awesome!”

I've found myself this year, over and over again, coming back to Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 3 – “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.” – and I can't help but say thank you for the ways that each of you have supported me this year, through prayer and words of encouragement, as I've sought to plant and water seeds of the gospel in the lives of our students. Your prayers, especially, have been fruitful and deeply felt. What a gift of God's goodness and grace that I get to serve here, among you all!



and come after me.
by himself and
take up his cross daily
and follow

what does
if he gains
and loses or forfeits
for





MINISTRY REPORT

Women's Ministry

Jen Gerber, Director of the Women's Ministry Team

Encouraging and equipping women to be worshipers maturing in Christ – this is the focus of Women's Ministry at East White Oak.

We seek to accomplish this through our events (one-time activities designed for fellowship and outreach that encourage women to join our Pathways) and Small Group Bible Studies (typically 7-14 weeks in length).. We pray that every opportunity we offer will support and help women to be Rooted in Scripture, Growing in Christ, and Making Disciples.

"For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 100) This verse anchored our spring event. God's goodness was evident in so many ways – through sharing food and laughter, considering the fun things that made our particular generations unique, and also remembering and sharing how God has been faithful from generation to generation. A panel of ladies, from Grandma Jean Frink in her 90's to the youngest, not quite 20, shared memories and stories of God's loving-kindness to them throughout their lives. God's goodness was on full display!

Summer Bible studies continued this year, as well through the fall and winter/spring. Childcare was offered during the morning studies. We're so thankful for the Bible study team as they search and choose studies each season, the faithful ladies who volunteer to lead, and the women who commit to attend these studies. As things change from year to year in Women's Ministry, one thing that will not change is our passion for women to be Rooted in Scripture – one of the Vital Signs of spiritual growth here at East White Oak. We pray that through each Bible study offered, those who participate will encounter God in His Word in deeper ways, leading them to hunger for righteousness and desire to share their faith in Jesus with those around them.

The subject of mentoring has been a focus of our ministry this year. Our Gather event in the fall featured two ladies who have enjoyed a sweet mentoring relationship for a few years. We also offered book discussion groups featur-

ing the book *Mentoring Made Real: The Power of Authentic Connection*. The book communicates how mentoring can and should be simple and everyone is qualified. Our hope is that God will help us adopt a mentoring mindset – prayerfully on the lookout for relationships where we can learn and grow from one another, spurring each other on in our relationships with the Lord.

We love hosting a missionary for connection and dessert during the Missions Conference in November. This year, with the theme of the conference being Compassion Ministries, Sara Johnson joined us. She and her husband, Doug, serve young ladies in Guatemala with Kids Alive International. She shared God's Word with us regarding His heart of compassion. She shared many pictures and stories with us that highlighted the amazing things God is doing in the lives and hearts of the girls He brings into their ministry. He is making broken things beautiful!

The Banquet Room was lit up again, in early December, for our Christmas Tea. Jyothi Kudari shared about how she came to Christ, the challenges she faced with unbelieving family members, and the encouragement of a teacher. She also shared how God has grown her outreach, along with her husband and daughters, to the local Indian community over the years. They minister through small gatherings in their home, Bible clubs attended by children with a Hindu background, and large meetings, especially around the holidays, where hundreds hear the gospel every year, receive gifts and enjoy food and fellowship. What an encouragement to believers and a light to the lost – to the glory of God!

A Women's Retreat has been in the works for many months, and we will get to see it come to fruition in a few more weeks. We're thankful to the planning team who has worked so hard! It will be wonderful to report on that next year, and the many other things God will do - to testify to all He's done, because we know our great God will continue to do great things!



MINISTRY REPORT

Men's Ministry

Calvin Fehr, Men's Ministry Leader

"Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness." – Joshua 24:14

This year has been a testament to God's goodness in our Men's Ministry. As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the consistency, growth, and discipleship that have marked our journey.

Consistency in Fellowship Events

God has shown His goodness by allowing another year of our cherished fellowship events. Men gather for a hearty meal, fellowship and guest speaker at the Men's Steak Fry. Men gather for a hearty meal, fellowship, and some healthy competition at the Men's Clay Shoot. Men gather for a hearty meal (noticing a theme here?), fellowship, and encouragement from a visiting missionary at the Men's Missions Breakfast. These gatherings have fostered camaraderie and allowed men from both inside and outside of East White Oak to meet each other and connect. Each event has been a beacon of consistency, with incredible leaders from our church body leading each event year in and year out.

Growing in Christ at the Men's Retreat

While writing this, we are in the trenches of planning for the Men's Retreat, and praying that God will show His goodness in allowing this event to grow in impact. We are thrilled to host an incredible speaker, and excited for more food, fellowship, and fun. The retreat is a great opportunity to step away, connect with other men, listen to testimonies, grow in Christ, and throw a dodgeball as hard as you can at your brother.



Men's Ministry Breakfast

Fellowship events are planned throughout the year, offering opportunities for men to gather and get to know one another better.

Discipleship through Small Groups

The heart of Men's Ministry lies in the intimate setting of Small Groups, where discipleship flourishes. Whether it is one of the men's topical Small Groups, general Small Groups, short term study Small Groups, or a mixed gender Small Group, these groups allow for accountability and deep spiritual growth. What a blessing God has given us to connect with each other in this way as part of the Body of Christ. His goodness never ceases.



MINISTRY REPORT

Missions Team

Ron Miller, for the East White Oak Missions Team

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us . . . that your way may be known on earth. Your saving power among all nations. Let the people praise You, O God; let all the people praise You! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy... God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!" Psalm 67

These words from Psalm 67 move us to make God known among all the earth. All the nations should know Him and praise Him. That is the driving force behind our mission committee and the work that happens with our mission outreach.

East White Oak partners with 42 missionaries and 18 missions organizations who are doing a great job as they share and glorify God domestically and around the world. We also have three national partners and 15 retired missionaries we support and with whom we stay in contact. Last year, 23% of the total expenses of the church went to support missions. One area we as a team feel strongly about is the care and encouragement of our partners and that we stay connected and engaged as we work together. To that end, we stay in touch as we pray for them, support them spiritually, financially, and emotionally as they serve. Paul tells us to "encourage the saints and bring joy and encouragement that refreshes the hearts of the saints." (Col. 2:2, Philemon 1:7) This encouragement is very important as our partners are on the front lines of the battle and need our encouragement.

The Missions expenditures are significant in our budget. Our individual support and ministry support usually comes in around \$300,000. But our Undesignated Special Giving is usually around \$100,000 on top of that. Special needs for mission organizations and individuals are paid out of this account. Other areas covered by this account are the Perspectives disciple-

ship training class, as well as registration costs for the Cross Conference for anyone willing to attend. We also have scholarships for folks wishing to go on mission trips, but may have limited funds. This fund is used in many different ways to support mission efforts locally and around the world.

This year we had the opportunity to host another one of our missionary couples for a few days. Matt Hughes allowed us to use his guest home so they could spend time here. Steve and Bekah Orner, who minister on a remote island off Madagascar stayed with us for a nice long visit. They had the opportunity to become better acquainted with our church family and we were blessed to know them better. Through this opportunity, they can minister to us and teach in many areas of the church, plus our pastors and leaders teach and train them in local church operations. Hopefully many of you have been able to learn from and spend time with the dear missionary families who visit us. We are planning and working on having another one of our mission couples stay with us for an extended time this next year. So, stay tuned and look forward to this special opportunity to connect with another couple.



Connecting with our Missionaries

Steve and Bekah Orner share more about their ministry on a remote island in Madagascar.

It is always encouraging to the Missions Team to see so many folks involved in missions by prayer, giving, and participation in short-term trips. Last spring there was a trip to Cedine Bible Camp in Tennessee. Already in 2025, a group of men have travelled to Colombia to do some construction for the soccer ministry there. Also, Pastor Walt was able to take 25 college-aged adults to the Cross Conference in Kentucky at the beginning of the year. This past summer Julie Horton and Kim Williamson had the opportunity to travel to Tanzania for an encouragement trip. They had an amazing time meeting with several of our ministry partners, along with praying for and encouraging the ladies there. It was not a physical work trip, but one that spiritually and emotionally lifted up those wonderful souls they were able to meet with. Several trips are planned for this year. Cedine Bible Camp again this March. A trip to Germany led by pastor Jeff in March. Also, a trip is being planned for mid to late July to Costa Rica. There are opportunities for many ages and skill levels on these trips. Step out in faith and check one out. Stay tuned - there may be more as the year progresses.

We were blessed, encouraged, and challenged by our Missions Conference this past November. Our theme this year was “Hands and Feet.” Why compassion ministries? Because as we preach the gospel we must respond to human need. Being the hands and feet of Jesus offers an open door to share the love of Jesus.

Week One: Rick Rood was our speaker. He has been a health care chaplain for many years. He shared the opportunities to come alongside folks when they are hurting and vulnerable during a health crisis.

Week Two: Celestin Musekura, from Rwanda, was our speaker. He works with reconciliation ministries to bring hurting factions together.

On Saturday morning at the Men’s Breakfast, Doug Johnson, one of our long-time missionaries to Guatemala shared his heart. His wife, Sarah, shared with the ladies on Tuesday evening at the Women’s Mission Moment. Other visiting missionaries at conference this year were Doug and Sarah Johnson, Mark and Meg Kuzdas, Steve and Bekah Orner, R&T D and Sheila D.

We also had the return of the Missions Fair with over 25 presenters sharing about their ministries or ministry opportunities for us to pray, give, or go. It was a time to learn, fellowship, and seek how the Lord might lead us to become involved.

We were challenged to make missions a priority in our lives as it is the priority of the Church for discipleship:

Missions Conference

We are grateful for opportunities to connect personally with our missionaries each year.



To send and support missionaries, and to be willing to see where the Lord wants to use us as we all have a purpose in God’s plan. To step out in faith, deny ourselves, and follow Him!

Continue to pray for folks at East White Oak as we all seek what part each of us plays in the grand purpose of the Lord to reach the world with His glory. We are all called to reflect the image and glory of God to a lost and dying world. Our prayer as a team is that each member of East White Oak would become personally engaged in the cause of missions with a heartfelt, God-centered passion. Our aim is not to exalt the missionary, but to exalt God and exalt His mission. The precise nature of your engagement in the cause of missions will be different for each of you, whether you go as a missionary or stay as a sender. The primary issue is that whatever you do, do it for the glory of God (I Cor. 10:31), to advance the Kingdom (Matt. 6:33), with the goal to embrace every nation, tribe, and tongue for all to worship the Lord. (Matt. 24:14. Rev. 7:9)

The strength of the team has always been its committed members, whose love for the Lord and heart for missions has bound them together. Team members this year are Ryan Andris, Dennis and Janet Schlagel, Josh Fromme, Julie Horton, Lynda Landes, Jeff Fritzen, Keith Studnicki, Pastor Jeff VanGoethem, and Ron Miller.

Thanks for your prayers as we seek to do the work of the Lord at East White Oak. Please continue to pray for wisdom to be good ambassadors for the Lord, for good partnerships, and that we are good stewards of the resources with which the Lord has entrusted us. Praise the Lord as He continues to use a little church on the corner of a cornfield in McLean County to further His Kingdom around the world. Thanks for your support both prayerfully and financially.



MINISTRY REPORT

Senior Saints

Kim Smith, East White Oak Senior Saints Director

Senior Saints would not be possible without the support of our East White Oak leadership and congregation. We are so grateful for all of you who have offered help and support to us.

This year our pastors took turns attending our meetings. They also signed up to each share their testimony with us. This was such an encouragement to our group and to our committees.

Our Planning Committee met on February 06, 2024 to plan the 29th year of Senior Saints at East White Oak. We opened in prayer, enjoyed lunch, and reviewed the past year's successes and problems. Members of the group signed up to act as chairman or a committee member for a specific monthly meeting. Each chairman was then in charge of planning and orchestrating their month, including creating their team of volunteers. The seniors take ownership of the monthly meetings and do an amazing job. This provides us with a variety of ideas and creativity. We had a couple of months without a chairman, but thankfully many of our members offered their help in various ways, some offering help month after month. We have had many past chairmen age out or move away so we are in critical need of new members and more volunteers. This past year our meetings enjoyed an attendance of over 75 most months.

We kicked off our year in March 2024 in the church Banquet Room. Lunch was catered by Dave's in Fairbury. Our group was so excited to be back together again. We did not have a committee but many of our members volunteered their help to do a part of the program planning. Thankfully the meeting was a success. Pastor Jeff and his Germany team joined us to share about their mission trip to Germany. Our group had lots of questions and enjoyed hearing about the trip.

Wes Hill skillfully planned our April lunch at Avanti's, followed by a trip to the McLean

County History Museum. Larry and Mary Mohr generously donated a delicious cake for dessert. Pastors Walt and Justin were our wonderful bus drivers who made a very wet day bearable by taking us door to door.

Mary Mohr and her wonderful team planned a delicious May lunch catered by Dave's. It was followed by Lindsey Studnicki and her son sharing their amazing music with us. We were delighted and encouraged to hear Pastor Scott's testimony.

Pastor Walt, Steve Allison, and Pastor Justin drove us to Arthur in June. We enjoyed a delicious Amish meal at Yoder's. Pastor Walt barely escaped a camel's kiss as we drove through Arcola Wildlife Park, which was definitely the highlight of our day. They mean it when they say, "keep your windows up"! We finished our trip with a quick stop at Beechy's for "Amish" groceries.

Carol Hoffman and her committee planned a fun and yummy indoor picnic for July complete with lunch boxes from Dave's. "Those Guys from Carlock" entertained us with their singing and jokes. They were back by popular demand. Pastor Justin shared his inspiring testimony with us. We again enjoyed a catered lunch from Dave's

Monthly Gatherings

Senior Saints typically meet each month (March-December) for food, fellowship, and encouragement.





Senior Saints Banquet

Each year our Youth Ministries hosts a banquet for our seniors. It's a great opportunity for inter-generational fellowship!

in August. Kathy Allison and her team did a great job of planning. We were treated to a program - "30 Fingers Tickle the Ivories". Three ladies sat on a piano bench, handmade by one of the husbands, and played the piano together. It was really something to watch!

Pastor Walt and the senior high students treated us to a wonderful banquet in September. We thoroughly enjoyed the testimonies and special music shared by the students. It was so fun having three students sit at each of our tables. It gave us a chance to get to know them and they also did a great job of waiting on us. The bonds that are created on this night frequently continue for many years. This continues to be the highlight of the year for our Senior Saints. We deeply appreciate all the work by Pastor Walt, the students, and the adult leaders that goes into making this such a memorable night – best restaurant in town!

Kim Miller and her team invited our own Linda and Lynn Rader to teach us all about pumpkins at our October meeting. It is always such a delight to have them with us. We were glad they could take a break from their busy fall at the farm. We also enjoyed hearing Pastor Jeff's testimony. Lunch was provided by Dave's and followed up of course with homemade pumpkin desserts from Kim and her wonderful committee!

Many thanks to Cindy Anderson who, although brand new to Senior Saints, jumped in and led a team to plan November. She and her team did a fantastic job! Cindy has been a great addition to our Senior Saints team. Dave's provided a delicious Thanksgiving meal

complete with pie. We enjoyed having Steve and Bekah Orner and their four kids with us. They delighted us with stories of their ministry in Madagascar. The kids joined in with their own entertaining stories.

Our last meeting of the year was a Christmas lunch at the church planned by Mary Mohr and her "dream team". The food was catered by Dave's Market. Mary surprised us with a one of a kind ukulele concert that was an absolute delight! We had gifts to thank our committee chairmen and the committee members. The Senior Saints generously donated enough to buy 25 gifts for Project Angel Tree. Most of these gifts were warm coats or boots for the children. I want to especially thank Mary and all the Senior Saints for the wonderful gift basket and coupon to Starved Rock (one of my favorite places). I am very blessed to lead Senior Saints and to be loved on by our seniors!

Sherry Rutledge again provided the decorated envelopes with meal coupons for our birthday ministry. Becky Gustine sent birthday and anniversary cards to our seniors each month. She has done a great job with our Card Ministry for several years. Sherry and Becky work quietly behind the scenes on these two very important ministries to the seniors. The committee members did all the planning for our monthly events. They took care of decorations, table favors, food, and entertainment. We continue to enjoy a wonderful working relationship with Dave's in Fairbury. They offer us great pricing, on-time delivery, and delicious food. I typically open our meetings with prayer and a Bible verse. We want to make certain that each month has a spiritual component. Our focus is on encouraging our seniors and in reaching those who do not yet know the Lord.



Sermon Stats

from April 2024 – February 2025

44.9
minutes

The average length of Pastor Scott's sermons

27
hours

Pastor Scott's total hours of preaching (54 hours if we count both services)

51
minutes

Pastor Scott's longest sermon this year (August 25 on Genesis 26)

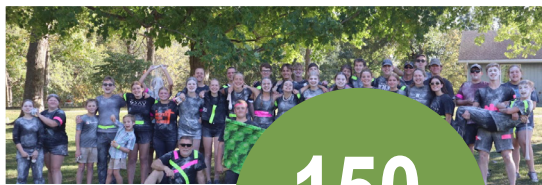
Youth Ministries Stats



325
FLOWERS



The number of flowers arranged by senior high girls at our **August Girl Talk** event.



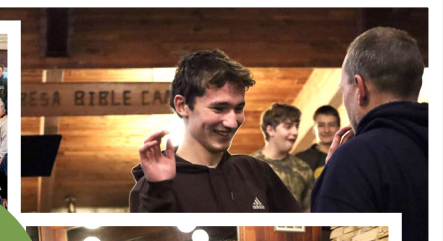
150
POUNDS



The amount of flour used in the Youth Ministries annual **Flour Wars** event.



4,464
MILES



The number of **miles travelled by Youth Ministries** in the past year. Trips included Mission 2 Michigan, Colorado Discipleship Camp, Winter Retreats, Sr. High End of Summer Retreat, and Jr. High Fall Retreat.



MINISTRY REPORT

Safe Secure Team

by David Congdon

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." Colossians 3:23

Once again, I count it a privilege and a joy to lead the Safe/Secure Team at East White Oak.

This year, we saw the departure of David DeHaan, who took a new job in Tennessee. It took me a couple of weeks to fully grasp what his departure would mean to the team. One Saturday night, as I was thinking about the gap David had left, I said to KC, "I wish Terry Quakenbush could step in and co-lead the team, but I know he's got a lot going on, so I just don't see that happening." The next morning, I arrived at church early - about 8:00 AM. Terry was waiting. He said, "I'd like to offer to help lead the team, but I need to know soon. I have some other ministry opportunities in mind as well." I immediately accepted Terry's offer, marveling at how God answered a prayer I hadn't even recognized as a prayer.

Terry has been a great blessing. He knows all the things I don't know. He is also just a wise and godly man who shares profound insight into the Scriptures and living out the Christian life.

We've been surprised and delighted this year to discover that the dynamic of the Safe/Secure Team has opened outreach opportunities we hadn't expected or envisioned.

The first is through our Jiu Jitsu training. Although the Jiu Jitsu club is an independent interest group, they provide essential training twice a month to Safe/Secure. We have noticed that several men from other Jiu Jitsu clubs come to train with us. I mentioned this during an ABF prayer time, and someone asked "Why do they come?"

So, I asked the visitors at the next practice. They said, "Because this place isn't ego-driven. It's others-driven." These men have little exposure to church besides Jiu Jitsu club. I'm reminded of the saying, "You may be the only Bible some people will ever read."

Also, the addition of our first young women to join Jiu Jitsu led to an unexpected outreach opportunity. When a young woman named Ana K joined the club, I had to find her a female training partner. After asking several women, I



Here to Serve

Terry Quakenbush provides first aid assistance at the Church Picnic.

asked Rylie Gerber. She said, "This is not something I would ever do for myself, but I'll do it to help Ana." I related that story to a neighbor. This neighbor has never accepted an invitation to the church picnic or to a concert, but, when he heard the story of Rylie's willingness, he said, "Wow...that faith is real! I need to check out your church."

We likewise became aware of a hidden outreach opportunity through Safe/Secure when Beth Fromme requested that we position a person to watch over the children's entrance near the library. Through doing so, we discovered that there are people who don't attend the church per se but come to the library during services to wait for their children who attend Children's Bible Fellowship. We have had rich encounters in the library with these people, and we pray that we'll see them again and that they will, in time, enter into a broader fellowship at East White Oak.

As for the week-to-week business of the Safe/Secure Team, the last couple of years have allowed us to get our team fully equipped and fully staffed. We've learned what medical equipment we consistently need and what type of communications technology allows us to bring our medical personnel to a person in need quickly and efficiently.

This next year, we will shift our focus to upgrading our training. We are also developing a system to speed up our response to emergencies as they occur.

My mother had a phrase she used often: "Improving your serve." It is my intention that our team will continually improve our serve, and at some level, that we will never be satisfied with where we are today but seek to be a little better tomorrow.

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2024

The 2024 Annual Meeting was called to order at 12:15pm. Pastor Scott Boerckel opened the meeting with prayer and confirmed that a quorum of at least 70 members was present.

Pastor Scott addressed the data in the annual report that shows that a large number of congregants had been removed from membership. This reflects the Elders' periodic cleanup of the membership roll, removing members who no longer attend or who have moved away.

Ron Miller, Chairman of the Missions Team, explained the Missions Budget. The upcoming 2024-25 Missions Budget reflects an unevenness due to bringing on new missionaries at higher support levels.

Pastor Scott gave an update on Living Stone Communities. This is the last year of our financial support for Living Stone, but does not end the ongoing relationship we have with them.

We were all then blessed by a video testimony given by Ruston and Carlyn Edelman. They were grateful to God for all that He did following the birth of their twins, and they also expressed their gratefulness for the body of Christ as they experienced the church's love and prayer support in action.

Dave Rowden, Chairman of the Elder Board, presented the first order of business – to approve the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting. Jeff Fritzen moved to approve the minutes. Dennis Grube seconded. Approved.

Dave Rowden then called on Andrew Woodman, a member of the Budget Committee (which also included Dan Gott, Dave Rowden, and Traig Whittaker) to present the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. Expenses are down due

to lower operational costs and the fact that we budgeted for a new youth pastor, but there was no hire. Giving is above our expenses for the fiscal year. The 2024-2025 budget is up 3.2%. The final 2024-2025 Budget is \$1,687,582.

Ron Miller presented the mission budget. Missions budget has increased 4.6%. The Zehr Scholarship CD was closed and rolled into the Missions Fund, where the funds will be used to help encourage youth in missions. Dave Rowden made the motion to approve the Missions Budget. Second by Jim Fisher.

“This is the last year of our financial support for Living Stone, but does not end the ongoing relationship we have with them.”

Per the recommendation of the Elders, Dave Rowden presented Dave Osenga, Jeff Fritzen, and Matt Hughes as candidates for Elder, and Dan Gott as candidate for Deacon. Motion made by Dave Rowden. Bill Fahrenkrug seconded the motion.

A proposal was presented to purchase an additional van. Dave Rowden made the motion. Seconded by Dennis Grube.

Voting commenced at 12:46 pm. While the votes were being cast and counted, Pastor Scott shared about the joy of serving the Lord together.

Upon the completion of counting the votes Dave Rowden announced that the proposed 2024-2025 Budget received 100% approval. The Elder/Deacon nominees received 99% approval or higher. The van purchase received 100% approval.

Dave Osenga made a motion to adjourn the annual meeting. Jim Fisher seconded the motion.

Vital Statistics

Membership

Membership as of March 1, 2024 – 395

Members Added – 14

Blackwood, Jacob	4-14-2024	McCree, Sophie	8-25-2024
Blackwood, Shannon	4-14-2024	Constant, Alex	11-17-2024
Brown, Daniel	4-14-2024	Constant, Sarah	11-17-2024
Hahn, Jerry	4-14-2024	Ramanathan, Mohan	11-17-2024
McClure, Peter	4-14-2024	Ramanathan, Santhy	11-17-2024
Combs, Brackston	8-25-2024	Thomas, Dave	11-17-2024
Combs, Amanda	8-25-2024	Thomas, Karen	11-17-2024

Memberships Removed by Request/Inactivation (13)

Deaths – 5

Verdery, Beverly	6-17-2024	Mohr, Larry	9-6-2024	Warren, Mark	2-11-2025
Wegman, Bob	6-23-2024	Unzicker, Barb	12-13-2024		

Membership as of February 28, 2025 – 391

Births

March 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025

<i>Child</i>	<i>Birthdate</i>	<i>Parents</i>
Susannah Waples	5-20-2024	Justin and Abigail Waples
Nola Phillips	7-29-2024	Cory and Abby Phillips
Ezra Smith	9-8-2024	Tim and Abigail Smith
Ada Johnson	9-28-2024	Chad and Cora Johnson
August German	11-9-2024	Taylor and Sarah German
Rhett Barnes	2-15-2025	John and Erika Barnes

Attendance

Average Sunday morning attendance

March 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025

In person – 625
 Livestream / YouTube viewers/groups – 29
 Facebook live – 5

Baptisms

March 1, 2024– February 28, 2025

Luke Jun	3-31-2024
Amelia Masters	3-31-2024
Gaige Rinkenberger	3-31-2024
Jenna Gibson	5-19-2024
Leah Goodyear	5-19-2024
Zoe Goodyear	5-19-2024
Nathan Nelson	5-19-2024
Reagan Fromme	9-8-2024
Philip Hoefer	9-8-2024
Lexi Horton	9-8-2024
Griffin Moore	9-8-2024
Liberty Schurter	9-8-2024
Eden Schurter	9-8-2024
Dave Thomas	9-8-2024
Ana N.	10-27-2024

2024-2025 Leaders Who Served

Pastors



Scott Boerckel
Senior Pastor
January 2011



Traig Whittaker
Senior Associate
Pastor
March 2000



Walt Baertsch
Youth & Young
Adult Ministries
December 2003



Justin Waples
Outreach &
Discipleship
September 2018



Jeff VanGoethem
Spiritual Development
and Missions
October 2021

Ministry Staff



Beth Fromme
Director of Children's
Ministries
March 2023



Sophie McCree
Youth Admin & Director
of Girl's Discipleship
May 2024



Jeff Fritzen
1st Term 2021-2024
2nd Term 2024-2027
Chair / Making Disciples
(Missions)



Todd Haynes
1st Term 2021-2023
2nd Term 2023-2026
Growing in Christ

Elders



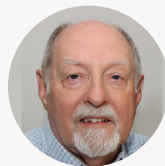
Matt Hughes
1st Term 2021-2024
2nd Term 2024-2027
Making Disciples
(Outreach)



Elia Kudari
1st Term 2023-2026
Rooted in Scripture



Dirk May
1st Term 2022-2025
Growing in Christ



Dave Osenga
1st Term 2024-2027
Worship



Dave Rowden
1st Term 2019-2022
2nd Term 2022-2025
Vice-Chair / Rooted
in Scripture

Elders serve a three year term. The terms are staggered so that there are generally one third of the terms expiring in any given year. An elder may be approved for a second term, however, after two consecutive terms elders are required to take at least one sabbatical year.

Deacons



Jesse Baird

Current Term
2023-2026

Technology,
Vehicles



Ruston Edelman

Current Term
2022-2025

Vice-Chair,
Building & Grounds



Calvin Fehr

Current Term
2023-2025

Congregational Care,
Benevolence,
Vehicle Asst.



Dan Gott

Current Term
2024-2027

Chair,
Communion



Andy Wallgren

Current Term
2023-2026

Security,
Building & Grounds



Andrew Woodman

Current Term
2023-2026

Finance,
Technology

Deacons serve a three year term. They are not required to take a sabbatical year and may serve as many consecutive terms as the elders determine.

Ministry Leaders

Nursery Coordinator
Stacey Spaulding

Cubbies Director
Maura Crittenden

Sparks Director
Lindsay Weidler

Girls T&T Director
Sarah Masters

Boys T&T Director
Eric Herbst

Adoption / Foster Care
Abigail Waples

Men's Ministry
Calvin Fehr

Women's Ministry
Jennifer Gerber

Missions
Ron Miller

Senior Saints
Kim Smith

Safe-Secure Team
David Congdon

Kitchen Team
Ian Cameron

Lead Usher
Jason White



Financial Report

Summary of our Cash Accounts 4/1/24–2/28/25

Budget Category	04/01/24 Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	02/28/25 Balance
General Account	696,209	1,548,138	(1,476,622)	767,724
Building Fund	1,556	7,000	0	8,556
Vehicle Fund	42,456	53,733	(65,939)	30,250
Building Improvement / Maintenance Fund	126,925	49,363	(64,617)	111,671
Benevolence Fund	31,966	15,300	(10,227)	37,039
Adoption / Orphan Fund	12,432	0	(50)	12,382
Missions Fund + Zehr Short Term Missions	195,582	159,813	(139,739)	215,656
Equipment Fund	48,822	12,834	(13,001)	48,655
Memorials	9,060	1,825	0	10,885
Sabbatical Fund	22,211	3,667	(19,525)	6,353
Totals	\$1,187,220	\$1,851,671	(1,789,720)	\$1,249,171

General Account Details:

Balance April 1, 2024 696,209

Receipts Include:

Offerings 1,496,513
Facility Fees 5,750
Interest Income 45,875

Disbursements include:

Board authorized van purchase (20,983)
Budgeted Expenses (1,455,639)

Balance February 28, 2025 767,724

Where are funds located?

Checking Account 76,776
Lifesong Fund 6,578
Goldman Sachs accounts 1,165,817
Total \$1,249,171



We budget 18% of our undesignated offerings to Missions. (See pages 34-35)

Giving Stats

\$75,980

Dollars contributed to Short Term Trips, Missionary Care, and Ladies' Mission Circle

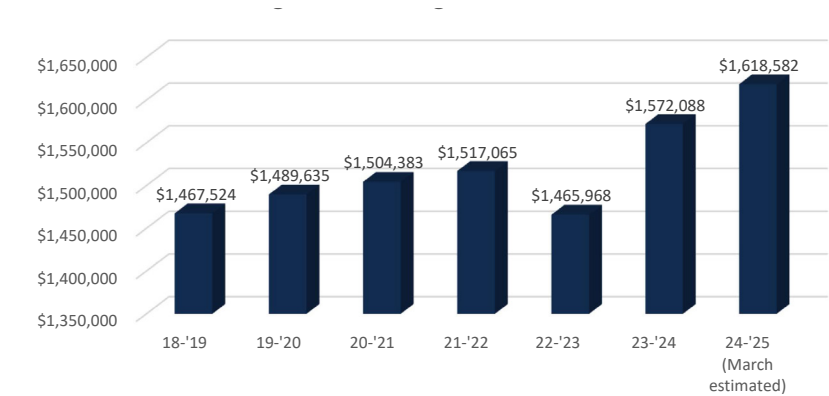
\$83,834

Dollars contributed to our Missions Funds (see page 36 for how these funds are used)

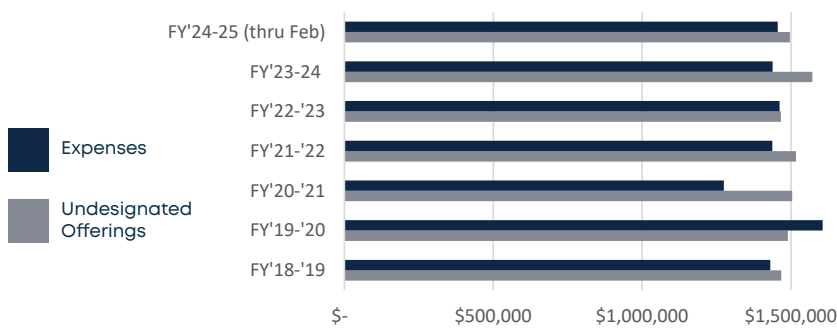
\$15,300

Dollars contributed to our Benevolence Fund, helping members of our church experiencing hardship

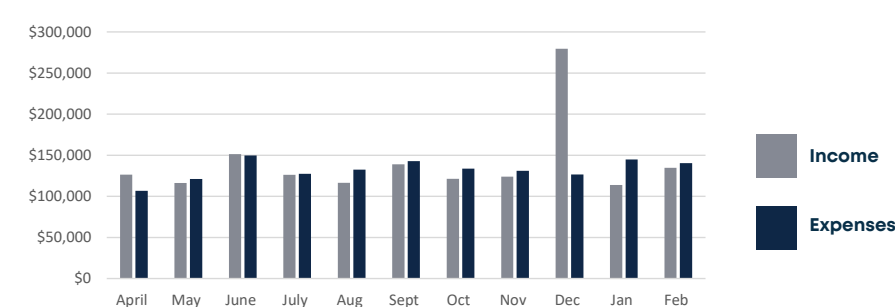
Undesignated Offerings Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to 2024-2025



Expenses to Income the past seven years



Income to expenses current fiscal year



2025-2026 Proposed Budget

2024-2025 fiscal YTD expenditures reflect 11 months: 4/1/24 - 2/28/25

Ministry		2024-2025 Budget	2024-2025 Fiscal YTD	% Budget Fiscal YTD	2025-2026 Budget	% Increase/ Decrease
5140	Ministerial Expense - Pastors	15,350	13,885	90.5%	15,700	2.3%
5150	Conference Expense - Pastors	10,550	7,588	71.9%	10,100	-4.5%
5180	Leadership Development	500	1	0.2%	500	0.0%
5190	Sabbatical Fund	4,000	3,667	91.7%	4,000	0.0%
5313	Library	1,000	996	99.6%	1,500	50.0%
5420	Evangelistic Outreach	8,200	3,795	46.3%	4,700	-42.7%
54312	Ministry - Assimilation	14,500	11,106	76.6%	14,000	-3.4%
54314	Small Groups	8,430	3,349	39.7%	9,200	9.1%
54332	Children's Ministry	10,104	9,039	89.5%	13,250	31.1%
5434	Men's Ministry	4,400	4,630	105.2%	5,400	22.7%
5435	Women's Ministry	7,900	4,186	53.0%	8,100	2.5%
5436	Senior High Youth Ministry	42,676	39,083	91.6%	39,640	-7.1%
5437	Junior High Youth Ministry	22,450	21,434	95.5%	21,660	-3.5%
5438	Senior Saints Ministry	5,800	5,722	98.7%	6,950	19.8%
5439	AWANA	5,600	1,612	28.8%	6,000	7.1%
54396	Singles / Young Adult Ministry	13,650	10,777	79.0%	16,000	17.2%
54397	Prayer Ministry	1,000	0	0.0%	1,000	0.0%
5440	Safety & Security	1,825	1,058	58.0%	1,825	0.0%
5445	Music	3,500	2,824	80.7%	3,500	0.0%
54502	Missions Support (p.34-35)	291,900	245,358	84.1%	294,300	0.8%
54503	Missions - Ministry Expense	4,800	2,364	49.3%	4,800	0.0%
54506	Missions - Short Term Missions	2,500	0	0.0%	2,500	0.0%
54507	Missions Conference	15,000	15,832	105.5%	15,000	0.0%
5480	Christian Education	2,600	433	16.7%	2,750	5.8%
5512	Socials / Special Events	34,850	29,309	84.1%	38,850	11.5%
5513	Legacy Generation Ministry	500	500	100.0%	500	0.0%
Ministry Total		\$533,585	438,548	82.2%	\$541,725	1.5%

Staff & Payroll		2024-2025 Budget	2024-2025 Fiscal YTD	% Budget Fiscal YTD	2025-2026 Budget	% Increase/ Decrease
	Pastoral Staff	455,520	421,430	92.5%	472,965	3.8%
	Non-Pastoral Staff	246,836	201,487	81.6%	256,709	4.0%
5122	Personnel - Staff Health Insurance	125,000	101,114	80.9%	112,800	-9.8%
51301	Payroll Taxes	18,900	15,362	81.3%	19,638	3.9%
Staff & Payroll Total		\$846,256	\$739,393	87.4%	\$862,112	1.9%

Operations

		2024-2025 Budget	2024-2025 Fiscal YTD	% Budget Fiscal YTD	2025-2026 Budget	% Increase/ Decrease
5211	Repairs/Maintenance - Facility	53,700	38,669	72.0%	51,850	-3.4%
5212	Repairs/Maintenance - Equipment	15,000	12,972	86.5%	16,850	12.3%
5221	Utilities	46,650	33,560	71.9%	42,300	-9.3%
5230	Insurance	37,000	46,914	126.8%	45,400	22.7%
5250	Equipment Purchases - (<\$2,500)					
52503	Computer/AV	4,875	7,418	152.2%	8,750	79.5%
52504	Children's Ministry	0	198		0	0.0%
52505	Youth Ministry	3,000	3,364	112.1%	600	-80.0%
5255	Equipment Fund	14,000	12,833	91.7%	14,000	0.0%
5264	Children's Ministry	3,000	0		0	-100.0%
5311	Supplies - Kitchen	1,300	991	76.2%	1,300	0.0%
5312	Supplies - Office	2,800	2,108	75.3%	2,800	0.0%
5315	Supplies - Custodial	4,500	2,102	46.7%	4,250	-5.6%
5320	Visibility	5,000	2,631	52.6%	9,000	80.0%
5325	Software & Subscription Fees	19,560	19,020	97.2%	19,288	-1.4%
5330	Professional Fees	435	385	88.5%	10	-97.7%
5340	Bank Fees	5,460	6,070	111.2%	6,960	27.5%
5350	Postage & Delivery	900	1,006	111.8%	1,100	22.2%
5361	Printing Costs	2,120	1,997	94.2%	2,700	27.4%
5370	Vehicle Expense	8,000	8,597	107.5%	8,000	0.0%
5375	Vehicle Fund	30,000	27,500	91.7%	15,000	-50.0%
5388	Building Improvement / Maintenance	53,850	49,363	91.7%	88,850	39.4%
	Operations Total	\$311,150	\$277,698	89.2%	\$339,008	9.0%

Total Expenses

\$1,690,991

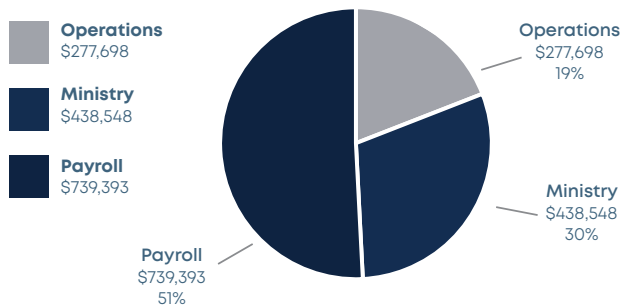
\$1,455,639

86.1%

\$1,742,845

3.1%

2024-2025 Year-to-Date Expenses



2025-2026 Budget Breakdown

Number in parenthesis is change from previous year.

Operations Total
19% of total expenses (9%)

Ministry Total
30% of total expenses (1.5%)

Staff & Payroll
51% of total expenses (1.9%)

Proposed Missionary Support

Missions Budget Detail 2025-2026

Individuals		2024-2025 Budget	Proposed 2025-2026 Budget
Africa Inland Mission	Doug & Lisa Orner	8,400	8,400
Africa Inland Mission	Jim & Susan Simmons	30,000	30,000
Bear Lake Lighthouse Ministries	Bill & Gloria Bagley	4,200	4,200
Brazil Gospel Fellowship Mission	Nancy Eldert	3,600	3,600
Cedine Bible Mission	Dwight & Phyllis Zimmerman	4,800	4,800
Christar	Dr. Oscar & Ana Maria Campos	9,000	9,000
CRU	Matt & Michelle Kent	9,600	9,600
CRU	Laurie Soliday	5,400	5,400
CTEN	R & T D	16,800	16,800
FamilyLife	Gary & Cindy Blunier	5,400	5,400
FamilyLife	Bruce & Cindy Maurer	9,600	9,600
Fellowship of Christian Farmers	Dennis & Janet Schlagel	9,000	9,000
Global Service Network	Bill & Debbie Miller	5,400	5,400
Global Outreach	Steve & Bekah Orner	12,000	12,000
His Mansion	Josh & Amelia Jenkins	4,800	-
InterAct Ministries	Lucas & Jamie Orner	10,200	10,200
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship	Jenny Klouse	9,000	9,000
Josiah Venture	Josh & Katie Yates	7,800	7,800
Kids Alive International	Doug & Sara Johnson	9,000	9,000
Missional Made Simple	Todd & Hannah Morr	5,400	5,400
RHMA	Larry Van Gundy	-	7,200
Salem4youth	Steve McNair	3,000	3,000
The Navigators	Josh & Rachel Weakly	3,600	3,600
Trans World Radio	Kalman & Annamarie Dobos	4,200	4,200
World Outreach Ministries	Mark & Meg Kuzdas	3,600	3,600
Wycliffe Bible Translators	Jim & Paula Roberts	5,000	5,000
New Additions		7,200	7,200
NATIONAL MINISTRY PARTNERS		19,000	19,000
Total Individual Support		\$225,000	\$227,400



Retired Ministry Partners

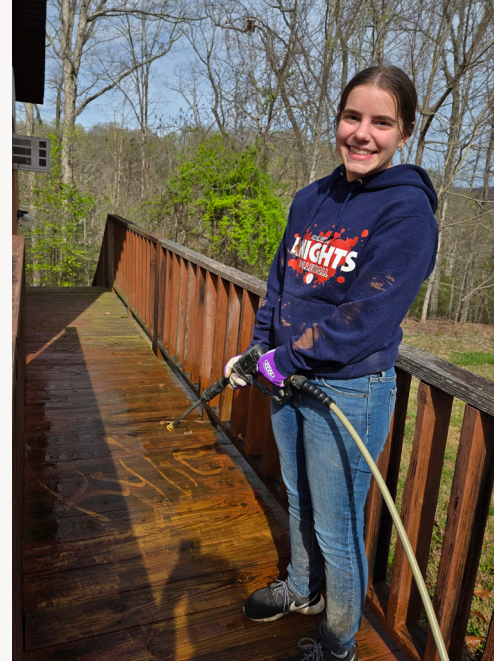
	2024-2025 Budget	Proposed 2025-2026 Budget
Sheila Dilworth	2,400	2,400
Leroy & Carol Goodman	1,200	1,200
Chuck & Anita Howard	1,500	1,500
Barbara Kenney	1,200	1,200
Dave & JoAnn Loewen	2,400	2,400
Dave & Darlene Noden	6,000	6,000
John & Pat Sharp	2,400	2,400
Total Retired Support	\$17,100	\$17,100

Organizations

	2024-2025 Budget	Proposed 2025-2026 Budget
As Our Own	3,600	3,600
Calvary Evangelistic Mission (Janet Lutrell)	1,200	1,200
Child Evangelism Fellowship	2,400	2,400
Cornerstone Christian Academy	2,400	2,400
EWO Sight Ministries	1,800	1,800
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	3,600	3,600
Home Sweet Home Ministries	3,600	3,600
Interim Ministries (Ron Workman)	600	600
Lake Waubesa Bible Camp	3,600	3,600
Local Campus Ministries	1,800	1,800
Ministry & More	2,400	2,400
Nassa Theological College	2,400	2,400
Pregnancy Resource Center (Living Alternatives)	4,800	4,800
RHMA (Rural Home Missionary Association)	4,800	4,800
Salvation Army-Safe Harbor	600	600
Spread Truth Ministries	3,600	3,600
Tanzania Childrens Rescue Center	4,800	4,800
Young Life - McLean County	1,800	1,800
Total Organizations Support	\$49,800	\$49,800

Total Missions Support	\$291,900	\$294,300
-------------------------------	------------------	------------------

Photos from Short Term Missions Trip to Cedine Bible Mission, March 2024



Missions Special Giving

Disbursements Fiscal Year 2024-2025 through February 28, 2025

Supported Missionaries

Matt Kent	Moving assistance	5,000
Oscar & Ana Maria Campos	Medical needs	4,000
Jenny Klouse	25 year gift, encouragement	5,000
Laurie Soliday	Travel expenses	4,000
Katie Yates	General support	4,000
Jim & Susan Simmons	Travel and conference expenses	4,375
Mark & Meg Kuzdas	Computer and sound equipment	1,000
All Supported Missionaries	Christmas gifts	13,750

Supported Organizations

Salem4youth	Fundraisers	2,000
Living Alternatives	Fundraisers	1,000

National Ministry Partners

Joel Simbitti	Christmas Gift	500
Micah Ngussa	Christmas Gift	500

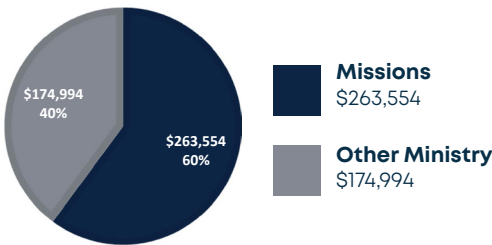
Other Special Giving

Short Term Trips	Misc. project expenses	5,000
Encouragement Link	Golf cart funds	4,500
Josh and Amelia Jenkins	Transition from His Mansion and relocation expenses	5,000
Tanzania Team	Projector, encouragement	1,200
Authenticity Book House	Print books in Swahili for untrained pastors	3,500
Jared and Heather Bolstridge	Travel expenses	2,000
L.I.F.E. Club	Club expenses for school year	1,718
Fellowship of Christian Farmers	General Support	5,000
Ruthvik Gandham	Church Planting in India	2,000
Samaritan's Purse	TN and NC Flood Relief	5,000
RHMA	Rediger fund for pastor, special project support	5,000
Individual Ministry Gifts <=\$1,000		1,000

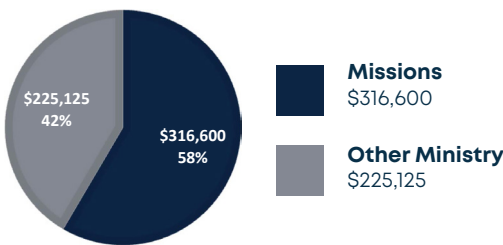
Total Special Giving in 2024/2025 **\$86,043**

Missions to Ministry *Expended '24-'25, Budgeted '25-'26*

Expended Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025



Budgeted Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026





..... Missions Conference "Dinner and Drama"
..... The Life and Compassion of Amy Carmichael
..... November 2, 2024
.....

OUR FOCUS

Seeking to be Worshipers, Maturing in Christ.



EASTWHITEOAK.CHURCH

11922 E 2000 North Road, Carlock, IL / 309-454-3833 / info@EastWhiteOak.church