



## **BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**1781 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Erie PA 16508**

***Making more and better disciples***

# **2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

***Pastor Tim George  
Care Pastor Jerry Davis***

# Lead Pastor Annual Report

## 2024

I have to say, it is such a joy to serve God and his church. I know God cherishes his church and holds her as sacred and I don't take that lightly. But also, I love his church and it's a lot of fun. It's so encouraging to be a part of a community of believers who love and pursue God and make the sacrifices they are able in order to worship him. Every week there are well over 100 of us in this building offering our worship to God in service, celebration, fellowship, generosity, and submission to His Word, not to mention all of the worship that occurs in the weekly ministries of Bethel as well. I believe that our church family, members and regular attenders, is healthy and growing. We have a number of new faces and partners in ministry and though we were not able to follow through on our baptism plans this year, it looks like we'll be able to start off next year with two baptism services. My prayer is that we continue to see that new growth continue and also that our old growth continues to deepen and spread. It has been particularly encouraging to me this year how quickly you all find areas of ministry needs and step in to fill in, sometimes before I even notice the need!

Our LifeGroups have continued to experience good health and growth to the point that we're starting to see the need for another leader in the near future to launch a new group. This year we shifted our Summer Block Party to the Fall and had a great turnout. We had over 270 guests from our community. However, there are two other numbers that matter even more to me than how many people came. The first is that we were able to give away over \$1,7000.00 in gift cards to our guests. I love how generous my church is and willing to bless our community. What a great demonstration of God's grace. The second is that we had over 40 volunteers participate the day of the Block Party, not to mention all those who donated or prayed but were unable to come. This is one of the main reasons we do the Block Party, to serve together as a church family and work together for a common, God glorifying purpose. This year we've been able to maximize our fellowship through more Church Family Dinner Meetings and Fellowship Sundays.

This year our youth groups (213 Youth and FUSE Youth) have seen their own growth and new faces. In 213 Youth, alongside Katie George and Tyler and Hanna Zesiger, we're able to minister to 10-12 older elementary kids once a month. This year we're focusing on the attributes of God and how they affect us. In FUSE Youth, alongside Katie as well as Dan and Sam Eberlin, we get to minister to nearly 17 teens every other Sunday night. This year we're studying the Psalms as they help us navigate all the emotions and situations of teen-life. It occurred to me in the last month that I have had the privilege of serving our teens in leading the Youth Group for the last 11 years (12 in January). In youth ministry that's a long time and I'm happy to continue. Still, as my kids come into youth group age, please be praying with me for a godly man with a gift of teaching or discipleship and a heart and passion for young kids and teens to come alongside and take on the Youth Group ministries and bring a fresh voice and a refreshed, renewed, and more dedicated focus for the spiritual growth of our kids.

This year we studied the book of Habakkuk together and took a raw look at our situations and how our perspectives compare to God's perspective. We also took a look at popular New Testament Stories to remind ourselves of the truths those events are meant to convey. The majority of the year, however, has been spent studying 2 Corinthians and what authentic Christian living and ministry looks like. My prayer is that the messages are true to God's word, challenging, and relevant. It is a privilege to share God's truth with you all every Sunday. This coming year, after we wrap up our series in 2 Corinthians, the plan (with God's direction) is to take some time and study Deuteronomy 5 and the 10 Commandments, then a Summer series on the most quoted verses in the Bible, followed by our own series in the Psalms in the last third of the year.

As a personal report, I have now finished my 23<sup>rd</sup> course in my Master of Divinity program. I have 2 classes and a final paper left in my degree. By this time next year, I'll be done. I can't believe that, but it's true. I have continued to do my best to steward your gift of tuition and maintain a 4.0 GPA. Thank you for your investment. As I said, you are all a joy to serve, thank you for making pastoral ministry a blessing.

Hebrews 13:17



**CARE Ministry**  
Annual Report  
(Concerned Action to Reach Erie)  
**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

This is the beginning of my 8<sup>th</sup> year serving the Lord as CARE Pastor here at Bethel. It has been rewarding, as I have had the opportunity to interact with the church family, while also meeting new people, many with various challenges. At the onset of this ministry, it was determined that we as Christians should put “feet to our faith” meaning that we should exercise ourselves in God’s work. So this is an overview of the CARE ministry. It has been a partnership between Pastor Tim, the Bethel family, and myself.

Throughout this year, I have visited people in the hospital from our church family, and individuals who have requested a pastor to pray with them. I have learned that there is a shortage of pastors willing to read Scripture and pray with spiritually hungry people. I have also been in almost every nursing home sometime during the year to meet needy souls. One main thrust of my year continues to be the follow up of Sunday visitors. The Greeters, Pastor Tim, and I strive to meet visitors while they are here, and then follow up with them on Monday. There is much to do, and I am committed to do what I can to share Christ through words and action that He may be seen in my efforts. Every week we send out a mailing to our senior citizens and shut-ins to keep them informed as to what is happening here at Bethel.

Our efforts this year started with our 2024 Easter Sunday where we welcomed 175 in attendance. It came as a result of a mailing blitz reaching 2,000 homes in our community. The weekend began with a Good Friday service with 98 in attendance. The summer was busy as we implemented the van ministry which provides transportation and activities for the church family. We did our annual food drive called “Bethel Bounty Boxes” as we teamed up with the staff at EUMA in this cooperative effort. We had nearly 100 boxes distributed to needy families here in Erie. We are praying for more spiritual results from this outreach. It was a team effort! Now at Christmas, we are sending out a Christmas mailing to families we have met in the past inviting them to our service on December 22. Nearly 60 invitations have been sent out as our ladies worked hard to make this happen. We are finishing the year with our annual Christmas gift fruit basket to our shut-ins. We have helped people by sharing the Good News of Jesus as the Lord gives opportunities.

The thoughts that go through my head and my heart now is “what’s next?” I don’t have the answer to that question, but I know the Lord does. My goal is to seek His counsel and to “wait patiently on the Lord”. Please pray with me as we enter a new year that we might CARE more. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:25 “That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.” May we all be faithful in caring!

*Pastor Jerry*

# Bethel Baptist Church

## Church Clerk Annual Report 2024

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The total membership for 2024: 63 Members

### **NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED**

Five new members were received into the fellowship on March 3, 2024:

Walter & Lois Anderson

Kevin & Sherri DeRosa

Tyler Zesiger

Three new members were received into fellowship on Dec 17, 2024:

Obed Reddy

Garrett & Marie Clark

### **MEMBERS REMOVED**

Seven members were removed.

Matt Eberlin

Kelcie Fenton

Hayden Trevino

Jorge & Rebecca Chiques

Jan Kuhns

Michelle Kuhns

### **BIRTHS**

There were no births this year.

### **BAPTISMS**

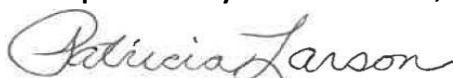
There were no baptisms this year.

### **DEATHS**

June Zwald on January 17, 2024 and her husband

Duane Zwald on October 28, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

  
Patricia Larson

Church Clerk

# Annual Deacon Report for 2024

The deacons of Bethel Baptist exist to help the church in both spiritual and material ways. The term deacon means servant. We serve to help the pastors and members by establishing budgets, spending time and money on the building and grounds of the property. We also make recommendations to the church for major plans such as driveway and parking lot repairs and other building related projects.

One of our more pleasant duties is listening to people who wish to join the church and hearing their testimonies. We make recommendations to the church for membership.

Currently, the following men serve as deacons: Jon Anderson, Dan Eberlin, John Gribbin, Tom Gribbin, Luke Grimes, Robert Hess, Mike Myers, and Wally Staab. These deacons are a part of the church leadership team, which also consists of Pastors Tim George and Jerry Davis.

The deacons also have oversight of the Deacon Fund, which helps people in need pay bills that they would have trouble paying for themselves. Members may speak to any deacon or pastor if there is a need for help. All such needs and payments are held in strict confidence to aid members and friends of Bethel without undue attention.

Please let us know if there are any building issues that need attention. We serve our Lord by taking care of what He has provided for us.

In His Service,

Tom Gribbin, Deacon Chairman

## 2024 Missionary Report

*“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”*

*Mark 16:15*

*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations.”*

*Matthew 28:18*

**Missionary** - “one who preaches the gospel with the aim of starting churches that can reach people groups among whom Jesus isn’t yet known and worshiped”.

Bethel Baptist Church has a long history of supporting those who have answered the call to go and make disciples. We are excited to continue doing so even now. We presently support 14 missionaries, singles and couples, and ministries – financially and with our prayers. Check the Missionary Budget for 2025 to get an idea who we support.

Our retired missionary, Roy Gleason, just passed away this January (2025).

During the past year we had updates in church for Sandy Heim, Kurt & Bethany Gomez, Bill & Becky Petite, Becky McGregor, Gil & Denise Thomas, David & Katie Hess, John & Michele Morgan, Bart & Emily Allen, and Bethany Camp.

Gil & Denise were with us in June to preach and update their ministry. The Allens were able to return to Papua New Guinea a few months ago, and the Gomez’ left for their ministry in Mexico. Praise the Lord!

Two lists of our missionaries’ current prayer requests and ministry information were made available in April and November.

A new Missionary Directory was also put together by Kerry Gleason.

Copies of the latest letters are available to pick up in the foyer on the wall by the Conference Room. Take advantage of the opportunity to keep up with and pray for our missionaries!

Respectfully,  
Marcia Gribbin

# Kids Ministries 2024

2024 has been another great year for our Bethel Kids Elementary Ministries! We have taken on a new curriculum, utilizing LifeWay's [THE GOSPEL PROJECT](#), which is giving us some fresh material and ways of teaching important gospel concepts.

Our teachers and helpers have a real faithful heart for children, and in the new year we will add two new helpers to fill some existing needs. We are maintaining around 15-20 kids on average and even more kiddos come for the holidays. We are thankful for God's provision!

We are enjoying having the kids in our church services whenever there is a fifth Sunday of the month. We find this to be very beneficial for them to feel a part of the greater ministries here at Bethel, and to know what our church is like in different aspects. We planned to have a special summer picnic for our Kids Worship Ministry in June, but due to rain we had to host it indoors at Bethel with several of our teachers planning fun games in the Ministry Center. We look forward to attempting this picnic again in the coming summer.

We are always reevaluating the needs of our ministry, and are *so grateful for the volunteers and God's faithfulness.*

In His Service,

*Katie George*

## **Bethel Baptist Church**

### **Music Ministry Report 2024**

“We want our music services to unite generations and cultures in the corporate worship of God our Father.”

This year, I took over the music planning from Hayden Trevino, and Pastor Tim has provided valuable guidance on this process. We continue to add new songs, rotate them regularly, and retire others to ensure a balance of familiarity and freshness for everyone attending our Sunday morning services.

Currently, we have two lead singers and guitarists: Pastor Tim and myself. Our pianist, Jon Anderson, has been faithfully serving, and Karis Fenton has offered to play on days that she is well enough to do so. Sharon Trevino contributes on keyboard and provides vocals. Mike and Melinda Myers consistently lend their voices alongside Pastor Tim or me. After Hayden Trevino left in September as our percussionist, Pastor Tim and I have been rotating to fill in on percussion during the months we aren't leading vocals. We are praying for God to provide another dedicated percussionist to join our team, along with any other vocalists or musicians.

With this committed group of worship team members, scheduling has been tight, leaving limited breaks each month. However, everyone has done a fantastic job, and I thank the Lord for their willingness and dedication to this ministry.

We deeply appreciate your continued support of our Music Ministry. Worshiping with all of you each Sunday is a joy, and I look forward to what God has in store for Bethel Baptist Church in 2025!

Thank You,

Luke Grimes

Music Committee Chairman



# 2024 Maintenance Report

I'm always amazed by the generosity of our church. Many give sacrificially to the ministry out of their deep love and appreciation for what God has given them. After salaries and support for our missionaries, the maintenance budget is the next largest yearly expenditure. For that reason, I take the responsibility of church maintenance seriously.

In any given year, approximately two-thirds of the maintenance budget is spent on general upkeep of the building and grounds: cleaning supplies, winter maintenance including snow removal and salting the parking lot, light bulbs and ballasts, fuel, repairs and storage for equipment, landscape supplies, boiler and furnace repair. Those are just a few examples of how money is spent. The other one-third of the budget is used for special projects. This year we were able to pave a small section of a driveway. We also re-purposed two rooms. The school needed another classroom, so we remodeled the boardroom by moving a wall approximately 6 feet, then painted the walls and waxed the floor. Also, the library was converted into a conference room. New floor to ceiling walls were added, lights, laminate flooring and a fresh coat of paint. It's a great space for bible studies, board meetings and interviews.

Because of your generous giving the church was able to put several thousand dollars into the capital expense fund last year. These funds will go toward paving a large section of the parking lot in 2025. This will be a shared project with Bethel Christian School. Pray that God will provide the necessary funds to complete this project.

I'm thankful for those who help out here at Bethel. Many hands make for light work. I'm thankful for Katie George and Louise Snippert who keep the church and school clean and neat for our church attenders, school students, teachers, staff and visitors. I'm also thankful for Sharon Trevino and her talent for putting the right picture in the right place, always making sure the building is appealing to our members and guests.

The main building is 45 years old. Over 250 children and adults walk the halls every day. The amount of work needed at Bethel can be overwhelming at times. But God always provides what we need when we need it. We just have to be faithful.

In His Service,

Mike Myers  
Maintenance Director

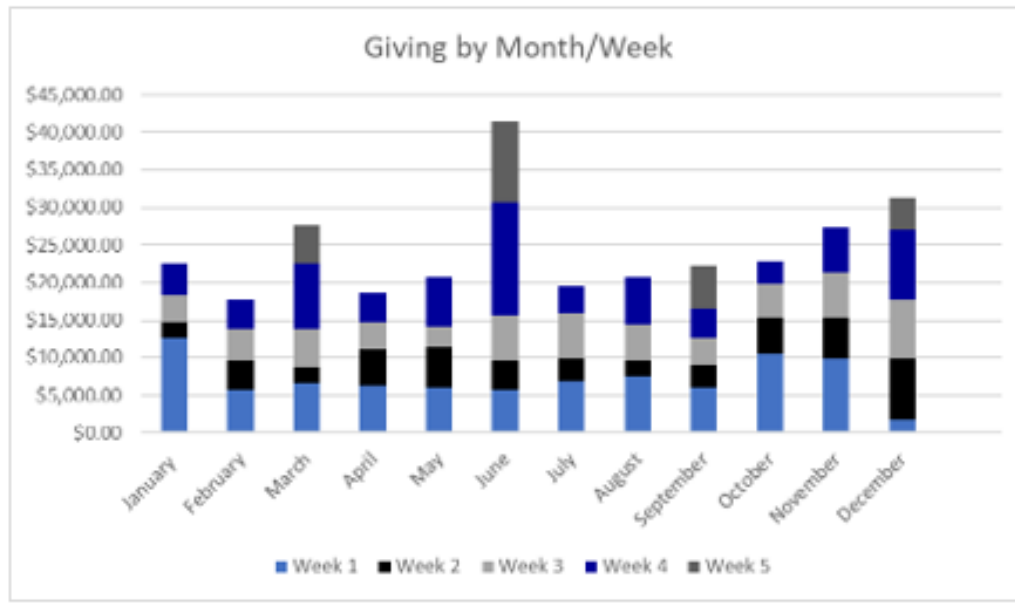
## 2024 Financial Secretary Report

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	\$275,061.03
Deacon's Fund	\$8,237.27
Capital Expense	\$5,660.00
Offset	\$12,530.44

### Specials

BCS Scholarship Fund	\$825.00
Missionaries Christmas	\$2,170.00
Missionary Thomas	\$300.00
Pastor's Christmas	\$2,476.00

Total Giving: \$307,259.74



### Notes:

- Offset account money is received for reimbursement of expenses outside of budget and special events. These include but are not limited to study guides, group tickets, and other items.
- The number of donors is unknown as money was received through the offering box collection process.
- The giving stated in chart above does not include specials.

A special thanks to Jim Henneman, Hannah Zesiger, Wally Staab, Sydney Grimes, and Patricia Hancock for their help with counting the weekly offerings.

Submitted by Erika Trevino, Financial Secretary

### 2024 Online Giving Totals

January	\$3,438.30
February	\$4,254.85
March	\$4,745.00
April	\$4,464.60
May	\$4,484.60
June	\$3,664.70
July	\$4,550.60
August	\$4,705.55
September	\$4,104.50
October	\$3,946.05
November	\$6,121.00
December	\$5,758.00

### **Total Online Giving in 2024: \$54,237.75**

\*4 new donors signed up for online giving in 2024\*

Online Giving totals are included in Total Giving from report on previous page.



Submitted by Erika Trevino, Financial Secretary

## Bethel Baptist Church Budget 2025

Category	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Change	% Change	% of Budget
Pastor Tim Salary	59,098	64,017	4,919	8.32%	24.69%
Pastor Jerry Salary	11,960	13,662	1,702	14.23%	5.27%
Pastor's Benefits	8,200	8,200	0	0.00%	3.16%
Secretary/Admin Asst	11,050	12,231	1,181	10.69%	4.72%
Custodian/Maintenance	11,700	12,000	300	2.56%	4.63%
Soc Sec/Medicare	1,740	1,854	113	6.51%	0.71%
National Fuel/Energo	8,000	8,000	0	0.00%	3.09%
Penelec/Ambit	14,000	14,000	0	0.00%	5.40%
Phone/Internet	1,436	1,039	-397	-27.67%	0.40%
Water/Sewer	3,700	4,900	1,200	32.43%	1.89%
Insurance	10,000	11,000	1,000	10.00%	4.24%
Office Supplies	6,000	6,000	0	0.00%	2.31%
On-Line Giving Fees	1,850	1,850	0	0.00%	0.71%
Pulpit Supply	250	250	0	0.00%	0.10%
Christian Education	4,000	5,000	1,000	25.00%	1.93%
BCS Scholarship	3,000	3,000	0	0.00%	1.16%
Outreach	4,000	4,000	0	0.00%	1.54%
Ministry Expense	6,000	6,000	0	0.00%	2.31%
Building Maintenance	25,000	25,000	0	0.00%	9.64%
Printing & Media Systems	3,500	3,500	0	0.00%	1.35%
Media Licensing	500	600	100	20.00%	0.23%
Transportation	1,500	1,500	0	0.00%	0.58%
Missions	41,688	41,688	0	0.00%	16.08%
Capital Savings Fund	10,000	10,000	0	0.00%	3.86%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>248,172</b>	<b>259,290</b>	<b>11,118</b>	<b>4.52%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Bethel Baptist Church Missionary Budget 2025

Missionary	Agency	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	Monthly Support
Kurt & Bethany Gomez	ABWE	2,640.00	2,640.00	220.00
Sandy Heim	ABWE	1,668.00	1,668.00	139.00
Becky McGregor	ABWE	660.00	660.00	55.00
John & Michele Morgan	ABWE	6,300.00	6,300.00	525.00
Bill & Becky Petite	ABWE	2,880.00	2,880.00	240.00
Gil & Denise Thomas	ABWE	9,132.00	9,132.00	761.00
Muriel Waite-Casas	ABWE	660.00	660.00	55.00
Karen Gardiner	BMM	564.00	564.00	47.00
Jim & Becky Storey	BMM	1,440.00	1,440.00	120.00
Dan & Debbie Weimer	BMM	2,100.00	2,100.00	175.00
Bart & Emily Allen	Ethnos360	2,400.00	2,400.00	200.00
Roy Gleason	WBT	2,196.00	2,196.00	183.00
Bethany Camp		4,128.00	4,128.00	344.00
David Hess	Every Nation	2,520.00	2,520.00	210.00
Maurice Goeleyen		2,400.00	2,400.00	200.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>41,688.00</b>	<b>41,688.00</b>	<b>3,474.00</b>



I am pleased to present Bethel Baptist Church with the 2024 Bethel Christian School's Annual Report. It continues to amaze me how God works within our walls. I am thankful for Bethel Baptist Church's continued support and oversight of the school. Your vision continues to change the lives of the students and families we serve.

### **Bethel Christian School Board Members (2025)**

Tim George (Chairman of the Board)	Mike Myers
Andy Gribbin (Vice Chairman of the Board)	Kerry Gleason
Ben Reiter	Erin Layden
Jean Wright	Samantha Eberlin
Amy Fohner	

### **Bethel Christian School Leadership Team (2024)**

Scott Kaufman (Administrator)
Becky Crays (Vice Principal)
Janet Shields (Elementary Lead)
Erin Sinnott (Daycare Director)

**"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your**

**Father in heaven."  
Matthew 5: 14-16**

**Bethel Christian School  
Bethel Baptist Church  
Annual Report**



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Bethel finished the 2023-2024 school year "warrior strong." We had one graduating student, who went on to enter the workforce. Budgetarily, the school was able to meet the goals of its 2023-2024 budget.

Bethel Daycare continues to be fully staffed and continues to serve a large number of children and families in the Erie community, what a blessing it is to be able to offer these services through the umbrella of Bethel Christian School. Bethel Christian School continues to see high enrollment from our Pre K class to our Kindergarten classroom!

The 2024 summer was spent completing building upgrades and relocating classrooms to accommodate the increased enrollment. Bethel Baptist Church blessed the school by allowing the school to relocate the church's boardroom to the old church library. This allowed the school to create one new classroom, as well as have a very nice dedicated meeting room (huge thank you to Michael Myers and Kevin Hess.)

During the summer of 2024, Bethel Christian School was blessed to be able to hire three new teachers. Two of these hires are new positions, first a stand-alone 5th grade teacher and second a high school math teacher. God continues to bless our school by providing amazing teachers in the positions we need to educate and nurture our students.

We ended the 2023-2024 school year with 168 and started the 2024-2025 school year with 181 students. Our school verse for the year is, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5: 14-16. At Bethel Christian School's kickoff event for the start of the year, we shared this verse and explained to both the parents and the student body that our goal for the school year was for BCS students to be a service to the community. To this point in the year BCS students have worked in nursing homes, helped in public school clean ups, worked with the Erie City Mission, and assisted Bethel Baptist Church with the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

We are currently on track to meet the budgetary goals for the 2024-2025 school year. Bethel Christian School is also in the middle of a capital campaign to raise the funds needed to assist Bethel Baptist Church in the parking lot removal and repair.

Please join me in praying for the spiritual health of our student body so that God will continue to move within their hearts. Pray for enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year, for the leadership team, and for the Bethel Christian School Board as we tackle the issue of classroom space in a growing school. Lastly please join in praising God for 51 successful years in the Erie Community. God continues to work at Bethel everyday, through our teachers and daycare staff we are sharing the good news of Christ to over 215 students and 150 families.

Respectful submitted,

*Scott Kaufman*

**"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."  
Matthew 5: 14-16**

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Elected Officers and Appointments**  
**–2025–**

**Elected Church Officers**

**Treasurer** – *Tom Gribbin*

**Financial Secretary** – *Erika Trevino*

**Deacons** – *Tom Gribbin, Robert Hess, Michael Myers* (elected to begin new 3-year terms)

(Our currently serving Deacons are: Jon Anderson, Dan Eberlin, John Gribbin, Luke Grimes and Wally Staab)

**Deacon Financial Steward** – *Wally Staab* (Other Members of the Financial Stewardship Team are Tom Gribbin, Pastor Tim George and Erika Trevino)

**Bethel Christian School Board** – *Samantha Eberlin and Amy Fohner* (elected to begin new 3-year terms)

(Our currently serving Board Members are: Pastor Tim George, Kerry Gleason, Andy Gribbin\*, Administrator Scott Kaufman, Erin Layden\*, Ben Reiter\* and Jean Wright)

(\*- non-Bethel Members)

**Ministry Leader Appointments**

**Missions Ministry** – *Marcia Gribbin*

**Greeting Ministry** – *Pastor Jerry Davis*

**Maintenance Ministry** – *Mike Myers*

**Technology/Media Ministry** – *Jon Anderson*

**Kids Ministries** – *Katie George, Joy Gribbin, Samantha Eberlin*