

Bethel

Baptist Church

"Making dynamic followers of Jesus"

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Pastor Tim George

1781 West 38th Street, Erie, PA 16508 (814)864-8811

www.bethelerie.org

Lead Pastor's Annual Report - 2025

I cannot look back at the last year of Bethel's ministry and say that God is not working. He clearly is and it's been a joy to be a part of it. This year I have seen how God loves and cherishes His church, that she's sacred to Him and He treats her as such. It's encouraging to be a part of a church that returns His love and investment and imitates and reflects it to each other and our community. Every week we join together with well over 100 other believers to respond to and imitate God's grace, mercy, service, generosity, and more. My prayer and hope is that we continue to see growth in not just our attendance but in our responses to God's truth and grace.

Over the last year we have given our LifeGroup ministries greater structure and added a group and leader to the four groups that were previously meeting. We held our annual Community Block Party (in the Fall again, having shifted from the Summer last year) and welcomed over 250 guests and gave away over \$1,700.00 in gift cards. It's always a blessing to be so generous with our neighbors and to serve together with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We continued with emphasizing fellowship through Church Family Dinner Meetings and Fellowship Sundays.

Throughout the last year we grew through three different sermon series. At the beginning of the year, we studied the 10 Commandments to better understand the character of God and how it should affect our belief and living as believers. We also revisited some of the most quoted or memorized verses in the Bible over the Summer to let their message affect us in fresh ways. Finally, we finished the year in the Fall and early Winter with a series studying select Psalms to allow their truths to help us navigate life's situations with both our mind and our hearts. 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, we will spend the larger portion of our time studying the book of Revelation. We will also have the opportunity this Summer to be reminded of how God's truth and our lives must remain Christ-centered and, in the late Fall we will hear from Christ himself through a study of the Beatitudes.

This year our youth groups (213 Youth and FUSE Youth) have been encouraging for both leaders and students. In 213 Youth, alongside Katie George and Tyler and Hanna Zesiger, we were able to minister to 7 older elementary kids once a month. Over the year and into this year we're focusing on what it means to truly follow Jesus. At the end of the year Tyler and Hanna moved to Texas so we are in need of some new volunteers to help minister to our younger kids. 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 asking and answering Big Questions about God and the Bible and Christianity. We also set aside time for the leaders to interact with smaller groups of teens on a more personal level. While I love serving our teens, please keep 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.

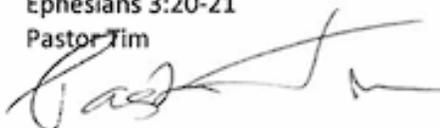
As a personal report, I completed my masters program and earned my Master of Divinity in Christian Leadership and Church Ministries, finishing with a 4.0 GPA. I am deeply grateful for your investment and for enabling me to continue my education.

I have great hopes for 2026 as we chase after a clarified vision for our church. It will have its challenges, greatest of which will be finding and hiring the full-time associate pastor that God is preparing for us. 2026 should be exciting.

I can't think of a better group of believers to join God with in his mission and vision for 2026.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Pastor Tim



Bethel Baptist Church

ANNUAL REPORT - 2025

CARE Report

CARE “Concerned Action to Reach Erie”

Looking back over the year, there have been many good things that happened in the CARE ministry. I feel the CARE ministry has done much to help others and to be a part of many lives. I have engaged several others to assist and have appreciated their input. It continued throughout the year to be a concerted effort by many of the Bethel family to accomplish what needed to be accomplished. You who have visited, worked on projects with me, and/or done things on your own have been so helpful. So many of you have prayed for us and this ministry for these 8 years.

Here are a few of the accomplishments in 2025:

1. Membership classes
2. Easter outreach
3. Niagara Village monthly Bible studies
4. Visitation to hospitals, nursing home and other opportunities.
5. Bethel Bounty Boxes project
6. Christmas fruit baskets to shut-ins
7. Personal Greeting on Sunday and overseeing our friendly Greeters
8. Communication and Prayer with and for others
9. Counseling where there are requests
10. Availability to others

On October 2, 2025, I completed 8 years of service as CARE pastor. Due to my wife, Susan’s mobility problems, other aging issues we are experiencing, and my own recent health developments, we spent a great amount of time analyzing our situation. I have been diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis, which has affected my breathing and my stability. With all of this, plus I just celebrated my 84th birthday in December, I have decided it is time for me to retire. Pastor Tim has known that this day was coming although I have been reluctant to step aside as I have loved the opportunity to serve the Lord in caring for others. The Lord created this position for me back in 2017, and I know He has someone to follow.

As of December 31, 2025, I have officially retired from my service. I am convinced that the time is right for me to step away from my day-to-day responsibilities. It has been a wonderful experience for me to bring 35 years of ministry to a close on a positive note.

Thank you for all your support, and I look forward to seeing how God will provide for the future.

Pastor Jerry

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
CHURCH CLERK REPORT
As of December 31, 2025**

MEMBERS

As of December 31, 2025, the total **membership was 64.**

BAPTISMS

December 5th

Connor Clark

Caden Clark

Christian Clark

April 13th (Palm Sunday)

Leo Jones

Za’Nyiah Kirkland

BIRTHS

There were no births during 2025.

DEATHS

Betty Matczak January 6

Janiece Williams February 4

Betty Billings November 1

NEW MEMBERS

Joshua & Zoe Schumm May 13

Jennifer Groves December 10

MEMBERS REMOVED

No members were removed this year.

Patricia Larson, Church Clerk

Deacon Report 2025

The deacons of Bethel serve the church in both spiritual and practical ways. The word *deacon* means “servant,” and it is our role to support the pastors and the church body through faithful service. This includes assisting with budgeting and overseeing the care of the church building and grounds. One of our most rewarding responsibilities is meeting with individuals who desire to join Bethel as members. We have the privilege of hearing their testimonies and then making membership recommendations to the church.

The men currently serving as deacons are:

- Jon Anderson
- Dan Eberlin
- John Gribbin
- Tom Gribbin
- Luke Grimes
- Robert Hess
- Mike Myers
- Wally Staab.

Together with Pastors Tim George and Jerry Davis, the deacons serve as part of the church leadership team.

The deacons also oversee the Deacon Fund, which exists to assist individuals and families facing financial needs and difficulty paying essential bills. Members are encouraged to speak with any deacon or pastor if help is needed. All requests and assistance are handled with strict confidentiality so that care may be provided discreetly and compassionately. Please let any of the deacons know if you become aware of any building or property issues that need attention. It is our desire to honor the Lord by faithfully caring for what He has entrusted to us.

Respectfully submitted,

Luke Grimes

Leadership Team Secretary

2025 Missionary Report

The faithful missionaries that Bethel supports continued to serve the Lord in many different places this past year - Mexico, Peru, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Central African Republic, ABWE here in the States, camp in NY, college campus in PA and NJ, retirees still ministering in retirement in Ohio, Florida, Alaska, Missouri, and Pennsylvania! What a blessing and privilege to share in those ministries!

One of our former missionaries, Roy Gleason, passed away to Glory last January after many years of serving the Lord through Wycliffe and JAARS.

Our monthly support for Roy was applied as additional support for the Gomez', and Pastor Maurice Goeleyen.

Bill & Becky visited us in May here at Bethel. They continue to visit all their supporting churches and individuals, and family before heading back to Japan soon to retire there, but plan to continue to help their children in their churches in Japan.

Pastor Maurice Goeleyen in CAR has had many medical problems recently. We thank the Lord that we were able to financially help him with those expenses for travel & treatment. Their country is dealing with lack of food, and much violence.

Refer to the Missionary Budget in the Annual Report for information about our financial giving to each missionary.

There is a 2026 Missionary Directory for your source of pictures and their addresses. Great for prayer and contact purposes.

Challenge for you — send a card or email to each of our missionaries in the next few months to let them know we are praying for them and the people they serve!

Marcia Gribbin

2025 Annual Report for Bethel Kids Worship

As 2025 came to a close, I looked back and saw so many blessings. Our children's ministry is well staffed with teachers and helpers who truly love the children and enjoy being with them.

We consistently saw 15 kids on average coming to our ministry, sometimes upwards of 20, sometimes less. We are continuing to use our curriculum to teach the kids Bible lessons and also, we had a major focus this year on learning the books of the Bible and encouraging the kids to look up all the passages as we feel one of the most important tools we can give them is their own knowledge of scripture and an ability to read it. Through a variety of different measures, including posters and songs and Bible memory, I believe that this emphasis has truly shown through and the kids were eager to participate and read verses and learn together.

I am so grateful for the blessing of volunteers who love the Lord, including a couple new faces this year. God is always faithful to us, especially when we are consistent and willing. We are looking forward to seeing what God will do in 2026!

In His service,
Katie George

Bethel Baptist Church Music Ministry Report 2025

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

Hello Bethel family!

2025 was an encouraging year for our Music Ministry! We saw God answer prayers in beautiful ways and continue to bless our congregation through worship.

We praise the Lord for how He has strengthened our worship team this year. Kevin DeRosa joined us as our dedicated percussionist, which is an answer to the specific prayer we lifted at the end of 2024! Connor and Caden Clark also joined the team, bringing their talents on guitar and bass. These additions have been a great encouragement and a meaningful enhancement to our services. We are deeply grateful for their willingness to serve and for how God has expanded our team.

Our core group continues to serve each week faithfully, and we are so grateful for their willingness to serve:

- Pastor Tim and I rotate as lead singers and guitarists
- Kevin DeRosa plays percussion (with Pastor Tim filling in when needed)
- Connor Clark on backup guitar
- Caden Clark on bass
- Jon Anderson and Karis Fenton serve on the piano
- Sharon Trevino serves with both keyboard and vocals
- Mike and Melinda Myers provide supporting vocals

Scheduling remains full with limited breaks each month, but the team's dedication and servant-hearted attitudes make it a joy to minister together. Please continue to pray that God would raise up and call others to use their musical gifts to serve Him and worship alongside us.

We have continued to retire older songs while introducing newer selections to maintain a healthy balance of familiarity and freshness. I have received many positive comments about how accessible, relatable, and uplifting the music has been, and how it has encouraged and blessed our congregation. This intentional approach is something we plan to carry forward into 2026 as we seek to keep worship accessible for everyone. Pastor Tim has encouraged us to remain focused on contemporary worship that is not entertainment or performance-driven, but rooted in substance and a deep connection to Scripture. Our desire is to use modern musical styles while ensuring the lyrics and themes glorify God and draw all generations closer to Him.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and faithful participation in this ministry. I look forward to what God has in store for Bethel in 2026.

Thank you,

Luke Grimes

Music Committee Chairman

2025 Church Maintenance and Improvement Summary

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the many ways God has provided for our church and for the faithful generosity of our congregation. Through your sacrificial giving and the Lord's abundant provision, we have been able to complete a number of significant maintenance projects and improvements to our church facilities in 2025. These updates not only enhance the functionality and beauty of our campus but also support the ongoing mission and ministry of our church.

Infrastructure and Grounds Improvements

- **Drainage Enhancements:** We replaced outdated drain aprons and drainage pipes to improve water management and protect our property from potential water damage.
- **Parking Lot Upgrades:** The parking lot aprons were replaced and the entire lot was repaved, ensuring safer and more accessible parking for all who visit our church.
- **Landscaping:** Several new trees were planted across the property, adding natural beauty and contributing to a welcoming environment for members and guests alike.

Accessibility and Facility Enhancements

- **Handicap Restroom Addition:** A new handicap-accessible restroom was added to better serve all members of our community, ensuring our facilities are inclusive and accommodating.
- **Fellowship Hall Storage:** A multi-level storage area was constructed in the fellowship hall, providing much-needed space for organizing ministry supplies and event materials.

Interior Renovations

- **Lighting Upgrades:** We replaced lights and ballasts in both the Ministry Center and Fellowship Hall, improving visibility and energy efficiency.
- **Flooring Improvements:**
 - The Ministry Center received new vinyl plank flooring, offering a fresh and durable surface for various activities.
 - One of the daycare classrooms was also outfitted with new vinyl plank flooring, enhancing the learning environment for our youngest attendees.

Office Reconfiguration

- **Daycare Office Conversion:** The former daycare office and storage area were transformed into two new offices—one for the Daycare Director and another for the Business Manager—providing dedicated spaces for leadership and administration.

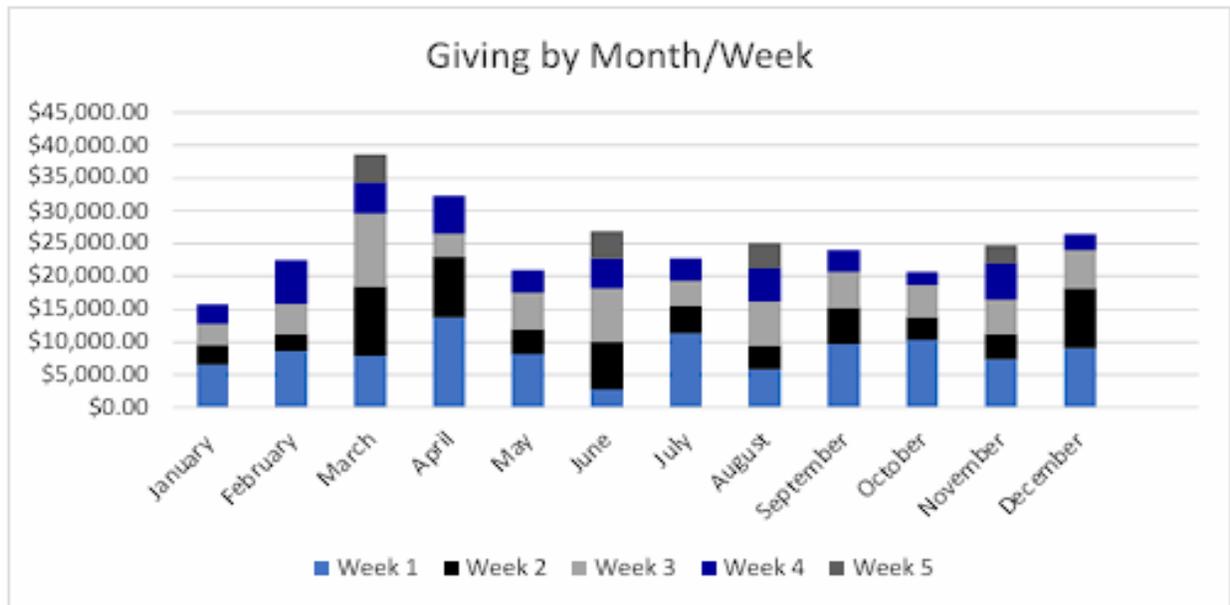
We give all glory to God for His faithfulness and provision throughout this year. These improvements are a testament to what can be accomplished when a church family comes together in unity and purpose. Thank you to each and every member who contributed time, resources, and prayers to make these projects possible. May these enhancements serve to further our mission and bless all who walk through our doors.

2025 Financial Secretary Report

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	\$262,825.57
Deacon's Fund	\$20,278.00
Capital Expense	\$17,680.00
Offset	\$67,149.43

Specials	
BCS Scholarship Fund	\$1,170.00
Memorial Fund	\$2,822.81
Missionary Christmas	\$2,795.00
Missionary Hess	\$370.00
Missionary Petite	\$1,259.00
Pastor's Christmas	\$3,637.00

Total Giving: \$379,986.81



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, Sydney Grimes, and Patricia Hancock for their help with counting the weekly offerings.

2025 Online Giving Totals

January	\$3596.10
February	\$5184.30
March	\$4137.00
April	\$3384.80
May	\$3911.10
June	\$4285.55
July	\$3623.00
August	\$4589.00
September	\$5110.46
October	\$3911.50
November	\$3557.75
December	\$2545.85

Total Online Giving in 2025: \$47,836.41

5 new donors signed up for online giving in 2025

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



**Bethel Baptist Church
Budget for 2026**

Category	Budget 2025	Budget 2026	Change	Change in Percent	Percent of Budget
Lead Pastor Salary	64,017	64,017	0	0.00%	23.51%
Associate Pastor Salary	13,662	40,000	26,338	192.78%	14.69%
Pastor's Benefits	8,200	8,200	0	0.00%	3.01%
Secretary/Admin Asst	12,231	12,844	613	5.01%	4.72%
Custodian/Maintenance	12,000	12,610	610	5.08%	4.63%
Soc Sec/Medicare	1,854	1,947	94	5.05%	0.71%
National Fuel/Sprague	8,000	8,000	0	0.00%	2.94%
Penelec/AEP Energy	14,000	9,000	-5,000	-35.71%	3.30%
Phone/Internet	1,039	1,040	1	0.13%	0.38%
Water/Sewer	4,900	4,500	-400	-8.16%	1.65%
Insurance	11,000	12,000	1,000	9.09%	4.41%
Office Supplies	6,000	4,000	-2,000	-33.33%	1.47%
On-Line Giving Fees	1,850	2,700	850	45.95%	0.99%
Pulpit Supply	250	250	0	0.00%	0.09%
Christian Education	5,000	5,000	0	0.00%	1.84%
BCS Scholarship	3,000	3,000	0	0.00%	1.10%
Outreach	4,000	4,000	0	0.00%	1.47%
Ministry Expense	6,000	6,000	0	0.00%	2.20%
Building Maintenance	25,000	25,000	0	0.00%	9.18%
Printing & Media Systems	3,500	3,000	-500	-14.29%	1.10%
Media Licensing	600	650	50	8.33%	0.24%
Transportation	1,500	1,500	0	0.00%	0.55%
Missions	41,688	43,092	1,404	3.37%	15.82%
Capital Savings Fund	10,000	0	-10,000	-100.00%	0.00%
Totals	259,290	272,350	13,060	5.04%	100.00%

**Bethel Baptist Church
Missionary Budget for 2026**

Missionary	Agency	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	Monthly Support
Kurt & Bethany Gomez	ABWE	3,840.00	3,840.00	320.00
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
Bethany Camp		4,128.00	4,128.00	344.00
David Hess	Every Nation	2,520.00	2,520.00	210.00
Maurice Goeleyen		3,396.00	4,800.00	400.00
Totals		41,688.00	43,092.00	3,591.00



I am pleased to present Bethel Baptist Church with the 2025 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 (2026)

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

Bethel Christian School Leadership Team (2026)

Scott Kaufman (Administrator)
Becky Crays (Vice Principal)
Janet Shields (Elementary Lead)
Melissa Alvis (Daycare Director)

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Ephesians 6:12



Bethel Daycare remains fully staffed and continues to faithfully serve a growing number of children and families in the Erie community—what a tremendous blessing it is to provide these vital services under the ministry of Bethel Christian School!

This year brought a transition in daycare leadership, and we are delighted that Melissa Alvis has stepped into the role of Daycare Director. Melissa, who previously served as our preschool teacher, now joyfully leads in both capacities, bringing her experience and passion for early childhood education to the position. We are so grateful for God's provision and for the dedicated team that makes all of this possible!

We praise God for the exciting partnership between **Bethel Christian School** and **Bethel Baptist Church** this past summer (2025), as we worked together on major facility improvements that will serve our families, students, and congregation for years to come!

The projects included:

- A full resurfacing of the entire parking lot, greatly improving safety, accessibility, and convenience for everyone who visits our campus.
- A comprehensive renovation of the school cafeteria, which created valuable new storage space desperately needed by both the church and the school, while delivering a modern, upgraded look and feel to this central gathering area.

These enhancements reflect our shared commitment to wise stewardship, creating a welcoming and functional environment where children can learn, families can connect, and our community can thrive in Christ. We're deeply thankful for God's provision, the generosity of supporters, the skilled work of contractors, and the many hands that made this possible!

Independently Bethel Christian School completed a locker replacement plan on our first floor. As well as a painting project.

As we closed the 2024–2025 school year, Bethel Christian School had 172 students enrolled. We are grateful to report that we now have 180 students for January 2026.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Ephesians 6:12



This year's school verse is Ephesians 6:12:

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

We are using this powerful Scripture as the foundation for our theme, calling our entire school community to become devoted **prayer warriors**. Through meaningful chapel messages and daily prayer journals, the administration and staff of Bethel Christian School pray that every student will grow deeper in faith, develop a stronger prayer life, and experience a more intimate relationship with God.

Please join me in lifting up our entire student body in prayer. May the Lord continue to work deeply in their hearts, nurturing their spiritual growth and drawing them closer to Him.

We also ask for your prayers regarding enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year, for wisdom and strength for our leadership team, and for guidance for the Bethel Christian School Board as we prayerfully address the challenge of classroom space in our growing school.

And let us pause to give heartfelt praise to God! For 52 wonderful years, He has faithfully sustained Bethel Christian School in the Erie community. Every day, through the dedicated hearts of our teachers and daycare staff, the good news of Jesus Christ is being shared with more than 245 students and 150 families. God is still moving powerfully among us—thank You, Lord!

Respectful submitted,

Scott Kaufman

**"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."
Ephesians 6:12**

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Elected Officers and Appointments
–2025 –

Elected Church Officers

Treasurer – *Tom Gribbin*

Financial Secretary – *Erika Trevino with Amy Fohner
in training for the coming year*

Deacons – *Wally Staab, Dan Eberlin, Luke Grimes (all for
3-year terms. Currently our Deacons are: Jon
Anderson, Dan Eberlin, John Gribbin, Tom
Gribbin, Luke Grimes, Rob Hess, Mike Myers
and Wally Staab)*

Deacon Steward – *Mike Myers*

Bethel Christian School Board – *Pat Larson (Currently
our BCS Board Members are: Samantha Eberlin
Pastor Tim George, Kerry Gleason, Andy Gribbin*,
Administrator Scott Kaufman, Pat Larson,
Erin Layden* and Ben Reiter*)
(*- non-Bethel Board Members)*

Ministry Leader Appointments

Missions Ministry – *Marcia Gribbin*

Greeting & Chair Ministry – *Kerry Gleason*

Maintenance Ministry – *Mike Myers*

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

Technology/Media Ministry – *Jon Anderson*

Worship/Music Ministry – *Luke Grimes*