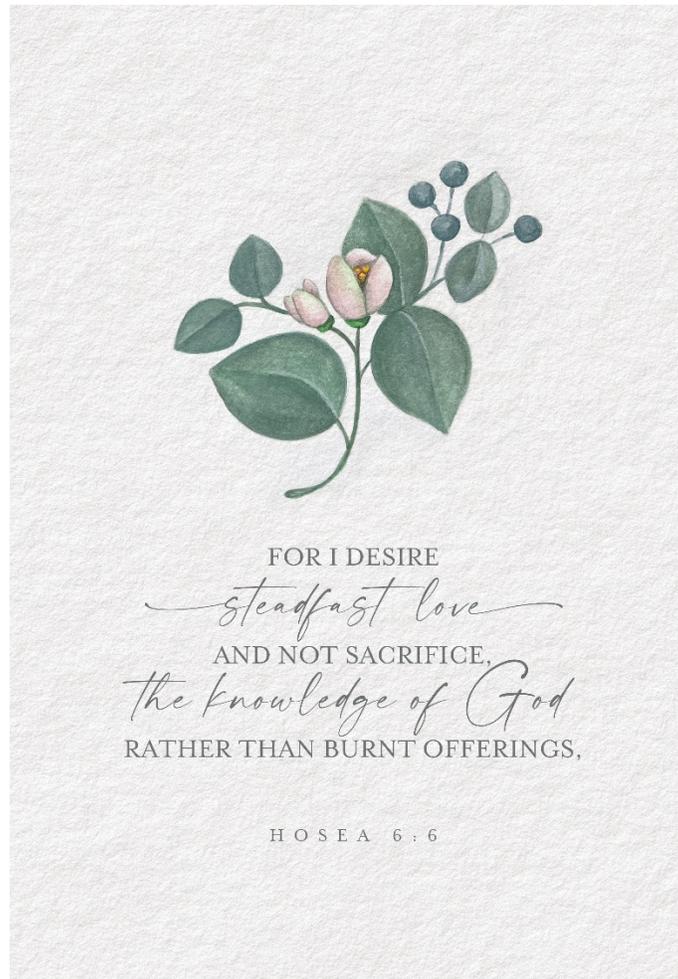


First Baptist Church St. Paris



Annual Report 2023

Table of Contents

Directory of Officers and Boards for 2023	pg 3
Committee Assignments for 2024	pg 4
Pastor's Report	pg 5-16
Church Clerk's Report	pg 17
Board of Deacons and Deaconess' Report	pg 18
Board of Trustees Report	pg 19
Board of Christian Education Report	pg 20
Board of Missions Report	pg 21-22
American Baptist Women's Ministries Report	pg 23
American Baptist Youth Report	pg 24
St. Paris Federation of Churches Report	pg 25-28
Treasurer's Report	pg 29+
2023 Quarterly Treasurer's Report	
2023 Missions Budget Report	
2023 Financial Secretary's Report	
2024 Budget	

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ST. PARIS, OHIO
OFFICER AND BOARD MEMBERS-Proposed
2024**

OFFICERS

Moderator	Larry Smith	2024
Vice-Moderator	Daniel George	2024
Church Clerk	Yvette Clutter	2024
Treasurer/Financial Secretary	Jeff McCulla	2024

BOARD OF DEACONS & DEACONESSES

Member	Jeff McCulla (Deacon)	2024	Member	Sue Clutter (Deaconess)	2025
Member	Ken McDonald (Deacon)	2024	Member	Bonnie Bayham (Deaconess)	2026
Member	Open (Deaconess)	2024	Member	Larry Smith (Deacon)	2026
Member	Clay Ruffner (Deacon)	2025	Member	Ron Massie (Deacon)	2026
Member	Open (Deacon)	2025			

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Member	Rusty Strader	2024	Member	Kathy Smith	2025
Member	Jevon Monaghan	2024	Member	George Bayham	2026
Member	Clay Ruffner	2025	Member	Shannon George	2026

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Member	Lisa Copes	2024	Member	Aleesha Spence	2025
Member	Leta McCulla	2024	Member	Sue Mitchell	2026
Member	Joyce Oder	2025	Member	Yvonne Ruffner	2026

BOARD OF MISSIONS

Member	Karyl Strader	2024	Member	Sara Newman	2025
Member	Sukanya Dare	2024	Member	Shannon George	2026
Member	Ron Dayton	2025	Member	Yvette Clutter	2026

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION (WBA)

Trustee	Open	2024
Trustee	Ken McDonald	2026

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Pastor	Deacon Chair/ Representative
Moderator	Trustee Chair/ Representative
Vice-Moderator	Christian Ed Chair/ Representative
Clerk	Missions Chair/ Representative
Treasurer-Financial Secretary	ABWM President/ Representative
Member at Large:	Terri Henson

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
COMMITTEES FOR 2024

(All committee assignments are for one year unless otherwise specified)

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Jeff McCulla
Barb McDonald
Shannon George

DECORATING COMMITTEE

Larry Smith
Kathy Smith

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Terri Henson
Salli Lacy
Clay Ruffner

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Joyce Bowlin
Patty Hershberger
Sara Newman

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Calvin Clutter	2024
Pastor Paul Mitchell	2025
Leta McCulla	2026
Karyl Strader	2026

FEDERATION OF CHURCHES REPRESENTATIVES

Joyce Bowlin
Lisa Copes

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Appointed in July

PASTORAL RELATIONS/PULPIT COMMITTEE

Deacon Chairman	
Bonnie Bayham	2024
Dan George	2025
Shannon Monaghan	2025
Larry Smith	2026
Open	2026

USHERS COMMITTEE

George Bayham, Chairman
Arthur Bovey, Vice Chairman

Pastor Jeremy's Annual Report

2023



This past Christmas my mom got me a new hat to wear (see picture to the right) though I don't wear hats much in the winter. It wasn't because I needed a new hat but because of the message the hat conveyed. After searching online to find out what the symbols mean, the hat proudly states, "God is greater than my highs and my lows" or "God is greater than my mountains and my valleys." This is a great reminder that my focus must be that God is bigger than anything.

As I started to write this annual report, I also found the metaphor of hat wearing--and the message of my new hat--to be powerful. As you will read throughout these pages, God has been doing a wonderful work in our church and through some of our mission partners, yet God is bigger than our highs as a church. Some of what you will read also represents the "lows/valleys" we all will go through, and this report can help us remember God is bigger and greater than our lowest points. The purpose of documents like this one is not to pat ourselves on the back nor to complain about the difficulties of the past. Instead, it is to remind ourselves of the Lord and his power to do great things regardless of what path of life we may be on.

One other goal I have in producing my report each year is to give a glimpse of what being your pastor looks like. For this I ask the question, "how many 'hats' can I wear?" The work of a small church and small town pastor is one of learning to wear many hats and sometimes learning to put another on without taking one off. Many times throughout each day I must figure out which "hat(s)" I am wearing and which ones I need to take off.

Vision Hat

The Christian faith and walk is one where we remember the past act of salvation through Jesus Christ which changes our present situation while simultaneously **looking forward** to the culmination of our faith in the future. Scripture talks about remembering what God has done (hence this report), but we cannot just long for a time of old; we must look forward to what God is going to do. Paul in Galatians 5 tells us to "keep in step with the Spirit" thus indicating our Lord is actively moving around us and desires we stay near him. Therefore, one of my hats is a future/vision or "what's next" hat. I believe Jesus has called me to continually discern where we as a church need to be heading and how we can continue to reach our world for Jesus Christ. What follows are a few of my thoughts about the future and what we must be reminded of as we continue to be people of the future.

1. Our world is increasingly becoming less and less churchied.

Jim Davis and Michael Graham in their book *The Great Dechurching* highlight how more and more people in our world are either de-churched or unchurched. Those who are de-churched used to attend a church on a regular basis and have stopped doing so for one reason or another. We are also seeing a full generation of people who have no church background at all (unchurched). We must be intentional about making relationships with these individuals and start to share Jesus with them. We cannot be surprised though when our values may be different than theirs; for them Jesus is not as central to their life as He is for us. We must realize that even those who may think and

behave similarly to us does not guarantee they know who the Jesus of Scripture is, and we must make the most of the opportunities to share Jesus and our value of church.

Though the world is becoming less Christ-centered it does not mean the majority of our friends, family and neighbors are mad or angry at the church. Yes, some are out to “get the church,” but the overwhelming majority are not. We must be willing to sit down and listen to people who are different in order to start sharing the love and grace of Jesus. As a church we must look for ways to create space for people who are not part of the church yet to come to church. We must go to them and not wait for them to come to us. How can we utilize our 150th Celebration to do this? How can we create more connection points in our community? Where does our community need the people of Jesus to show up and serve without judgment? What is Jesus calling us to do next?

2. We must continue to invest in next generation ministries.

When a person thinks of next generation ministries it typically involves children and teens. This is absolutely essential! We must continue to do good ministry here. (See my report on the youth ministry and the thoughts given on how this may be possible.) However, we must also invest in our young adults and those of the Millennial and Gen Z generations. Our church has continued in the past couple years to grow younger in age. We must keep learning how to disciple the adults of these generations into leadership, into the church, and coming alongside them and their families. These adults are our church today and not just the church of tomorrow. For those of you in this age range (roughly 18-42), please help us figure out ways to effectively minister and disciple you in the Lord. We must find ways to reach out and invite these generations to come to know Jesus and the power of His Gospel and His church. Are we willing to take the risk to help bring people into leadership and mentor them without a guarantee of the future? Are we willing to “change” the way we do things, but never the message, so a new generation will want to belong to Jesus? Let us together pray about how we can invest in a new generation of Jesus followers and then live out the answers Jesus will give us.

3. Our posture must be one of humility and learning to “live from an exile viewpoint”.

Some of the Old Testament was written to Jews who had been taken from the nation of Israel in what is known as the “exile”. The books of Daniel, Jeremiah, and other prophets are key examples of how faithful Jews lived in a world where they were not in the majority. As our nation continues to become less Christian, we must take a different posture in how we think and interact with our world. It may be appropriate to mourn and lament the nation many remember; there is Biblical precedent for this. However, if we are not careful, we will long for a world that does not exist and in so doing miss Jesus opportunities all around us. There are a few ramifications of this aspect of looking “forward” with a future hat on.

One, we must be very careful about using the power of the world to try and “fight” against the world. This will only result in more pain, trauma, and disgrace for the Gospel of Jesus. Instead, we must have wisdom to discern not just what is best but how best to stand for Jesus. I think of the character Daniel and how he used wisdom to not only take a stand for God but also win the right to be heard years later. Esther is another good example of using wisdom and learning how to take a stand in a way that the King wanted to hear from her.

We must be similar to both of these OT characters as we seek to leverage being a Christian in a very secular world while interacting with people in a way that makes them curious about our

faith. For starters, people must know we go to church and that we are “for” things not just “against” things. Jeremiah the prophet talks about seeking the peace and prosperity of the towns the exiles would live in. We must be willing to seek the common good of our area. I believe and have seen in my life that when we do this, doors open to have conversations about Jesus and faith. May we gain the wisdom needed to grow in favor with our Lord and with those around us (1 Samuel 2.26; Luke 2.52).

Two, we must have a spirit of humility—a willingness to learn and admit we do not always know what is best. American Christianity is moving into an era never experienced before: one of minority status. Humility will have us learn how to listen to others, learn from others, and lovingly serve our world in order to be heard. I believe we can do this, but it will not come naturally. As we seek to be exiles in this world, we are reminded of the prayer of Jesus found in John 17.15-16, “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.”

Preaching & Teaching Hat

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

(2 Timothy 2.15)

This is an area most people are familiar with ministry. Sometimes though, familiarity brings about an assumption of knowledge. However, what some may think is just one hat a pastor wears is not true. Yes, a “preaching hat” is worn on Sundays when the proclamation of the sermon is given but here is a list of other “hats” worn so that the preaching hat fits: research hat, prayer hat, synthesis hat, interpreter hat, writing hat, and many more. Most of the work of preaching is rarely seen. The pastor is a person who will sit with their congregation and listen to their needs, wants, fears and concerns while prayerfully discerning how Scripture intersects with those needs. In this way, preaching and teaching cannot effectively take place away from what we call pastoral care and concern. Anyone can preach a sermon to any group. But only a pastor can know how to apply that sermon to a congregation’s life at the right time, in the right way, and then walk alongside the congregation in living it out. This is my sacred calling here at FBC St. Paris.

At the same time, I do not bear this burden or wear this “hat” alone. Pastor Ron Clutter and Pastor Paul Mitchell share the load in preaching. Both are excellent pastors, teachers, and preachers we as a church are honored to share the Word with us. They did a phenomenal job this past year doing so. It is my goal this year to bring in a few other preachers so together we can hear the Word spoken to us.

My sermons once again total 50 or more different messages to our church. It is hard to try and quantify what this may look like for someone who has not shared in this responsibility. No two sermons are alike, and no two weeks of sermon preparation are the same. One-week things may go smoothly and the preparation take “minimal” time and the next week more time is needed to adequately wear all the “hats” of sermon preparation.

This year we as a congregation travelled through the following books of the Bible and themes of Scripture: Hosea, James, Thanksgiving, the letters to the churches in Revelation, the

themes of Christmas/Advent and forgiveness. To hear or watch again these messages please visit our website, www.fbcstparis.com/media or download our app and all our messages are available on demand for you to use or listen/watch at your convenience. In addition to our Sunday morning messages we shared together two different Christmas Eve Evening options; a family friendly afternoon and our traditional service, and a Maundy Thursday service helping us to focus on the reason for both seasons one last time.

Part of my “preaching” hat in years past has included being a “devotion writer”. Each week I deliberately think through not just a message but what other passages of Scripture can help us live out the Word of God from Sundays. These are found online, in our app, and on the back of the paper handout each week. Though it may be small, the goal is to continue to teach and help us all hear God’s voice in a way which keeps the message of Christ alive Monday through Saturday. The passages and verses are chosen to help us see how Scripture is connected and no passage stands on its own. We must always remember to read Scripture in the context of Scripture.

Our teaching ministry is also a team effort. You may want to read the CE board report to hear more about some of the teaching but let me state we have a Tuesday Ladies group led by Leta McCulla, adult Sunday School led by Jeff McCulla, Wednesday prayer and Bible Study led by Ron Clutter and a new small group formed this year led by Calvin Clutter. Though I may not be “leading” any of these groups I have filled in as asked and needed when one of the others needed to be away. (The exception is I don’t fill in for Leta).

However, do not think I am not helping to teach our church. It is just does not happen at the “official” times. My teaching ministry and hat typically occurs one-on-one or in very small groups. As the youth report shows I teach our teens on Sunday nights. I also work with different individuals to mentor and explain Scripture throughout the week. It may be in a “formal” setting like my office or when visiting in their home helping to interpret and discern the Scriptures. It could be at a local coffee shop or a place of business as we consider ways Jesus asks us to be a different type of business leader and owner. Some of my “teaching” happens to those not part of the church, as they explore what the meaning of life may be, or why things are happening around us. Each of these times may not show up in a calendar of events but all are vitally important to the work of making disciples who make disciples.

Food For the Soul: Cooking and More Hats

Earlier in this report I mentioned we must continue to reach out to our community and humble serve them so we can go through an open door for sharing the Gospel of Jesus. Each Wednesday night this is the goal of Food For the Soul: to feed people in such a way Jesus can break through and call people to Himself. Ever since our starting this ministry in 2020 I believe God has blessed it and continues to bless our church because of this outreach. We have seen a couple more people start attending our church in part because of the Wednesday ministry. At least one watches is every week online and another has joined in person; some flip from in person to online depending on circumstances. When added to those who have come directly because of this ministry and those individuals continued support and serving in our ministry Food For the Soul pays for itself in ways beyond the financial contribution.

Yet, this ministry adds a couple more hats to myself and others. Shannon George and I are the primary menu planners and executioners of the plan, we both need a chef's hat most week. Then a couple other people come in to help finish the meal and a new group comes in to serve and clean up. The hats of volunteer recruitment, motivator and retention are worn every week as it does take people to pull this ministry off. God continues to bless us with people willing and able to serve, those able to provide desserts, and those willing to financially contribute.

Alongside these hats I routinely also wear a donor development and retention hat as I seek to minimize the cost of this ministry to our church. I am aware of the costs associated with this ministry and so I take time to interact with individuals, organizations and try to find grants and funds. These relationships may not always "pay" off financially but God is blessing them with helping us be even more effective and efficient. One of these relationships has been trying to get grants from Walmart in years past to no avail. However, this past year we received a phone call from a manager at the Piqua Walmart I know from our community asking us to pick up some things. What we as a church did not know nor expect was this would become a regular donation to our ministry. These items, both food and non-food, have been offered to the community as another way to create relationships and serve our community. It has also helped to provide desserts, meat and other items for Food For the Soul.

This ministry has also allowed us to deepen our relationship with the Girl Scout group who uses our building for their meetings. The group has decided to help serve our meal once a month and we are building relationships which may provide greater opportunities for the Gospel to be proclaimed. (It also was neat as the group donated many boxes of cookies to be used for this ministry).

Once again this year we averaged around 240 meals a week; some less and others closer to 300. (Every week we play a guessing game on how many will show up; to no avail. Truly it is hard to know how much food to prepare when it could be 200 or 300 and anywhere in between). When multiplied with the 50 weeks of serving the church has served around 12,000 meals for 2023. With the work of the team and others partnering with us the cost **to the church** from our budget, was less than \$3,000 for the year; or roughly \$0.25 per meal. Tell me God is not showing up and showing off every week at our church and I will ask you to open your eyes and see what He is doing! That said, I am looking at ways to lower the cost to the church in 2024 and may become an even more efficient shopper, menu planner, and time executor so our church can benefit from the seeds of this ministry.

Some in the past year have asked why I go and pick up the food for our Food For the Soul ministry. Some of it is personal, and some of it is because I can use the time in the car, alone, to do thinking and wear multiple hats thus trying to maximize my time. Another reason is by consistently being in the stores I frequent I get to build relationships with the clerks, managers, and associates in a way I can share the gospel with them. This past year I was able to offer prayers to some on my weekly visit when life was hard and difficult. I have been able to invite others to come and see what we do, and I keep praying they will take me up on the invitation. Pray with me the doors of the Gospel of Jesus would open to new people in 2024 and others would continue to come alongside us in sharing Jesus with our community through this vital and valuable ministry.

Pastoral Care: Visitation Hat and Relational Hat

“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

(Psalm 34.18)

“A new command I give you: Love on another. As I have loved you, so you must love another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love on another.”

(John 13.34-35)

Our world is broken this we can all probably agree. Brokenness doesn't get to be scheduled and crisis arise typically when we least expect it. Of all the hats and areas of my weekly ministry this is the one which always makes me long for the day when Jesus will say “I am making everything new!” (Revelation 21.5) Being well past the pandemic of 2020-2021 I am back in all our hospitals and have routinely visited those sick, recovering from surgery and hospitalized. I have made a number of trips to OSU and the James hospital as well as all the ones locally. It is important for me to be present with you all when life is not going as well. For many of you I have visited in the home and prayed for you before and after surgeries. Others of you I have visited via phone as we talked about what was going on and how you could use your church to pray for you and be your hands and feet.

Alongside Joyce Bowlin, Patty Hershberger and Sara Newman we have been able to provide meals for many people when they needed an extra boost or just friendly reminders of God's love for them by their church. Thank you to all who have cooked, visited, and helped provide comfort during tough times for others.

Alongside our Deacons and Deaconesses, especially Sue Clutter, our shut ins have had more regular visits this year. Though my standard is unachievable, I do believe all of our shut ins have felt cared for and loved by me as their pastor and their church. It is important those who can no longer come to us we go to them. My “caring hat” is always welcomed by these individuals and I walk away feeling blessed by them. I would encourage you to make time to call and visit some of our shut ins as a way of sharing the love of Jesus with them. All of us, especially those who cannot attend church as they would like, need reminded of how much Jesus loves them.

After hearing of a need of one of our shut ins not being able to get to doctors appointments; the Deacon and Deaconess board felt this was something we could step in and help with. At first I was the “driver/transportation guy” to get our shut in to her appointments but now I am proud to say that is not a hat I wear much. Larry Smith and Jeff McCulla now help provide the logistics in making sure anyone in our church who needs help getting got and from a medical appointment can do so. If you need help getting to a medical appointment please let Larry, Jeff, or myself know and we will see what we can do. For those of you who have the time to help drive someone to an appointment please also let us know. It may seem small but a ride is a great way to love on another person.

One of the big hats I wore many times this year was that of a “funeral” hat. We started the year with our own Helen Wiant passing onto glory. I am humbled and find the time when someone takes their last breath on earth and their first breath of heaven sacred. Helen was a long-time member of our church who in the past few years was unable to be present with us due to her health

issues. She may have been the first funeral but she was not the last. Over 2023 I had another 14 funerals making 15 total. Fortunately for our church she was the only funeral of one of our members or regular attenders. Funerals are a time when people seek comfort, grace, and realize the fragility of this world. I step in as one who knows the one who is over death and therefore can be present with them in their pain, tears, joy and grief. Funerals are never fun, and they are hard in many ways. However, I believe every person needs to have someone care for them in that time and so I am willing to do as many as I can when the funeral home calls.

One of the hats I put on often and “enjoy”, if I can say that, is coming alongside someone in the role as a pastoral counselor. Some of the other hats worn in these times include: listener, discerner of the Spirit, assessor of what are the “real” issues, systems analyst, and conveyor of hope. Due to the nature of the times and visits I am unable to let you know how often or how many hours this area gets. What I can tell you is that this is where I am uniquely equipped, qualified, and called to help us as a church. It is never a “bother” to come alongside a fellow believer, or those seeking Jesus, to help them find the wholeness and love he has to offer them. Not all of our wounds are physical, nor will they always be “healed” as we would like. But Jesus is the wonderful counselor and sometimes he uses me as a good counselor to bring about deeper hope and healing. My role sometimes is that as a reminder, the voice of life, helping people see who they are in Christ and who they can be in Christ.

The issues, pain, addiction, and trauma of the past do not have to define our future and there is hope. There are times when we resign ourselves to what has happened when I believe Jesus wants to truly give us freedom. Jesus said these words in Luke 4.18-10, “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” I have seen miracles happen when people are willing to accept the healing of Jesus for things which have chained them for many, many years. Please pray for the Spirit to continue to heal the people of our church and community. Pray I would be compassionate and discern the Spirit doing these times. Pray we all would be willing to let Christ do the work He wants to do in us in 2024.

Leadership Hat

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4.11-13

The ministry and organization of the church must have leaders in order to be healthy. This are of my ministry and calling include many hats most may never see including but not limited to: administrator, volunteer recruitment and retention, meeting leader, janitor, worship leader, finance person, executor of budget, maintenance man, snow shoveler, boiler guy, IT department, tech help desk and many more. The remainder of the pages are reports from other leaders and areas which help our church function. I do believe we have some room to grow in creating, maintaining and using healthy systems for and in our church. It is my belief our boards need to have more regularly scheduled meetings to help make appropriate and timely decisions and thus take some of the load off of me. When our boards and leaders are not meeting it takes more work to have things done and

we cannot be as proactive in our leadership. Unintentionally, we can become reactive which is not a sign of health.

Speaking of church structure and health one of the endeavors I have helped to lead this year has been the beginning of our constitutional review. Alongside a group of four individuals we began the important and tedious task of updating our church constitution. The last time this was done was back in 1996. To some this is an unimportant or unnecessary task. For me, and others, it is an important document as it becomes the guiding principles based on our understanding of Scripture on how the church will make orderly, legal and wise decisions. It is the group's goal to have something for the church to decide on in 2024 but please pray we have wisdom on the changes which needs to be made. We are not the church we were in 1996 and we also must be willing to organize ourselves in a way which allows the flexibility, guidance, and freedom to respond to a rapidly changing world.

As with other areas of ministry things do not always fit in "nice and neat" boxes but instead swirl all around and sometimes collide with one another. A second endeavor of leadership I provided this year was to wear a "sound/tech" hat. The work of upgrading our sound system may have seemed to go quickly from when the church decided in July to explore the issue and then respond to a recommendation at our October meeting; but it was really years in the making. When one of our now shut ins visited a couple Christmas Eve's ago it was commented on how they could not hear well and wonder if there was anything to help in the future. The wheels of my brain knew it was possible, the question became, "how and what do we need in order to pull this off". After some initial research I waited for the answer to my next question, "when can the church do this?" Alongside this was, "how will we pay for it?"

Many, many months later I was ready to formally pursue the upgrade and the church gave a budget. A couple more months would pass while I did the research, check on prices, and conceptualize not just what our present needs are but what our future needs could be. In November we were able to have our new and upgraded sound system installed with the much-needed addition of assisted hearing device capabilities. Now regardless of your level of hearing we can make sure the Gospel of Jesus is available to you. We have three dedicated devices available to anyone as well as people have the capabilities to use their own phone to "broadcast" the service to their hearing aids or headphones.

With the new sound system, we are also set up to clean up the audio of our livestream and provide an even better experience for those who watch us on their phone, computer or tv each week. The system is being tweaked but already we have seen a clearer sound for most people, and I consider this a "successful" upgrade and project.

Speaking of our livestream and tech needs we continue to get better at knowing how we can maximize what we have to reach people. Daniel, Dan, and Clay have all filled in to help run our tech piece. We continue to look at how to improve the experience for others and plan to connect our new sound board with our computer in the coming weeks which will take things to a new and better level. Pray we will use technology wisely and people would truly experience Jesus because of what we can do to help them hear Jesus' love for them and His gift of salvation.

A final way of providing leadership is through the day-to-day running of the church. I provide leadership and guidance to our other staff members: Shirley and Shannon, while also helping simple things like buying office supplies take place. Push comes to shove I am the one helping to keep the administrative and executive functions of the church run smoothly. I do not do this alone but am typically the point person. Each board, committee, and leader has their role to play but someone must make sure we are heading in the Christ honoring direction; that is my job.

Community Hat

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” Jeremiah 29.7

It would be easy to stay insulated and “busy” with just the work of the church but Christ has not called us to live in a holy huddle but calls us out into our world to bring His light and life. With this in mind I try to be part of our wider community, geographically and church/faith community. There are many days you will find me walking our village and going into our business and talking with others. This past year has been no different.

One interesting door which has opened this past fall was praying over the local motorcycle club, Eagles Breed Brotherhood, rides when they are raising funds for local families and children. It has been an absolute joy to get to know this great group in our community and I am praying about the Lord providing more opportunities to be the light of Jesus.

A second new opportunity this year which came to the Federation of Churches and especially our pastors has been the request to pray over council meetings. Mayor Brenda Cook first made the request and for about 6-8 months one of our pastors have been present to be the light and pray for wisdom on those who are making decisions for our small village. It is a reminder of what another leader in our town has called me for a couple years, the village chaplain. Being and wearing the village chaplain hat sometimes means our church is recognized as a group of people who care about our community at large and not just when it “benefits” us. I believe many seeds have been planted and I continue to pray the Lord will allow them to grow and bear fruit in the future.

It has also been a joy to continue to serve our fire and EMS personnel as the chaplain for JSP. Though when I am called to be part of either a firehouse meeting, on a scene, or meet with someone it is typically not a “good sign”. But, these are the times when I can serve those who serve us and help them process and cope with the unimaginable situations they find themselves in. Unfortunately, I have had the opportunity to run a couple crisis debriefing groups for local first responders after some tragic events and difficult calls.

As an active member of our community, I have also continued to be the President of the Federation of Churches. I encourage you to read the two reports about what all the Federation has done this past year. The Federation in years past has taken a larger role in our greater community. The work in this group is more “administrative” but there are always opportunities to partner with others for the common good and the Gospel of Jesus.

In addition to, but parallel to the Federation, has been the relationships with local Graham community pastors. Pastor Scott has been a great resource to our community, and we get together

on a regular basis. Out of one of our recent conversations he suggested we re-start the Graham Pastors group. The goal is if we as pastors can be healthy our churches can also continue to grow and make the most of every opportunity to serve our community with the love of Jesus. I am excited about what this will do for me personally and professionally in the new year.

Our church is also part of the wider Christian community through our relationship with the Western Baptist Association (WBA) and American Baptist Church of Ohio (ABC Ohio). There are multiple hats I wear within both these groups. The WBA I continue to serve as the Associate Regional Minister (ARM) and host of our monthly clergy gatherings. This past year I have been able to present with some of our pastors during their time of need. Every pastor needs to have someone they can call on for prayer, mentorship, and care when life is not easy to them. For our monthly gatherings we continue to use the same meal from Wednesday night to make it easier for us all and provide a good meal for our times of discussion. Our association may not meet much beyond our ABW group (see Barb's report), but the pastors are committed to one another through prayer and regular fellowship. Wearing the hat of ARM allows me to learn what is going well and gain wisdom from others I would not normally have the ability to learn from. It is a pleasure to serve our association in this manner.

Many of you know this past year I became the president of ABC Ohio after serving two years as vice-president. This "hat" typically involves running meetings and being available to our Executive Minister Mark Click for support and feedback. Some may ask "why are we part of a larger denomination and group of churches?" The reason being is we cannot forget that the body of Christ is much larger than our local church, our local community and we are better together than we are apart. Once again, the connection with our local Christian community affords me, and by extension our church, the ability to learn from others and be challenged to continue in our mission of reaching the world for Christ. This past December we were honored to have Dr. Kevin Hairston, our ABC Ohio Regional Minister, with us during worship. It is my hope we will have him back in 2024 to bring the message.

Personal Hat

By now it is evident I wear more hats than most people would ever imagine. To be honest, it is hard for me to even try and verbalize all the different roles I have as a pastor. There is no other job like being a pastor and at the same time no burden like being a pastor. However, my greatest hats to wear are those called: dad, husband, and just plain family member. Without my family I would not be as good of a pastor as I am.

This past year was not always kind to us as a family when very much unexpected Aleesha's dad, Gary, passed away in April. This is one funeral I would have been happy to "pass on" but when a family member asks you to do a portion I am humbled and honored to do so. Our church family has been great in supporting us as we have walked this journey and continue to uphold Aleesha, her mom Jonita, and us in prayer. Ever since Gary's death it has not only been an adjustment but Jonita has had some health issues causing frequent travels there for Aleesha. One great blessing this past year was when Jonita and Aleesha were able to go to Alaska and see the family there for about three weeks. The kids and I survived each other and you all were a great support.

Aleesha continue to serve our community as a substitute teacher for Graham. Our children enjoy when she comes in to be their teacher. It was exciting during Halloween that all the kids knew who she was and were excited to see her. (Most of the adults may have known me but not sure the smiles were not the same 😊). On top of this she enjoys helping out with the local TNR for cats and continues her home-based business.

Our kids continue to excel in school and the other activities they participate in. This past year Daniel also decided to play soccer for the middle school. He and Josiah have enjoyed many conversations about soccer and how best to play. They both seem to be looking forward this coming soccer season when they can play together on the middle school team. Only time will tell this fall if they really do enjoy playing together. Both boys also enjoyed playing baseball this past year. Unfortunately for Josiah his team wasn't the best in either sport but he had a lot of fun. Daniel continues to think through all the aspects of any sport he plays which is very rewarding to watch and be part of. The boys and I also enjoyed getting to a Red's game this past fall with my brother. Both boys are also actively serving in our church, as you can see most weeks. They are our chief technology leaders and run either our cameras (Josiah) or the computer slides (Daniel). Without them our Sunday morning worship is very different.

Elliana continues to grow into her confident and sassy self. She also started softball this year and what a joy it was to watch her team take second place in the county tournament. She is coming into her own as a softball player and tells us she will be playing again this year. One of the big milestones for her this past year was being discharged from Dayton Children's Hospital neurology department after being seizure free for another year. It is hard to remember where we were 8 years ago. God is good and we are grateful he has answered our prayers the way we wanted. She is also excited about school and is taking after her mother and brothers by excelling in her studies.

I continue to run my counseling business, Bridges of Hope Counseling. It is amazing to see how this small business can help fund ministry in many ways. Personally, it also helps me stay grounded in the issues our world is facing as well as learn from those I serve. Specializing in process and internet addiction I see the negatives of technology but also the redemption nature of technology as I routinely have telehealth sessions each week. This past year I accomplished a major professional and personal landmark by obtaining my licensed professional clinical counseling license (LPCC). This extra step allows me greater freedom and is the culmination of a lot of work and time. I thoroughly enjoyed learning from my clinical supervisors all these years and to some extent will miss the early morning meetings to discuss the world of counseling. After all these years it is nice to have gained a couple hours a month without doing anything different.

As a family we also continue to enjoy our condo up by Lake Erie. We try to go as often as possible, and this allows me to "decompress" and at other times get more work done than when I am home or at the church. One of my favorite places up that way has been the Hayes Presidential Library and Museum. I have always been a history guy to some extent and spending time learning about our 19th president is exciting for me. Our "place up North" is a very important and vital part of my ministry. The more I do the more I need to be away in order to maintain some sense of spiritual, physical, mental, emotional and relational vitality. I am grateful the Pastoral Relations Committee

agreed to give me an extra week, up to 4 weeks, of vacation for 2024 so I can try and stay refreshed throughout the year.

This past year Aleesha and I also celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary. We celebrated it like many couples our age do, at the ballfields enjoying our kids doing what they love. I am still amazed she chose me so many years ago and know that she has helped me grow in ways I would never have imagined. I hope the feelings are mutual, but you would have to ask her how true it is. Maybe by the time our 20th anniversary comes we will be able to get away for a trip but only time will tell.

It is my prayer that as we enter 2024, we will see Jesus show up and show off again. I finish as I started, remember: God is bigger than our highs and our lows. Whatever happens this year our Lord is bigger than both of those. Personally, I am excited about what He will do and believe the best days for our church and my family are ahead. Please continue to pray for me and my family as we pray for you in 2024. As I start my 9th year of ministry as your senior pastor, I still have a strong vision, passion, and energy to help us fulfill the call Jesus has for our little church. I am convinced there will be plenty of opportunities for our church to celebrate Jesus especially as we celebrate our 150th church anniversary. Here's to many more years of ministry together!

Be God's,

Pastor Jeremy

2023 Church Clerk Report

Members: 345

Active Members: 96

Inactive Members: 249

Now that all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. Ecc 12:13

The deacon board went through the membership roster and moved some members from active to inactive as well as other members from inactive to active.

We had one new member join our church family this year. In January, Yvonne Ruffner joined the church by the recommendation of the deacon board through baptism.

There was one member death for 2023, Helen Wiant.

The following board reports will have more detailed information on what the church accomplished collectively for 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Yvette Clutter, church clerk

Board of Deacons and Deaconess Annual Report 2023

Where does the time go? It seems like just yesterday that we were writing the 2022 report.

We continue on-line viewing of our weekly services. This provides the opportunity for individuals to join us in worshipping the Lord every week as well as keeping our shut-ins informed of the activities in the church.

The Food for the Soul dinner averages anywhere between 200-300 meals every week. The number of individuals eating in person provides time of fellowship with each other.

We have donated financially to the ABC/Ohio Pastor Emergency Fund, providing new undergarments to the elementary school, as well as assisting those in our church community who needed help paying for rent and or utilities. Also, financial assistance was provided to the "backpack" program for the elementary students in our district, in partnership with the Church of God.

Again, this year, two options were available for Christmas Eve. A family friendly service was provided at 3pm on Christmas Eve day as well as our normal evening/communion service at 7pm.

The deacons reviewed our active/inactive membership lists and revised these lists.

Several of our congregation need periodic assistance with transportation to and from doctor visits. The deacons will coordinate with these individuals to provide a means of transporting them to their appointments.

Communion is observed monthly and taken to shut-ins by members of the board.

2024 marks the 150th year of the First Baptist Church. Plans are being made to celebrate this milestone event.

We pray that God will continue to bless each of you and our church as we continue serving him in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffery L. McCulla, Chairman

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
BOARD OF TRUSTEE REPORT – 2023

Here is a list of the major projects completed in 2023:

- The front concrete step was patched.
- Kitchen cabinets were painted
- Replaced men's bathroom commode
- Downstairs blinds were installed
- Reviewed the property insurance options – resulted in lower cost
- Reviewed electric supplier contracts & went with a lower cost option.

No large projects are planned or likely needed in 2024. We likely will be doing quite a bit of painting and working on/replacing the upstairs small room's flooring.

Board of Christian Education Annual Report 2023

We would like to thank all who helped in the nursery during our worship service. Your commitment to our children is the future of their salvation in our Lord.

Our church picnic was held on August 13 at Jeff and Leta's house. With an auction to pay for the shipping for Samaritans Purse, picnic, fellowship, and swimming. Thank you to all who donated desserts to be auctioned and purchased them.

Leta's Sunday school class filled 144 boxes with Yvette Clutter and Lisa Copes helping. Thank you to Sherry Barnes for wrapping the shoe boxes and donations to fill the boxes.

We have a very loving and generous church family.

Chairman: Lisa Copes

Mission Board Report 2023

We as a church and a mission board believe strongly that God calls us all to be on mission, and continually give generously to support mission work locally, across the US and the world.

For every dollar given to the church, not specified, ten cents goes to missions. The mission board helps to discern, with the church, how this money is to be spent. This year, our mission money supported the following global servants with our denomination mission agency, International Ministries (IM); Sarah McCurdy, and their 3 children, serving in Mexico City at the request of the Baptist Theological Seminary and Aaron and Valerie Osterbrock, and their six children. Aaron and Valerie have a ministry in theological education in partnership with Sabah Theological Seminary, a historic International Ministries partner, in Kota Kinabalu, East Malaysia. The family is currently living in Ohio and Valerie and Aaron are both teaching remotely. They will continue in this ministry through the summer of 2024 at which time Aaron plans to begin working on his PHD. Last year we began supporting Tim and Stacy Reese who just arrived in the Dominican Republic in January 2024 and will serve in discipleship and community development among IM partners working within the Haitian sugarcane Bateyes. They are both passionate about discipleship through artistic expression. Stacy will serve alongside women cooperatives in building relationships, retail management, mentoring and education. Tim has a background in marketing and will collaborate with church and local business leaders to help maximize their potential by encouraging innovation, business development and fellowship. In addition to our monthly giving to the Reese's, we also sent them an additional love gift at the end of December which they used for travel expenses to the Dominican Republic.

Other missions based in the U.S. we supported in 2023 included Bill and Julia Otterness who serve the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) GX International mission team, the Dayton Christian Center, and ECHO Farms, based in Florida and providing agricultural aid throughout the world.

Locally we continued to support the Caring Kitchen in Urbana by providing and serving meals quarterly. We not only provided the meals but were able to serve as well. This provided the opportunity for us to talk and pray with those whom we were serving. We had anywhere from 5 - 7 church members serving each quarter and are thankful for the generosity of our church members who have donated food and money to purchase food for this mission. We supported two other organizations we believe are making a significant impact in our community; Operation Rebirth, providing education and support to teen boys from our area, and the Sycamore House, which offers compassionate support and education in the areas of prenatal needs, child-rearing skills, and even relationship information for mothers and fathers. Several church members also attended the Sycamore House's Annual Dinner and Fundraiser in March of this year and heard first hand about their continued good work in our community. The Sycamore House is always looking for volunteers to serve as mentors and to work in their store.

We also continued to support our state denomination, ABC Ohio, from whom we receive much support including mentorship, training, resourcing for our Pastor and our American Baptist's Retired Ministers and Missionaries.

In October we took up a special offering for International Ministries through the World Mission Offering (WMO). This goes to support the work of International Ministries (IM) and all the global servants connected to IM. This year \$360 was given by church member's through a special offering to this cause.

The Mission Board is always open to hearing from our church members about other opportunities to serve and support locally and beyond and encourage all church members to be on mission for God. We will be looking for new missionaries to support to replace the Osterbrocks when they come off missions in late summer 2024.

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
ANNUAL REPORT
2023-2025 THEME: ***Be Strong, Be Courageous***

We continue to work with our national, state, and Western Association AB Women's Ministries. Consistent with our new theme and Joshua 1:9 God has commanded us to "Be strong and courageous, not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord {our} God is with {us} wherever {we} go."

White Cross requests were taken to Dayton Christian Center. They work with infants 6 weeks to 18 months and children through 6th grade. Diapers and children's clothing are always needed.

Ten "Love Boxes" were sent in February to college and military people.

We gave \$600 towards the \$10,000 State Project Goal to update the kitchen at Camp Koinonia. Randy Brooks, Camp Director, was in tears when he learned they'd be given \$10,500.

We gave \$200 towards truck repairs for Vincent Harris who works with people on the backside of the race tracks. Fans, air conditioners, jeans, T-shirts, and white socks are always needed there.

National Women and Girls Fund was sent \$145. They support AB Girls' Ministry, Leadership Development, refit for missionaries, provide scholarships, and help with special mission projects.

Other monies given include:

\$248 State Scholarship Fund for full-time Christian Service

\$300 Food for the Soul

\$400 Matthew 25 for the earthquake in Turkey

\$50 State & National Officers Training

\$50 Sycamore House in Urbana

\$346 Postage for Operation Christmas Child Boxes

\$150 Pony Wagon Days

\$100 our Scholarship Student

\$300 Special Interest Missionaries at Christmas

Barb attended Women's Conference June 10th at Newark Baptist Church where it will be held again on June 8, 2024. Women and Girls' Night Out was May 9th with the theme "Chosen." All enjoyed chicken haystacks, seeing a clip from the movie "Chosen," singing together, and devotions led by Eunice Pettibone.

Thank you goes to Karyl Strader who cooks the chicken and noodles for our September Chicken Noodle Dinner and the November Bazaar. Thank you to all who donate and help with these two events and our "Goodie Sale." These give us the money to use for mission needs in our community, state, and world.

Thank you to our Pastor and Church Family for all the help and support you provide.

Barbara McDonald, President Patty Hershberger, Secretary
Joyce Bowlin, Treasurer Lisa Copes, Coordinator of Missions & White Cross
Sukanya Dare, Missionary Coordinator

FBC St. Paris Youth Annual Report 2023

This past year for youth has been a time of transition as our long-time youth leaders, Jevon, and Shannon Monaghan, stepped down and the Lord moved them to North Carolina. They were faithful in loving our teens and helping to equip them to be disciples of Christ for over 10 years. With their departure we also became a youth group of only guys. This makes for some interesting times on Sunday night.

Our primary curriculum has and continues to be the “Chosen” series produced by Angel Studios. Before the summer break we were able to finally finish Season 2 and when we started back in September, we started Season 3. Our group is a mixture of church kids with a faith foundation and those who have little to no experience in church or with Jesus. Both are challenged by what is seen together to start answering the questions: “Who is Jesus?” “What does Jesus desire from me?” “How can I be like Jesus in my school setting?” The conversations can be interesting and given we are mostly guys also quiet. Yet, I believe that it is making an impact, and it is my prayer this year we can be even more intentional about having our teens reach out to other teens in our community.

Vision and Prayer Needs

A key for us moving forward will be praying intentionally for our youth ministry. I would love to see a few more adults helping on a regular basis so greater continuity can happen when Aleesha and I are not available. Also, with more adults there is greater opportunity to mentor our teens one-on-one while expanding the options as to what ministry to teens can look like in the future. It is my prayer we will be able to have a youth ministry all 12 months of the year and include different outings and activities where new teens can join. This past year the church agreed to search for a paid intern which would help lead the youth ministry into the future. Please continue to pray for this position and the person God is calling and leading our direction for such a ministry.

Also be praying for our teens. Pray they will be bold in letting others know they attend church and invite others to come to youth group as the opportunities exist. Pray they will attend youth group on a consistent basis. Pray for the Spirit to make known clearly what Jesus wants from them. Pray for other adults to be part of this ministry alongside us. Pray we will find opportunities to reach out into our community calling teenagers to the One who made them, loves them, and has a plan for them.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeremy and Aleesha

Federation of Churches Yearly Report 2023

It's been another busy year for the Federation of Churches. It is such a blessing that we can work as a combined body of believers to spread the gospel to our community.

Here are some of the highlights of things we have accomplished this past year: We meet quarterly to conduct the business of the Federation of Churches during the 2023 year.

Officers: Our officers for the year are **President:** Pastor Jeremy Spence; **Vice-President:** Pastor Scott Barger **Secretary:** Deb Peters, and **Treasurer,** Jeff McCulla. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact one of our officers.

Food Pantry: We sponsor our Food Pantry all year round and the Mobile Pantry that comes to our community once a month, to help those families in need of food throughout the year. The food pantry and the Mobile pantry served families in our community and averaged about 50-60 families each month for both services. We were able to obtain new freezers for the pantry to help keep frozen food cold. Volunteers to help at the food pantry are always welcome.

Blood Drive: We support the local blood drive, that comes to the Purk/Evans building several times a year. Treats and volunteers are always needed and encouraged.

Unity Services: We have several Unity Services around various holidays each year, where we get together as a body of believers to hear the gospel. The location of the services and the speakers are rotated between the area churches. Everyone is invited to attend these special services. Thanks to all the churches who have hosted or been a speaker at these services this year.

Community Easter Egg Hunt- We host a community Easter Egg Hunt each year on the Saturday before Easter, depending on the weather. This past year we had an average of 80 children attend this event. Prizes and candy filled eggs were enjoyed by the children. Thanks to all who helped with this event.

Graduation: In May, the Federation sponsored the Baccalaureate Service, followed by a meal catered by Lyons Catering for the graduates and their families. A graduation plaque was also given to all Graham graduates on their graduation practice day.

National Day of Prayer: The Church of God hosted a special National Day of Prayer service in May. The service was well attended with 30-35 people.

Prayer at the St. Paris Council Meetings: The Council asked if one of the Pastors from the area churches would be willing to come and pray before their council meeting starts. The local Pastors are happy to take turns when they are available.

Senior Meals- There are senior meals available that are provided at different church sites, on various days, for any seniors that would like a hot lunchtime meal.

4th of July Celebration: The Federation of Churches purchased several bracelets for children to use during the 4th of July Celebration games. This was a community celebration event.

Community VBS- This year's theme for Community VBS was "The Armor of God." VBS is held annually in July and hosted by The Temple, The Catholic Church and at the Lutheran Church's Evans\Purk building. We had an average of 50-60 children and 50-60 workers. Thanks to all the Churches that hosted the event and all the workers that made this year's VBS a success. During VBS, the children brought in an offering each night that went to Habitat for Humanities and brought in food items that went to our local food pantry throughout the week.

Lifewise- The Federation was introduced to the new Lifewise program that is scheduled to start in early January of 2024. This will enable 2nd graders to leave the school building during the school hours to hear a Bible lesson. This will be hosted at the Church of God. We are excited for this new program to start soon.

New Sign at the Church of God: The Church of God has a new sign located on the church's property. They are willing to advertise any community or Church information. If you would like your message to be put on their sign, please contact the church for further information.

Fall Festival at the Church of God- The Church of God held a special festival and concert, near the beginning of the school year in August. Several community service agencies and activities were available during their event and a Christian concert finished out the day. Back backs of school supplies were available to be given to children to start the new school year. It was a great day for those that attended.

Graham Staff Breakfast- The Federation hosted a breakfast for all Graham staff at their opening day meeting. Thanks to those who donated their time to help with this event.

Grief Share Meetings- The Lutheran church sponsored a 13- week program for those that were grieving, that started in August. These meetings were free of charge to anyone who felt the need to attend. Contact the Lutheran Church for more information.

Weekend Brown Bag Program- When asked about any needs the Graham Schools may have, it was shared that they could use some financial assistance with purchasing easy to fix, microwaveable meals for students to take home during the weekends. The Federation decided to help with this program each month. Area churches will be supporting this ministry soon with their financial donations throughout the remainder of the school year.

Pony Wagon Days Weekend- During the Pony Wagon Days Celebration in September, the United Methodist Church hosted a Barbershop Quartet at their church. The Baptist Church hosted a chicken noodle dinner. All events were enjoyed by those who attended.

Thanksgiving Day Meal- The Federation hosted its annual Thanksgiving Day Meal for anyone wishing to come to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal. There was an option to eat the meal at the Elementary school or have their meal delivered to their homes.

Christmas Holiday- The Church of God hosted a live nativity at their church during the Christmas season. Each year the Federation helps the community during the holiday season with food and toy give away.

Special Christmas food baskets were prepared through the Food Pantry, and they assisted around 80 families. The Christmas Toy Distribution takes place at the Catholic church where families received wrapped gifts for their children. Each child received 2 wrapped gifts and those children between the ages of 12 and 18 received gift cards from Walmart. We assisted 56 families with gifts. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped with both events. On December 21, the United Methodist Church hosted a "Blue Christmas" to support those who had loved ones that they had lost during the year and were feeling sad or "blue". The Federation also gave a financial donation to go towards the "Wreaths Across America" program that places a wreath in honor of our veterans on their graves at the Evergreen Cemetery in St. Paris.

Financial update: At the end of 2023, the Federation has a balance of \$ 21,559.67 in our checking account to help us further our ministries for the coming year. Thanks to everyone who supports the Federation of Churches with their financial donations, time, and talents throughout the year.

2023 Food Pantry Report

2023 was a positive year for the pantry. It was a learning year for Ron and I and we thank Mary Heaston for all her help. We continue to be thankful to the Federation for their financial support and to the 25 volunteers who staff the Pantry and the Mobile Distribution.

1,825 people benefited from the pantry throughout the year. An increase was seen in the fall, probably because of Falconland closing.

January 2023 50 families (4 new) 123 people

November 2023 59 families (9 new) 166 people

December 2023 80 families (20 new) 243 people

We are also thankful for the efforts of Second Harvest Food Bank in obtaining food. We found more food available as the year progressed and we focused on USDA program foods which at times were free to us. Attached pictures will show the Pantry is well stocked. They also show updates to the pantry this year, two freezers and an additional storage shelf.

“Christmas Basket” distribution went well. We received help from the Graham Baseball Team, the Nazarene teen group and the Newson teen group to pack the boxes and bags. We enjoyed the enthusiasm of these teens.

Because of the generous support of 7 Federation Churches, 7 non-member area Churches and 5 businesses/organizations, we were able to prepare for 100 families. Below is a summary of just what went into those boxes and bags.

Boxed Foods: 2 Cereals, Hamburger Helper, 2 Mac ‘n Cheese, Brownie Mix, Mashed Potatoes, Spaghetti, Oatmeal, Stove Top Stuffing, Cake Mix, Raisins, Pancake Mix, 2 Godiva Cheesecake Brownie Mises, Crackers, Brown Sugar, Hot Chocolate, Walnuts, Noodles, Flour and Chips.

Fresh Food: Half Ham, 2 dozen Eggs, Large Bag FFA Fruit, Milk

Canned Meat: Keystone Chicken, Beef, Pork, 2 Tuna, Spam

Other Canned Foods: Apple Juice, Jelly, 3 Fruits, 3 Vegetables, Baked Beans, Spaghetti Sauce, Black Beans, Tomatoes, 2 Ravioli, Peanut Butter, Cake Frosting

Non-Foods: Dish Soap, Shampoo, Tide Pods, Toilet Paper, Glade Christmas Candle, Sanitizing Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Paper Towels, Kleenex, and Toothpaste

Larger families were also given additional duplicate items. 80 families were served. The surplus items were put out on the shelves and are available to those coming to the Pantry in January.

Non-member area Churches who donated food were Christiansburg United Methodist Church, Newson Missionary, Westville United Methodist, Church of Christ in Christian Union, Grafton Church, Rosewood Church, and Terre Haute United Methodist Church.

We have met with Second Harvest and have learned that they have re-evaluated the needs of Champaign, Logan, and Clark counties. They have decided that Champaign County is underserved. They want to have mobile distribution twice weekly in our county. So once again, the Municipal Building is a distribution site. It will begin once monthly in February. They are offering us the option of a distribution twice monthly. They will be watching our numbers, and we will be checking with our volunteers. No decision will be made till April. The distribution will be on the 3rd Monday at noon. We are hoping the time change is not a hardship for people who work.

First Baptist Church Quarterly Treasurer Report

1/3/24

		2023 Budget	Income	1st Quarter Expenses	2nd Quarter Expenses	3rd Quarter Expenses	4th Quarter Expenses	Year to Date Expenses	Balance	Actual / Budget
#101	Fuel - Church	4,000.00		2,267.47		92.29	524.63	2,884.39	1,115.61	72.1%
#102	Fuel - Parsonage	1,750.00		734.30		122.35	192.27	1,048.92	701.08	59.9%
#103	Electricity - Church	4,500.00		931.38	827.63	1,079.14	755.76	3,593.91	906.09	79.9%
#104	Electricity - Parsonage	3,750.00		747.51	696.33	870.89	633.22	2,947.95	802.05	78.6%
#105	Telephone	700.00		149.97	256.91	149.97	742.36	1,299.21	(599.21)	185.6%
#106	Internet/Electronic	1,800.00		443.94	345.95	443.94	443.94	1,677.77	122.23	93.2%
#107	Water & Sewer	1,300.00		355.35	309.00	293.55	309.00	1,266.90	33.10	97.5%
#108	Secretary Salary	8,685.00		2,571.74	2,562.08	2,499.34	2,658.56	10,291.72	(1,606.72)	118.5%
#109	Custodian Salary	8,525.00		2,131.31	2,131.23	2,131.23	2,131.23	8,525.00	0.00	100.0%
#109-A	Less: Accrued Withholding Taxes			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
#110	Social Security	1,320.00		359.79	359.02	354.24	366.42	1,439.47	(119.47)	109.1%
#111	Real Estate Taxes	2,100.00		2,274.46				2,274.46	(174.46)	108.3%
#112	Property Insurance	10,780.00			5,034.00		3,593.39	8,627.39	2,152.61	80.0%
#113	Maintenance & Repairs	6,000.00	1,000.00	1,418.16	2,687.60	1,079.20	485.72	5,670.68	1,329.32	94.5%
#114	Custodian Supplies	500.00				136.11	169.48	305.59	194.41	61.1%
#115	Garbage Service	300.00		77.00	72.00	72.00	72.00	293.00	7.00	97.7%
	Total	56,010.00	1,000.00	14,462.38	15,281.75	9,324.25	13,077.98	52,146.36	4,863.64	
#201	Sunday School Supplies	300.00						0.00	300.00	0.0%
#202	Camp	900.00			100.00			100.00	800.00	11.1%
#203	Leadership Training & Spiritual Adv.	750.00				178.99		178.99	571.01	23.9%
#204	American Baptist Youth	800.00					219.90	219.90	580.10	27.5%
#205	Food for the Souls	4,000.00	9,123.87	3,511.30	1,997.00	4,375.90	2,130.00	12,014.20	1,109.67	91.5%
#206	Children's Ministry	250.00			110.00		100.00	210.00	40.00	84.0%
#207	Community Outreach/New Ministry	250.00						0.00	250.00	0.0%
	Total	7,250.00	9,123.87	3,511.30	2,207.00	4,554.89	2,449.90	12,723.09	3,650.78	
#301	Office Supplies	750.00		224.11	618.00		208.65	1,050.76	(300.76)	140.1%
#302	Christian Periodicals	300.00		153.75			105.00	258.75	41.25	86.3%
#303	Worship Service	300.00			19.79	355.59		375.38	(75.38)	125.1%
#304	Music Supplies	200.00		150.00			317.00	467.00	(267.00)	233.5%
#305	Postage	700.00		126.00	63.00		132.00	321.00	379.00	45.9%
#306	Website/Digital	1,750.00		1,750.00				1,750.00	0.00	100.0%
	Total	4,000.00	0.00	2,403.86	700.79	355.59	762.65	4,222.89	(222.89)	
#401	Pastors Cash Salary	45,500.00		11,375.06	11,374.98	11,374.98	11,374.98	45,500.00	0.00	100.0%
#402	Auto Reimbursement	2,000.00		627.92	293.44	571.16	506.98	1,999.50	0.50	100.0%

First Baptist Church Quarterly Treasurer Report

1/3/24

	2023 Budget	Income	1st Quarter Expenses	2nd Quarter Expenses	3rd Quarter Expenses	4th Quarter Expenses	Year to Date Expenses	Balance	
#403 M & M Retirement	11,700.00		2,925.00	2,925.00	2,925.00	2,925.00	11,700.00	0.00	100.0%
#404 Social Security Offset	4,220.00		1,055.06	1,054.98	1,054.98	1,054.98	4,220.00	0.00	100.0%
#405 Books and Periodicals	150.00						0.00	150.00	0.0%
#406 Convention Expense	500.00						0.00	500.00	0.0%
#407 Pulpit Supply	900.00		150.00	300.00		300.00	750.00	150.00	83.3%
#408 Conferences/Seminars	250.00				263.08	135.00	398.08	500.00	159.2%
#409 Qualified Small Employer Health	11,050.00		2,565.39	3,270.99	2,565.39	2,565.39	10,967.16	82.84	99.3%
#410 QSEHRA Administration Fee	500.00		480.00				480.00	20.00	96.0%
Total	76,770.00	0.00	19,178.43	19,219.39	18,754.59	18,862.33	76,014.74	1,403.34	
#501 Western Association Dues	150.00			100.00			100.00	50.00	66.7%
#502 Hospitality Committee	1,500.00	215.01	279.17	358.73	143.10	249.30	1,030.30	684.71	68.7%
#503 Mission Promotion	150.00						0.00	150.00	0.0%
Total	1,800.00	215.01	279.17	458.73	143.10	249.30	1,130.30	884.71	
#601 Other		165,184.20	14.92	714.00	151.23	8,990.00	9,870.15		
#602 Mission Related			6,690.80	1,859.18	2,770.84	2,896.64	14,217.46		
Total	145,830.00	175,523.08	46,540.86	40,440.84	36,054.49	47,288.80	170,324.99		
Income			1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total		
General			40,077.00	27,403.43	29,336.29	31,074.82	127,891.54		
General (Digital)			5,404.90	7,449.83	4,774.40	5,531.52	23,160.65		
Childrens Offering			76.43	96.92	160.94	147.50	481.79		
Other			3,406.45	6,108.83	2,381.42	12,092.40	23,989.10		
Digital Mission Giving							0.00		
Total			48,964.78	41,059.01	36,653.05	48,846.24	175,523.08	175,523.08	
Account Balances			General Fund	Missions	Savings	Certificates	Memorial Fd	Total	
Balance as of January 1, 2023			14,143.47	1.00	17,570.21	43,643.22	11,399.74	86,757.64	
Debits (-)			(170,324.99)	(12,968.93)			(7,496.00)		
Credits (+)			175,523.08	12,968.93	89.57	253.47	53.49		
Balance as of December 31, 2023			19,341.56	1.00	17,659.78	43,896.69	3,957.23	84,856.26	

Certificate of Deposit #130443	3,830.88	Matures 5/31/24	30 months	0.30%
Certificate of Deposit #130941	33,658.66	Matures 10/12/25	24 months	2.25%
Certificate of Deposit #131055	6,407.15	Matured 9/25/25	24 months	2.25%

Receipts - 2023

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Missions

12/31/23

	Credit	10%	ABC/Ohio	McCurdy	Osterbrock	Reese	World Mis.	Am. Christ	OGHS	RMMO	Other	Total	
January	1,447.95	1,057.95	90.00	100.00	100.00	100.00						1,447.95	
February	1,379.57	999.57	80.00	100.00	100.00	100.00						1,379.57	
March	560.28	237.28	23.00	100.00	100.00	100.00						560.28	
1st Qtr	3,387.80	2,294.80	193.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,387.80	
April	2,056.32	493.00	70.00	100.00	100.00	100.00					1,193.32	2,056.32	
May	593.85	213.85	80.00	100.00	100.00	100.00						593.85	
June	612.33	252.33	60.00	100.00	100.00	100.00						612.33	
2nd Qtr	3,262.50	959.18	210.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,193.32	3,262.50	
July	951.08	651.08		100.00	100.00	100.00						951.08	
August	1,092.39	352.39	40.00	100.00	100.00	100.00			400.00			1,092.39	
September	748.52	17.37	81.15	100.00	100.00	100.00				350.00		748.52	
3rd Qtr	2,791.99	1,020.84	121.15	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	2,791.99	
October	1,425.82	655.82	110.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	360.00					1,425.82	
November	1,096.38	736.38	60.00	100.00	100.00	100.00						1,096.38	
December	1,004.44	604.44	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00						1,004.44	
4th Qtr	3,526.64	1,996.64	270.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	360.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,526.64	
YTD Total	12,968.93	6,271.46	794.15	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	360.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	1,193.32	12,968.93

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Dayton Christian Ctr.	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
Echo Farms	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
Sycamore House	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
Compassion Int.	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00
Bill & Julia Otterness	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00
Operation Rebirth (\$300)		300.00										
Comp. Int'l (Bd/Chris)												40.00
RMMO (\$750)								400.00	350.00			
FBC/St. James City, Fl			1,200.00									
Sarah Chetti									100.00			
Total	163.00	463.00	1,363.00	163.00	163.00	163.00	163.00	563.00	613.00	163.00	163.00	203.00

**Financial Secretary Report
2023**

General Fund Receipts

General	\$ 127,891.54
General (Digital)	23,160.65
Childrens Offering	481.79
Tues A.M. Bible Study	105.00
Memory of Helen Wiant	385.00
Food for the Souls	9,123.87
Memory of Helen Wiant (FFTS)	108.00
Garage Sale (FFTS)	337.89
Memory of Vivan Meyers	125.00
Poinsettias	149.40
Dessert Auction (Shoebox)	1,344.00
Harold Shank Trust	3,579.93
Misposting of check #23157	0.01
Easter Flowers	215.00
Basement Blinds	1,000.00
Chicked Noodle Digital Donation	20.00
Transfer from Memorial Fund	7,496.00
 Total General Fund Receipts	 \$ 175,523.08

Mission Giving

Monthly 10%	\$ 6,271.46
Missions	794.15
World Mission Offering	360.00
Harold Shank Trust	1,193.32
Peter & Sarah McCurdy	1,200.00
Aaron & Valerie Osterbrock	1,200.00
Tim & Stacy Reese	1,200.00
Retired Ministers and Mission.	750.00
 Total Mission Receipts	 \$ 12,968.93

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

2024 Budget

#101 Fuel - Church	3,500.00
#102 Fuel - Parsonage	1,350.00
#103 Electricity - Church	4,000.00
#104 Electricity - Parsonage	3,200.00
#105 Telephone	700.00
#106 Internet/Electronics	1,800.00
#107 Water & Sewer	1,300.00
#108 Secretary Salary	9,940.00
#109 Custodian Salary	8,780.00
#110 Social Security	1,450.00
#111 Real Estate Taxes	2,450.00
#112 Property Insurance	7,500.00
#113 Maintenance & Repairs	6,000.00
#114 Custodian Supplies	500.00
#115 Garbage Service	325.00
Total	52,795.00
#201 Sunday School Supplies	300.00
#202 Camp	600.00
#203 Leadership Train & Spirit. Adv	500.00
#204 American Baptist Youth	800.00
#205 Food for the Souls	7,000.00
#206 Children's Ministry	250.00
#207 Youth Pastor	12,000.00
#208 Sesquicentennial Celebration	5,000.00
Total	26,450.00
#301 Office Supplies	1,000.00
#302 Christian Periodicals	300.00
#303 Worship Service	300.00
#304 Music Supplies	200.00
#305 Postage	700.00
#306 Website/Digital	2,400.00
Total	4,900.00
#401 Pastor Cash Salary	45,500.00
#402 Auto Reimbursement	3,000.00
#403 M&M Retirement	11,700.00
#404 Social Security Offset	4,220.00
#405 Books and Periodicals	150.00
#406 Conference/Seminars/Convention	750.00
#407 Pulpit Supply	900.00
#408 Conference/Seminars	0.00
#409 QSEHRA	11,050.00
#410 QSEHRA Administrator	480.00
Total	77,750.00
#501 Western Assoc. Dues	150.00
#502 Hospitality Committee	1,500.00
#503 Mission Promotion	150.00
Total	1,800.00
Total Budget	163,695.00