

2026 Annual Pastor Report – Chris Eshelman, Senior Pastor

Membership and Key Numbers

This year, we welcomed 17 new members and celebrated 17 baptisms. Six members withdrew. We conducted two baby or parent dedications, one funeral, and one wedding.

Benevolence

We distributed \$52,000 in benevolence, an increase of about 25% from last year. Nearly \$27,000 was for medical assistance. Rent, utilities, and repairs totaled \$9,300. Missionary gifts amounted to \$6,300. We assisted a young woman in a spousal abuse situation with \$5,400. Counseling assistance totaled \$1,400, and other benevolence was \$200. Additionally, \$3,000 was given to me privately to use in assisting people.

Areas of Responsibility

As senior pastor, I oversee four areas: administration, shepherding, projects and events, and miscellaneous tasks.

- **Administration:** Responsibilities include meetings, insurance details, announcements, and communications. I review and update membership databases, vet benevolent situations, provide references and referrals, correspond with missionaries, schedule speakers, and contact attorneys or police when necessary.
- **Shepherding:** This includes visits to shut-ins, hospitals, and the sick. I provided counseling for 33 in-house situations and 13 individuals outside the organization. I review books, articles, and videos, handle complaints, and answer questions on topics such as our mission statement, end times, creationism, premarital sex, female pastors, controversies, and conflicts. I also review song lyrics and interview baptismal candidates.
- **Projects and Events:** I lead a community group, taught a new class called *Studying Like a Pastor*, led the Good Friday communion service, participated in Pizza with Pastors, led a VBS group, taught an AWANA class, and played bass for the Night of Worship.
- **Miscellaneous:** I assist with computer issues, event setup, job referrals, correspondence, and thank yous. I deal with strangers during co-op and handle parking lot issues. I even wrote a few songs this past year.

Weekly Routine and Reading

My week involves writing a blog, preparing messages, and extensive reading. I read over 20 books this past year and often review 10–20 magazine articles for a single sermon. I also play bass regularly on the worship team and meet with Pastor Chris Hamilton to develop ministries and refine our philosophy of ministry.

Leadership and Team

We have very capable people taking leadership in many departments:

- **Steve Karabatos – Youth Pastor, leading youth ministry.**
- **Chris Hamilton – Pastor of Congregational Life, overseeing small groups and congregational ministries.**
- **Josh Moyer – Worship Leader, expanding and maturing the music ministry.**
- **Jocelyn Spieth – Communications Coordinator, managing communications effectively.**
- **Angela D'Angelo – Business Affairs, keeping financial and administrative matters current.**
- **Lori Rohrbach – Custodian, maintaining cleanliness and order.**
- **Lonnie Hiltebeitel and the Safety Team – Providing security during all events.**

Ministry Highlights

A new ministry this year is the Buddy Ministry, where volunteers assist children with special needs during distress in Sunday school or children's ministry. Our elders and deacons have stepped up to handle many responsibilities that used to be mine. Volunteers serve in numerous areas, and we could always use more help in Sunday school for teachers and assistants.

Future Plans

We aim to return to one service, reduce debt, develop property, and possibly add full-time staff and another missionary. These plans are being developed by younger men in the church, and you will hear more about them in the coming year. We are excited about the many young families joining us and invite them to help expand ministry at Mountain View.

Thank you.