



2025 Annual Reports
Eastland Church

Annual Report Index:

Page 1-----	Agenda
Page 2-----	Lead Pastor Report
Page 3-----	Eastland Kid's Ministry Report
Page 4-----	Eastland Youth's Ministry Report
Page 7-----	Eastland Music Ministry Report
Page 8-----	Eastland Athletics Report
Page 9-----	Connection Ministry Report
Page 10-----	Women of Church of God Report
Page 11-----	Elder Board Report
Page 12-----	Elder Candidate Biography
Page 15-----	Outreach Team Report
Page 16-----	Property and Finance Report
Page 18-----	2026 Proposed Budget

**Annual Family Meeting
January 18, 2026
Agenda**

Call to Order	Pastor Jarad Houser
Opening Prayer	Pastor Cristian Hardin
2025 Celebration	Pastor Jarad Houser
Presentation of the Board of Elder Nominee	Pastor Jarad Houser
Budget Report and Proposed Budget	
Ratification Process	Pastor Jarad Houser
Closing Prayer	Pastor Caitlin Shepard

More than Maintenance: What God is Building at Eastland

2025 has been a year of remarkable momentum at Eastland Church of God. As I look back, I don't just see events; I see stories of transformation. This year, we clarified our Vision: **Eastland exists to Connect People to Jesus**. Because of your faithfulness, that vision took flight in powerful ways:

- **New Life:** We celebrated 11 baptisms—each one a public declaration of a new life in Christ.
- **New Faces:** Through our Next Steps luncheons, we've moved from being "friendly" to making friends, intentionally walking alongside families as they begin their faith journey.
- **New Foundations:** We've invested heavily in our Kids Ministry spaces. Why? Because we believe the next generation doesn't just need a place to sit; they need a place to belong.
- **New Habits:** We completed our first year of the **Connect Journal**, moving us from being a crowd that gathers to a community of disciples who grow.

A Season of Construction If you've walked through our halls recently, you've heard the sounds of hammers, and heavy equipment, and seen new paint and the installation of new HVAC units. It's loud, it's expensive, and at times, it's messy.

But at Eastland, we aren't just "maintaining" a building; we are **retooling a mission base**. These physical upgrades are a metaphor for our spiritual lives. Whether you are 8 or 80, God is still "under construction" in your heart. He is renewing our minds so we can better serve Lexington.

The Road Ahead As we look toward 2026, our focus is clear: We want to ensure that every family who walks onto our campus for Upward Basketball, Veritas School, or someone you have invited feels the same warmth and invitation to follow Jesus on Sunday morning. We are building a church that the next generation will love to attend and that our current generation can be proud to pass on.

It is a profound honor to shepherd this house during this season of construction. The best is yet to come.

For His Kingdom,

Pastor Jarad

Children's Ministry Annual Report
Caitlin Shepard, Eastland Children's Pastor

I wanted to begin by giving a big thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who gave of their limited time and energy to provide an opportunity for kids to learn about and grow closer to Jesus this year. Children's ministry is not possible without the people who volunteer each week and I am incredibly blessed and so very thankful to have such an amazing group of volunteers serving our kids and the kingdom of God by my side. I am so thankful for the dedication, commitment, and love that each of you has shown this ministry and these kids.

It was an incredible year of spiritual growth with Eastland Kids! We had the privilege of seeing seven kids take their next steps of faith by being baptized, and four kids give their lives to Christ! Our emphasis on knowing God's word and teaching about Jesus each and every week has helped kids grow, learn, and dive deeper into relationships with God!

This year was filled with great memories and so much fun. We had a blast at SCUBA Vacation Bible School this year where we saw over 75 kids and about 50 incredible volunteers. Decisions were made about salvation and baptism at VBS. Throughout the year we celebrated huge steps of faith with our Easter family experience, and a kids christmas program which shined the light on the true reason we celebrate these holidays! A huge thank you to Debbie Madden, Kacy Midkiff, Kendall Houser, Kelley Houser, and many many more amazing volunteers who made these events happen!

As we look forward to this new year I am expecting God to move. Our curriculum will shift slightly in focus from understanding how to use the Bible to a "full-picture" understanding of God's story. Our events this year will lean into a focus on family discipleship as we work to partner with parents to build the foundations of faith. It is truly an honor to be able to serve you! (Also... stay tuned to hear more about TRUE NORTH VBS 2026).

I know and pray that the coming year will be full of growth, challenge, and a new found joy and love for Jesus Christ in each of our little ones.

Thank you,
Pastor Caitlin Shepard

Student Ministry Annual Report

Cristian Hardin, Eastland Student's Pastor

This year began with the launch of our Student Leadership Team (SLT), culminating in the selection of our first group of student leaders. Eight students attended the 3SLI Leadership Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, marking a strong start to leadership development in our ministry. Wednesday night gatherings wrapped up in April as our adult leaders shifted their support to end-of-year school activities.

We closed the school year with a pool party generously hosted by the Frazier family. Summer brought major moments of growth and engagement: ten high school students attended Camp 2025, and the Called 2025 event in Oklahoma City was a strong success, with three young women discerning a call to ministry. More than ten of our students served faithfully during VBS week. In July, thirteen students traveled to Alabama for their first Motion Conference, joining over 17,000 others in worship and teaching. Wednesday night gatherings resumed in August with the addition of Sydney Hall as our second high school girls' leader. Weekly attendance averaged 16–22 students—praise God for consistent growth and connection. Our first Fall Retreat was a major highlight and spiritual milestone. The SLT made remarkable progress, taking bold steps in leadership and even learning how to preach.

To our volunteers: thank you for the time, energy, and compassion you invest in our students. To our parents: thank you for trusting our team. We deeply love your students—and you. I am honored to be here to guide, lead and pour into students. I look forward to what is to come and as we move forward I hope to better connect with families overall through shared meals, including parents more on what we are learning and connecting to those who are not here yet.

Annual Report Music Ministry

Lorie Daughterty, Eastland Worship Leader

Allow me to begin by saying we have a wonderful music and tech team who give regularly of their time and talents to serve both Heritage Church and Eastland. I am honored to serve alongside each of them, pray with them, grow and worship the LORD with them.

In this last year, we have continued Worship Nights, Caroling, and Hymn Sings. To have all these in our schedule is a perfect combination. I simply love all the styles ... yes, even Christian Rap music, but I don't personally execute that genre well so you would only catch me listening to it. I'm excited to also say we have added a few new members to our team this year, both on stage and behind the scenes. THRILLED to have them all joining us.

I've said it before and will repeat it. Worship expresses our relationship with the LORD; it grows as our relationship grows, our relationship grows as we learn more about Him. AND worship doesn't have to have music. Talking with a friend of mine about this several years ago, she said it this way, "you could sing all day and never worship God, you could also worship all day and never sing a note." We walked through Psalm 100 during one of our worship nights this year. That psalm lists ways we can worship. Some of them are musical but not all of them. But there is a call for all the nation to worship. For the music part of worship, I remain committed to sharing scripture regularly and choosing songs filled with scripture and Truth pointing us to God.

I have a special request for all our church family. Will you join our team in prayer for new team members? We would welcome volunteers in all areas of tech and music. Of course, musicians would need to already have some skills; we can provide training for other positions. If you feel like God has been speaking to you about serving with us, please contact me. Maybe we can have a coffee (or ice cream) and chat about some details.

One last thing, I asked this in October and am now asking again. I would absolutely LOVE to know your favorite Christian song. Your all time favorite or just your favorite for this month, I'm interested in both. Catch me anytime, call or text me. If you tell me on a Sunday morning, write it down for me so I can stick it in my pocket to look at later (my brain is a bit mushy after church). Knowing the song that ministers most loudly to your heart tells me a bit about your story and journey with the LORD ... and THAT blesses and encourages MY heart.

Annual Report – Eastland Athletics

Director of Sports Outreach Tim Midkiff

This program has always been used as a tool to invite people into the church doors, giving us an opportunity to grow relationships with them so that we can show them the love of Jesus Christ. In the 2025 year, this athletic program has been able to reach out and do some amazing things for the community around the church because of the involvement of great volunteers in this program. Below is a swift recap of the program that went on in 2025.

Upward

Upward basketball and cheerleading continues to be one of the biggest areas of outreach for the church. The goal of Upward is to teach about Jesus' love while teaching the fundamentals of basketball and cheerleading. Last season we had 429 players and 77 cheerleaders, this was the largest number of participants in our history. With other leagues popping up around Lexington and near the church our program has remained strong for the 2025-2026 season. This season our numbers are once again groundbreaking with 413 basketball players and 82 cheerleaders with new participants signing up daily. The continued success of this program has everything to do with the great volunteers from the church and parents of the players.

Ping Pong and Rook

Ping Pong and Rook have remained a storage program for Eastland Athletics. This programs offer players hours of fun and connections with people of the church and the community. These take place on Thursday and Friday nights in the gathering room and commons. We have small but loyal groups that play every week. We are hoping in this next year to grow both groups and hold tournaments. I would like to thank both Berny Short and Zelma Lambert for taking the lead in these two sports at Eastland.

Rentals

Eastland is becoming the spot to go to for sports rental. With the options of the softball field, basketball courts and batting cages coaches around Lexington are finding that Eastland is the place for their team. We have teams from Lexington athletic club, Bluegrass United Volleyball, Bluegrass United Soccer, the Special Olympics softball and flag football, Veritas High School Basketball (boys and girls) and Volleyball, all calling Eastland home. Having teams rent Eastland's facilities helps the church financially and it brings awareness to the church for those families looking for a church home.

Connections Ministry Report

Connections Leader, Sarah Hall

The heart of our Connections Ministry is to reflect the very nature of Christ: to welcome, to love, and to guide every person toward a thriving relationship with Jesus. This 2025 report celebrates the intentional, loving work that has allowed us to faithfully pursue this mission, turning first-time guests into true disciples and integrated members of the family of God.

2025 Guest Snapshot: A Growing Spiritual Family

This year, Eastland has continued to be a place where people seek and find hope. Analyzing our Sunday attendance, we have celebrated an average of **5.8 guests** attending our Sunday morning services each week (Jan 12 - Apr 27, 2025). This consistent flow of new people represents individuals seeking community, truth, and a life-changing encounter with God—and our team is the frontline in facilitating that connection.

Next Step Sunday was launched this year to get to know people new to Eastland in a casual way after church, where we serve lunch and have intentional conversations and help our guests take the next step into group life, serving, or diving into the Connect Journal.

A Heart for Service: Celebrating Our Volunteers

To the approximately 10-15 people on the Connections Team I have the privilege of training and leading, and to the over **40 volunteers who serve on a weekly basis** across Eastland, your heart for connecting people to Jesus is nothing short of amazing. You are the hands and feet of Christ, embodying radical hospitality. Every smile, every warm welcome, and every intentional conversation with a guest is a profound act of ministry that reinforces the truth: **you belong here at Eastland**. Thank you for your tireless, sacrificial commitment to making people feel seen, valued, and loved in Christ's name.

Extending Our Welcome: Serving at Upward

This year, we expanded the reach of the gospel beyond our Sunday services by serving at our Upward basketball and cheerleading programs. By warmly welcoming families to games and practices, we demonstrated Christ's love and the Church's care to our community in a non-traditional setting. This service expanded our connections footprint, showing that the belonging found at Eastland extends to every corner of our local area.

As we look ahead, we anticipate continued growth, especially among young families. With Eastland Kids being a critical driver of overall attendance, our vision for the new year is to launch new, focused training sessions in partnership with Eastland Kids leadership.

Women of Church of God Annual Report

Stephanie Gibson, Eastland WCG President

- **Stocksdales in Botswana:** This year, we continued our unwavering support for the Stocksdales, missionaries in Botswana, providing an annual support of \$1,200. Our contributions help them carry out their vital work in the region.
- **Leon through Children of Promise:** We provided \$404 in support for Leon, a child under the Children of Promise program. This support helps to ensure Leon's basic needs are met and encourages his development.
- **Legacy Fund and Missionary Families:** We contributed \$100 to Christmas Missions, which supports the Legacy Fund, the Adams family missionaries in Southeast Asia, and the Jones family, missionaries in Bolivia. Our donations play a key role in sustaining their mission work.
- **Foster Care Support:** We provided \$345 to Hope Hill Youth Services in Morehead. This foster care agency offers education, guidance, and assistance to youth aged 18-21 as they transition from foster care to independent living.

2025 Projects

- **Upwards Concessions:** To raise support for the Stocksdales, we worked diligently at the Upwards concessions. Grateful for all the ladies who helped us with this project.
- **Goody Bags for Upward Programs:** We put together goody bags for children participating in Upward basketball and cheerleading, adding a touch of joy and encouragement to their activities.
- **Vacation Bible School Decorations:** We assisted with the decorations for Vacation Bible School, helping to create an inviting and engaging environment for the children.
- **Hope Center Mobile Unit:** We made 100 sandwiches for the Hope Center Mobile Unit, which provides meals for Lexington's homeless population.
- **State Convention Contribution:** At the state convention, we provided a Ky Proud basket for the auction. The proceeds support scholarships for state youth camp and Children of Promise, aligning with our mission to support youth in their Christian development.
- **Holiday Bake Sale:** Every year, we have a wonderful bake sale to raise funds for Children of Promise. The homemade goodies from the WCG ladies are delicious, and we greatly appreciate all the support the church provides for the bake sale.

Financial Stewardship

100% of all money raised for WCG goes directly to supporting mission work both in Kentucky and globally. We strive to be good stewards of the funds that are raised and are committed to making a positive impact on various communities.

New Leadership

In 2026, we are excited to welcome our new President, Trudy Hardin. We look forward to her leadership and the continued support WCG can provide to missions in the coming year.

Conclusion

This year has been marked by significant contributions and dedicated efforts towards various missionary and local projects. We are deeply grateful for the support of our church and volunteers who make our mission possible. We look forward to another fruitful year of service under the new leadership of Trudy Hardin. The dedication and generosity of the WCG ladies continue to drive our mission, and I thank you for your unwavering support.

Board of Elders

Chris Washing, Eastland Church Elder Chairperson

As we reflect on this past year, our hearts are filled with gratitude for all that God has done in and through our church. We have witnessed His faithfulness, and it has been a joy to see our congregation, and our generosity continue to grow. Your commitment to worship, service, and giving is a powerful testimony to what we can do as a church family.

We are so excited to celebrate 11 baptisms over the past year. Each baptism represents a life transformed by Christ, and we rejoice together in these powerful moments of faith and obedience. There is no greater joy than seeing lives changed and new believers taking their next step in their walk with the Lord.

Another ministry I would like to highlight is our Upward program. We completed our 25th year of running this incredible program. What a blessing it has been to serve families in our community through sports and mentorship. One of the greatest joys is seeing boys and girls who once played on our courts now grown and still connected to the impact this ministry has had on their lives.

Thank you for being a church that loves God, loves people, and faithfully serves our community. Your prayers, generosity, and involvement make all this possible. We are excited for what lies ahead and look forward to continuing this journey together as God leads our church.

With grateful hearts,
Chris Washing, Chairperson
Morgan Grillet, Vice–Chairperson
Bethany Groves, Secretary
Mike Stewart
Cathy Pennington
Dave Martin

Elder Candidate Biography
Keith Preston



I started attending Eastland as a young boy in 1969. Ever since, this church has been special to me in so many ways. I accepted Jesus as my Savior as a young teenager and thrived in the church Youth Group. My spiritual growth continued through the years as I've had wonderful mentors at Eastland. My wife, Ann, and I met at Eastland in 1984 and we have loved growing and serving in the church. We raised our 3 boys at Eastland and have seen them become strong Christian men. Over the years, I've served by teaching Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, chairing the Worship Service, Drama team, and other areas. I have served in many leadership roles including the Elder Board and the original Liberty Ridge Board. Currently I have been serving as the Church Treasurer for the last 16 years. I am honored and humbled to be considered as a candidate for the Elder Board.

Elder Candidate Biography

Amanda Shepherd

(1-Year Appointee)



Amanda has been walking with God since she was 6 years old. What began as childlike faith in the hallway of her elementary school has been nurtured, pruned, fed, and many times challenged as she has dug deeper into her relationship with God over the past 37 years. She's experienced mountaintops and valleys, but one thing she knows for sure: God is always faithful!

Amanda and her husband Scott grew up in the same small town of Harlan, Kentucky, but didn't meet one another until adulthood. Both dedicated educators, they will celebrate 20 years of marriage in July 2026. Together, they have the privilege and joy of raising two amazing children, Brayden (14) and Grace (8), who are true gifts from God in their lives.

The Shepherd family moved to Lexington in 2014 and began attending Eastland shortly thereafter. While they visited numerous churches in the area, Eastland was the one that felt like home and exactly where God wanted them to be. Amanda is currently involved as a volunteer in the EC Kids Ministry, a member of the Worship Team, and enjoys helping with church events and activities, especially those involving children and families.

Annual Missions Report

Stephanie Gibson, Missions and Outreach Chairperson

Lifeline Ministries

This year, our Lifeline Ministries made significant strides in aiding those in need. We packed a total of 6,000 meals that were sent to Haiti, supporting the ongoing efforts to alleviate hunger in the region. This monumental task was accomplished with the help of 44 dedicated volunteers, who graciously donated their time and energy. Following our service project, we had a wonderful time of fellowship at Gatti Town, which allowed us to build stronger bonds within our church community.

Christmas Angel Tree

Our Christmas Angel Tree initiative was a heartwarming success. This year, we were able to sponsor 10 children from Liberty Elementary and 25 teenagers from MLK, ensuring that they had gifts to celebrate the holiday season. The generosity of our church played a crucial role in bringing joy to these young individuals.

Backpack Ministry

Our Backpack Ministry continued its vital work throughout the year, providing weekend meals for 50 kids—25 from Liberty Elementary and 25 from MLK. This ongoing ministry ensures that these children have nutritious meals during weekends when school resources are not available. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the volunteers who come out each week to pack these meals, including Keith and Ann Preston, Duane and Kathy Pennington, John Thomas, and Ronni Hogan. A special thank you goes to Sherry Stewart and Grace Rankin for their exceptional efforts and dedication. They do all the shopping and make sure our shelves stay full.

Volunteer Acknowledgement

We want to give a huge shout out to Eastland for stepping up and volunteering throughout the year for various programs, including Upward, Easter Program, Fall Festival, Back Pack Program, Lifeline Ministries, and the Christmas Angel Tree. Your dedication and willingness to serve have made a significant impact on our community, and we are deeply grateful for your unwavering support.

Conclusion

This year has been filled with remarkable accomplishments and heartwarming moments, made possible by the relentless efforts of our volunteers and supporters. We look forward to continuing our mission and making an even greater impact in the coming year. Thank you for being a part of this journey and making a difference in the lives of so many.

Property and Finance Report

Todd Frazier, Property and Finance Chairperson

Maintenance / Upkeep / Repairs Undertaken during 2025

- P & F Committee did not undertake any large projects from 2024's report in 2025.
- Several HVAC units were serviced and or replaced throughout the facility.
- All exterior lighting both on the building and lighting on poles were replaced and are now working
- Half of the shingle roof on the Family Life Center was replaced, the second half is planned for spring 2026
- Roof was replaced on the auxiliary gym including gutters and all building trim
- Wednesday crew leak along with McDaniels Plumbing conducted a investigation of underground piping and found several leaks.
- New water fountains were installed in the church and the Aux Gym
- The nursery was relocated adjacent to the sanctuary beside the Commons area so that mothers and infants are closer together and parents are more at ease.
- The kids wing was given a face lift, signage was installed and several rooms were painted.
- New projectors were installed in the sanctuary along with audio – visual improvements.
- Windows in sanctuary were reglazed and the leaks appear to have been addressed.
- One of the large HVAC units for the offices and vestibule is being replaced in December.

Proposed Capital Expenses 2026

- **Parking Lot Drainage**
 - Preliminary bids have been received, evaluated and approved to address subsurface water and drainage issues in the parking lot(s).
 - Committee plans to patch and repair several asphalt areas once drainage has been corrected.
- **Roofs** - Flat roofs and shingle roofs need repairs and or replacement in areas
 - Second half of the Family Life Center is planned for replacement in the spring 2026.
 - Pastor Jarad filled several potential leaking areas in the flat roof areas with extruded foam last year and we plan to install additional foam as needed. This is a temporary fix at best and will need to be repeated until a new roof can be installed.

- Bids have been solicited for new shingle roof to complete the Family Life Center as well as the sanctuary.
- Bids have been solicited for all new flat roofs which are over the offices, drop off and Kids wing and classrooms.
- Tile Floor in main bathrooms - These tiles continually crack. Need to be evaluated and estimate for replacement
- **Signage** – New signage needs to be considered... including traffic flow, guest parking, location signage etc.
- **Church Lawn Equipment** – New lawn equipment needs to be purchased and existing repaired.
- **Painting** - Throughout the church. We need to have the lobby and areas where visitors and high traffic areas are dirty, dull or dingy.
- **Shelving** – there are several areas that need shelving installed.
 - Adjacent to the baptistry, upper level, for Christmas tree and decoration storage.
 - The youth department needs shelving and possibly a pallet wall installed
 - The music department need shelving and a secure area for the music equipment and related items.
- Several of our rooms on the office side need to be repurposed. This would allow us to better serve our Sunday school needs and reduce clutter.
- The landing / sidewalk and railing at the connecting corridor between the aux gym and children's hallway needs to be replace / modified This continues to pull away from the building and has caused a recent fall. I feel this MUST be addressed soon.

Long Range Expenses – 2026 and Beyond

- **Flat Roof / Foam /Rubber** – The flat roof areas of the building need to be replace or replaced as funds become available
- **Parking Lot/Drainage** – This is a big project and will need to be further evaluated in the spring for replacing complete sections once drainage and patching is complete.
- **Family Life Center HVAC** - The two 15 ton split units need to be repaired as money allows.
- **All areas** – most remaining HVAC units are nearing the end of their life cycle and will need to be replaced.

Eastland Church of God 2026 Proposed Budget

<u>Income:</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Non-Profit Income	
\$475,000	
Rental Income	\$ 22,500
Veritas Academy Income	\$ 33,000
Seacoast	\$ 21,000
Interest Income	\$ 500
Total Income for 2026 Budget	\$ 552,000
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Charitable Contributions	\$ 47,500
Facilities Related Expenses:	
Custodial Supplies	\$ 7,300
Grounds Upkeep	\$ 5,000
Repairs/Maintenance/Property Improvements	\$ 6,000
Security	\$ 1,000
Utilities	\$ 72,500
Loan Interest Expense	\$ 20,000
Line of Credit	\$ 3,000
Waste Services	\$ 4,000
Total Facilities Related Expenses	\$ 118,800
General Administrative Expenses	
Bank Charges	\$ 500
Flowers & Gifts	\$ 3,500
Hospitality	\$ 5,000
Tech Support	\$ 1,000
Office Expenses	\$ 12,000
Postage	\$ 100
Professional Expenses	\$ 1,000
Telephone	\$ 2,700
Worship Supplies	\$ 300
Total General Administrative Expenses	\$ 26,100

Insurance

Auto	\$ 1,231
Property Insurance/Umbrella Policy	\$ 16,965
Workers Comp	\$ 634
Total Insurance	\$ 18,830

Ministries

Adult Education	\$ 1,750
Children's Ministries	\$ 5,000
Music	\$ 4,500
Puppets	\$ 86
Sports	\$ 3,000
Youth	\$ 5,000
Ministry Enrichment	\$ 2,500
Heritage Church	\$ 16,000
Total Ministries	\$ 37,836

Total Salaries & Benefits **\$ 302,934**

Total Expenses for 2026 budget **\$ 552,000**