

Easton Baptist Church
North Easton, Massachusetts

Ministry Team Annual Report 2009

presented at the
Sep-2009 Annual Business Meeting

Pastor's Report

Submitted by Your Pastor Bob

This past year we've seen God's blessings in numerous ways that you will read throughout this annual report. May our annual meeting be one of celebrating all that God has done and will do here at Easton Baptist Church!!

In the past year we praise God for many things including:

- *About 50 individuals started to read through the Bible
- *5 baptisms
- *Message Series on the book of Colossians, the book of Joshua, Surprises with the Savior, and the 10 Commandments (I. A.M. T.H.E. L.O.R.D.)
- *Weekly prayer meeting for a year about Celebrate Recovery and other things
- *Home Growth Groups in fall on Colossians, winter on Joshua, spring on iMarriage

As we look to the year ahead, I urge you to pray about many things including:

- *Finishing strong in reading through the Bible
- *Discerning the timing of Celebrate Recovery Ministry and Facilities Planning Team Plan
- *Growth Groups in homes in the fall with "The Jesus I Never Knew", during Lent all together here at the church for soup and devotions, and in homes in the spring on "Your Time Starved Marriage"
- * Keeping the Sabbath Day holy, refraining from all business (church and otherwise) until after Family Bible School and Morning Worship are over
- *To continue to become the people God is calling us to be of what we've been learning these past few years about the Fire of the Holy Spirit and Reign of God's Son, living out the fruits of the Spirit, and reaching out to others by being Salt and Light

Diaconate

Submitted by Rick Tetrault

The EBC Diaconate/ Board of Directors expresses its thanks, appreciation and love for Ken Berry and Diane LaCasse. Ken and Diane recently completed their three-year Diaconate terms (2006-2009) and faithfully exercised their God-given gifts and talents during their season of service.

The 'new' Diaconate began its term on June 1, 2009:

2009-2012: Lois Wells, Rick Tetrault (Chair/President)

2008-2011: Janet Aronson, Nelson Holmes, Steve Lundberg (Vice-chair/Vice-president)

2007-2010: Marilyn Wright

Pastor Bob (ex officio Diaconate member)

Vision

The Diaconate kicked off a new season of servant-leadership with a June Diaconate Retreat held at EBC. The retreat was one of prayer, praise and planning with time set aside for fellowship, reflection and the identification of a Spirit-guided vision for EBC ministry. The 2009-10 ministry vision elements identified at the retreat included:

Discerning the timing and implementation of the Facility Master Plan

Discerning the timing and implementation of a Celebrate Recovery ministry

Emphasizing a 'defense of our faith' curriculum in Adult Family Bible School

Finishing strong in reading through the Bible in 2009

Assimilating new members

Training servant-leaders

Praise

The Diaconate continued to be amazed and thankful over the way that God showed His love for His church and provided guidance when trusting us to steward His resources. We particularly praised Him for:

Sending new visitors and members to EBC

Calling believers to be baptized at EBC

Allowing us to share in the celebration of marriage with wedding announcements, ceremonies and anniversaries

Providing us with a balanced operating budget as well as steady giving to the Diaconate fund

Providing us with a beautiful church building and skilled hands to provide upkeep

Prayer

Please pray for the Diaconate as we (through God's grace):

Work to fulfill our responsibility to provide spiritual oversight of the church

Support and uphold our Pastor and ministry leaders

Continue to participate in the development and implementation of new tools to improve church-wide communication (e.g., official church web site at *eastonbaptistchurch.org*)

Work closer with the Ministry Council and the newly appointed Ministry Council Coordinator, Larry Anderson

Seek an Administrative Assistant and Prayer Chain Coordinator
Assist Pastor Bob in determining and planning a sabbatical (possibly in 2012)
Continue our own personal servant-leader training throughout the year beginning with the study of *Shepherding the Church: Effective Leadership in a Changing Culture* by Joseph Stowell (Moody).

Bible

The Diaconate strongly encourages you to continue reading through the Bible in 2009. If you started a formal reading plan on January 1, then you only have about 90 days to go! If you haven't started a reading plan, then please start one now – there are a number of plans available (please ask the Diaconate for more information).

The Diaconate is here to serve you, to pray for you and to help you. Please let us know how we can share in God's love with you.

Children's Ministries

Submitted by Laura Tetrault

VBS was held July 6-10th, 2009

Kids jumped into bayou fun at Crocodile Dock where they participated in memorable Bible learning activities, sang catchy songs, played teamwork-building games, dug into yummy treats, experienced electrifying Bible adventures, collected Bible Memory Buddies that remind them of God's Word, and created Bible Point crafts



Kids Club was held on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00pm. The theme was Power Lab where we discovered Jesus' Miraculous Power. Volunteers: Laura Tetrault, Becky Lundberg, Tina Anderson, Heather Sheldon, and Sharon Kolandjian

Children's services were available Sunday mornings:

Nursery – infants to 2 years of age during entire church service

Joy Church – 2 years of age to 5 years of age during entire church service

Junior Church – K – 3rd grade during sermon of church service

Sunday School nursery – infants to preschool from 9:00-10:00 am

Volunteers: Laura Tetrault, Rick and Hannah Tetrault, Becky Lundberg, Heather Sheldon, Michele Vamosi, Marilyn Wright, Diane LaCasse, Carol Rideout, Marcela Ramirez, Missy Cady,

Ruth and Kerran Holmes, Susie Berry, Michelle Knowles, Josh Berry, Steve Lundberg, Frank Meninno, Kim and Clint Beck, Steve Berry, Nancy Marturano, Lauren Scott

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 11

Discipleship Ministries

Submitted by Janet Aronson

This past year our discipleship program focused on knowing and growing in God's Word.. Our FBS courses included studies on 4 of Paul's Letters (Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians), a look at some tough questions of the faith, and a study on the principles behind Celebrate recovery. Our thanks to Pastor Bob, Janet Aronson, Jon and Marnie Hinckley, John Maguire, Rick Tetrault (and the men who taught the men's study), Diane LaCasse, and Larry and Judy Anderson.

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study continued to meet with Sue Foss taking on the leadership. Women's Ministry also had a women's study on Wednesday evenings.

We continued to offer growth groups and had two opportunities this year. We also encouraged people to read through the Bible in 2009. Many people are still working through this.

Our focus on God's word came with a challenge. One person (Marnie Hinckley) attended the studies on all 4 of Paul's letters. Good Job, Marnie!

Our prayers were answered in many ways. Please continue to pray for the discipleship of our congregation and the growth of this team as we focus our next year on defending the faith. We have a great line-up of topics and teachers. Be sure to come out to FBS.

Family Bible School

Submitted by Timothy Nelson, Superintendent

While the leadership role of the ministry changed shortly after the end of the 2007-2008 school year, the momentum of the year was already getting into full swing before the fall with new perspective, new goals, and a new, global mission.

The children's FBS component, consisting of classes for ages Pre-K through Grade 8, grew by a small margin but attendance was fairly consistent. On several occasions, the Grade 3 class was combined with the Grade 4-5 class with joint activities and learning. There was smaller attendance in the Pre-K and Grades 1-3 classes with large attendance in Grades 4-5 and Grades 6-8.

FBS also launched a pilot “internship” program for two teens from the Youth FBS component who were able to balance their time between teaching and attending to their own FBS growth with their peers. The program was successful as it allowed interest to grow into passion, further developing teens with a heart to serve God. The program will remain under review for development purposes.

New curriculum was provided for all grades with an overall positive response. The curriculum was designed to be flexible based on where our Lord led our kids. It also was designed to be easily prepared by our teachers to minimize the scheduling impact on their personal lives. Each week brought something a little different, but also further developed students to expand their horizons and look to new possibilities about what God is all about.

At the end of the FBS school year, a survey was conducted for all students (except Pre-K and K) to review the changes that were made and to help understand what was important and what was “extra.” Following the survey, the FBS team met to discuss and to express the positive and negative aspects of the year.

Shortly after the end of the school year, two vacancies have opened for teaching positions. The positions have since been filled and there has been growing interest in serving.

As a reminder to all, FBS equips people of all ages with a heart for God to learn how to follow Christ and the many ways that people can serve. For it’s critical to keep our eyes open to see the possibilities within our church walls, but more importantly beyond them.

It is with excitement and hope that we are ready to begin another year!

Please feel free to discuss some of those possibilities with EBC leadership.

Men’s Ministries

Submitted by Larry Anderson

The Men's Ministry Team includes Larry Anderson, Ken Berry, Josh Berry, Rob Aronson, Dana DeMoura, and Josh Knowles. We have had a very successful year as we have helped provided the men of our church with opportunities for fellowship with other men, worship, building relationships, and service.

Some of this year’s high lights have been:

- Men's breakfast with Dave Silva, from Compass Point Ministries, as our guest speaker
- Created prayer partners
- Sponsored adult social with Dick Jensen as our quest singer

- Two "Men's Night Out" events for fellowship, dinner, worship, and guest speaker
- Created the Men's Choral singing group
- Workday at Lakeside Camp (built 4 complete bunk-beds)
- Started the EBC Men's Softball Team

We praise God for the opportunities He has provided this past year to serve Him and to Grow in His grace as Christian men.

Missions Team

Submitted by Steve Lundberg

Last October 4th and 5th missionary guests Kevin & Bridget Luce were featured in an EBC Missions Summit. The ladies met with Bridget on Saturday morning. Then on Sunday Kevin helped the adult & high school FBS class understand some truths about Islam and the culture of our Muslim neighbors. In the morning worship service they presented their ministry and suggested how we might become actively involved in similar ways with neighbors less than ten miles from EBC. They conveyed how "global outreach" doesn't require international travel and encouraged us that the Great Commission can be carried-out within our own communities by befriending co-workers and neighbors from other faiths or with other worldviews.

The church family gathered for our annual "Pack 'n' Pray Party" in support of Operation Christmas Child. The result, aside from the fun and fellowship, was that about fifty shoeboxes filled with gifts for children we may never meet were delivered to the OCC distribution center in November.

Beginning this past year on a quarterly basis, we share an update about one of the missionaries we support during the morning worship service. As we continue financially supporting them, we become better-informed prayer supporters focusing on current praises, opportunities, and concerns. An update about the same missionary is then published in EBC's quarterly newsletter for benefit of those not attending.

In March and April the team worked together on a planning tool to help us prepare the annual missions budget. The document sets percentages of total budget for; our Converge partners (NBC & BGC), for "sending" initiatives, and for missionaries & causes. It also suggests pre-planned approach for total budget increases.

As the 2008-2009 year concludes we are more in need of team members than at any time in recent history. Please pray toward this keenly felt need and prayerfully consider offering your

own time, skills, and spiritual gifts, as there are several tasks/projects that we cannot currently undertake.

In the year to come we intend to continue developing tools that will guide the team in stewardship of the church family's giving to local, regional, and world missions initiatives. In these last few months of 2009 we invite your partnership in prayer as we decide whether to host another Missions Summit at EBC or sponsor another Short Term Missions trip to Guatemala or other destination in need. The latter would require a trip leader who would invest some significant time in prayer, planning, and the processes needed to manage such a trip with excellence. We desire to increase the timely, effective communication of the joys and concerns facing the missionaries we support, so that "we", the church family, can respond accordingly and can have a greater sense of partnership in mission.

Missions Team: Clint Beck, Marilyn Wright and Steve Lundberg

Outreach Ministries

Submitted by Nancy Marturano

"Spreading God's Love"

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, According to His power that is at work within us." Ephesians 3:20

Present members are:

Loretta Pinnetti, Donna Avellino, Josh Berry, Tim & Meg Nelson, Jen & Tyler Dawbin, and Nancy Marturano, as leader. We were also happy to add 2 new members to our team, Sue Foss & Hannah Tetrault.

Celebrate Recovery:

We continue to invest the majority of our time preparing for this program. Much prayer and study have been devoted to this venture, as well as attendance at two more conferences this past year. There are nine members (representing four different churches) of our group in training under the leadership of Janet & Rob Aronson. Our tentative goal is to be ready to start in January 2010 on Thursday evenings here at EBC. We ask for continued prayer for this important outreach opportunity.

Other projects this past year:

Annual Church Picnic in September

College/Career attempted two outreach events

Christmas Caroling – at Southeast Rehab in North Easton

"Fireproof" Outreach promotional movie evening

Southeast Rehab, Easton – continue to visit weekly with monthly/Bible/Prayer time

Our Daily Bread – continue to distribute large print copies as well as 12 large print Bibles

Compass Point Ministry – continue to collect food

Showed *"The Passion of the Christ,"* helped with the Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Brunch.

Our service project this year was collecting school supplies for the underprivileged children at the Family Life Center in Brockton.

Upcoming ideas/plans:

Family Life Care – We would like to do further Outreach (reaching out in love) here, possibly teaching our kids about outreach – "kids helping kids"

A Friday night "Family Movie Night"

Women's Ministry "Ladies Spa Evening" outreach opportunity

Sonshiners - Caring Ministries

Submitted by Judy Anderson

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, Giving thanks to God the Father through him." Col.3:17

The Sonshiners – Caring Ministry Team has continued to be an active group within Easton Baptist. It is their privilege to reach out to our church body in practical and encouraging ways.

We have ministered to others by:

Sending cards

Coordinating meals where there is a need

Sending bulletins to those not attending worship services

Visiting shut-ins

Hospital visitations – Boston and local

Phoning with words of encouragement

Ordering flowers for funerals

Helping with collations after funerals when needed

Communion table décor

Providing holiday meals as needed

Assisting other teams when needed e.g. V.B.S., Diaconate Retreat meals, etc.
In Christ we care – In Christ we love – Because He first loved us

Serving Him together, Judy Oliver, Vanda Walsh, Lois Wells, Sally Cornford, Barbara Robbins,
Judy Anderson

Women's Ministries

Submitted by Jennifer Dawbin

H.I.S. (Hearts in Service)

The Women's Ministry kick-off was a mini-conference on being happy.

Last summer (2008) we studied *Jesus the One and Only*.

A Novel Idea Book Club continued to meet and discuss many Christian novels. Some of the best discussions centered on *The Shack* and *Mistaken Identity*.

The morning Wednesday Bible study ladies studied 1 and 2 Thessalonians and Adventures in Prayer in the fall. The evening Wednesday Bible study ladies studied *Believing God* by Beth Moore. Both groups of ladies studied *Esther: Its Tough Being a Woman* by Beth Moore in the spring. This summer both groups have studied *No Other Gods* by Kelly Minter.

We hosted the First Annual Ladies Tea and Fashion Show. The evening was a huge success! The 80+ women and girls in attendance had a great time, and the gospel was proclaimed.

Some of our women attended Living Proof Live (a Beth Moore simulcast) in Warwick, RI August 28th-29th.

Worship Ministries

Submitted by Becky Lundberg

Worship Ministries at Easton Baptist consist of planning and executing all regular and special worship services throughout the course of the year. This includes but is not limited to Sunday AM Worship, Praise Gatherings, Special Holiday services, and sometimes special concerts and events. The team is made up of singers and musicians as well as people with a background in or willingness to learn Sight and Sound technology. It is easy to think of the Worship Team as just those up front, but we are very blessed by capable hands behind the scenes too. It takes all of these to make a service run well.

Those who served this past year are Laura & Jeff Jeffers, Janet & Rob Aronson, Meg Tim Nelson, Crystal King, Steve & Joel Berry, Tom Marturano, Mary Rideout, Josh Berry, Tyler Dawbin, Richard Maguire, Tim Ayres and Becky Lundberg. We will miss Rob & Janet, as both have stepped down and Mary as she is away at college.

Special thanks goes to Clint, Kim & Amanda Beck and David Lee for stepping forward as substitutes when needed. They have done a wonderful job when called upon – thank you so much.

Youth Ministries

Submitted by Meg Nelson

We've enjoyed full year of learning & growing, as well as laughter & fun through weekly meetings & events. As the team of leaders and the demographic of teens have transitioned, an important time of survey and reflection took place to better minister to our beloved teens. Here's a recap of some of the events, and their impact:

- * September kick off- a great time of fellowship, games, and music with the Wellspring Embrace
- * Alter Call 2.0- a meaningful time to gather with teens from around the area
- * Nokturnal All Nighter a wild, sleepless night of games, prizes, roller-skating, bowling, and food centered on a message of the hope of a life in Christ
- * Christmas Musical- Teens participated in acting, music, and dance
- * Alter Call 3.0- a time to gather again with area teens, hosted at EBC with meaningful worship
- * Encounter Winter Retreat- Encountering God through fellowship, worship, and teaching times where we can not only enjoy great activities, but also reflect on where we stand in our relationship with God.

* 30 Hour Famine- Teens fasted from food for 30 hours and went to Lazer Zone along with other fun games. Time was spent in group and personal devotions. As a community service, we gathered and handed out hygiene kits at *The Refuge* in Taunton, as well as preparing the church for the Easter egg hunt. All this, while raising money for the hungry through sponsorships!

* Graduate Honors Praise Gathering- This was a great night to celebrate our high school and college graduates through worship, encouragement, and fellowship.

* Youth Group Finale- A night to celebrate our love for one another, and to be reminded of God's love for us through a cook-out, games, reflection on the year, hearing God's love for us through scripture, and worship with Brian from the Wellspring Embrace.

* Week Of Hope- Newark, NY- 5 teens served on a mission trip in Newark NY, each team member working in different worksites to share Christ's love with the community we were in.

* August Adventures- Wii game night, Pool Party, Golf Country Night, Camp Fire Night

As our team prepares for the new year we have the goals of providing a safe haven for teens, giving them a chance to experience God's love, strengthening relationships amongst both peers and leaders, spiritual growth, and growth as participants in the life of EBC. We are fueled by fun, friendship, and fellowship, and faith.

- end -