

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR REPORT: 2009

I want to begin this report by simply thanking God for His goodness. He has walked with us through a number of challenges and changes, and for that we say, "Thank You"! I also want to express my appreciation to all those that I've had the privilege of ministering with: Bill, Dave, Becky, the Trustee and Deacon Boards, those in the worship ministry, tech ministry, youth ministry, and sports ministry (b-ball). You guys are GREAT! Lastly, I am incredibly thankful for the congregation that God is at work in. You make serving here at EBC a joy!

My year was again filled with many ministry opportunities. My normal week consists of administration with the staff, making and responding to phone calls and e-mails, Tuesday morning small group, youth lesson preparations, leading music and sharing a devotional for Wednesday night prayer meeting, Sunday service planning, communicating with my worship team and youth leaders via e-mail, learning and writing new music, Thursday night vocal rehearsals, multimedia preparations for Sunday mornings, Saturday basketball, Saturday morning/afternoon band rehearsals, leading worship in two services on Sunday, and Sunday night youth group.

Other aspects of my ministry include: staff meetings, board meetings, leading a small group, entertaining people at our home, youth leader's meetings, occasionally meeting people for breakfast and lunch, planning and carrying out monthly youth events, visiting people, officiating funerals, writing updates for the newsletter, proofreading the bulletin, heading up the sound committee, maintaining and upgrading our A/V/L equipment, counseling, assisting with membership classes, teaching the baptismal class, helping baptize, and preaching in Bill's absence.

Some highlights from this year include:

- Hosting our first annual EBC Talent Night
- Taking the youth to a food shelter in Cleveland
- The Grand Opening Weekend Celebration
- Attending the Moody Pastor's Conference in Chicago
- Taking the youth to Cedar Point in July
- Hosting a couple's night - showing the movie Fireproof
- Worship Night and Shaun Easton in Concert
- Attending Seminar 4 Worship Conference in Cleveland
- Leading Christmas Eve Services (over 1,000 people in attendance!)
- On a personal note, a huge highlight for Brooke and I was buying our first home!

As I look ahead this year, there are a number of goals that I have. Most of my goals involve getting others plugged into regular ministry at the church. If you are gifted and feel God calling you to use these gifts at EBC, there may be something here for you.

- I would like to continue to expand and train our tech team. The responsibilities of this team include mixing sound, running the Easyworship presentation software, setting/adjusting stage lighting, and eventually video recording weekly messages. We have a number of dedicated men involved in this ministry on Sundays, and I am extremely grateful for their service! What we need are people (men and women) that are willing to serve on Tuesday and Wednesday evening as well. If you have experience in any or all of these areas and would like to serve in this ministry, please let me know.

- I would also like to establish a team of people responsible for decorating the stage throughout the year. This will include decorating for the holiday seasons, but I would like to make our stage a bit more "easy on the eyes" all year round. Music stands, cables, and microphone cords just aren't that inspiring to look at.
- I am gaining the courage to organize some type of theatrical production. I'd love to see those in our congregation with experience in theatre (production, set design, acting, singing, etc.) put these gifts to good use for the sake of Christ. I'll keep you posted as this develops.
- This year, I am making it a VERY high priority to record live music. I am extremely grateful for the many who ask if/when we are going to make a CD. My goal is to begin capturing the worship that happens on Sunday mornings (yes, the congregation will be recorded as well, so sing pretty). I will be purchasing some equipment that will make this possible. My hope is that toward the middle to end of this year, we will have recorded 10 to 12 quality songs that we can proudly put on CD. PLEASE pray for this endeavor!

My desire is to continue to strive after God and His will for my life and this ministry. I want to be completely open to His leading through the Bible and the Holy Spirit. Let's embrace God's will in 2010 and be open to whatever He wants to do in us and through us. The hope is that eternity will be greatly impacted as a result of our seeking after God!

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Christian