



ALLIANCE BIBLE CHURCH

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted for the Annual Meeting of the Members
January 26th, 2020

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Annual Meeting of the Members 2019

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members of Alliance Church of Bartlett

Sunday, January 20, 2019

<u>Chair Person:</u>	Dave Mileusnich
<u>Attendance:</u>	36 members in attendance
<u>Call to order:</u>	The meeting was opened with prayer at 11:27 am.
<u>Agenda:</u>	The agenda was unanimously approved as submitted
<u>Tellers:</u>	Two tellers were chosen from among the members. Gary Miller and Karen Novak were approved unanimously.

Review and Acceptance of Reports:

Questions and comments regarding reports were entertained.

- Tom Coley gave a short summary of The 5:30. It is intended to be evangelistic and focused on teens to twenty-somethings.
- Gary called on the women of the church to give their input on decorating of the women's room.
- Concern about the church cleaning schedule was voiced. That question was answered as part of the budget discussion.
- Children's ministry: Nancy Palpant voiced a need for workers. There were several volunteers.
- A question arose as to how missions are funded. John Palpant and Dave Mileusnich answered that missions are supported from offerings that are over and above regular giving to the ministry of the local church.
- The Great Commission Fund (GCF) or missions can be supported financially by writing a note indicating the amount to be given to the GCF or missions in the memo line of checks or through online giving.
- Gary and Peg Miller are committing to starting a second Q-place with a view toward training another leader or two in order to expand the number of Q-place groups.

The reports, as submitted, were accepted by unanimous vote.

Report of the Nominating Committee and Election: A slate of nominees was presented by the nominating committee. There were no changes nor were there additional nominations. The slate of nominees was voted on as nominated with the

Annual Meeting of the Members 2019

understanding that the Head Deacon will only serve the second year of the current term.

- Recording secretary: Rev. Donald Romano
- Elders: Phil Jupp was elected to serve another term. The balance of the elders will consist of Dave Mileusnich, Jonathan Garth Xander, Pastor Don and incoming lead Pastor Alex Culpepper.
- Asst. Treasurer: Kevin Schillinger
- Head Deacon: Scott Nowacowski (to serve the second year of the current term)

A motion to direct the secretary to enter a unanimous vote passed.

All nominees were elected unanimously.

Review and Approval of the Report of the Budget Committee: Dave introduced the proposed budget entertaining questions and comments as the conversation proceeded.

2019 proposed budget –

Dave Mileusnich introduced the proposed budget entertaining questions and comments as the conversation proceeded. Lynn Mileusnich joined Dave for clarification on some specific questions.

Pastor Don and Debbie were dismissed for discussion on Associate Pastor Allowance.

There was some discussion about whether Pastor Don will be doing any training of Alex and whether that would call for additional compensation for Pastor Don. The Elders will keep an eye on what transpires and make recommendations as deemed appropriate.

Budget Vote: A motion was made to approve the budget as proposed. The ballots were distributed and the vote taken.

Tellers Report: The Proposed Budget Passed Unanimously

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:49 pm by unanimous vote.

Submitted,

Rev. Donald L Romano Jr.
Secretary



2019 Leadership Reports

2019 Associate Pastor's Report

Report of the Associate Pastor to the Congregation Alliance Bible Church of Bartlett, Illinois January, 2020

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart... [for] you all are partakers of grace with me." Philippians 1:2-7

One year ago, we were looking forward to welcoming a new Lead Pastor and family to our fellowship. In some ways it is hard to believe that an entire year has already flown by. In other ways it seems like Alex and Andrea have been with us for much longer than that. For Debbie and I it has been a great privilege and joy both getting to know and walking with Alex and Andrea through this first year of what the Lord is doing.

One year ago, we were asking, "Where will God lead us from here? What will things be like around here with Alex on staff? What kind of new and exciting activities and ministries will be formed?" It is quite a blessing that God has sent us a lead pastor who shares the ministry values of the congregation and its leadership. We are blessed that Pastor Alex displays a love for and passion toward God's Word and places a high priority on presenting and explaining it as part of our regular worship gatherings. We are blessed that he possesses a heart to see Christ formed in the lives of His children and disciples. Mostly, we are blessed at the way Alex keeps Christ as the center of every message.

One year ago, we were experiencing an increased sense of our need to and devotion toward prayer together. That sense and devotion were expressed through great participation in praying together on Sunday mornings. Whereas I am blessed to be able to report that there is an increased effort to pray for our community, expressed in weekly walks through the neighborhoods as some of us pray for the needs of our neighbors, I must also report a huge decline in the total number of people gathering to pray. A year ago, we were regularly seeing upwards of 20 people praying together on Sunday morning. Now it is unusual to see more than a handful.

One year ago, I stated that "I believe, too that the revival of prayer will lead to revived... everything -renewed excitement, renewed passion for the Lord and His kingdom; renewed willingness to serve; renewed energy to serve; renewed vision, purpose, hope, fellowship. There is no part of what the Lord does in us that will not benefit from increasing desire to pray and seek the Lord's direction, honor, provision and blessing. We stand at the verge of a new

2019 Associate Pastor's Report

effectiveness. DO NOT STOP PRAYING TOGETHER! Just as [Isaiah 55:6-13] indicates, the whole of creation will rejoice in what the Lord brings forth from us."

One year later I am moved to ask, "Do we lack prayer?" I cannot say. Ask yourself, "Am I praying like one year ago?"

What I can say is that we are not praying TOGETHER as we did a year ago. Again, ask yourself, "Am I excited about our future like I was one year ago? Are we focused in one direction like one year ago? Are we expressing passion and energy to serve like one year ago? Is hope being restored? Are lives being changed? Is there joy in serving? Is worship as vibrant? Is your personal outlook as bright?

If there is any sense that our effectiveness or excitement, our passion or intensity, our service or fellowship, our joy or hope has waned in the past year, it is likely connected to diminished "together" in our praying.

If you have been around here for any length of time I may be sounding like a broken record but, I am so convinced of the need to pray together and of what we lack when we do not pray together that I find it hard to focus on anything else when it does not happen. Am I setting too high a standard and calling us to an impossible mission or level of achievement? I don't think so.

It is not that I am unsatisfied. It is that the flesh is both weak and deceptive. We too easily grow satisfied with the things we can accomplish by ourselves and forsake the doing of great things or God's rich supply.

We are not a great people, but we do have a great God and Savior. It is he who builds a house for His name and, "unless the Lord builds the house, (guides the ministry, empowers the work, prepares the harvest, draws the lost, strengthens the weary, heals the sick, watches between us while we are absent one from another and walks with us through the most difficult days), unless the Lord builds the house, he labors in vain who builds it."

So much for the state of the union. What has marked my involvement in the past year?

My energy has continued to be focused in a few areas in 2019. One area that has been a particular focus for me is simply getting to know Alex, exploring the ideas he brings to the table and working together to understand how those ideas might become part of the overall ministry plan for ABC. Walking with him through that process has been a constant source of refreshing this past year. As I grow to know him better I am ever more thankful for his presence and influence here.

I recently took on the role of Community Group Director (we used to say small groups, now we say community groups). Although development of that role has been slow in taking shape, I am excited about what that looks like as part of an overall philosophy of developing Christ-followers who work together to restore hope to all people (we used to say discipleship now, we say developing Christ-followers). There is still a lot of work for the pastors and elders to do as we continue to develop our overall plan and identify measurable outcomes but I am very impressed with the Community Groups we currently have in place and the amount of growth coming out of them. We are seeing Bible knowledge increase, personal faith being more firmly rooted and grounded; we are exploring what it means to be both image bearers and witnesses of the grace of God for our generation; in short, we are growing in our discipleship, firm following of Christ and, our influence is growing in areas hard to imagine. We have influence in every workplace and community center represented in this congregation. We have a presence and influence in local colleges, both secular and sacred. The Christ-followers we are developing here are beginning to shape the beliefs of their peers and co-workers. Those lacking a framework for life and gaining hope. Those venues have global influence.

Therefore, it is not a throw-back to previous years, but an important element in moving forward: "We have a message that gives life and hope to the lost. That message is best planted in an atmosphere of love and it germinates and grows best in the soil of grace and watered by showers of prayer." Those are the qualities we intend to infuse in our Community Groups as we continue to develop Christ-followers through those ministries.

Those are the things we will be communicating as we preach, "whether from the front of the church on Sunday morning or from the checkout line at the grocery store, or from the keyboard as we pass through the virtual world of social media. Wherever we go, to whomever we speak, in whatever medium we communicate, life-giving words, sown in grace, fertilized with mercy and soaked in prayer must come from our lives."

Debbie and I have found it to be a source of blessing to us to have served this community for another year, especially alongside such devoted and faithful men as Pastor Alex, your elders, Phil Jupp, John Palpant, Garth Xander and Dave Mileusnich and their wives Andrea, Doreen, Nancy, Sue and Lynn. It has been an equal joy to see how many of the rest of you also serve in one way or another. Thank you for your faithfulness.

As always and ever, thank you for serving next to me and making me look good, my beloved bride Debbie. Thank you, my love for all your fierce love and support. I still strive to be a husband to you in the image of Christ.

May He every bless all of you as you seek His face.

Respectfully submitted;

Rev. Donald L. Romano Jr.
Assoc. Pastor

2019 Trustee Report

The 2019 year started off with many challenges. On Pastor Alex's first day, he walked into a flood which was caused by a frozen pipe in what would be his office. After seeing the mess, he still accepted the keys and he actually stayed.

Flood Restoration

The flood restoration has been very time consuming and challenging. New insulation and drywall was installed in the main office, the Pastor's office, nursery, bathrooms, hallway, and 1st floor classroom. Pastor's office also required new flooring. The nursery and classroom had new carpet installed. A fresh coat of paint was done throughout most of the main floor and new vinyl base was installed. New vanities were installed in both bathrooms and the nursery. Many thanks go out to John Palpant, Nik Pofert, and Pastor Alex for all of their hard work.

LED Lighting

Most of the inside 2' X 4' ceiling lights were upgraded to LED early in 2019. More LED lighting work had been done in the upstairs classrooms later in the year. All of the flood lights in the sanctuary have been replaced with LED bulbs. Thank you to Scott Nowakowski for his help with the additional lighting work.

In early 2020, the parking lot lighting will be upgraded with new LED fixtures.

Work Days

We had two work days this year. The spring work day was a big success because so many people showed up to help. We didn't have as much participation in the fall, but much was still accomplished. As usual, work day is a good time to get a lot of outdoor work done. Tree branches were trimmed all around the property making it easier to cut the lawn closer to the trees. Bushes were trimmed, weeding, and mulch placed around the parking lot and front of the building. And of course the ongoing chore of trimming and spraying the grass along the fence line around the entire property. The windows in the offices and sanctuary were washed. Thank you to everyone who helped on both workdays. I would like to extend a special thanks to Sue Xander for her hard work in completing the trimming of the bushes around the entire parking lot.

Lawn Cutting

We put a new lawn mower into service this year! New equipment makes the chore of lawn cutting more enjoyable when dependable equipment is available. Many new volunteers helped

with the lawn cutting chores this year. This really helps take the burden off the few who have helped in past years. Thanks to all of you who helped this year.

2020 Projects

There are a few major projects that are being recommended for the next year.

One of the biggest concerns is the repair and painting of the ceiling in the sanctuary. This project will require quotes from a professional contractor. The sanctuary is also due to be painted this spring. Next, the roof needs some attention. There are missing and or mismatched shingles. Also, directly behind the building, just outside the back door are our heating and AC units. The fence that protects this area has suffered from rotted posts and blown down sections of fencing. This is a rather large undertaking so for this reason, it is recommended that a new fence be installed by a professional contractor. The lower portion of the shed siding has rotted because of the splashing of the water run off when it rains. This allows for many little critters to nest in the shed. For that reason, the siding needs to be replaced. Gutters and down spouts should be added to eliminate the splashing that caused the siding to rot.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Miller
Nik Poferl

2019 Deaconess Report

Weekly/ Monthly Services:

- **Sunday Coffee Services** – A schedule was set up with Volunteers so that coffee for each Sunday is covered. If that person is absent there are alternates that they can call upon to fill in for that time.
- The volunteers are: Nancy Palpant/ Peg Miller/ Jai Romano/ Zeke Romano/ Laura Kretz/ Sandi Kemper/ Lynn Mileusnich/ Nik and Grace Pofert/ Rita Papaleo/Vicky Savino.
- The Alternates are: Amanda Mileusnich, Vicky Savino/ and Sue Xander. (Thank you to each person)
- **Communion Service Preparation** continues to be provided by Norma Verhulst and Diane Weeks. (Thank you!)
- **Kitchen Supply Shopping** – I keep watch on the various supplies as well as Debbie Romano helping out with the Kitchen/ coffee supplies.
- **Church Building Cleaning** - There was a cleaning schedule where 12 groups of people rotated in cleaning the church. Karen Pontarelli had cleaned the church for quite some time and now Nik Pofert cleans the church. Thank you to all for help to keep God's house clean!

Other services performed:

- Help to set up for Christmas for the church, Grace Pofert and her team are now in charge.
- Keep all bulletin boards updated.
- Send notes to every visitor
- Participate Crossroads at Sycamore Trail School
- Help out with each Fri-Daze
- Make sure that the Kitchen is cleaned up as well as supply water for all occasions at the church
- Set up for the Church Christmas Party.

2019 Deaconess Report

Yearly Events

- Coordinated Annual Christmas party with the help of Karen Pontarelli, Peg Miller and Jenna Coley! So grateful for their help! Also additional helpers this year were Renee Schaffer and Beth Brown, even my mom, Jeanette Bertagnoli was a huge help! So many contributed as well as Rita Papaleo! It was an amazing time! We had the party with contributions from both Spanish Churches! It was a true time of fellowship!. Everyone helped set up and clean up! Thank you!
- Each year for the last 3 or more years, the church has been a part of the Operation Shoebox ministry. This is a ministry through Samaritan's Purse. Each year there have been more and more shoeboxes filled. This year tops them all with 80 shoeboxes!

Deaconess Care Report:

- Flowers sent to Alex and Andrea Culpepper for the birth of their baby girl, Autumn in March.
- Flowers sent to Alex's aunt who passed away in September 2019.
- Flowers sent to Scott Hamilton's funeral, friend of Laura Kretz.
- Flowers sent for Karen Pontarelli's mom's (Mary Patricia Knapp) funeral.
- Flowers sent for Donna Rourke's neurosurgery

This next year I look forward to working with Peg Miller, an amazingly organized and gifted woman to help me in the many tasks at hand.

It is an honor to serve in God's House,

Sue Xander, Deaconess

2019 Deacon Report

The Deacons at Alliance Bible Church which consists of Phil Jupp, Ray Mysliwiec, and myself, Scott Nowakowski, administer the Benevolent Fund, which serves as a method to help meet the physical needs of our congregation and the people within our community.

Last year I said that 2018 was an atypical year because requests from the community were down and requests from the congregation outnumbered the community. This year it was about 50/50 when it came to requests. Some families in the congregation were helped because you, their church family, informed us of certain needs and we were able to lighten their burdens with financial help. When this happens it warms our hearts to know that you are watching out for each other.

Several requests required discussion and all requests required discernment. We turned down some requests for various reasons which can be difficult as many see the church as an open checkbook and when we say "no" there is always the chance that it can build a wall between that person or family and God and they may see "the church" as unloving or uncaring. The fact is that we can not support poor lifestyles or allow ourselves to become part of a cycle of poor choices.

Last year I also said that "Going into the new year, I believe our greatest challenge will be to find an individual that would be interested in taking over this ministry when my term is over." That challenge was not as difficult as I had thought it would be. Ray Mysliwiec has agreed to take over as head deacon. I have served as a deacon for over 15 years and have to admit I have become somewhat cynical of many people in the community which is why I believe it is necessary for me to step back in my role as head deacon. I am not proud of this but I am being honest. I believe that under Ray's guidance and leadership we will see the benevolent ministry brought to a new level.

As for Mr. Jupp, words cannot describe how he has been a blessing to this ministry. He has always been available for follow-up calls to people and often took responsibility to contact people when I could not.

I want to thank both Ray and Phil for their dedication to this ministry!

I want to end by saying that it is because of your generous giving to the benevolent fund that this church has been able to touch many lives this year and on behalf of them I would like to say, "Thank you!"

We will continue to serve others on your behalf.

Sincerely,

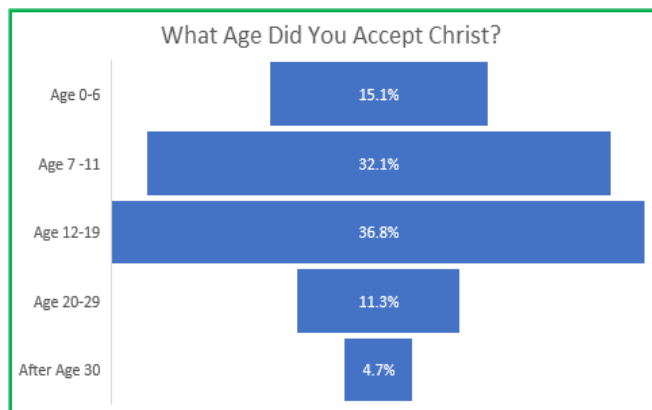
Scott Nowakowski

2019 Children's Ministry Report

"We will not hide these truths from our children;
we will tell the next generation
about the glorious deeds of the Lord,
about his power and his mighty wonders.
For he issued his laws to Jacob;
he gave his instructions to Israel.
He commanded our ancestors
to teach them to their children,
so the next generation might know them—
even the children not yet born—
and they in turn will teach their own children.
So each generation should set its hope anew on God,
not forgetting his glorious miracles
and obeying his commands."
Psalm 78:4-7

Children's Ministry

The verses above contain a mandate to tell or teach our next generation. As our church works with children from ages 0 to 12 every Sunday, volunteers may work with 0 to 10 students. This ministry is important even if there is only one. Why? The organization called Children's Ministry surveyed Christian ministry leaders on what age he or she accepted Christ. The graph at the right points out the importance of reaching our own kids and others from ages of 0 to 12. In this same report, parents were most influential to bringing the person to accept Christ and 29% of those interviewed listed Christian ministry programs as a factor in making their decision. What our church does for kids matters! So what have we accomplished and where are we going?



Kid's Church

From January to September, teachers exposed students to Bible Stories using themes of Animal Safari, Bugs, and SuperBook to help create interest and incorporate salvation messages. During the Fall, students were learning the Books of the Old Testament with their stories. December

2019 Children's Ministry Report

was centered around reviewing the OT books and the Christmas story. Using these themes, our purpose was to expose students to more Bible stories, apply knowledge to their lives, use the Bible as a tool, and give parents a tool(worksheet) to help develop the child's understanding at home during the week. Our faithful volunteers include Tommy Coley, John Palpant, Peg Miller, Amanda Mileusnich, Lisa Dimilio, Nancy Palpant, Ray Mysliwec, and Bev Mysliwec. Han Chung, Kayli Elizondo, and Sarah Mileusnich helped when teachers have asked. There has also been children's bulletins for two age groups during the service.

Children's ministry has become more than a story. Teachers have worked on making the environment safe, the space engaging, linking lessons to home, and being consistent from week to week even though we have different teachers. They have done a wonderful job in communicating to the students and to each other to make the program work smoothly.

Nursery

Wow! For all the people who helped put the temporary nursery in place in less than 3 weeks, THANK YOU. To our volunteers (who quickly signed up and trained) and Andrea (who heads up the nursery), God bless you. Our nursery is clean, inviting, and practical.

Every Sunday since September 15th, two volunteers work with children from ages 0 to 4 years old. (Older children in the nursery can be dismissed with Kid's Church to go upstairs and participate in the lesson.) Our wonderful volunteers include Jenna Coley, Andrea Culpepper, Rita Papaleo, Grace Pofert, Karen Pontarelli, Chris Nowakowski, Debbie Romano, Chelsea Schillinger, Judi White, and Arianna Wink. Each volunteer creates a safe environment and pours out love that impacts the smallest of our congregation. This culture sets up children for later lessons about God.

Looking forward to this next year, you'll be seeing the kids serving on some Sunday Mornings, added workers, volunteer training sessions, the nursery moved, and the ministry developed. Would you like to do your part for the next generation? Pray for kids and teachers, volunteer a Sunday, thank volunteers, ask a child what they learned today, and help with special projects. Each one of us as part of the church can help parents with the mandate from Psalm 78.

Nancy Palpant

2019 Crossroads Kids' Clubs Report

A TALE OF TWO SCHOOLS AND TWO SEMESTERS.

HORIZON ELEMENTARY

SPRING 2019.....ENROLLMENT about 28in grades 3-6

Staff: Robin Emmering, Lynn Mileusnich, Ray and Bev Mysliwec, Doreen and Phil Jupp

Lessons: The Names of God

FALL 2019.....ENROLLMENT about 16.....in grades 3-6

Staff: Ray and Bev Mysliwec and Doreen and Phil Jupp

Lessons: Growing in Wisdom

SYCAMORE TRAILS ELEMENTARY

SPRING 2019.....ENROLLMENT about 30.....in grades K-6

Staff: Debbie Romano, Sue Xander, John Pal pant, Doreen and Phil Jupp,

FALL 2019.....ENROLLMENT 48.....in grades K-6

Staff: Debbie Romano, Lynn Mileusnich, Lynnea Mileunich, Judi White, Sue Xander, Pastor Alex Culpepper, Doreen and Phil Jupp

We are very thankful for the dedicated, loving staff for our clubs. We also are thankful for the baking skills and generosity of Tish Jepsen who faithfully supplies treats for the kids every week. We are also thankful for the congregation of ABC which keeps these ministries in their prayers. We are also thankful for the principals and office staff at both schools who have been very encouraging and helpful.

The children have been cooperative and engaged and full of energy! At least 10 of them have made professions of faith and committed their lives to Christ!

In addition to the weekly meetings.....September through mid-May.....we have had 3 parties and about 4 times a year we have the STORE. At the STORE kids get to pick a prize related to points they have gained for adhering to the Club Code.

Submitted by Phil Jupp,
CrossRoads Coordinator

2019 International Worker Report

C&MA's International Workers (Missions)



"We Are Part of Something Great!"

C&MA's national Mission Statement declares:

*We desire to know Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer,
and Coming King and to complete His Great Commission.*

Our purpose centers here, whether the worldwide work of the Alliance, the tasks at hand through ABC, or hopefully as individuals living out our faith daily. Mission ultimately looks at each individual & asks,

"How can I help others know Jesus fully.... today?"

As part of the Christian & Missionary Alliance, we can impact the world. This is a core of who we are. Our activities in 2019 were limited, but impactful.

- In April, we held a Missions Emphasis weekend, welcoming Tim & Hannah Lennox, who serve the Kurdish people. They beautifully represent the commitment the Alliance shows persevering for unreached peoples.
- Nationally, the U.S. Alliance sent 60 new workers overseas. These amazing people are well trained, courageously obedient and boldly venturing into new territory, speaking the native language of the people they serve!
- Here at ABC, you reversed a 5-year decline in Missions giving by abundantly investing in the Great Commission Fund. In fact, giving raised to its highest level in 10 years! Praise God for your faithfulness here.

For 2020, by the time we hold our Annual Meeting, we will have completed another Missions Emphasis Weekend. Jonathan Eisfeld and family serve in China in Leadership Training. Again, they well represent the youthful future of International Workers living for Christ and working within the Alliance.

The Alliance maintains great leadership, faithful stewardship and a wealth of willing, next generation, highly trained workers ready to follow Christ's Commission. Let's continue to invest in them and God's work, while working faithfully here at home. Our hearts desire to see ABC flourish, so let's trust in our Lord, do good, dwell in His land and cultivate faithfulness. (Psalm 37:3-5)

We ARE part of something great! Let's continually embrace the opportunity.

John Palpant

2019 International Worker Report

Missions Giving Record

Each year, we include this report, this year showing an 11-year historical trend of our giving to Missions. Our goal has been to target 10% of ABC's General Fund actual giving towards the Great Commission Fund (GCF), the Alliance fund for serving our workers worldwide.

YOU BEAUTIFUL & GENEROUS PEOPLE REVERSED OUR DIRECTION!

As shown in the table below, we can be generous. Let's continue to prayerfully ask God about our responsibility. The Alliance has long-held financial accountability, so you can be assured your investment moves forward as well used stewardship!

Year	GCF	General Fund	Percentage of GF
2009	13,866	172,723	8.0%
2010	11,887	173,688	6.8%
2011	9,607	166,071	5.8%
2012	9,185	154,762	5.9%
2013	9,818	164,320	6.0%
2014	8,228	168,546	4.9%
2015	10,580	160,681	6.6%
2016	9,110	164,964	5.5%
2017	7,354	154,660	4.8%
2018	5,808	151,783	3.8%
2019	12,896	160,324	8.0%

Why Give to the GCF?

The greatness of this fund lies in Jesus' Great Commission. Its greatness is not based on the words He spoke but in the love He shared. Jesus' Great Commission demonstrates His extravagant and sacrificial love.

The Great Commission Fund (GCF) helps the Alliance family share this love with a lost and dying world. When you give, you partner with Alliance workers who shine the light of Jesus into the lives of those living in spiritual darkness.

Learn so much more at CMAlliance.org

2019 Ushers and Greeters Report

Dear Alliance Bible Church,

Below is our roster of faithful Ushers & Greeters:

Bev, Diane, Garth, Grace, Judi, Nik, Norma, Ray, Renee, Rita, Sandi, Sue, Vicky

These servants have been faithful through all of 2019. And they don't just show up, but they come with smiles and determination to minister to both visitors and regular attenders.

Usher & Greeter ministry is not for just anybody. It really needs a level of spiritual maturity so that the worker knows that their ministry is about others, not themselves. It requires a caring spirit that is warm towards others and willing to help.

It has been well said by many church experts that first-time visitors will often come back based upon how they felt as they entered the church. Were the people friendly? Did they make me feel important? Did they ignore me? Did the church members stand in huddles that made me feel left out? I believe our crew has helped many people feel both important & welcome!!

What do the Ushers & Greeters do? Here is a list of duties:

- Be in positions by 9:40 am on Sunday
- Greet people that are entering the church
- Hand out bulletins
- Answer questions that people may have
- Ask visitors to sign the guest book
- Help people find a seat
- Help people with special needs. (walk with them, rearrange chairs, etc.)
- Let visitors know where things are; bathroom, sanctuary, coffee, etc.
- Keep an eye on anything suspicious and report it to the Security Team
- Collect the offerings

2019 Ushers and Greeters Report

- Count the offerings. Two people always count and sign the offering receipt for accountability purposes. (Note: the fronts of checks are not read by ushers. Ushers do not know who gave or how much was given.)
- Serve communion
- Available for needs within the service; Pastor needs, spills, open and close sanctuary doors at the beginning and end of service, etc.
- Other duties as assigned

I want to thank our Ushers & Greeters for being so faithful! God will reward their service and will bless our church because of it! I also thank the many members that have stepped in during times when our Usher & Greeter ministry just needed a little extra help. I am very grateful for our church.

In His service,

Brother Garth Xander

2019 Gatekeepers (Security) Report

Several years ago people could go to church and worship and feel safe, however within the last few years churches have become targets for mass shootings which has cost loss lives of men, women and children. This had become a concern to Garth and myself (Ray) and after prayer and thinking how this could affect the safety of our church family and visitors a NEW ministry called "Gate Keepers" was formed.

The name "Gate Keepers was taken from 2 Chronicles 8:14. It was not only designed for active shooter response but in 2020 we will be expanding it to include a fire or storm event as well. At present our team members are Zeke, Garth, Tommy and Ray.

We have measures in place to give our church members and visitor's peace of mind. For example, our doors are locked shortly after 10 am so that no one can enter unless until a team member lets them in. Doors upstairs that are not normally used are checked during the service. Walkie talkies are issued to team members should an issue arise. When children's church is in session as well as nursery the leaders also are issued walkie talkies.

We have budgeted in 2020 (pending member approval) outdoor cameras that will provide a 360 degree view of our church property day or night. These should be installed in the springtime.

Pastor Alex talked with an officer from the Bartlett Police Dept. and after explaining some of our measures we currently have in place. The officer replied that he wished more churches would do the same. We are constantly looking for ways to improve methods and systems that are in place thus far.

If you have any suggestions please let our security team members know as your suggestions are appreciated. Our ministry mission is taken very seriously. We have our eyes on the doors of our church (while we have adult worship downstairs) moms, dads and grandparents can rest assured their children upstairs are safe as well. If you would like to know about how to be a team member in this vital ministry once a month, please talk to Ray or Garth. We hope that more insight to this ministry and makes your family safe and secured at ABC.

The "Gate Keepers" Team

2019 Ministry in Music Report

Zephaniah 3:17

"The Lord your God in the midst of you is mighty;
A victorious Warrior
He will save,
He will rejoice over you with joy;
He will rest in His love,
He will joy over you with singing."

Psalm 32:7

"You are my hiding place:
You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah."

Wow, take a few moments and try to wrap your mind around the fact that the Lord rejoices over you with singing and even surrounds you with songs of deliverance. Have you ever wondered where music came from? In Job chapter 38: 4-7 the Lord asks, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who set its measurements, since you know? Or who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" If I am not mistaken, I believe the morning stars and sons of God were the angels. Hum...singing as the earth was created. I wonder if the Lord lead the choir or the angels just copied the tune He was humming?

I say all of this to remind us all that when we sing on a Sunday morning, together, we are actually joining the songs that are already filling the air since before time on earth began. Sometimes our songs are songs of praise and celebration. Other times they are songs of reverence and contemplation. Sometimes the words and tunes just pour out of our grateful hearts. Other times they are truly sacrifices of praise. We sing to the Lord, with the Lord, with the angels and with His people all over the world since time on earth began. Pretty amazing, huh?

So, I want to thank the whole worship and AV team for helping us to do this week after week after week. I hear no complaining. Tireless, that is the word I can use this year. And what joy to have Pastor Alex join us with voice and guitar! Arianna helps out from time to time. Mr and Mrs Jupp, Lynn and Dave Mileusnich, Gary Miller, Pastor Don, Ezekiel and Jessica Romano, Luke Nowakowski, Nik Pofert, John Palpant, Karen Ponterelli and our newest star....Gavin. I am sure I am forgetting someone.

We still introduce one new song a month. I have learned that too many new songs all at once can cause congregations to stop singing. We still blend old and new.

2019 Ministry in Music Report

Keep praying that the Lord will raise up even more to play and sing together on Sundays. Up until now, most of who we have mentored have moved on to other churches. I guess we are more a mentoring and sending worship team than a stay in house one.

One last thing, did you know that all Sunday the Lord hears praise from His people as we share His building with 2 other churches? How wonderful is this? Prayer and praise all day right in this building!

Rejoicing in Singing,

Debbie Romano

2019 Wise Guys Report

It has been "1" year since the vision of Wise Guys started as a ministry for the men of our church to get to know each other, meeting every other week for breakfast as well as having fun and fellowship.

We started with only a couple of men meeting for breakfast and now we are averaging about 7 per week and we have had as many as 11. This was not meant as a bible study nor a small group but a way of men enjoying satisfying breakfast with great service and interesting conversation as well.

I would like also to thank Tish Jepsen for her faithfulness in bringing Tom almost every week when we meet.

If you haven't been to "Wise Guys" I would encourage all men to at least come out when you can. Since we meet early in the morning it doesn't interfere with most family plans or our honey do list which we all have. If you don't know men in our church this is a great time to meet us in an informal and relaxed way.

We meet every other Saturday from 8 AM to 9:30 at The Bloomindale Cafe 24w507 lake street, Roselle IL. Hope to see you there!!

2019 Community Groups Reports

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study is such an amazing time where we have several things going on. There is a card ministry in which we send cards to people in the church as well as others that need of encouragement as well as are sick' or for a loss in their life! The Bible is full of letters, and so we send letters to ones in need.

Every year we fill shoeboxes for Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse. This year we had 80 shoe boxes! This went up from 61 last year! A huge increase! Contributions made were via the Ladies Bible Study ladies, co workers, church families, and Q-Place families! Truly an effort on every end! Next year we hope to have even more!

Our Bible Study is facilitated by Vicky Savino and Sue Xander.

In January of 2019 we began with A Video Series called "Anxious for Nothing" by Max Lucado. This was a 5 week study. Right after that we did a Video Series with Lysa Terkeurst : "Its Not Supposed to Be This Way. We even did a Women's Bible Study in the Summer in which it was more of a relaxed series and setting being every other [Thursday](#). That series was called: Goliath Must Fall. A great series! It was well attended for a summer series. The summer studies were the ladies ideas so that we could keep growing! This Series was one by Louie Giglio! In the Fall of 2019 we embarked on a video series by Tony Evans called "The Power of God's Names". We ended the year with a series by Andy Stanley called "Starting Over". Truly a life changing series!

We have what I call a core group of women who come and who are growing in the Lord in amazing ways. We have had visitors who have come via the website or by personal invitations! We bring our own treats and supply our own coffee and utensils, as well as the dvd series'. Vicky is a joy to work with and is growing in every way! I am grateful for all who attend how each one helps to set up and clean up!

The Ladies Bible study also hosted a monthly fun evenings for the ladies which include movie nights, craft nights, we have times where we meet at restaurants and even have gone to concerts. This year for the first time we did a Ladies Spring Luncheon. It was a tremendous turnout and I believe it was a very special time for women of our church who also invited others to feel loved and appreciated. During this luncheon we had a baby shower for our New Pastor's Wife, Andrea. The baby was already born, but we really wanted to show love to her and her family! God is doing something great in the women of this church. I see it and I believe there is so much more to come because we serve a God who never stops working!

Sincerely,
Sue Xander

NOWAKOWSKI HOME GROUP

There are 10 people attending our study on Tuesday evenings at our home. We will be wrapping up in January. Our study is on a book called Counter Culture by David Platt. It discusses how to follow Christ in an anti-Christian age where right and wrong are no longer measured by universal truth but by popular opinion. It covers difficult topics such as homosexuality, abortion, poverty, sex slavery and more.

The question is, "How are we supposed to respond?" Our group has been challenged by what we've read and recognize that there is much work to be done. Many of the topics are very "heavy" and the idea of jumping in to get involved can often feel overwhelming because we want to do it all but we know that is impossible. We have concluded that each of us needs to pray and see what issue God lays on our hearts and then take a step of faith and get involved as He leads. We also have discussed how we need to pray and ask God if there is a topic which He wants us to take on as a church body.

We are excited to see what God reveals to each of us and how we can be used by Him in a world that is desperately lost.

Sincerely,
Scott and Chris Nowakowski

TUESDAY MORNING HOPE STUDY

Tish Jepsen and Debbie Romano facilitate this precious group together. Our Tuesday morning group has grown a bit. We are now about 12 persons. We used to be about 8. We still meet for brunch and coffee. We take time to hear about each other's lives and celebrate birthdays. Some stay later and help bag goodies for the Crossroads kids. This past year one of our own, Roberta Juntunen went on to be with the Lord. We miss her very much. Each person is responsible to search the Scriptures for at least one verse a week that is based around a theme we are focused on. This year it was hope, thankfulness, blessings, and the names of Jesus for Christmas.

We also have two boards for prayer. One is for our requests and the other is for when He answers our prayers. About every month or so we go over the answers, thank the Lord together and then bring home the answered prayers. It's quite wonderful to thank Him like this. It's amazing who quickly we forget His answers.

It's an honor meeting each week praying for each other and the church like this. It's a joy encouraging each other on in the Lord and keeping Him first.

I thank Tish for her sweet heart and her strengths where I am weak. This helps us care for the whole group better.

In His service,
Debbie Romano

TUESDAY EVENING ROMANO HOME GROUP

Pastor Don still engages twenty somethings in study and conversation that helps all of us reach out to the younger culture in relevant ways. We finished our study with Francis Schaeffer and are now going over questions the culture asks. Of course, we look for how to answer these questions from scripture. There are more persons joining this study now. We eat a meal together and then dig deep with real life conversations from our week with others around us.

In his service,
Debbie Romano

THURSDAY EVENING ROMANO HOME GROUP

We still host about eight 20-30 year olds from different churches each Thursday. Right now Pastor Don is leading us through the book of ACTS. We eat dinner then munch on God's Word together. We work on applying God's Word as we reach our culture.

On a personal note....I heard a study this past week on Moody Radio about God's servant Caleb. Did you know that even though he was 85 years old when he went into the Promised Land that he asked for Hebron? Did you know that Hebron was not only a cherished burial ground for Abraham, Sarah and others but the Anakim or giants lived there? Did you know he and his people fought off all the giants and his family settled there? My husband, Pastor Don reminds me of this guy! Pastor Don hasn't skipped a beat. He has WAY more energy than I do. He longs to make a difference for Jesus with every fiber of his being. I am so proud to be his wife and serve alongside him. Honey, thank you for decades of faithfulness, tireless research of Scripture, and loving me and our church family all these years.

Still serving side by side with all of you,
Debbie Romano

THE 5:30

The 5:30 is a ministry targeting both active Christians and those who do not share faith for individuals between the ages of 18 and 35. The foundational reason for the decision to start this ministry/outreach was the lack of presence and participation for this demographic within our active church community.

The 5:30 began in June of 2019 and takes place weekly on Sunday nights at 5:30 PM CT. During the first several meetings, the group consisted of 3-5 individuals and was focused on prayer for our congregation and direction for leadership. Currently, the average attendance is 6-8 individuals with a shifted focus of topical conversation and discussion regarding different viewpoints and experiences. In more recent nights we have had very fruitful and enlightening discussions about heaven, hell, the soul, how to raise a kid in an ever-changing world, how to deal with physical/emotional/spiritual burnout and more. After talking with some of the regular attendees, we gathered valuable feedback as we continue to form and refine the ministry. Fellowship is also enjoyed occasionally with night's meeting at restaurants for food and fellowship as well as some nights filled with different activities.

Moving forward, our goal is to keep adapting to feedback and the Spirit's leading through prayer, searching God's word, and seeking wisdom. The concrete adaptations planned to be reformatted are as follows:

- The first week of every month will be dedicated to continued prayer as the Spirit leads.
- The second and third weeks of every month, we will be engaging in deeper discussions on topics that, notwithstanding a variety of intercessional topics for a multitude of reasons, are either urgently applicable or rarely addressed head on within our daily lives. (Again, understanding that the leadership will be keeping surveillance of our duty to listen to the Spirit's urging.)
- The fourth and elusive fifth weeks of every month, we will participate in activity/outreach. The intention here is to keep building fellowship and strengthening relationships within the group.

The attempt to invite our friends and coworkers that do not have a relationship with Christ is continuing yet is met with stigma and has been fruitless up to this point. We are continuing to invite others in our lives to enter into discussions and activities regardless of the results in this particular area and we are not discouraged by the outcome thus far on a whole.

We are excited with the direction the 5:30 is heading and look to the coming year with the anticipation that God will work His will for us and our church.

Many Blessings,

The 5:30 Leadership Team (Tommy Coley, Niklaus Pofertl, and Ezekiel Romano)

Q Place @ the Millers

Our QPlace community group entered into it's fourth year in 2019! We continue to dig into the Gospel of Mark, and are about 2/3 of the way through it.

Since we meet every other week, it's taken us almost two years to get to chapter 10, which is where we are currently. In an attempt to shake things up a bit, and try to move a little quicker through it, I have asked our group at the end of our meeting time to look over the next section that we will be looking at and be ready to discuss it at the next meeting. The challenge to them has been to get creative with finding resources to help them understand on their own

what they are reading (i.e. study bible, commentaries, Swap Meet Dave, etc.). This way we have been able to cover a second section or more during our regular meeting time.

It has been encouraging to see the increased enthusiasm and curiosity this new learning experience has generated within our group. We have always been a very dedicated group, and have had many deep, lively discussions about what we're discussing. The Holy Spirit continues to be very much present within our group especially after Pastor Tim and Judy left us in 2018. I keep telling our group that I am "the blind leading the blind" as I have absolutely no training or experience leading a bible study, but Gary Brill keeps referring to me as "Pastor Peg" which cracks me up! I have certainly learned so much more from our discussions than I would have learned on my own...this is the beauty of QPlace...a place where self-discovery of God's Word plants itself more deeply within us.

As usual, we meet every other Monday evening at 7 pm, taking a break for the months of June, July, and August, but have a once-a-month BBQ just so we don't lose too much connection. Our last meeting in December, we had a pot luck dinner where I read the Christmas story from Luke, and talked about how Mary and Joseph knew they weren't just looking into a baby's face, but directly into the face of God! Wow! I purchased a bible study notebook/pen set for each of them, and will be encouraging them to start writing things down as we discuss them. This will include any prayer requests we discuss as well.

We're looking forward to offering the "Explore God" video series for parents who stay during the Crossroads Fri-Daze events this year.

Respectfully submitted by
Gary & Peg Miller

2019 Treasurer's Report

Dear Church family,

As always, praise and thanks to the Lord for His ongoing provision for what He has called us to accomplish. Thank you for your continued faithful obedience in giving and prayer. Praise to Him also for giving us Pastor Alex, Andrea, and baby Autumn, for the awesome job they're doing, and for what they mean to us all.

The 2019 detailed transactions are available in a hard copy to view upon request.

Thank you to new dad Kevin Schillinger for recording the offerings each week, and helping to get the year-end contribution reports out. Chelsea, I acknowledge your sacrifice in letting him do this this past year while adjusting to a new baby. Thank you ushers and fellow budget committee for your time. Once again, thank you all for trusting me to serve as treasurer.

Grace and peace,
Lynn Mileusnich

Financial Summary

Our General Fund giving in 2019 was \$160,324.20, well above our set General Fund budget of \$135,829.00. Expenses against the budget totaled \$135,738.11. With additional income such as rent (\$5,650.00) and grants from Crossroads (\$2,165.60), we ended with a surplus of \$34,782.21. Non-budgeted expenses are explained below:

As a congregation, we approved a replacement riding lawn mower, ceiling lighting, and new bathroom vanities to be paid for with cash on hand from last year's surplus. A riding mower was purchased at \$4,620.08. Lighting was purchased, but returned, as the lights did not fit.

Due to the flood from the burst water pipe in February, we received an insurance claim check for \$22,134.99. Because of damage to the bathrooms, the vanities were covered under the insurance claim, as well as flooring, dry-walling, and re-painting those areas. Office furniture was donated to us by Village Church East, who was not able to store it, for which we gave them a donation of \$200. Total so far of flood recovery costs incurred and covered by insurance so are \$16,985.91. A balance of \$5,149.08 of the insurance claim check remains.

Early in 2017, we received the grant of \$8,000 from the C&MA for our Crossroads ministry outreach. The intention was to use this money toward our own events for Crossroads kids and families, such as Fridaze, Egg Hunts, and Harvest Fest. Expenses against the grant in 2019

2019 Treasurer's Report

were \$1,541.11, yielding a remaining balance of \$235.34. This is not the same as the grant from the Crossroads organization to help with weekly club costs and rental space.

Other Giving:

Offerings to the Great Commission Fund were \$12,896.00, which is about 8% of our General Fund giving! We gave an \$810 love offering to our international workers. The Christmas love offering in appreciation of our pastors totaled \$1,860. \$5,314 was given to the benevolent fund in 2019, and \$625 was given to Crossroads.

Financial Reports

Except for the Proposed Budget for 2020 which follows this report, the following financial reports can be found in the separate Financial Reports document that was also provided to you:

- 2019 Budget and Actual Income & Expenses
- General Giving by Week and Month record
- Summary of the Use of C&MA Grant
- Summary of Restoration Expenses
- Balance Sheet – Bank Accounts Balances & Fund Balances, Giving & Debt Information
- History of General Fund with 2020 Proposed
- Proposed Budget for 2020

Explanation of Proposed 2020 Budget

New look: The visual/organizational format has been changed to accommodate Pastor's thought process and some new accounts/line items have been added.

The proposed budget was increased to \$157,361, an increase of 15.5% from last year's budget, and a 1.8% decrease over last year's giving. To meet this budget, our monthly giving needs to be at \$13,113 per month, or approximately \$3,026 per week.

Staff Expenses

- Pastor Alex was paid for 10½ months last year due to his start date. So lead pastor salary now reflects the full 12 months plus a cost of living increase of 1.6%. Contribution to his SECA taxes was also raised proportionally.
- Lead pastor retirement match of 3% as originally offered. (He contributed 2% last year.)
- Decrease in medical
- Increase assoc. pastor allowance to \$4000 (\$1000 quarterly).
- A future Communications position, rather than clerical, is in mind for the future, but not currently budgeted.
- Begin saving for next General Council

2019 Treasurer's Report

New (or brought back) Line Items

- Audio/Visual separated out (projectors & equipment)
- Media (Communications - social media marketing, info cards, door hangers, etc.)
- Digital Content (5318 renamed-website/PC)
- Leadership Development (not currently budgeted)
- New Initiatives (not currently budgeted)

Other Noted Increases/Decreases

- Increase for facility repairs (sanctuary ceiling, fence, shed siding, roof)
- Increase for décor facelift
- Utilities rate increases (waste, water).
- The building/liability insurance rate increased.
- Pay for rental space for one school; Crossroads would pay the other

Loans & Designated Savings

Loans

- ADF loan: Our balance (as of December 31) was \$83,684.77. After July, the interest rate increased to 5.25% from 5.15%, with payments of \$672.63. The ADF loan is a 20-year adjustable loan, adjusted annually in July. Therefore, this amount could go up or down in July 2020.
- District loan: Our balance (as of December 31) was \$51,072.24. In 2019, we made monthly payments of \$200.
- Total debt: \$134,757.01.

Grant

- Remaining balance of the C&MA grant (as of December 31) is \$235.34.

Insurance Claim

- Remaining balance of the insurance claim check (as of December 31) is \$5,149.08.

2019 Lead Pastor's Report

Alliance Bible Church,

Andrea, Autumn, and I cannot help but simply be grateful for the new home and new family we have found with you. The hospitality that you have practiced in welcoming us despite the unknown and uncertain realities that stand in front of our church are the aroma of Jesus to us.

You might be wondering why I put my report here at the end of the reports. Part of my reasoning is this: what we do as a church is much more about our collective effort and direction than it is about what one person is able to determine or accomplish. I wanted you to see what the Lord is actively accomplishing through the service of all of the leaders who are executing ministry toward a common goal of restoring hope in our church, in our community, and in our world. We can ONLY do this through working TOGETHER. And working together describes what I have witnessed in this past year at ABC. I hope as you have read these reports that you see the incredible value of what can take place when multiple people in a church take ownership of the ministry that needs to happen. I'm incredibly struck at what this "small" church is able to accomplish.

Can we take some time to celebrate some really significant things that God has accomplished through ABC in the last year?

- Giving to the **Great Commission Fund** increased by **4.2%** from 2018 **reversing a 5-year decline** in missions giving at our church.
- Your generosity with **the General fund** reversed a **3-year decline** and provided an incredible over-budget surplus for 2019.
- Nearly **45 people** at our church are **actively involved in a community group** where they are being poured into by leaders and challenged to more faithfully follow Jesus.
- We saw a **10% increase in average Sunday morning attendance**. At our size, that may not seem like much, but that is a significant number to celebrate after a three-year decline in attendance.
- A **nursery ministry was launched** to serve and love on young families who attend our Sunday morning service and you all were **ROCKSTARS** in the way that you jumped in at a moment's notice to serve in that ministry when the need arose.
- We **packed a record number of shoeboxes** (80) to bless kids around the world and share the love of Jesus with them through Operation Christmas Child.
- You supported needs in our church and in our community through **giving to the benevolent fund**. You don't always get to see how people respond to this generosity, but your care for people, and especially those who are in this church, makes such an incredibly valuable difference for them and is confirmation for those folks that this church is their family and we love them.
- Through the incredible effort of Gary Miller and the assistance of many others, **we were able to recover from the flood** and begin **updating the look of our building**.
- **We're seeing younger folks step up and take on significant leadership roles:**

2019 Lead Pastor's Report

- Grace Pofert has put together a team to oversee the décor of our church both seasonally and overall.
- Grace leads us in announcements from week to week and leads and trains other people to provide announcements for us.
- Tommy Coley took over leadership of FriDAZE and is leading our effort to bless families in our community, especially families we know through Crossroads
- Nik Pofert has accepted a nomination to step onto the Spiritual Oversight Team in 2020
 - I'm really excited about this, but I'll explain that at the congregational meeting ☺
- Zeke Romano has taken lead over our A/V ministry and is training people to serve in those roles.
- Zeke, Nik, and Tommy launched the 5:30.
- Finally, and this is my favorite, we know of at least **10 kids in Crossroads who have made professions of faith** in Jesus for the first time!

I'm particularly thankful for the ministries of Nancy Palpant, Sue Xander, Lynn Mileusnich, and Debbie Romano. These four ladies have made such an effort to help me get to know and understand ABC and have been available for questions constantly that I'm always processing in the spheres of ministry that they have ownership of. They are incredibly faithful servants to Jesus and this church.

ABC, we serve a faithful God who is actively equipping us for his mission in Bartlett and in the world.

When I came on in 2019 I was able to share with you some vision for the immediate future of my time leading here at ABC. On March 3rd, 2019 this is what I shared with you:

Our Elders were starting to work on 2 things:

1) Simplifying and clarifying our discipleship strategy

- a. There is always more to be done in this realm, but the elders took several steps in this direction in 2019:
 - i. We launched a new purpose and strategy statement in May:

OUR PURPOSE (what do we do?)

Working together to **RESTORE HOPE** to all people

OUR STRATEGY (how do we do it?)

We develop Jesus-followers who **WORSHIP, LOVE, and GO**

2019 Lead Pastor's Report

- b. Heading into the fall, we emphasized LOVE in our strategy – We placed particular emphasis the absolute need of people in this church to be involved in a **community group** where they can know others and be known by them so that we all can be challenged to more faithfully follow Jesus. We currently have right around 45 people in our church that are actively participating in a community group.

2) Strategizing a pathway to organizational health into the future

- i. This is a multi-faceted and complex goal. Our clearest next-step in this realm has everything to do with taking a more proactive approach to addressing our debt. You can read more about this at the end of this annual report.

In my job, I shared with you that I was working on these goals in 2019:

1) Andrea and I getting to know people in the church and learn as much about ABC as we can.

- a. While we still haven't been able to spend time with everyone (we hope to change that in 2020) we really have been able to build some significant relationships in the church, not the least of which is with Pastor Don and Debbie who have truly come alongside us and partnered with us in a significant way. Andrea and I both feel like we would be lost without their presence here as we have transitioned into getting to know ABC and getting to settle into these roles that are so brand new to us.

2) Put energy developing leaders and releasing them to do ministry.

- a. Over the summer we did a Community Group leader training as we prepared to emphasize Community Groups in the fall
- b. Tommy Coley has stepped up in a significant way to own a major piece of our outreach ministry with FriDAZE and Tommy and I meet together regularly to pray together and strategize this major ministry in our church.
- c. There's still more work to be done in developing leaders 😊

3) Make some aesthetic and ministry changes to position us to effectively welcome younger families.

2019 Lead Pastor's Report

- a. Grace Pofert has led the décor team to make some significant updates to the style and aesthetic of our church. This team has also shared their vision with the Elders and the Elders look forward to some major pieces of that vision coming to fruition in 2020.
- b. Andrea poured herself into getting the Nursery ready to launch in September with Nancy's help. Having a nursery ministry is a massive piece of our ability to effectively welcome young families
- c. Ray and Garth have brought safety to become a major emphasis at our church. That may not seem like an aesthetic emphasis, but it is important for being able to welcome young families. The number one thing that young families are concerned about when making decisions on the things that their kids will be involved in is SAFETY.

4) Start building a strategy for digital engagement

- a. In April we launched a new website with an updated look and started implementing some new communication tools for our congregation through Planning Center.
- b. In October, we updated and relaunched our Facebook page and initiated a strategy for social media engagement
- c. These strategies help us do 2 things:
 - i. Make people aware of our existence
 - ii. Show that our church is engaging in the same realms that the people we're trying to reach are engaging in.

On top of all of that, we continue to place emphasis on Crossroads. Phil and Doreen are such faithful servants as they lead our mission effort in the public schools in our community in order to share the hope of Jesus with kids. I'm in awe of the energy that God has supplied Phil and Doreen to continually lead us in this effort. We are seeing kids' lives changed and introducing them to Jesus. Them getting to know Jesus at this age is crucial to their spiritual development in the future. In 2020, we are planning to implement some strategies that we are hopeful will help us to more effectively connect with Crossroads families.

2019 has had its share of accomplishments and I'm thrilled to be able to celebrate those. As we look to 2020 there are some crucial things that I believe need to take place in the lives of individuals in this church if we are actually going to effectively capitalize on what has taken place in 2019.

1. Consider increasing your giving in order to help us pay down our debt.

Take a look at the Debt Paydown proposals at the end of this

2019 Lead Pastor's Report

Annual report. This is a massive priority for us as we move into the future. As we head into 2020, our ability to pay down our debt is directly connected to what we are able to give over and above the budget. The more we bring in, the quicker we pay it down. Andrea and I are committing to increasing our giving towards this end and we would invite you to do so along with us.

2. Start praying now about whether you need to step up to lead or serve in a more significant way

So many people in this church do SO much and I cannot stop being grateful for the way this church shows up and steps up. Right now we are in a process of cataloging everything there is to do at the church and determining the teams that need to be built and the roles that need to be filled in order to effectively do what we do without burning certain individuals out. Later on in 2020, we will be discussing specific ways you can step up and LOVE your church family by taking ownership of a specific ministry role.

3. Every individual (including myself) needs to **reprioritize personal evangelism** and outreach in their neighborhoods, work places, and other spheres of influence.

We have HOPE that the world doesn't have. If no one tells them, how will they believe? Our church is responsible for proclaiming the good news of hope in Jesus to the people that we are connected to. No matter the programs we have, if the individuals in our church do not prioritize this, we are not accomplishing the mission Jesus has called us to.

4. We need to **pray TOGETHER more**.

It's going to be really tempting to think that because things are running "smoothly" again that all is "good" that we don't need to spend as much energy on prayer. That couldn't be further from the truth. Starting in February, we are going to be launching several strategies to make prayer a bigger focus for our church. As Pastor Don made mention of in his report, if the Lord doesn't build this house, we're laboring in vain.

One of the strategies to start looking for is a daily prayer focus connected to each sermon each week. We will launch this in February in a sermon series that Pastor Don and I will be preaching together called "Love in a Graceless Age."

ABC, it has been a joy to lead this church. As I end my report, I want to draw your attention to the team of Elders that I get to lead with.

2019 Lead Pastor's Report

Garth Xander, Dave Mileusnich, Phil Jupp, Pastor Don Romano... These men are an incredible gift to this church. I give massive credit to the Lord for appointing these men. I give massive credit to Pastor Tim Pofert for building this team of men that I get to work alongside. I give massive credit to these men for their faithfulness in serving the Lord. Elders like these men are incredibly hard to come by in churches. They are doctrinally sound in a culture that increasingly thinks that doctrine is unimportant. They are faithful servants. They taught and shepherded you when there was no lead pastor. They take their roles very seriously. They measurably participate in advancing the ministry of the church. They are passionate about the word of God and the gospel. They love Jesus. They love you. Alliance Bible Church, this team of Elders is incredibly unusual. Elder boards like this are hard to come by. I would admonish you, I would admonish myself, don't take them for granted. They are a testament of the Lord's faithfulness to this local church. The fact that I get to serve with them is an incredible blessing.

ABC thank you for loving me and my family well in my first year here. Thank you for welcoming us. Thanks for making us feel like family. We look forward to many more years serving here as we continue working together to RESTORE HOPE to all people.

In Christ,

Your only-somewhat-long-winded Lead Pastor, Alex.



2020 Actionable Items

2019 Nomination Committee Report

The members of the Nomination Committee met on Nov.17th, 2019 to determine nominees to fill the following offices: **Elder, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Head Deacon, Head Deaconess, and Assistant Treasurer.** Regarding the office of Elder, those elected would join the members of the Spiritual Oversight Team (SOT) continuing on in their terms: Dave Mileusnich, Don Romano, and Alex Culpepper.

The 2019 Nomination Committee was composed of the following members of ABC: Alex Culpepper, Sue Xander, Nik Pofert, Amanda Mileusnich, and Kevin Schillinger. In determining Nominees, the Nomination Committee read role descriptions and for the offices of Elder and Deacon. We also took into consideration the scriptural qualifications for those roles. We prayed about who we might submit for these positions and communicated with nominees to determine their acceptance of the nomination.

The 2019 Nomination Committee respectfully and joyfully submits the following individuals for as our official recommendation to the congregation for church office:

For the Role of Elder:

Jonathan Garth Xander
Phil Jupp
Niklaus Pofert

For the Role of Treasurer

Lynn Mileusnich

For the Role of Recording Secretary

Pastor Don Romano

For the Role of Head Deacon

Raymond Mysliwiec

For the Role of Head Deaconess

Sue Xander

For the Role of Assistant Treasurer

Amanda Mileusnich

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve our church body in this way,

Your 2019 Nomination Committee

Proposed Budget 2020

ALLIANCE BIBLE CHURCH OF BARTLETT

2020 BUDGET

		2019 Budget	Approved additional funds	2019 Actual	Other income applied	% of budget spent	2020 Budget	% increase	% of total budget
Staff Expense		83053		79600	2260	93.1%	91342	10.0%	58.0%
5205	Senior Pastor Salary	35327		34501	780	95.5%	39578		
5206	Senior Pastor Housing	24257		23154		95.5%	26462		
5209	Senior Pastor Medical	10825		8917		82.4%	10292		
5210	Senior Pastor Retirement Plan M	1788		1138		63.6%	1982		
5261	Clerical/Admin Assist	0		0		0.0%	0		
5266	Custodial Church	2808		3170	400	98.6%	2808		
5286	Honorarium	75		0		0.0%	400		
5288	FICA Match / SECA Contr.	4773		4594		96.2%	5270		
5290	Workers Comp	700		547		78.2%	550		
5426	Assoc. Pastor Service Allow.	2500		3580	1080	100.0%	4000		
Operations		14303		13492	439	91.3%	15817	10.6%	10.1%
5305	District Administration	7128		7165		100.5%	7729		
5311	Building & Liability Insurance	4500		4802	400	97.8%	5688		
5313	Office Supplies	2400		1525	39	61.9%	1800		
5315	Copier	275		0		0.0%	600		
Property Upkeep		5500		23251	17548	103.7%	11400	107.3%	7.2%
5331	Lawn Care	2000		2175		108.8%	2100		
5339	Cleaning Supplies	500		154		30.8%	300		
5345	Equipment Repairs & Supplies	500		709		141.8%	500		
5350	Facility Repairs & Supplies	1000		17859	16698	116.1%	5500		
5329	Snow Removal	1500		2354	850	100.3%	3000		
Utilities		10552		9609	0	91.1%	10130	-4.0%	6.4%
5317	Internet	1500		1502		100.1%	1170		
5319	Ooma	75		46		61.3%	85		
5321	Electric	3500		2496		71.3%	2850		
5323	Natural Gas	1545		1726		111.7%	1850		
5325	Water/Sewer	956		748		78.2%	900		
5327	Fire Alarm	1020		1020		100.0%	1020		
5337	Trash	1956		2071		105.9%	2255		
Special Projects		1000		8491	3138	95.2%	1000	0.0%	0.6%
5355	Equipment Capital	1000	4620	5437		96.7%	1000		
5360	Facility Capital	0		3054	3138		0		
Mortgage Debt		10417		10344	0	99.3%	10472	0.5%	6.7%
5371	District Loan	2400		2300		95.8%	2400		
5373	National Loan Principal	3620		3607		99.6%	3780		
5374	National Loan Interest	4397		4437		100.9%	4292		

Proposed Budget 2020

ALLIANCE BIBLE CHURCH OF BARTLETT

2020 BUDGET

		2019 Budget	Approved additional funds	2019 Actual	Other income applied	% of budget spent	2020 Budget	% increase	% of total budget
Leadership		4130		3731	908	68.4%	2450	-40.7%	1.6%
5416	Lay Leaders Conference/Exp	400		148		37.0%	600		
5420	Senior Pastor Expense Acct	1000		812	108	70.4%	850		
5422	Senior Pastor Conf. Allow	2330		2888	800	89.6%	900		
5427	Assoc. Pastor Conf. Allow	400		31		7.8%	700		
5463	Leadership Development	0		0		0.0%	0		
5470	New Initiatives	0		0		0.0%	0		
Communications		750		1222	400	109.6%	2600	246.7%	1.7%
5318	Digital Content (Website/PC)	750		1222	400	109.6%	1000		
5320	Media	0		0		0.0%	1600		
First Impressions		1000		550.47	24	52.6%	1750	75.0%	1.1%
5457	Kitchen Supply/Fellowship	900		455	24	47.9%	500		
5474	Assimilation/Connection	0		0		0.0%	250		
5335	Décor	100		95		95.0%	1000		
Discipleship		1550		2298	0	148.3%	1900	22.6%	1.2%
5405	Youth	500		127		25.4%	200		
5465	Children's Min	350		401		114.6%	1000		
5464	Adult (Groups)	500		491		98.2%	200		
5467	Women's Min.	100		4		4.0%	400		
5468	Men's Min.	100		94		94.0%	100		
Worship		700		1181	300	125.9%	4050	478.6%	2.6%
5450	Worship Supplies	500		560		112.0%	600		
5452	AV Production					0.0%	3250		
5451	Worship Team	200		621	300	160.5%	200		
Outreach		2250		4379	2166	98.4%	3750	66.7%	2.4%
5476	Local	1500		3881	2166	114.4%	3000		
5477	International	750		498		66.4%	750		
Care		700		227	0	32.4%	700	0.0%	0.4%
5460	Deaconess	700		227		32.4%	700		
		135905.00	4620.08	158375.72	27182.03	93.4%	157361.00	15.8%	
5505	C&MA Grant	1776		1541			235		

Debt Paydown Proposals

The Elders of Alliance Bible Church have been discussing the current realities of the surplus that exists in our bank account along with the overbudget General Fund income that the Lord is blessing us with. We have been discussing what it means to be faithful with this season of financial blessing and generosity that we are currently experiencing.

The SOT has determined that it is important to keep a baseline of cash reserves in the bank at the amount of \$60,000 + cash committed for other purposes in order to be prepared for emergencies or an unexpected decrease in cash flow. Over the course of the last 18 months, Alliance Bible Church has saved cash in our bank account that significantly exceeds that baseline. One of our desires is to see our church begin taking a more proactive approach to addressing our debt.

Our debt currently takes up a significant portion of our budget (6.7%) that could be going towards other ministry, church planting, or partially toward another staff person. There is great potential for the use of this money to the benefit of the kingdom! Therefore, it is the collective desire of your Elders to see our debt eliminated.

In light of this reality, your Elders with the assistance of the Budget committee present to you the following proposals, both of which we hope you will adopt at the 2020 congregational meeting.

Proposal 1: The cash in our bank account that exceeds our desired total baseline (\$60,000 + cash committed for other purposes) will be used to pay down our debt. We will refer to this amount as "overage." 60% of the overage will be used to pay down the principal on our interest-bearing loan with the Alliance Development Fund (ADF). 40% of the overage will be used to pay down our loan from the Midwest District. Each of these payments will be one-time, lump-sum payments.

The total of our overage as of January 19th, 2020 is _____.

Proposal 2: In 2020, 75% of the general fund income per quarter that exceeds the amount needed for budget will be used to pay down debt principal. Each quarter this amount will be divided between our two debt sources in the following fashion: 80% of the quarterly amount will go toward our interest-bearing loan with ADF. 20% of the quarterly amount will go toward our loan from the Midwest District.