

EAST BALSAM BEACON

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2026

by Ashley Smith on April 5, 2026



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PASTOR'S CORNER

by Pastor Jonathon Enger on March 31, 2026

Like people, churches have life cycles. That shouldn't be a surprise to us considering that the Bible refers to the church as a "body" (specifically Christ's body; see 1 Corinthians 12). People are born, grow up, reach the "prime of life," begin to age, grow old, and then die. Churches go through a similar life cycle. They are born (planted), they grow, they reach peak ministry fruitfulness, they plateau, they decline, and they eventually die (close the doors). The Church (big "C") has been around for 2,000 plus years. I don't know of any individual local church (small "c") that has been around that long. East Balsam Baptist Church was "born" in 1904 and, like it or not, it is going to die someday.

That might sound discouraging. And maybe it's a surprising thing to hear from your pastor! But here's the good news: Jesus promised that he would build his church and the gates of Hell would not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). So, while individual local churches come and go, the Church will never die.

But here's the thing: that promise does not guarantee that our church won't die. I'm sure that it will eventually, unless Christ returns before then—or unless the members of East Balsam Baptist Church strive to keep it healthy. Ultimately, our church's fate is up to Jesus. He's Lord, and he's the Head of the Church, His body. Sometimes he lets churches die for a reason. Sometimes, just like with people, a church might be so sick that it's better to let it die than to keep it on life support. But I don't think that is ever Christ's desire. He would much prefer churches to recognize that they are sick and to take steps to get healthy again.

And churches can get healthy again! All it takes is for the members of the church to take responsibility for the health of their church and to recommit to doing what the Bible says churches must do to stay healthy. One pastor and author I have much respect for is Mark Dever from Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington D.C. Some years ago, he wrote a book called *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. That book sparked a whole new ministry called 9Marks. Pastor Dever wrote a condensed version of the original book called *What Is a Healthy Church?* In it, he writes:

A healthy church is not a church that's perfect and without sin. It has not figured everything out. Rather, it's a church that continually strives to take God's side in a

battle against the ungodly desires and deceits of the world, our flesh, and the devil. It's a church that continually seeks to conform itself to God's Word.

And then he offers the following definition. "A healthy church is a congregation that increasingly reflects God's character as his character has been revealed in his Word." So, what has God revealed about his character in the Bible, and what does that tell us about a healthy church? That's where the nine marks come in. They are, with the first three being more important than the rest: 1) expositional preaching, 2) Biblical theology, 3) a Biblical understanding of the Good News, 4) a Biblical understanding of conversion, 5) a Biblical understanding of evangelism, 6) a Biblical understanding of membership, 7) Biblical church discipline, 8) Biblical discipleship and growth, and 9) Biblical church leadership.

The first three are the most important because if they are not in place, the other six won't be either, because they all come from Biblical theology and a Biblical understanding of the Gospel, which should both be proclaimed and taught from the pulpit. That's why the majority of my time and energy goes into the first three marks. But if you've been paying attention, you know that our church has also been working hard on the ninth mark in recent months with our proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws. We are working toward a more Biblical model of church leadership.

Like Mark Dever said in the quote above, no church is perfect. But the better a church maintains the nine marks, the healthier it will be. The same is true with individual people. I don't know what the marks of a healthy person would be, but off the top of my head I guess it includes things like consistent personal time with the Lord (Bible reading and prayer), adequate sleep, regular exercise, a healthy diet, meaningful relationships, and regular medical checkups.

Where is East Balsam Baptist Church in the "life cycle?" Are we growing? Are we at peak ministry fruitfulness? Have we plateaued? Are we in decline? I certainly don't think we are dying, but I'm pretty sure we are not at peak ministry fruitfulness, either. That is to say, I think we have some room for improvement. If no church is perfect, then it's obvious that every church, even the healthiest churches, always have some room for improvement. And I think it's one of the primary roles of church leaders (who the Bible calls "elders") to evaluate the church's health regularly and lead the church to becoming healthier, according to the Bible.

At every Deacon meeting, the Deacons and I ask two questions: “What’s going well?” And “What needs improvement?” And as we’ve done that over the last five years that I’ve been the pastor here, we’ve agreed that one area that needs improvement is our leadership structure. That’s why we’re proposing changes to the constitution and by-laws.

Change is hard. It’s painful. Several times in my life I’ve had to make some painful changes according to my doctor’s advice in order to get healthier. I’ve had to take medications with unpleasant side-effects, I’ve had to go through difficult physical therapy, I’ve had to give up certain things that I enjoy. But I make the changes because I want to be as healthy as I can be for my God, my family, and my church. I want to operate at *peak ministry fruitfulness*.

If you want to be healthy—if you want your church to be healthy—then you must fight against your natural tendency to resist change. Instead, you must embrace change. The Apostle Peter had to learn that lesson when God sent him to the house of a Gentile (gasp!) named Cornelius, so that he could hear the Gospel and be incorporated into the Church. Actually, all the disciples had to learn that lesson at one time or another.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record Jesus’ teaching about old and new wineskins. Jesus was asked why his disciples didn’t fast like the disciples of John the Baptist or the Pharisees. Jesus answered that the bridegroom (him) had come, and it wasn’t appropriate for people to fast for a time. In other words, the King had come to bring his kingdom, and some things needed to change. The old way of relating to God (law) had shrunk, and the new thing God was doing required new ways of relating to him (grace). In a similar way, churches need to adopt new ways of doing things at different times. If they don’t, they will shrink like dried up wineskins, and they won’t be able to contain the new things that God wants to do.

Pretty soon, here in Wisconsin it will be time for the farmers to start planting their crops. I bet those farmers aren’t using the same seed they used ten years ago. They probably won’t even use the same fertilizer they used last year, assuming they checked the health of their soil and adjusted their fertilizer accordingly. I know for certain they aren’t using the same equipment they used in past generations. Farmers that don’t adopt the new GPS driven combines won’t last. Farmers need to make changes. So do churches.

Some things, of course, never change. Our doctrine should never change. We should keep preaching the Bible and proclaiming the Gospel. In 1 Corinthians 3, the Apostle Paul said that he planted seeds, and someone else watered them after him, but Jesus caused the growth. Those seeds were gospel seeds. A couple verses later Paul used a different metaphor. He said that he laid a foundation on Christ, on the Gospel. And he warned that if anyone tried to build the church with wrong methods, their work would burn up. The right methods are the methods we see in the Bible.

The Bible leaves a lot of room to adopt new ways of doing things, so long as we never abandon the Gospel of Christ and the Word of God in our methods. Churches always need to adapt to their particular time, location, and culture. If they don't, then the Gospel won't be communicated in an effective way. We need to keep the old foundation but embrace the new wineskins.

So, church, I hope that you'll join me in committing to do whatever it takes to make our church as healthy as it can be. I certainly don't want it to die on my watch. I'd really like it if I have more positive things to say about my ministry here than, "at least I kept it alive." I've got big dreams for our church. I bet you do, too. And I know that God has great plans for our church (his church). If we want to get there, we need to change. If we keep doing what we're doing, then at best we'll be no healthier than we are now. Most likely, we'll slowly dry up like an old wineskin as the world moves on without us. At worst, Jesus might remove our life support (see Revelation 2:5) and pass the baton to another church.

Change can be scary. But Jesus is our firm foundation, and the Spirit is our helper and comforter. Let's not forget those truths as we embrace new wineskins and prepare for new seasons of ministry and growth, so that East Balsam Baptist Church can keep telling the old, old story of Jesus and his love for generations to come.

Pastor Jonathon

UPCOMING

St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat

The St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat will be held at Oak Forest Center at Frederic on April 10th and 11th. For more information and to register, please use the link below.
<https://www.stcroixalliance.com/events>

Guatemala Mission Team

Please be in prayer for the team from East Balsam going to serve with Hope for Home Ministries in Guatemala April 11-18, 2026.

Women's Spring Rally

The Women's Spring Rally will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14th at Grace Church in Grantsburg. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table in the Fellowship Hall for women who would like to attend

"TOWN HALL" Meeting

April 26th after service we will have our second "Town Hall" style meeting to discuss the church constitution and answer any questions or concerns. We would like to vote on any changes at our annual meeting May 17th.

Options on 8 & Women's Shelter Baby Shower

Save the Date! June 13th, 2026 we will be holding a Baby Shower to collect items for Options on 8 and the Women's Shelter. More details will be shared soon!

Vacation Bible School



The poster features a central green shamrock-shaped logo with the text "Answers VBS EMERALD Crossing" and "An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23". The background is a vibrant illustration of a shepherd with a dog and sheep in a lush, green landscape under a blue sky with clouds.

Register your child at the QR code below!

East Balsam Baptist Church

July 12-16, 2026

4:30pm-8:00pm

Volunteers register at the QR code below!

You may also register a student or volunteer on the church website! We would love to have more men volunteer this year! Asking for Men and Women of ALL ages. We can find you a job just let us know what you are interested in. If you are not comfortable teaching that's OK we have other jobs available. Your presence makes a difference in our students' lives!

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Celebrating Jesus and Snowflake's Women's Event

by **Kim Hilleshiem** on March 4, 2026

Several years back, some ladies and I decided to have our Christmas Ladies "Gala" in January or February; well after the Christmas holiday, so that everyone would be more relaxed so that they could really kick back and just "enjoy the time together". This year did not disappoint! We had 37 ladies and girls in attendance. It is truly apparent that everyone loves being together. We are never short of laughs, conversation and good food! I believe this year we had 6 different kinds of soup (maybe 7)! We would have had 1 more, if Cheryl's didn't decide to "topple over" on the floor of her vehicle. :(Ugh...sorry Cheryl! Nicole's warm beer bread is ALWAYS a hit and we had fresh corn bread to compliment the soups. The desserts were amazing; including but certainly not limited to, luscious layered brownie goodness, cherry cheesecake pie, and many other yummy cookies and bars. Christin's delightful punch was a hit as one of the drink options!

This year, all the ladies were given 5 drawing tickets when they arrived. There was a table displaying several different laser engraved boards with scriptures, a few engraved snowflake cake pans and gifts that the girls would enjoy getting (art set and carved angel/cardinal). The ladies got to put their tickets in bowls next to each item that they would enjoy receiving, if their name was called during the drawing.

We added a book swap this year, so if the ladies brought a book, they could take a new/used book home. I believe that was a hit!

This year I shared what the Lord had been laying on my heart, which was to get off the sidelines and share with strangers and those in our "spheres" that don't know Jesus...just how much our Lord Jesus does... love...us... all. We live in a world where many people... need hope... I purchased tracks (that share the gospel message) and encouraged the ladies to take a few home and share them with others.

We then played the “ever so fun...and FUNNY” dice and white elephant gift game. This year, we didn’t have a real gold fish or live bunny as in past years, but we did have a styrofoam cooler with frozen venison, and a well sought after Packer travel mug---with many other treasures that were “LOVINGLY” fought over.

The scripture verse...MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK---for sure rings true with this event. Extremely grateful to ALL who had a hand in it! THANK YOU! Until next year...
Kim Hilleshiem ;)

Guatemala Missions Update

by **John Larson** on March 20, 2026

It’s been a while since my last update. Last trip was April 2025 with Elvis, an adopted Guatemalan young man from Osceola, WI. Elvis was adopted at the age of 5 with his brother to a family from Dresser, WI. Elvis spent most of his 5 years of life in Guatemala at an orphanage called Eagles Nest in the village of Solola. This trip was a little different in the fact that the LORD allowed me to be part of this trip with Elvis. To experience looking back a bit on his life to see where he came from and to where he is now. I was unsure how Elvis would handle seeing all this and how he would process it and take it in. To my surprise Elvis did very well. He went over and above helping in carrying in and distributing food and medications to the rural villages and the sponsored children we visited. Elvis was a great help on cleanup day at the bodega (shop) organizing wheelchair parts and breaking down old wheelchairs. The best time was Friday at the feeding program watching him interact with the children playing street soccer and trying to show off arm wrestling. Jumping ahead today is the first day of Spring March 20, 2026. Over this last Summer I was trying to see how and what this next trip might look like. I have always wanted to lead a group from EBBC on a trip with me. With a lot of prayer and help from the Smith family, we were able to put a trip of 9 of us together. We did several fundraiser events: 2 bake sales, a Guatemalan meal and a silent auction. Our goal seemed big in our eyes, but God provided to put in hearts to give everything we needed to raise the \$15,000.00 this trip would need to pay in country and flights for all of us. Am I surprised? No, not at all. This will be my LORD willing 11th trip, and I can not wait to see what the LORD has in store for us. This trip we will be traveling with a group from ages 8 to 80. We will be traveling from 4/11 to 4/18. Thank you, LORD, for all you have done in my life and I pray for eyes to be opened and your light to shine for the lost and the broken

as we travel. May your will be done and may you use us in mighty ways. Ways we may not know or even seen, Amen.

I would like to say that I wrote this without tears in my eyes but that's not the case. It is allergy season, right? Love, John.

Feed My Starving Children

by **Ashley Smith** on February 28, 2026



We had a team of 16 volunteers from EBBC travel to Coon Rapids, MN on February 28, 2026. As a joint task the entire group of people that came packing that day for the 9:30am-11:15am time slot packed 46,008 meals. This was enough food to feed 126 kids a daily meal for ONE YEAR! It was the first time serving at FMSC for several members of our church team! They play some music while you pack and get everyone “hyped up” encouraging you to have a good time as you serve.. Praise the Lord for all He is doing through the Feed My Starving Children ministry.

Teacher Appreciation @ Unity

by **Anika Enger** on March 31, 2026

In March, the Outreach Committee continued on with their service to the staff at Unity School by giving gift bags to the middle school staff. This included not only

teachers, but cleaning staff, support staff and administration. The gift bags included a meal bar, Clementine, chapstick, an EBBC pen, post its, pencils, chocolate and a note of thanks with an encouraging Bible verse. I chose this as an important outreach because my parents worked in the public school system for their entire career and being a former teacher myself, I know how much a small gesture of love and encouragement means for school staff. We will give gift bags to the high school staff later in the spring to complete this planned outreach "event". If you'd like to donate items or give your time to pack bags, please connect with Anika. Thank you for your love and support to the community in this way, the staff has really appreciated it.

Food Collection for Feed My Neighbor Food Pantry

by **Ashley Smith** on March 10, 2026

In February the church collected non-perishable food items for the Feed My Neighbor Food Pantry also known as the Centuria Food Shelf. Thank you for partnering with us so that we can continue to show Christ's love by meeting physical needs in our community. This ministry began as three separate food assistance programs offered by local churches. Organizers quickly realized that more could be done by combining their efforts. Feed My Neighbor Food Pantry was founded to address the growing problem of food insecurity in Polk County, WI. Since opening their doors in March 2023, they have seen a steady increase in people needing help, each hoping our charity can fill the gaps in their food budget. Anyone worried about putting food on their table, who lives in Polk County, are invited to visit them.

To see the hours, donate or volunteer visit <https://www.feedmyneighborpantry.org/>

Men's Bible Study

by **John Larson** on March 3, 2026

Men's Bible study has been a little different these last few months. First, losing unexpectedly one of our guys to a heart issue, Dennis Hall. Dennis was one that was always with us every Saturday morning and would always come through the front door humming a song. We did gain another, Cordell Smith, who has been a big help both with our men's breakfast and spiritually with the men's Bible study. We have also had leadership training, a small men's retreat and the men's breakfasts every 3rd Saturday of the month. When we did meet, we were going through a series called Distracted by Bob Goff and am hoping to finish this March with a 3-part series from the No Regrets Men's Conference called Surrender. I have been using Right Now Media for the last year or so, but I am planning on going into a book study (The Gospel of Jesus Christ by Paul Washer) getting back to the basics and getting to know our Savior more intimately. LORD willing, we will then move onto a book by A.W. Tozer called "Total Commitment to Christ. What Is It?" Both books have opened the eyes of my heart to dig deeper spiritually and scripturally with other men. Lastly our men's breakfast has been going great with 12 to 14 men showing up from Apple River Free and EBBC combined. LORD willing we will continue the men's breakfast all year with hopefully a special brunch one Saturday this Summer with our wives at Skonewood. Jesus didn't call us to sit and be still. He called us to go out and make disciples. In making these disciples we MUST go out and spread the good news and not only to spread the good news but to grow together as fellow brothers and sisters teaching and learning from one another.

Matthew 28:19-20 is more than a command, it's a commission.

Jesus calls us to step out of comfort and into purpose, sharing His love and truth with those around us and across the world. We don't go in our own strength, but in His authority, equipped by His Spirit.

Every act of love, every word of truth, every prayer is part of making disciples of all nations.

How is God calling you to step into this role in your own life?

"19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Women's Prayer & Bible Study

by **Heidi Johnson** on March 17, 2026

Over the holidays women's Bible study watched a movie called "The Great Turkey Town Miracle" - inspired by a true Thanksgiving story.

To start our meeting we bring up prayer requests and answered prayer praises. We take turns praying for each other,

At the beginning of the year we began studying Jesus Revealed in the End Times by Dr. Robert Jeffress. We watch a DVD sermon one week and then the following week or two we answer questions in a study guide.

Women interested in joining us feel free to come to the church on Tuesday mornings at 9:30.

Young Adults

by **Ashley Smith** on March 4, 2026

Andy and Amy Zylstra lead a Young Adults Bible Study that is held weekly on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. The group meets at the church and have been doing a brief study of Noah. Young Adults feel free to join in at any time!

Ignite Youth Group

by **Danielle Panik** on March 31, 2026

We have about 15 middle school kids and 5 high schoolers attending regularly to our Wednesday night youth group. Most members of the youth group attend Unity and many do not attend East Balsam on Sundays. Wednesdays are planned and led by Danielle Panik, Holly Wood Webster, Martha Shangle and Pastor Jonathon.

This Winter/Spring the youth group has been studying through the book of James. We meet together Wednesday nights and hang out, have snacks, play football and other games and then get together as a large group to watch the Francis Chan video on RightNowMedia to introduce our scripture for the night. Francis Chan

unpacks the dense truth of James verse by verse. We are learning that real faith produces fruit. Faith without action is dead. We are being challenged to live a real, vibrant faith in our day to day life.

After having a small group time to discuss more deeply, we meet back together with Pastor leading a share and question time.

We were able to send 18 kids and leaders to Wood Lake Stoked Winter Camp in February and continue to attend Wood Lake Wednesdays monthly for time with other area youth groups, and a time of worship.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Abby Burns

by Abby Burns on March 9, 2026



Hi, we're the Burns family! Our family includes Joe, Abby and our two young children, Ayla (5) and Landon (2), along with our two cats and our flock of chickens. We've been attending East Balsam Baptist throughout the past year and have really appreciated the fellowship we've found here. Our days are usually filled with family life, enjoying the outdoors and working on projects around our home. We're grateful to be part of this church community and look forward to building more friendships and continuing to grow in our faith here.

The Smith Family

by Ashley Smith on February 28, 2026



My husband and I, Cordell and Ashley Smith, have 5 young children Easton, Caiden, Wyatt, Trinity and Preston and we relocated from North Carolina a little over a year ago and have been attending EBBC since. Cordell was raised in Luck, WI from 2-14 years old then moved with his family to North Carolina. He spent many seasons helping his uncle do maple syrup, even coming back for 3 more seasons after relocating to help out. I was raised in North Carolina my entire life and was born and ended up back in Southeastern NC- the coast but was raised 2nd grade-10th grade in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Cordell and I met while we were both in Basic Law Enforcement Training. We got married April 8, 2018 and the week before our 1 year wedding anniversary welcomed our first son. I left my law enforcement career to be a stay at home mom and a year later Cordell also stepped out of law enforcement to become self employed to have more flexibility for our family life and service. We both came into a personal relationship with the Lord at a young age but daily have to choose to surrender our hurts, habits and hangups to the Lord. We are grateful for those we have met at East Balsam and the Women's and Men's Bible Studies that are offered as a safe place to share, grow and encourage one another. We enjoy cooking, baking and spending time outside with our family whether gardening, fishing, hunting, swimming, etc. We are the Host/Caretakers at Skonewood Christian Retreat & Campground and live on site there. We enjoy serving the Lord wherever He has us, prioritizing serving together as a family as often as we can! We love to encourage others to use the gifts God gave them, in various forms, to bring Him Glory!

Andy and Amy Zylstra

by Ashley Smith on March 4, 2026



Andy was raised in a Christian home with his dad and brothers both ministers of Christian Churches. He was baptized at 12 years old. Andy studied at Bible College for 2 years in College but decided to go a different route and do jobs where he could work with his hands. Amy received a Bachelor of Arts degree in secondary social studies education with an emphasis in psychology. Amy grew up in a family that fostered children, which gives her a personal perspective for caring for individuals and understanding their needs which she still uses in her job today. They got married in 2008 and blended two families with six children total which definitely came with challenges but by God's grace they were able to move forward. Andy and Amy have been members at East Balsam since 2022. They both have an evident passion to serve our Lord and Savior and feel privileged to serve in various areas within the church. The warm, friendly atmosphere is one of the things the Zylstra's love about EBBC. Amy shared that a lifelong walk with the Lord has brought her to approach all of life with this assurance shared in Romans 8:38-39 "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord".

Duane and Lynn Lindh

by Lynn Lindh on March 8, 2026



Our marriage of 55 years has been built on the solid rock of God's faithfulness. (Ps. 94:22) The Lord has become my stronghold, and the rock of my refuge.

Duane milked Jersey cows for 30 years and the last 30 years has hauled sand, gravel and does snowplowing. For 27 years Lynn taught 1st graders in the Grantsburg and Frederic school districts.

We have been blessed with two children. Son Dale lives near Dresser, Wis. Daughter Amy lives in Wausau, Wis. We have 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

We like to do cruises. We've been to the Bahamas, Cancun, Cozumel, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Dominican

Republic, Panama Canal and St. Thomas.

Duane's legacy will be maple syrup, fireworks and making homemade ice cream. Lynn's legacy will be doing crafts, board games, playing dress up and having tea parties with the grandkids.

We enjoy our EBBC for the worship team, the Bible based truths preached from our pastor and the warm friendly fellowship of the church people. We cherish the friendships we've made. (Col. 2:6-7) Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in faith and overflowing with thankfulness.

The picture shows:

Duane and Lynn at Norsk Hostfest Minot, North Dakota enjoying treats their grandmothers used to make for them (fruit soup and date filled cookies).

MISSIONS

The Gallaghers – by Carol Jean Gallagher on March 23, 2026



*The **Workforce Partnerships and Vitality** department that connects with and cares for Wycliffe staff around the world*

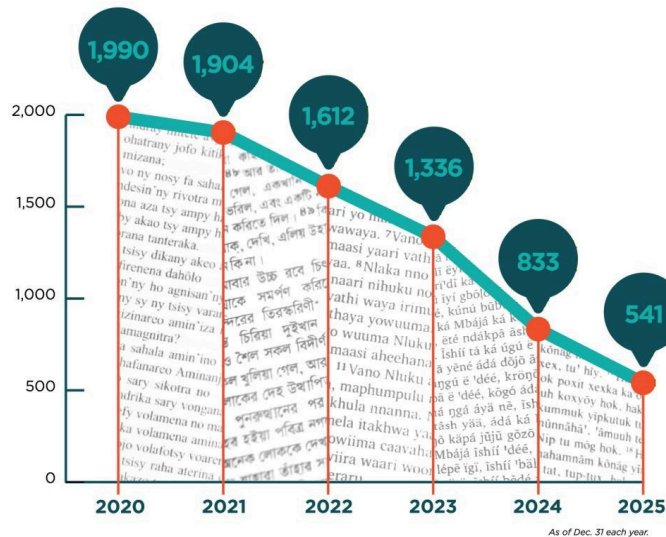
In February, Carol Jean had the opportunity to attend a Wycliffe conference in Orlando. It was a joy to celebrate all that God has done — especially the many Bible translation projects launched around the world. We're seeing the fruit of Vision 2025 in incredible ways, with only 541 languages still remaining without any Scripture in progress or completed. Praise God for how much He has accomplished! It was also especially meaningful to connect with colleagues in person.



The smaller **Workforce Partnerships** team that Carol Jean works closely with

In 1999, Wycliffe USA made a bold decision to adopt a God-sized vision: to see a Bible translation program *in progress* in every language still needing one by the year 2025. We knew this wasn't possible without God doing abundantly more than we could ask or imagine — and He did!

The graph below shows just how dramatically the need has changed over time.



Helping in Wisconsin

This month, we've spent time in Wisconsin with Carol Jean's parents, who are in a nursing home in Osceola. Her dad's health has been declining, and he now is going on hospice. It has been a challenging season for our family. Steve was able to be here for the first 12 days, and it meant a lot to walk through this time together. He has since returned and continues his work on *Translators' Notes*.

We've been clearing out Carol Jean's parents' home in Balsam Lake to prepare it for sale and held an estate sale over the weekend. During this time, Carol Jean is working reduced hours and plans to return to Florida on March 31.

We're thankful for the ways God is at work, and we'd love for you to join us in both praise and prayer:

Praise God for...

- The good care her parents are receiving
- An encouraging Wycliffe conference
- The progress of Vision 2025
- God's faithful financial provision for our needs

Please pray for...

- Carol Jean's parents- especially her dad, for comfort, peace and strength
- Meaningful time together
- A smooth transition back to Florida
- Continued progress in our Wycliffe work

Thank you so much for your prayers. We're very grateful for you.

Steve & Carol Jean Gallagher

PARTNER WITH US

Send your gift to the Wycliffe address below and include a separate note that says, "*Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Steve & Carol Jean Gallagher.*"

Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862

The Llapushi's

by Elton Llapushi on February 24, 2026

We are currently serving in Albania and the Balkan region. Our ministry focuses on reaching Albanian Muslims through church planting. Our desire is to see healthy, biblical churches established that will faithfully share the Gospel and disciple believers throughout the region.



We are truly thankful for East Balsam Baptist Church and for the decision the church has made to walk alongside us in the mission God has called us to. Your faithful prayer, encouragement, and financial support are a tremendous blessing to our family and ministry.

Thank you again for your thoughtful communication and partnership in the Gospel.

In Christ,

The Llapushi's

The Beatham's

by **Candice Beatham** on February 24, 2026

Dear Church family,

Hi! We are doing well! We have so much for which to be thankful to God! We recently were given the approval to start the publishing process for both Colossians and Philemon! Those are books number eight and nine for the New Testament in the Southern Coicoyán variant of Mixtec. We are now working through the consultant notes for the book of Acts, which will be our next book!

Please pray for us as we are short one translator! In January, Ernesto returned to his community to be the town's secretary, which put him out of commission for translation work this entire year! We trust God with what He is doing.

Also, Candice needs to have at least one of her knees replaced this summer (maybe both) and so we are asking God for His provision for this.

We also ask that you pray that we can find some employer to find work for Valentín so that his family is provided for, and that we can take a break, especially Bruce, to unplug from the project work and be restored mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

We thank God for you in our every remembrance of you.

You are a blessing!

Candice

**PLEASE SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD BY THE FRONT
ENTRANCE FOR UPDATES ON OTHER MISSIONARIES
WE SUPPORT THAT CANNOT BE LISTED!!**

Ways to Serve

Junior Church/Vacation Bible School

Do you enjoy working with children ages 4-5th grade? This may be the spot for you! We have 3 different Sunday morning Junior Church classes. **Background checks are required to work with children.**

Fellowship Time

Every week we have a fellowship time after service. If you would like to help serve food/drinks or provide them please sign up on the clipboard by the Kitchen.

Feed My Starving Children

We participate by packing meals in Coon Rapids, MN a couple times a year. Kids ages 5 and up can also participate! 1 kid to 1 adult ratio on the team for younger ages. They also do have jobs for those who may need to sit!

Guatemala Missions

We would love to see a team from East Balsam go at least once a year! If you would like to make a monetary donation you can make a check out to East Balsam Baptist Church and in the Memo section add GUATEMALA MISSIONS. If you are interested in attending a trip, reach out to John Larson or you may email communications@eastbalsam.org for more information.

Operation Christmas Child

We collect supplies year round for Operation Christmas Child. You can find our collection bin in the Fellowship Hall.

Worship Team

If you are passionate about serving through music ministry whether vocals, drums, guitar, piano or other instruments this may be the spot for you!

Sound/Tech

We are currently looking for someone to volunteer with our Live Stream for the 9 a.m. service. We currently have one person that does this but need someone else trained as an alternate. We are willing to train someone wanting to serve in this area!

Outreach Committee

Are you passionate about outreach? Do you have ministry and outreach ideas? Prayerfully consider being part of our outreach committee!

If you have any questions, are interested in serving in another area or have ideas that you would like to share please reach out by emailing communications@eastbalsam.org



EAST BALSAM BAPTIST CHURCH

IGNITING A PASSION FOR GOD AND A LOVE FOR PEOPLE

East Balsam Baptist Church 1816 – 108th Street Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Sunday Worship – 9:00 A.M.

9:30 A.M. – Children's Church

Tuesday – 9:30 A.M. - Women's Bible Study

Wednesday – 6:00 P.M. Youth Group

Friday – 6:30 P.M. Young Adults Bible Study

Saturday – 7:00 A.M. Men's Bible Study

(Third Saturday of each month 8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast)

Other meetings and activities announced in the bulletin & on our website at www.eastbalsam.org To get to livestreaming, our YouTube address is youtube.com/eastbalsambaptist OR on the church website, click on Sermon at the top of the page and from the drop down click YouTube. Send Prayer Chain requests to east.balsam.baptist.church@gmail.com, or contact Val Rowe at 715-268-7424

