



**I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
John 15:5**



INTRODUCTION

I HAD NO IDEA!!! Is what I often hear from many of our members. There's just so much going on that it's easy to not see the forest for the trees. That's the reason for INVEST. Every single week, members of our church are making a difference in the Kingdom of God through the time, talent and treasure but they don't even know it.

Did you know that just a couple of months ago, 13 new believers were baptized in one morning in the Burmese Congregation that meets in our facility each Sunday?



Did you know that more than 30 Spanish followers of Christ are meeting upstairs every Sunday morning the same time you are meeting downstairs?



Did you know that more than a \$1,500.00 was brought in to purchase Bibles for our VBS children and to provide Bibles for the Full-Throttle Ministry at the Kentucky Speedway and other venues?

Did you know that a sister church from Tennessee made up of 12 adults spent a week in our church so that they could minister in the harvest field of Northern Kentucky?



Well, if not, that's the purpose of INVEST. It's to let everyone know how God is using them to make a difference in His Kingdom and positioning people to experience life change through Jesus Christ.

-Dwight Moody



Please take the time to read the inaugural issue of the INVEST newsletter.



NETWORK

What organization has been around for 125 years? What is still causing lives to be changed, eternal destinies to be sealed, and providing fellowship and spiritual guidance to both its members and the entire community?

GIVE UP?
ERLANGER BAPTIST CHURCH.

Standing erect in the middle of the 100th block of Commonwealth Avenue, the bell tower casts a shadow over streets, houses and all those around it.

But, how did EBC come to be? When did it start?

It was started as a mission of the North Bend Baptist Association. At the time, Erlanger was an incorporated town. It (along with Elsmere) had a population of less than 300.

In Erlanger, there was no water service, gas, electricity, telephones, bath tubs, street lights, automobiles, radios, motion pictures, fire department, or concrete highways.

Erlanger did have the horse and buggy, hitching posts, long skirts, coal oil lamps and a one-room school house.

But from the beginning the people at EBC have been faithful in reaching out for the cause of Christ. It has been, throughout the years, mission minded. The faithful members started Elsmere Baptist Church in 1903 and Kento-Boo Baptist Church in 1946.

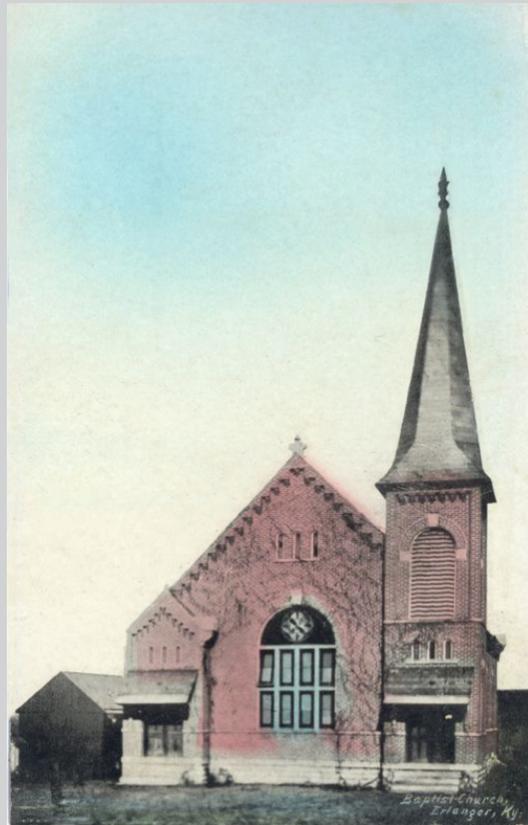
EBC has always had an impact on the activities, needs and improvements in the community. Budgets, offerings, enrollment and attendance have continually grown and changed throughout the years. But, even in the lean times, members of EBC have remained faithful both in their services and resources.

The history of Erlanger Baptist Church shows how God has always provided workers for the tasks at hand. EBC's people have responded to God's call and have truly given their best "to the master."

The history of EBC is really His Story, the story of God leading, blessing and working in people's lives for 125 years.

The purpose of church is God's holy plan for lives. We, through God's leadership and direction, are to lead the lost to salvation, fully develop His followers and continue to be a lighthouse in the community for another 125 years and beyond.

-Faye Francis



We have posted a selection of historical church photos for your enjoyment on the [EBC Facebook page](#).



VOLUNTEER

Making the case for becoming a Whiz Kids Tutor

Erlanger Baptist Church members and other Christians are investing in our community and church family by serving as tutors and mentors to local children. Specifically, they are engaged as volunteers in the Whiz Kids

Program and have the opportunity to read with students from Lindeman Elementary School for one hour each week. Whiz Kids is a program of the City Gospel Mission.

All of the one-on-one tutoring sessions take place in the various classrooms at EBC on Monday nights from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M. during the school year. The aim of the ministry is three-fold:

- To bring the children and their families to Jesus Christ by establishing a trusting and helpful relationship with them through weekly interaction.
- To help the kids improve their reading and interaction skills through practice reading and participation in fun activities.
- To introduce the youngsters to the Lord during 30 minutes of "Jesus time" each week.

See what the kids say about the program in this enjoyable [video](#).

There are important and tangible benefits for the kids. Angela Gabbard, Principal at Lindeman Elementary School commented on the significance of Whiz Kids to her students:

"I have listed a few details that I noticed looking at our Whiz Kids students and MAP testing data:

- *Our Erlanger Baptist Whiz Kids students grew a collective 218 percentile points!!*
- *At the start of the school year we had around 40 percent of students participating in Whiz Kids reading at grade level and ended the year with around 65 percent reading at grade level.*
- *Students who have participated longer appear to be growing more.*

Unfortunately we don't have specific data that supports the relationship and mentoring aspect of Whiz Kids but it is huge! Each and every student attending Whiz Kids needs that connection with an adult."

It is enjoyable interacting with youngsters and watching them grow academically and spiritually. Perhaps the people who get the most out of Whiz Kids are the volunteers.

[Comments](#) by Shirley Massey who decided to take the plunge and become a first-time volunteer for Whiz Kids last year. (Video by Jeff Barbour)

Last year one of the 5th graders accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior during a Whiz Kids session. By the end of the week his father had dedicated his life to the Lord as well!

[Testimonial](#) by the father who received Jesus Christ as a direct result of his children's involvement in Whiz Kids. (Video of Chris Charles' Baptism testimonial by Jeff Barbour).

-David Bird



Will you consider volunteering?



DUCATE

Are you a scripture master? Think you have all of this year's memory verses memorized? Test your knowledge with this interactive crossword and see if you have mastered them all. When you've proven your scripture prowess pop on over to do a quick word search for fun.

See if you know the book of the Bible from which the verses are taken in this [Memory verse crossword](#)
[Word search](#)

-Brittaney Skaggs



TEWARDSHIP

Having grown up in Erlanger Baptist Church, I can remember many instances, both good and bad, where "stewardship" was mentioned. Yes, virtually all had to do with money. It may have come from an incident not unlike this one.

The pastor stood before the congregation and said "I have bad news, I have good news, and I have more bad news." The congregation got quiet. "The bad news is: the church needs a new roof!" the pastor said. The congregation groaned. "The good news is: we have enough money for the new roof." A sigh of relief was heard rippling through the gathered group. "The bad new is: it's still in your pockets"

The truth is that we are all "stewards" of our time, talent and resources. Our calling is simple. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

The fall is an exciting time of year. The temperatures turn cooler, normalcy returns to homes with kids going back to school and we look forward to times together with our loved ones during the holidays.

At EBC, planning for 2016 will be under way. Your Stewardship team will be gathering information from ministry teams and groups needed to prepare the budget. As chair of this team, I would covet your prayers. There are many needs that will be presented that impact people both in our church and in reaching those outside. Because our needs are typically greater than our anticipated offerings, we must wisely decide on which to present for church approval.

There is also the opportunity to give over your normal offering to causes such as Month of Missions, Operation Christmas Child and Advent Conspiracy. Please make your budget giving your first priority since it supports the majority of our ministry, provides for our staff and keeps our facility up and operating. Give to these other causes from the overflow of what God has given to you.



Advent Conspiracy helps provide meals for school children in Guatemala

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in all areas of Stewardship; your time, gifts and talents and your resources. To God be the Glory!

-Bob Smith

Please be in prayer for your Stewardship team



ELL

God is alive and at work in our midst. His miracles and acts transform lives and impossible situations daily. Recognizing God's activity in our lives gives Him the glory and helps us to maintain a heart of thankfulness. A testimony honors God by bearing witness to others about His work in your own life. A testimony of how God is at work in our lives invigorates and excites our brothers and sisters in Christ as we hear how God is working in the church body. The sharing of testimonies serves to bind the church together, as we open up our lives to one another. Consider these scriptures that speak to the importance of sharing our testimony and call for our obedience:

*"I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."
Psalm 22:22*

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

Hear one of our members, Michael Turner, speak personally of how he recently experienced God's grace.

At the end of last year Tabitha and I were praying about increasing the amount we tithe. During that time, Tabitha had lost one of her clients and terminated another for lack of payment. Both of these clients were part-time, but needless to say, our financial situation was a little less than it was just a couple months prior, but we still felt we could do more with our tithing. We ultimately followed our hearts and increased our giving and relied on the Lord to provide for us. In the following months, Tabitha added several full-time clients to her business. She even got to the point where she needed to hire someone to help her because she had too many kids on her own. Even as recently as this past weekend she had to turn away new business because she is maxed out.



As I hear Michael's testimony I am reminded of this scripture:

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Malachi 3:10

-Laura Ellis



Would you consider increasing your giving, believing that God will provide as he did for the Turners?



erlangerbaptist.org/

STAY CONNECTED

