

BE THE BEACON

Lighting the way, together.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot
be hidden."

MATTHEW 5:14

A beacon is tended. The lighthouse does not shine on its own. The lighthouse keepers climbed the stairs, cleaned the glass, kept the lamp fueled, and stayed awake so that a stranger out on the water could find the shore. Drawing upon the resilience of the lighthouse and of its Keepers, our generosity campaign is **Be the Beacon** — and we **step up now** to take our turn as **keepers of the light**.

Take one step. A step is not a leap. It is an incremental increase from wherever you are — whatever you gave last year, whatever season of life you are in. You name the step yourself. It might be \$10 a month, moving from 5% of your income to 7%, or starting to give for the first time. A step is any increase that represents a choice to grow in faith, in trust, and in partnership with what God is doing here.

This is not a spreadsheet. It is the story of what your generosity does once it leaves your hands — six areas of ministry, the needed resources, and the promise that every dollar entrusted is doing what we said it would.

With new and exciting giving opportunities, we are casting a light that is forward looking. Everything in this booklet is measured against one question — **what are we building for the people here today, and for those who may be here decades from now?**

— Roger Hurd, Stewardship Chair

CHURCH GIVING GOAL \$250,000	BEACON ONLINE SHARE \$25,000 of that goal	GENEROSITY BURSTS 4 one per quarter, each with a finish line	BEACON SUNDAY Nov 8, 2026 a celebration in worship — giving continues all year
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01 · PURPOSE & VISION

Take a few minutes with this booklet and see how EBPC is continuing to provide worship, discipleship, and mission and outreach.

Unlike a line-item budget, a narrative budget tells the story behind the numbers — how our shared resources become real ministry. It is written so that every member and friend of EBPC can understand, celebrate, and take part in the life and mission of this church. Thank you for your prayers, your support, and your presence.

IN THIS BOOKLET
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03 · Worship
04 · Mission, service & community engagement
05 · Pastoral care, compassion & hospitality
06 · Connections
07 · Christian education
08 · East Brentwood Children's Academy
09 · Your dollar at a glance
10 · Five ways to be the light

Our combined budget reflects the shared mission of the congregation and East Brentwood Children's Academy (EBCA). As one of Williamson County's largest preschools, EBCA employs nearly thirty staff and serves families across our community with excellence and care. Its size can make it look as though the preschool dominates our finances — but EBCA is not separate from our ministry. It is one of our ministries, and it is self-funded through tuition.

Which means something worth saying plainly: **your giving is not spread thin across \$1.3 million.** It goes to the six areas of church ministry that recurring giving carries — and it carries a little more than half of them.

TOTAL CONSOLIDATED BUDGET

\$1,313,400

Church and Academy together, adopted by Session August 2026. Preschool income accounts for \$921,755 of it, with a further \$87,000 in facility usage and rental.

CHURCH MINISTRY FUNDED BY GIVING

\$250,000

Worship, mission, pastoral care, Christian education and Connections.

WHERE EVERY DOLLAR OF YOUR GIVING GOES

AREA OF MINISTRY	TOTAL AREA BUDGET
Connections • property & campus	\$130,609
Connections • administration & technology *appropriation of church staff only	\$228,436
Worship	\$7,150
Mission, service & community engagement	\$20,000
Pastoral care, compassion & hospitality	\$6,850
Christian education	\$7,700
CHURCH MINISTRY TOTAL	\$357,844
East Brentwood Children's Academy — self-funded through tuition	\$921,755 —

Area budgets are based on the 2026–2027 figures adopted by the Session, August 2026. Line items are available to any member on request.

WORSHIP

Building faith through vibrant, inclusive gatherings.

\$7,150

Worship unites this community in faith, hope and praise. Each week we offer vibrant, scriptural and theologically grounded services that inspire connections and deeply rooted faith — supported by our pastor and music director, guest musicians, administrative needs, and the technology that carries worship beyond our walls.



The choir on a Sunday morning — sheet music, bell choir and praise band all funded by your giving.



"We read the same book the church has been reading for 2,000 years — they are our moral compass, words of grace, and words of welcome."



Easter morning, the sanctuary full — the one hour a week this congregation becomes a single body.



In person gathering is EBPC's superpower.

"Music helps us experience worship together in a way nothing else can. Every week, I see people of all ages use their gifts to create moments of joy, beauty, reflection, and connection. Your support makes that possible — from sheet music for our choir, bell choir, and praise band to guest musicians who enrich our worship. When you invest in music ministry, you're helping us create worship that brings people together and opens our hearts to God."

NATE STRASSER, MUSIC DIRECTOR

"I've learned over the years I'm not the one holding worship together. Some weeks the sermon comes easy; some weeks it's a wrestling match till Saturday night. Either way, what you give makes room for something bigger than the preacher showing up on Sunday morning. My hope, every week, is that in that labor the sermon becomes a light that helps guide you home."

PASTOR JOHN HILLEY



Nate at the piano.



Praise band, Sunday morning.



Session member's updates



Celebrating together at the pulpit.

\$850 brings a guest brass quartet for Easter • **\$220** buys a new anthem for the whole choir
\$60 sets the communion table for a Sunday

04 · AREA OF MINISTRY

MISSION & SERVICE

Extending compassion beyond our walls.

\$20,000

\$35,007

given by volunteers last year

3,807

volunteer hours served

\$15,000

in benevolence for urgent local need



Room In The Inn — chicken parmesan on the board and a hot meal served.



The Inn Crowd, aproned and ready before the doors open.



Loading snacks and supplies for Glenview Elementary families.



The Grace Table hosts a community panel on addiction and recovery.

OUR MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

The Grace Table — a welcoming space of healing and connection for those in recovery.

Room In The Inn — meals, shelter and care for unhoused neighbors.

Glenview Elementary — supporting families with gifts, supplies and encouragement all year.

Nueva Vida — partnering with immigrant families through service, compassion and hope.

Our mission and service extends far beyond what our size would suggest. Because we have a dedicated Coordinator of Mission, Service and Community Engagement, we are able to do this faithfully. Our impact lives the truth: *"Do you love me? Then feed my sheep."* (John 21:17)

"Loving our neighbors as ourselves is a practice of kindness repeated over and over — and when it feels complete, we start again, because this work never truly ends."

LETICIA TYLER, COORDINATOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, SERVICE AND MISSIONS



Guatemala — care given one person at a time, outside a blue house.



Our tent at Pride Fest, Crockett Park — an open seat for all, said out loud.



Nueva Vida — certificates of completion, earned and celebrated.



A high five at Pride Fest, where welcome looks like this.

05 · AREA OF MINISTRY

PASTORAL CARE, COMPASSION & HOSPITALITY

In new beginnings, through life's joys and sorrows, nobody alone.

\$6,850

Living out our vision statement, we build an extended family — so that a seeker and a long-time member alike can form stronger bonds with God and with this community. It happens through one-on-one outreach and care meals, through fellowship (small groups, Presbyterian Women, Men's Group, special events), through the equipping of the volunteers who make all of it possible, and through the pastoral care Pastor John provides to our members and the wider community.

It is the smallest of our six giving-funded areas and the one people are most grateful for. Someone answers the phone. Someone is at the hospital before the surgery. Someone makes sure there is a ride to church.



Through life's joys and sorrows — nobody alone.



Liz greets by name — greeted on the way in, clipboard and all.



Bill at the door with the bulletins.



A welcome handed out one bulletin at a time.



Erin in conversation after worship — fellowship is the ministry.



Small groups and Men's Group — stronger bonds, built slowly.

WHAT YOUR GIVING FUNDS IN THIS AREA

- **Small groups** — Presbyterian Women's Group, Men's Open Seat, Ladies Open Seat, Hilley's Good Enough Gathering
- **Grace Table** — weekly recovery and mental health ministry
- **Sunday Bible study** — scripture study and fellowship
- **Care activities** — visitor follow-up, hospital visits, pastoral counseling, care meals, home communion

\$56 for a pastoral care visit at the hospital · **\$40** covers coffee and communion fellowship

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Forming faith across generations.

\$7,700

A small share of the budget doing outsized work: helping children and youth learn and celebrate the stories of God as they form their own identity. We deepened our commitment here by tasking **Kayla Esterine-Reid** to go deeper with children and families and now youth, and by bringing on **Bradley Elkins** as a youth ministry fellow, supporting our youth through a weekly, stress-free gathering and a monthly youth group. In addition, Pastor John leads a weekly Sunday morning Bible study at 9:00 am.

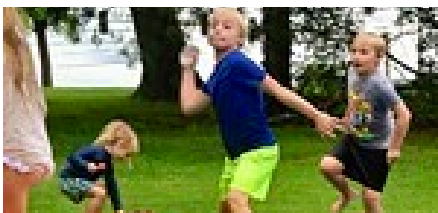
This year's focus: quarterly family events that strengthen connection, children engaging deeply with at least five foundational Bible stories, and children taking an active role in worship leadership once a month. The Family Spiritual Direction Project continues to explore spiritual direction with families as a space for faith formation, developing both a congregational curriculum and a devotional for parents.



Children taking an active role in worship — scripts in hand, costumes on.



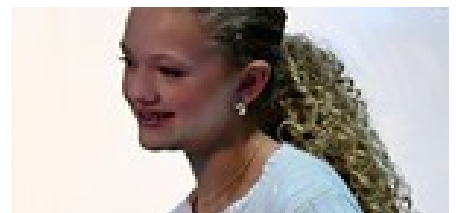
Faith formation looks like this: a child who knows she is glad to be seen.



A quarterly family event on the lawn.



Senior recognition — our seniors enter the world with the entire church's blessing.



A young voice leading worship.

“At EBPC, we aim to cultivate the spiritual lives of children by surrounding them with support, belonging, and meaningful opportunities to grow in faith. Through weekly conversations during Children’s Time, community-building events, and shared moments of reading and studying the Bible, we help kids explore who God is and how they can live out God’s love each day. Hands-on activities expand their understanding of scripture and faith, while participation in services gives them a chance to experience the rhythms of the church year. Together, we’re cultivating a ministry and community where children feel seen, valued, and spiritually held.”

KAYLA ESTERINE-REID · CHILDREN, FAMILIES & YOUTH

\$600 prepares a child for confirmation · **\$500** helps send our youth to Camp NaCoMe this fall ·
\$35 supplies one child's Sunday school year

EAST BRENTWOOD CHILDREN'S ACADEMY

High-quality early childhood education. Self-funded.

\$921,755

FUNDED BY TUITION

Our self-funded Children's Academy is a vital part of EBPC's educational mission, shaping both children and their families. The preschool provides a nurturing Christian environment for the whole child — learning, creativity and faith together. Weekly chapel, led by Kayla Esterine-Reid, teaches early lessons in service through monthly offerings that support others; students also enjoy art, music, library, creative movement, and the new Learning Lab designed to support behavioral, academic and developmental growth.

A State of Tennessee **3-Star** school with an enrollment of 126 children and a teaching staff of 23 educators, fulfills our mission to nurture young learners and connects new families to EBPC - extending our reach and strengthening this congregation.

Where giving still matters here. Tuition covers operations. It does not cover the extra snowfall beyond what was budgeted so the preschool can reopen, and it does not cover capital improvements. April's *Bright Beginnings* Generosity Burst funds classroom furnishings and a refreshed playground surface, so that EBPA can focus its own fundraising on scholarships — and cost is never the reason a family says no.



Letters and numbers on the carpet — early learning, one circle at a time.



Story time in the art room, under the Artist Spotlight board.



Naming feelings together — the Learning Lab at work.



Bubbles on the playground, where most of the best days happen.



Story time in chapel — the whole class listening in.

“Most of our families do not come to us looking for a church. They come looking for somewhere safe to leave a two-year-old — which is the most vulnerable decision of their week. What they find is teachers who know their child’s name, a classroom that is calm and clean and ready, and a place that takes their family exactly as it is.

“For a lot of those families, the Academy is not part of East Brentwood Presbyterian. It is the only part of it they have met. That is a responsibility I take seriously, and it is why keeping good teachers matters more here than anything else we could buy. Children bond to people, not to buildings.”

JESSICA SATTERFIELD · DIRECTOR, EAST BRENTWOOD CHILDREN'S ACADEMY

CONNECTIONS

The tower itself — administration, property, technology.

\$359,044

Every ministry here — worship, education, care, the Academy — rests on a network of people, systems and spaces. A lighthouse is mostly maintenance, and so is a campus of connection. This is the largest single share of your giving, and the least visible.

Because it is the largest share, we show it as the two distinct things it actually is, rather than one opaque line.

PROPERTY & CAMPUS

Nine acres holding the church building, the Academy, and the manse — now home to the Pastoral Center for Healing, a trusted counseling partner. Utilities, insurance, custodial care, HVAC, roof, parking and grounds. Keeping it warm, safe and open is itself a ministry: this campus hosts recovery groups, community meetings and neighborhood partners all week long.

ADMINISTRATION & TECHNOLOGY

Office management, accounting, digital infrastructure, the communication systems that reach every household, the giving platform and database, and the salaries of our administrative and technology staff. For simplicity, all staff compensation is reflected here — but their contributions are felt across every ministry area. The pastor's time in worship, care, education, mission, and vision-casting is made possible by the administrative infrastructure, the systems that make giving accessible, and the technology team that keeps our communications flowing. This is the line that makes every other line legible.



Becky Walton, Office Manager — our command center for keeping it all together.



Five lines, one office. New updated phone systems — somebody answers every one of them.



Updating spaces to improve everyone's experiences.



Records management: decades of church history, boxed, labelled and findable.



Clint from Roscoe Brown, helping with all the HVAC repairs.

"The roof does not preach. The Wi-Fi does not lead worship. The database will not greet you at the door. But without the people, spaces, systems and technology behind our ministry, none of the ministry in front of us happens at all."

BECKY WALTON, OFFICE MANAGER



ebpctn.org — the front door most people try first.



The monthly newsletter, out the door on time.

RECENTLY DELIVERED

- Security cameras and door access controls, for improved security across church and preschool
- Two complete HVAC replacements — sanctuary (\$49,000) & preschool education wing (\$26,000)
- Subsplash, our all-in-one communication platform
- New VoIP phone system replacing the ancient copper landlines
- Exterior painting of the church building

AHEAD IN 2026-27

- HVAC replacement-the 20-plus-year-old unit serving the office zone (\$13,000)
- *Ducks for Ducts*, our first Generosity Burst — four weeks through October, with the goal of funding this replacement in full
- Campus-wide grounds updates
- A second sanctuary camera for worship and the livestream
- Continued technology management and support

BEACON ONLINE

Wherever you watch from, the light is yours to carry.

Our 2025 summer worship engagement grew 46% over 2024, and most of that growth was people who have never sat in this room. This year they get a name, a card and a goal of their own: **\$25,000 of the \$260,000**, tracked publicly as its own beam on the tower.

\$25/mo

the first step, and a real one

\$140

streams one Sunday to everyone watching

A lighthouse is not built for tonight. It is built for the ships that have not sailed yet.

EBPC has been here since 1989. Everything we have — the campus, the Academy, the music, the open seat — came from people who gave toward a church they would not live to see. Our turn is now. Most of what follows has no immediate payoff at all, and that is the point: **a portion of this year's giving is deliberately aimed past this year.**

BE THE BEACON RECURRING GIVING

What it funds is our day-to-day ministry initiatives and operational costs — worship, education, care, missions, community connection, administration and the people who make it all work.

KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT

Wills, trusts & beneficiary gifts

The most consequential thing most households can do for this church costs nothing today. Naming EBPC in a will, a trust, or a retirement-account beneficiary line turns one generation's faithfulness into the next generation's foundation.

Introduced on All Saints Sunday, November 1 — the day we name the people who kept the light on before us. Everyone who commits joins the **Keepers of the Light** and is read aloud, with permission, each All Saints. A spring teaching series with the Presbyterian Foundation goes deeper: two Sunday sessions, one estate-attorney clinic, and simple bequest language kept in the narthex all year.

THE BEACON FUND

OUR BUILDING FUND

A reserve, not a rainy-day account

In 2026 we replaced three major units — HVAC and roof systems — at a combined cost of over \$100,000. Some of that we saw coming. Some of it we didn't. Either way, the bill arrived, and it came due against reserves that were never built to carry that kind of weight. Those reserves are now nearing depletion, at exactly the moment we need them most.

A lighthouse is built to take a storm without going dark. The Beacon Fund names our intent to hold reserves for more than just the storm — for the rainy day we didn't see coming, and for the capital plans we can already see on the horizon. It is a named, Session-designated reserve, grown by legacy gifts and by any giving earmarked for the Beacon Fund above commitments to our operating budget.

EBPC currently holds a contingency of roughly **\$100,000–\$150,000**. The Beacon Fund names it, protects it, and commits to replenishing what our plans and emergencies draw down — so the reserve stays a buffer, not a habit.

THE NEXT GENERATION

Children, youth & young families

130 children walk this hallway every week. Every young family who visits decides within about three Sundays whether their child is loved here — and that judgment, made in a nursery doorway, is the strongest single predictor of whether EBPC is thriving in twenty years.

Which is why Christian education and chapel time at EBPA are treated here as investment rather than expense, and why the *Bright Beginnings* burst funds a playground and curriculum enhancements rather than something the adults would enjoy more.

A CAMPUS KEPT READY

Nine acres, held in trust

Deferred maintenance is a debt future members pay with interest. Exterior painting, HVAC, roof and grounds are not glamour lines — they are how a congregation hands over a building in better shape than it received one.

The generosity bursts put one visible improvement a year in front of the congregation — named with a number, finished on a date, photographed before and after. The first is *Ducks for Ducts*, the October duck race funding the air-conditioning duct replacement.

THE MEASURE OF A GOOD YEAR

Not only the total given. Also: how many households took a step up. How many first-time commitments came in. How many online members became members who give. How many families joined the Keepers of the Light. Four bursts finished on time. Those are the numbers that say something beyond 2027.



ALL FIVE WAYS TO BE THE LIGHT

BE THE BEACON
Recurring giving ·
day-to-day
ministry

KEEPERS OF THE
LIGHT
Wills, trusts
& gifts

A CAMPUS KEPT
READY
\$130,609 ·
property

THE BEACON FUND
\$100K-\$150K ·
reserves

NEXT GENERATION
Academy & future

WHAT ONE STEP MEANS

A lighthouse keeper climbs the same stair every night, and every step carries the light higher. **Whatever you gave last year, this year we invite you to take one step** — an increase you name yourself. It might be \$10 a month, moving from 5% of your income to 7%, or starting to give for the first time. Most of our giving is already recurring — over 90% of our pledges are committed month after month, year after year. A step is any increase that represents a choice to grow in faith, in trust, and in partnership with what God is doing here.

The size is between you and God; the direction is the invitation. There is joy in giving, in connecting your resources with your faith, in creating God's words and actions with every transaction. When we give, we become part of something larger than ourselves. Jesus spoke of it as experiencing joy and fullness of life. On November 8, we celebrate together. Drop your My One Step card in the collection plate, give at ebpctn.org/giving, or tap the disc on the back of your chair. Every step, every voice, every light — matters.

A WAY TO DECIDE				
HOUSEHOLD INCOME	5%	7%	10%	15%
\$50,000	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
\$75,000	\$3,750	\$5,250	\$7,500	\$11,250
\$150,000	\$7,500	\$10,500	\$15,000	\$22,500

READY TO STEP UP?

To make your step by increasing your giving, update your recurring giving amount in our app today.

[EBPCTN.ORG/GIVING](https://ebpctn.org/giving)



Be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord,
because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

State your intent of giving continuously through the year, or make your commitment by Beacon Sunday, November 8, 2026 — in worship, by mail, or at ebpctn.org/giving. Every commitment is held in confidence. Together, we are the beacon.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

East Brentwood Presbyterian Church strives to be a campus of connection with an open seat for all to gather, worship, and respond to Christ's urgent call to address the hunger of God's people with action, love, justice, and mercy.