



Annual Report 2025

**Faith in
Action:
Making Earth
More Like
Heaven**
Pg. 10

Table of Contents

A Letter From Our Pastors	3
How We Love God, We Love People, and We Live Like Jesus	4
Faith in Action: Making Earth More Like Heaven	10
A Moment of Care: The Impact of CHAPEL	14
Bible Center in the News	18
Looking Back, Moving Forward	20

#HereLikeThere

A Letter From Our Pastors



Dear Bible Center Family and Friends,

Thank you for your love and support that made 2025 another amazing year. We prayed and worshiped together, we played and celebrated new births and marriages together, and we grew together as a family, experiencing both the ups and downs that make life what it is.

As we look back over 2025, we are grateful for the opportunity to have served you this year. We pray that you have been blessed and feel loved as members of the immediate and extended Bible Center family.

As you review this year's annual report, we hope that you are encouraged and that you will join us in thanking God for His many blessings, with great aspirations and expectations for 2026 as we celebrate Bible Center's 70th anniversary. Please plan to join us in June for the anniversary celebration.

Pastors

John & Cynthia Wallace

How We Love God, We Love People, and We Live Like Jesus

At Bible Center Church, our mission is summarized by three broad commitments: We Love God. We Love People. We Live Like Jesus. These are not abstract values but lived practices that guide why we gather, give and serve. Throughout 2025, we expressed these commitments through our worship services, Bible studies, discipleship groups, baptisms, times of fellowship, prayer meetings, leadership development programs and significant outreach to our community through The Oasis Project.



**We Love God
(through Worship and Stewardship)**

In 2025, our worship ministry, supported by our audio video ministry, and undergirded by 156 hours of prayer by our prayer team, led us weekly (52 times!) to celebrate and communicate our love for God (i.e. worship) –both in person and online–through songs, prayers, and messages designed to inspire, instruct, and challenge us to see our entire lives as acts of worship. Our finance, operations, and human resource departments strived to effectively manage the human, financial, and physical

resources that God provided us (i.e. stewardship), to advance His Kingdom and sought to teach, model, and encourage the congregation to do the same. Our finance team ensured that all of our bills were paid, on time and in full, our operations team kept our properties clean, safe, and in good working order, and our human resources

team hired, onboarded, and cared for our most important asset, our 64 staff, and provided them with over 100 hours of training and one-on-one coaching.

**We Love People
(through Fellowship and Ministry)**

In churches, we often equate “fellowship” with building relationships, typically through shared meals and fun. Throughout the year, we absolutely experienced fellowship! Highlights included the Annual BC Family Cookout, a church-wide bowling event, a group outing to the Festival

of Lights at Oglebay Resort, several game nights, and the celebration of baby showers and a wedding shower. In addition to food and fun, fellowship also includes “doing life together” and expanding our family. In 2025, 22 people celebrated being members of God’s family by being baptized, and 21 joined the Bible Center Church family.

“
**At Bible Center,
ministry is where
faith becomes
action.**”

Ministry simply means to serve people as a way to share God's love with them. At Bible Center, ministry is where faith becomes action. Throughout the year, members used their gifts to serve, lead, and care for people, whether they are members of Bible Center or not, helping to make earth more like heaven.

Inside Bible Center, we have ongoing ministries, led by faithful and committed leaders, that focus on people of different ages, phases, and stages of life (e.g., Children and Youth Ministry, BC Young Adults, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, and Amazing Achievers Senior Ministry (age 65+)). In 2025, these ministries met, served, and provided numerous fellowship events, regular Bible studies, and activities for Bible Center members and the community.

In addition to these ongoing ministries, Bible Center launched two new ministries, based on pressing internal and community needs. The first was our emergency food pantry. In response to concerns about the suspension of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Bible Center members donated food and supplies and opened and operated the pantry until the benefits were restored.

The second new ministry we launched in

2025 was called GriefShare. GriefShare is, as its name suggests, a ministry for individuals who are experiencing grief and loss. Led by a member who felt called to support others navigating loss, the 13-week program created a compassionate space for healing and connection. Eleven participants completed the program, gained tools to process their grief, and formed new relationships that continue to provide support beyond the program itself.



We Live Like Jesus (Through Evangelism and Discipleship)

Evangelism is simply sharing our story, inviting people to experience God's love, and maybe inviting them to spend time with us online or at one of our Sunday morning gatherings. In 2025, our guests and member services teams (parking, ushers and greeters, hospitality) welcomed and cared for 174 first-time guests.

Discipleship means to become more like Jesus in our thoughts, words, feelings, and actions. We grow as disciples as we learn and apply God's Word to every facet of our everyday lives. Key tools for discipleship include personal times of prayer and Bible study, Sunday morning sermons, small group Bible studies, and discipleship "D-groups" of 3-5 people who meet weekly

to care for each other and to discuss what we are learning as we read through the New Testament together.

Another discipleship tool that we used in 2025 is called the SHAPE assessment. SHAPE stands for Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences. Our SHAPEs help to determine how God has created us to serve. The SHAPE ministry team used the assessment and guided discussion to help 28 participants discover how God uniquely equipped them to serve others.

Discipling Women, Seminary Students, Pastors, and Church Leaders

Bible Center leaders hosted several events this year to disciple people beyond our members. These events included the Prov-



erbs 31 Women's Conference, the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Contextual Learning Experience, and the Here Like There Pastor and Leaders Learning Intensive.

In September, the Bible Center Women's Ministry hosted The Proverbs 31 Women's Conference. The Conference was a two-day gathering that equipped 85 women from around the region. The event featured a series of hands-on workshops designed to integrate spiritual formation with practical application. The workshops taught skills such as sewing, gardening, budgeting, cooking, health and wellness, devotions, journaling, and home organization. The conference also featured a panel discussion centered on themes including kind speech, business leadership, trusting God, and living generously. The Proverbs 31 Women's Conference served as both a moment of inspiration and a foundation for continued discipleship, reinforcing Bible Center Church's commitment to nurturing faith that is lived out with strength, wisdom, and grace.

In September, Bible Center Church also hosted 105 graduate students and faculty from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for their Contextual Learning Experience—a

day of learning, reflection, and engagement with our church's ministry model. The visit introduced participants to Bible Center's vision of making earth more like heaven through faith in action and community development. Through a series of workshops led by Bible Center leaders, students explored topics such as kingdom entrepreneurship, community transformation through "withintrification," diversified



funding for ministry, urban agriculture at Oasis Farm, and innovative stewardship of church facilities. The experience provided seminarians with a practical look at how a local church can integrate discipleship, economic development, and community partnership to create lasting impact.

Finally, in October, Bible Center hosted the Here Like There Leadership Intensive, a hands-on, experiential learning intensive designed to equip pastors, not-for-profit leaders, entrepreneurs, and faith-based community developers to transform their communities for the Kingdom of God. The event served 30 leaders from churches in the Pittsburgh region, Philadelphia, and Henderson, North Carolina. Participants received theological training, theoretical models, and practical tools to make their pieces of earth more like heaven.

At Bible Center Church, loving God, loving people, and living like Jesus is called ministry. Ministry is where faith becomes action. Each week, our members, young and old, male and female, white collar and blue collar, work in front and behind the scenes to worship God, to study and apply His Word, to care for one another, to pray for others, to serve our community, and to reflect the vision of Bible Center- to make earth more like heaven.

Ministries in Action

Throughout the year, Bible Center members served through ministries that strengthen the church and care for the community.

Worship & Stewardship

- Audio Visual Ministry
- Worship Ministry
- Staff Development

Fellowship & Ministry

- Women's Ministry
- Men's Ministry
- Amazing Achievers
- Food Pantry
- Youth Ministry
- Bible Center Young Adults (BCYA)

Evangelism & Discipleship

Baptism

- Women's Conference
- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Here Like There Training

Faith in Action: Making Earth More Like Heaven

The ministry of Bible Center Church does not stop at the doors of WARM Center. Through The Oasis Project, our community and economic development arm, our work addresses real needs through education, employment, environmental stewardship, and entrepreneurship. These programs reflect the same calling that guides our worship and service inside the church: loving God, loving people, and living like Jesus in ways that nurture children, strengthen families, and transform neighborhoods.

The Oasis Project Impact in 2025

23

Food entrepreneurs supported through Oasis Community Kitchen

230+

Families served through the C.H.A.P.E.L Project

150

Students served through Maker's Clubhouse Out of School Time programming

4-Star Milestone Achieved

Maker's Clubhouse Early Learning Center increased its Keystone STARS rating from 1 Star to 4 Stars in just 8 months

18,035 miles

driven for 3,000+ children (duplicated count) Children and participants are transported to educational and enrichment programs

1,500+ lbs

Fresh produce grown and distributed through Oasis Farm

800+

Community members engaged through farm events, tours, and programs

31

Entrepreneurs graduated from Own Our Own business cohorts



Food, Community, and Local Business Growth

Through Oasis Community Kitchen and Everyday Café, Oasis Foods supports local entrepreneurs while creating welcoming gathering spaces for the community. In 2025, 23 active vendors used the Oa-

sis Community Kitchen to launch or grow food-based businesses, gaining access to commercial equipment and a supportive entrepreneurial environment.



In 2025, 23 vendors used the Oasis Community Kitchen to launch or grow food-based businesses

A major highlight was the inaugural Taste of Oasis, where six vendors showcased their food and businesses to the community. Many of the featured entrepreneurs were graduates of the Own Our Own program, demonstrating the growing ecosystem of support for small businesses in Homewood.

Everyday Café continued to serve as both a neighborhood café and a cultural hub. The café hosted book

launches for community members, poetry gatherings, creative events, and vendor markets while also providing space for community organizations to gather and collaborate as a vital third space in the community.

Together, these spaces provide more than meals. They create opportunity, visibility, and connection for local entrepreneurs and neighbors alike.





Caring for the Whole Person

The Community Health Assistance, Programming and Engagement Leadership (CHAPEL) Project connects individuals and families to critical resources during seasons of hardship. Through trusted relationships and compassionate advocacy, the program helps people navigate challenges related to mental health, grief, housing, and life transitions.

In 2025, CHAPEL served more than 230 families, providing resource assistance and support to stabilize difficult situations and prevent further distress. CHAPEL's 15

mental health education events received a 100 percent satisfaction rating, reflecting the program's impact in addressing community needs.

The program's growing influence also extended beyond Pittsburgh. CHAPEL contributed to the Renew Your Mind research initiative with the University of Pittsburgh and shared its work at the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC) Conference in Norfolk, Virginia.

These efforts continue to position Bible Center as a trusted voice in community-based mental health support.

A Moment of Care: The Impact of CHAPEL

One participant came to the CHAPEL Project during a difficult season of life while preparing for reconstructive surgery. With the help of a Community Care Worker, he was able to secure housing close to the hospital where he would receive treatment and connect to additional resources that supported his recovery.

In another instance, CHAPEL supported an 81 year old woman who had recently lost her job after 48 years of employment and was facing the loss of her healthcare coverage. Staff helped her understand her options during Medicare open enrollment and connected her with a trusted community partner. With guidance and follow up support, she was successfully enrolled in a plan that met both her medical needs and financial situation.

Moments like these reflect the heart of CHAPEL: walking alongside people with compassion, connecting them to the resources they need, and helping them move forward with dignity and hope.

Investing in the Next Generation

The Maker's Clubhouse provides powerful learning opportunities that help young people thrive both inside and outside the classroom.



The Out of School Time program served 150 K-5th grade students across two school sites during the school year in 2025, offering academic support, social-emotional learning, and hands-on STEAM experiences at no cost to families. During the summer, a seven-week full-day program served elementary and middle school students, offering a wide range of STEAM experiences including engineering, environmental science, space exploration, chemistry, and multimedia arts.

Students engaged in hands-on, project-based learning throughout the year, with all participants completing culminating STEAM projects that demonstrated growth in problem solving, collaboration, and creative thinking, with learning showcased during a public summer exhibition.

The Maker's Clubhouse strengthened its programming through partnerships with more than 10 educational and community organizations, expanding opportunities in robotics, coding, environmental learning, arts, and literacy.

At the foundation of this work is the Maker's Clubhouse Early Learning Center, which reached a major milestone in 2025 by improving its Keystone STARS rating from 1 Star to 4 Stars in just eight months.



Building Pathways to Entrepreneurship

Through Own Our Own, Bible Center equips underestimated entrepreneurs with the knowledge, mentorship, and community needed to turn ideas into viable businesses.



31 Entrepreneurs graduated from adult cohorts



11 Youth participated in entrepreneurship bootcamps



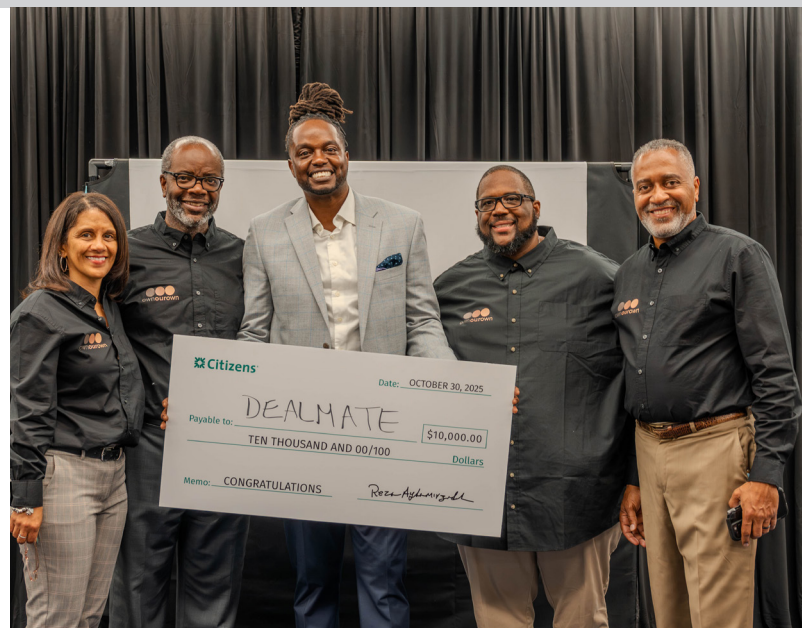
37 Students completed the Youth Academy



47 Youth from Learn & Earn participated in a pitch-based entrepreneurship experience

A new initiative, Own Our Own 2.0, launched in partnership with Citizens Bank and culminated in a pitch competition where one entrepreneur received \$10,000 in seed funding.

Participants consistently reported increased confidence, stronger business knowledge, and a deeper sense of community support.



Removing Barriers to Opportunity

Oasis Transportation provided more than 3,000 rides, and drove more than 18,000 miles, for program participants in 2025, connecting them to educational programs, enrichment activities, and other opportunities across the region. Trips to more than 40 different sites included visits to museums, science centers, environmental sites, college campuses, and cultural institutions throughout Pittsburgh. For many participants, these trips opened doors to experiences and opportunities they might not otherwise have.

Cultivating Land, Leadership, and Community

Oasis Farm continues to transform vacant land into a thriving hub for food production, environmental stewardship, and leadership development.

In 2025 the farm:

- Produced and distributed more than 1,500 pounds of fresh produce
- Engaged over 800 community members through events and programs
- Mentored interns and fellows while

employing seasonal farm crew members

- Hired nine youth leaders through the Field2Fork program

The farm also strengthened its environmental impact by installing a solar array powering a unit of the Triplex and continuing regenerative farming practices that improve soil health and biodiversity.

More than a farm, Oasis Farm has become a living classroom where neighbors, youth, and families reconnect with the land, learn sustainable practices, and build community together.



Bible Center in the News

In 2025, local and national media helped tell the story of what God is doing through Bible Center Church and The Oasis Project. From entrepreneurship and community spaces to healing and neighborhood investment, these features captured how ministry in Homewood is reaching far beyond our walls.

American Dream TV Feature on Bible Center

American Dream TV featured Bible Center Church and The Oasis Project, highlighting the church's vision for community transformation and the role of initiatives like Everyday Cafe and Own Our Own in strengthening Homewood.

[Watch the feature: https://youtu.be/10TbR7H3geA](https://youtu.be/10TbR7H3geA)



Herbert Wins \$10,000 Business Grant Through Oasis Project

The New Pittsburgh Courier highlighted the Own Our Own Business Development Academy's inaugural 2.0 cohort, where entrepreneur Jordan Herbert was awarded a \$10,000 business grant through the program's pitch competition. The initiative supports emerging entrepreneurs in Pittsburgh as they launch and grow their businesses.

Read the story:



<https://newpittsburghcourier.com/2025/12/11/herbert-wins-10000-business-grant-via-bible-center-churchs-oasis-project/>

Bridging Legacies Through Pittsburgh's Black History and Businesses

Black Enterprise highlighted Pittsburgh's vibrant Black culture and business ecosystem, featuring Everyday Cafe as a community hub and social enterprise connected to Bible Center Church and The Oasis Project.

Read the story:

<https://www.blackenterprise.com/pittsburgh-black-history-culture-businesses/>



Healing Pittsburgh's Black Community Through Therapy, Spirituality, and Yoga

Pittsburgh City Paper explored how faith, wellness, and community spaces intersect in Homewood, highlighting Bible Center Church and Everyday Cafe as places supporting healing and connection.

Read the story:

<https://www.pghcitypaper.com/news-2/healing-pittsburghs-black-community-through-therapy-spirituality-and-yoga-27570005/>



Building Community With Third Spaces

Pittsburgh Magazine highlighted Everyday Cafe as one of the region's important "third spaces," welcoming neighbors, families, and entrepreneurs into a shared place for connection, creativity, and community.

Read the story: <https://www.pittsburghmagazine.com/pittsburgh-third-spaces-communities/>



Looking Back, Moving Forward

As we reflect on 2025, we are grateful for the faithfulness, generosity, and commitment of the Bible Center Church community. Throughout the year, we witnessed what is possible when faith is lived out through worship, stewardship, fellowship, ministry, evangelism, and discipleship. Each story, program, and moment shared in this report represents lives touched and relationships strengthened through God's grace.

To celebrate this season of impact, we invite you to watch our 2025 Year in Review video. This visual reflection captures the people, programs, and moments that shaped the year and brings to life the work God has done in and through Bible Center Church and The Oasis Project.

**Watch the 2025
Year in Review:**

<https://vimeo.com/1151457892>



As we look ahead, we do so with both gratitude and anticipation. In the coming year, Bible Center Church will celebrate its platinum anniversary—70 years of ministry, honoring a legacy rooted in faith, service, and community transformation. This milestone is not only a celebration of where we have been, but a reminder that God is still at work, calling us forward to continue loving God, loving people, and living like Jesus to make our piece of earth [here] more like heaven [there]! #HereLikeThere

