**NEWS FROM THERMALBELT OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Contacts: Wendy Thomas at 828-894-2988

Or Joe Epley at 828-8940323

**NEW LEADERSHIP AT THERMBELT OUTREACH MINISTRY**

The Board of Directors of Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry has elected new leaders for 2013. They are Joe Epley as president, Bob Morgan as vice president, Betty Ramsey as treasurer and Chris Greenfelder as secretary.

Three new members were also elected to the 12-member board at Outreach’s annual meeting. They include Mike Ashworth, a financial planner with Wells Fargo; Anne Britton, a retired clerk to the Polk County Board of County Commissioners and Stacey Lindsey, a commercial loan officer for TD bank and former president of FENCE.

Epley, an author and retired public relations executive, succeeds Connie Lomax who has served as president for the past year and a half He had been serving as vice president and is a former chairman of the Polk County Economic Development Commission. Lomax will continue on the board as chair of the Development committee.

The founder and owner of ExpressIt with locations in Tryon and Mill Spring, Morgan has served as treasurer for the past two years before moving up to become vice-president. Ramsey, the new treasurer, is publisher of the Tryon Daily Bulletin. Greenfelder, an attorney living at Lake Adger, continues in another term as secretary for the 501(c)(3) organization.

Epley and Morgan were also elected to their second three-year term as members of the board.

In one of her last acts as president, Ms Lomax presented a plaque expressing the board’s appreciation to Polk County School superintendent Bill Miller for his dedicated service to Outreach. Miller rotated off the board this month at the conclusion of his term.

Epley praised Lomax for her leadership during the past two years in helping Outreach achieve new standards in management, accounting and client services. “Demand for services from families and individuals in need has grown steadily over the past few years, creating significant challenges through which Connie and executive director Carol Newton have successfully led us to overcome,” Epley said.

Outreach provides compassionate assistance to Polk County residents who are unable to provide for their basic life needs. Funded primarily by local contributions, the not-for-profit crisis assistance organization has served the area for more than 21 years.

For additional information about Outreach, please visit [www.tboutreach.org](http://www.tboutreach.org) or call 828-894-2988.