

**Anyone willing to donate** a deer or any type of wild game for our 2014 Wild Game Event, please contact Joe Alt at 419-234-1247. Thank you.

**The Bread of Life** ministry on Wednesday night is looking for a snow cone machine for the kitchen. If you are willing to donate a machine or donate funds to purchase one, please contact Ben Moser or the church office.

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~ THANKS ~

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**Thank you so much** for the white elephant gift and for the love offering. Both have been such a blessing for our family. Thank you for your commitment to your missionaries. Thank you for your love and prayers. God bless. – *Wade, Hannah, and Evey Slechter*

**Your prayers** and financial partnership are making an eternal impact around the globe in high school and college students' lives along with faculty! We are so grateful for you and are praying God would bless you and your family this Thanksgiving! – *Love, Brad, Debbie, Grace, Karis, and Anya Dukes*

**630 shoeboxes** have been collected from the Bluffton Relay for Operation Christmas Child, safely packed and on their journey soon to kids around the world! We continue praying for these 630 opportunities that each child will experience the love of Jesus this Christmas! Thank you to Ebenezer Mennonite staff and volunteers and others who helped this year. Merry Christmas to one and all and a big thank you to all area churches, groups, and individuals that participated in 2013! *Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to all men!* Luke 2:14 – *Tom & Annie Spallinger*

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~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

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- Dec. 9** **MOPS** (9:00 p.m., FH)  
**Dec. 11** Congregational Meeting (7:00 p.m., Sanctuary)  
**Dec. 14** Ladies' Christmas Tea (10:00 a.m., CMC)  
**Dec. 15** Haiti Missions Trip Meeting (4:00 p.m., FH)  
Children's Christmas Program (7:00 p.m., CMC)  
**Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Service (6:00 p.m., CMC)
- ~ 2014 ~
- Jan. 10-12** Junior High Ice Camp (*Miracle Camp*)  
**Jan. 12** Haiti Missions Trip Meeting (4:00 p.m., FH)  
**Jan. 13** **MOPS** (9:00 p.m., FH)  
**Jan. 19** Haiti Missions Trip Meeting (4:00 p.m., FH)  
**Jan. 27** **MOPS** (9:00 p.m., FH)  
**Jan. 31-Feb. 2** Senior High Ice Camp (*Miracle Camp*)

**The annual congregational meeting** is Wednesday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will discuss the 2014 General Fund, Building Fund, and Christian Education Fund proposed budgets. Elections will also be held. An information packet will be distributed today following the Worship Gathering. The Wednesday Night Children's Ministries, Junior High, and Bible Studies will not meet that evening.

### Candidates for Offices in 2014

**Deacons: (two positions)**

Jack Bash, Jeff Eiden, Josh Steiner

**Trustees: (two positions)**

Joe Alt, Mike Powell, John Shaw, Steve Shaw, Bill Spallinger

**Ushers: (all ushers re-elected)**

Keith Bates, Mike Biery, Jim Bish, Randy Forrer, Alan Garmatter, David Garmatter, Randy Garmatter, Bob Geiger, John Good, Alan Hefner, Russell Koontz, Bruce Moser, Larry Moser, Mike Powell, Jim Spallinger, Robert Spallinger, Ron Steiner, Tom Willow, Bob Zimmerman, Jr.

**Head Usher: (one position)**

Bruce Moser, Ron Steiner

**Nominating Committee At-Large: (two positions)**

Frank Boehm, Rosemary Good

**Christian Education Committee:**

Tim Diller, Marti Meza, Heidi Steiner, Kathy Steiner

**Missions Committee: (two positions)**

Jeremy Fry, Janie Wireman

**Outreach Ministries:**

Ann Leader, Don Leader, Clyde Wireman, Janie Wireman

**Music Ministry:**

Sam Brauen, Marvin Foster, Sarah Lehman, Greg Luginbill, Sue Sheehan, Angela Steiner, Brent Zimmerman, Renea Zimmerman, Kara Zink

**Women's Ministries:**

Christy Garmatter (President), Teresa Marquart (Vice President), Kelli Foster (Secretary)



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December 1, 2013

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# Ebenezer Emissary

Welcome to all! The writer of Psalm 42 tells of his spiritual thirst for God. *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God (42:1-2).* Those who have come with such a need today may surely find satisfaction here in the house of God.

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~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DAY ~

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- 9:00 a.m.** Adult Bible Fellowship  
Sunday School (*2-year-olds – High School*)  
**10:00 a.m.** The Good News Hour (*2&3 year olds-B10, 4 year olds-K-B11*)  
**10:15 a.m.** Worship Gathering – Pastor Jim (*CMC*)  
*God the Giver of Good Gifts-Gift of Special Creation*  
*Child Dedication to the Lord: Hansel John Mosoka*  
**5:00 p.m.** Trustee Meeting (*103*)  
**7:00 p.m.** Disciple Singers Choir (*Grades 1-6, 118-119/CMC*)  
Evening Fellowship Service (*Sanctuary*)  
Senior High Small Groups (*Various locations*)

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~ PRAYER CONCERNS ~

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**Pray for the family** of Barbara Burry. Barbara, wife of Tom, mother of William (Linda) Craft, Janet Tober, and three step-children: Scott (Marie) Burry, Terri (Alan) Rayle, and Lori (Dan) Rayle, passed away on Sunday, November 24. No visitation or funeral services are planned. *A special thank you to all who have sent cards, notes, and especially prayed for Barbara over the past couple years. Each gesture is deeply appreciated. - Tom Burry*

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~ FAITH PROMISE UPDATE~

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**God has been so good** through you by exceeding our missions faith promise goal of \$250,000. At present, the total is \$254,729.20, praise the Lord! Additional faith promise commitments will be accepted through the end of the year.

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~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

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**Attendance on November 24:**

Sunday School & ABF	(9:00 a.m.)	274
Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	437
Post Conference Prayer Time	(7:00 p.m.)	79

**Giving on November 24:**

\$13,682.19

Benevolent	255.00
Building Fund	270.00
Christian Education Fund	450.69
General Fund	8,469.50
Missions Fund	4,087.00
Youth Fund	150.00

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~ OUR MISSIONARIES ~

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**Missionaries of the week:** Tom & Dora Becker serve with the Evangelical Free Church Mission. They have moved to Chesterton, Indiana but still have contact with the Roma people. Tom will soon be taking a trip to Spain, Slovakia, and Hungary. He will be with the Roma People. Amy & Matthew are attending college. Hannah, Rachel, and Nathanael are attending school in Indiana. Thank you for your prayers for Tom as he travels and for the family at home. Please take the time to send them a word of encouragement at: 9 Skyline Drive, Portage, IN 46368 or e-mail at: thomas.becker@efca.org or dora.becker@efca.org.

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~ YOUTH EVENTS ~

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**Youth Service Opportunity:** Logs with Paul, we will be splitting wood, taking care of brush, and other miscellaneous jobs for an elderly couple alongside Paul Burkholder. We will work on Saturday, December 7, from 8-12 in the morning followed by a possible lunch at McDonalds. The project is at 14683 Road 5 in Pandora (which is where we will meet, try to carpool). For more information contact Paul Burkholder, 419-969-4170.

**Senior High Missions Trip 2014: June 29-July 6**

**We will be serving The Lord** this summer at Black Mountain Home for Children (BMHC) in Black Mountain, North Carolina. BMHC is an orphanage that is a Christian organization which serves underprivileged youth. For more information talk to Ben Moser, Collin Reid, or email: youth@ebenezermennonite.org.

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~ TODAY'S GREETERS ~

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Jim & Sharon Shoemaker – *Missions Center*  
Dan & Barb Steiner – *Crossroads Ministry Center*

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**OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: DECEMBER 2-8**

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<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>6:30 a.m.</b>	Men's Small Group ( <i>Bluffton Arby's</i> )
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Missions & Sub Com. Meeting ( <i>103</i> )
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Game Time ( <i>FH</i> )
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Adult Bible Study & Prayer ( <i>103</i> ) Adult Choir Rehearsal ( <i>115</i> ) Children's Ministries ( <i>age 3-Grade 6</i> ) Junior High Meet ( <i>CMC</i> ) Men's Bible Study ( <i>Sanctuary Overflow</i> ) Women's Bible Study ( <i>S4</i> )
	<b>8:30 p.m.</b>	Bread of Life Ministries ( <i>Church Kitchen</i> ) Dodgeball ( <i>CMC</i> )
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Sunday School & ABF ( <i>Various classrooms</i> )
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	The Good News Hour ( <i>2&amp;3 year olds-B10, 4 year olds-K-B11</i> )
	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	Worship Gathering ( <i>CMC</i> )
	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Haiti Missions Trip Meeting ( <i>FH</i> ) <i>Messiah</i> ( <i>Bluffton University</i> ) Power Team Meeting ( <i>103</i> )
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Disciple Singers Choir ( <i>Grades 1-6, CMC</i> ) with Speakers & Actors for Children's Christmas Program

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~ HELPERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 ~

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**Nursery:** Kevin & Melissa Hilty, Julie, Aurora & Sydney Motter,  
John & Jaime Shaw, Hanné Burkholder, David & Mary Glick

**Good News Hour:** Nicki Biery, Jason & Kim Fritsch,  
Ariel Schantz, Erica Sheehan

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~ PLEASE NOTE ~

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**PrimeTimers** will take place at noon this Tuesday, December 3, at St. John Mennonite Church. This month will include special finger foods, teas, and a Christmas harpist. The meal is provided to those who attend. Donations are accepted. PrimeTimers is a monthly lunch gathering for elders age 55 or older. For more information including the menu, please see the church bulletin boards.

**Community Announcement:** A Philippine Typhoon Relief Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner has been planned for Friday, December 6, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Bluffton Middle School Gym. Suggested donation of \$5 per meal. All proceeds will be donated to Samaritan's Purse for Philippine Typhoon Relief Aid. – *Sponsored by the Mark & Jackie Bourassa Family and friends.*

**Ladies' Christmas Tea** is scheduled for Saturday, December 14, at 10:00 a.m. Get your free tickets in the Missions Center through next Sunday, December 8. Bring a friend for a morning of fabulous eats, hot tea, string music, and program on Christmas Tradition.

**The Swiss Community Historical Society** is celebrating the Christmas season by hosting its annual holiday open house, *Christmas at the Homestead*, on Saturday, December 14, from 1-7 p.m. The public is invited to tour the decorated house. Guests may watch dinner being prepared in the fireplace, hand dip a candle, play a game of checkers, shop in the gift shop and chat with staff about the history of the house and typical life in the 1840's. Guests arriving at dusk will see the home lit by candles as if in 1843. Free admission, but donations welcome. The Homestead is at 8350 Bixel Road, Bluffton. For more information contact Gary Wetherill, Program Chairman at 419-358-1049.

**Small items needed** for Sunshine Boxes! The Women's Ministries would again like your help in providing small gifts for our elderly and shut-in members. Tear-off sheets will be passed around ABF classes today and next Sunday. There are extra tear-off tags on the bulletin board. Please place your selected items in the Missions Center (red tub) on or before Sunday, December 15. Thank you for your help. If you have any questions, see Pat King or Bev Stockman.

**All Church Event:** The whole church family is invited to the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Crossroads Ministry Center. Come celebrate with the Disciple Singers, Cherubs, and Bell Choirs as we proclaim the Good News of Jesus' birth. Invite your family and friends and come support our children as they minister that evening. An afterglow will be held following the program.

**SIM Missions Trip:** A work team is scheduled to go to Charlotte, North Carolina, February 9-15, with an additional roofing week planned for February 2-8. Sign-up is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Frank Boehm at 567-371-9541 if interested.