

December 8, 2013

Ebenezer Emissary



The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation* (Isaiah 12:3). We welcome all who are present today, and invite everyone to drink of Christ's *living water*, which can quench our spiritual thirstiness forever.

~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DAY ~

- 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 Scripture
- 4:00 p.m.** Haiti Missions Trip Meeting (*FH*)
Messiah (*Bluffton University*)
Power Team Meeting (*103*)
- 7:00 p.m.** Disciple Singers Choir (*Grades 1-6, CMC*)
Senior High Small Groups (*Various locations*)

G.F. Handel's *Messiah* sung by the
Bluffton University Choral Society
at 4:00 p.m. in Founders Hall
*There will be no evening service
here in favor of attending this event.*

~ FAITH PROMISE UPDATE~

God has been so good through you by exceeding our missions faith promise goal of \$250,000. At present, the total is \$258,787.20, praise the Lord! Additional faith promise commitments will be accepted through the end of the year.

Family Camp News: Information for registration for Family Camp, **July 18-20, 2014** at **Chain O'Lakes**, Albion, Indiana will begin on Sunday, January 5. Please pick up your packet where you will find registration options as well as campground and cabin information. The registration window opens exactly six months prior to your first night of camping. The Family Camp committee will be available to answer your questions and collect your registration on January 12 and 19. Link up with your camping friends and start the registration "chain".

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.

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.

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

Dec. 22 *No Evening Fellowship Service*

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)*

Feb. 2-8 **SIM Missions Trip** (*Charlotte, North Carolina*)

Feb. 9-15 **SIM Missions Trip** (*Charlotte, North Carolina*)

July 18-20 **Family Camp** (*Chain O'Lakes, Albion, Indiana*)

The annual congregational meeting is this 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: (three 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, Ruth Seefeldt, 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)

~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

Attendance on December 1:

Sunday School & ABF	(9:00 a.m.)	264
Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	433
Evening Fellowship Service	(7:00 p.m.)	98

Giving on December 1:

\$17,125.92

Benevolent	275.00
Building Fund	1,100.00
Christian Education Fund	1,577.92
General Fund	7,910.00
Missions Fund	6,013.00
New Building Fund	150.00
Youth Fund	100.00

~ OUR MISSIONARIES ~

Missionaries of the Week: Neil & Meredi Bittle serve with MAF in Canada. They have also served in Brazil and Surinam where Neil has done some flying. We had the privilege of having them at the Missions Conference this year. They enjoyed the conference week and send their thanks to all. Please take the time to send them a word of encouragement at: P.O. Box 203, Leslieville, Alberta, Canada TOM, 1HO or e-mail at: neilmeredi@hotmail.com.

~ YOUTH EVENTS ~

Disciple Singers Choir Christmas Program Practices:

Tonight from 7-8 for the Disciple Singers, actors/actresses, and speakers. This Saturday, December 14 from 1-2 p.m. will be the final rehearsal for Disciple Singers, actors/actresses, and speakers. We will meet in the Crossroads Ministry Center.

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.

~ TODAY'S GREETERS ~

Mattie Larson, Lauren Willow – *Missions Center*
Bob & Patty Geiger – *Crossroads Ministry Center*

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: DECEMBER 9-15

Monday	9:00 a.m.	<i>MOPS (FH)</i>
Tuesday	6:30 a.m.	Men's Small Group (<i>Bluffton Arby's</i>)
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Game Time (<i>FH</i>)
	7:00 p.m.	Congregational Meeting (<i>Sanctuary</i>)
	8:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal (<i>115</i>)
	8:30 p.m.	Bread of Life Ministries (<i>Church Kitchen</i>) Dodgeball (<i>CMC</i>)
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Ladies' Christmas Tea (<i>CMC</i>)
	1:00 p.m.	Disciple Singers Choir Practice (<i>Grades 1-6, CMC</i>)
	6:00 p.m.	Berean ABF Class Party (<i>FH</i>)
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School & ABF (<i>Various classrooms</i>)
	10:00 a.m.	The Good News Hour (<i>2&3 year olds-B10,</i> <i>4 year olds-K-B11</i>)
	10:15 a.m.	Worship Gathering (<i>CMC</i>)
	4:00 p.m.	Haiti Missions Trip Meeting (<i>FH</i>)
	6:00 p.m.	Disciple Singers Choir Meet (<i>Grades 1-6, CMC</i>)
	7:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Program (<i>CMC</i>)

~ HELPERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 ~

Nursery:

Janet Brauen, Thomas Eachus Family, Jeremy & Ashley Fry

Good News Hour:

Nicki Biery, Jason & Kim Fritsch, Ariel Schantz, Erica Sheehan

~ PLEASE NOTE ~

"What Is Christmas All About?" *Our Daily Bread* has published a special devotional with ten reflections designed to help you in your spiritual journey. Please stop by the Information Counter in the Missions Center to pick up your copy and a copy for a friend to find encouragement, comfort, and true joy this Christmas season.

Youth for Christ Community Night at Wendy's in Bluffton:

On Wednesday, December 18, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. YFC gets 10% of all inside proceeds! (Drive-thru does not count) No flyer necessary, just come on in and have a great time!

Ladies' Christmas Tea is scheduled for next Saturday, December 14, at 10:00 a.m. Get your free tickets in the Missions Center today. 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*, next 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. 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 next 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.