

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

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

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 members 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.

Choral Anthem

With Open Hearts, We Are Waiting

With open hearts, we are waiting. With open hearts, now we pray.
In our quietness, we are calling, "Lord, come to us."
With open hearts, we are waiting. With open hearts, now we pray.
In our quietness, we are calling, "Lord, come to us today."

(Chorus)

Emmanuel, O come, Emmanuel, and quench our thirsty souls.
Emmanuel, O come, Emmanuel, and make our spirits whole.
Our prayer is the same as the meaning of Your name, "God be with us."
Lord, come and touch our open hearts 'til our open hearts are full.

To the wounded hearts, come and heal them.

Let the grieving hearts be consoled.

With open hearts, we are calling, "Lord, come to us today."

(Chorus)

With open hearts, we wait for you.

~ THANKS ~

Dear Missions Committee: We just want to inform you of the tremendous blessing it was to be at the Missions Conference this year. We were so blessed by the many persons who shared meals with us. Hearing what God is doing in your church and in the ministries of the other missionaries was exciting. God is at work everywhere. We thank you too for the blessings we received from the Sharing Room. May God continue to bless you as you serve Him. – *Gary & Pearl Nussbaum*

We are so blessed to serve in God's ministry here in Bluffton and Pandora on your behalf! Thanks so much for your prayers, financial support, and the White Christmas gift! May God bless you! - *David, Mary and Haddy Glick - Bluffton - Pandora Youth for Christ*

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

- Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Service (6:00 p.m., CMC)
- Dec. 29** No Evening Fellowship Service
- ~ 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)
- Feb. 12-19** Adult Missions Trip (Haiti)
- Feb. 26-Mar. 2** **Power Team** (CMC)
- June 29-July 6** Youth Missions Trip (BMHC, Black Mountain, NC)
- July 18-20** Family Camp (Chain O'Lakes, Albion, Indiana)



December 15, 2013

Ebenezer Emissary

Cordial greetings to each of you! We rejoice in your presence here. The Lord promised to be in the midst of those gathered in His name. Let us claim that promise as we share our hearts and voices in worshiping the living God.

~ 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-The Gift of the Savior
- 4:00 p.m.** Haiti Missions Trip Meeting (118-119)
- 5:30 p.m.** Disciple Singers Choir Meet (Grades 1-6, FH)
- 6:00 p.m.** Cherub Choir Meet (CMC)
- 7:00 p.m.** Children's Christmas Program (CMC)
Afterglow (CMC)
Senior High Small Groups (Various locations)

The whole church family is invited this evening to the Children's Christmas Program at 7:00 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 this evening. An afterglow will be held following the program.

~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

Attendance on December 8:

Sunday School & ABF	(9:00 a.m.)	284
Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	423

Giving on December 8:

\$18,123.92

Benevolent	1,403.75
Building Fund	1,613.76
Christian Education Fund	1,565.41
General Fund	7,362.00
Missions Fund	6,049.00
New Building Fund	130.00
<i>Typhoon Haiyan Philippines Relief</i>	\$3,646.00

~ OUR MISSIONARIES ~

Missionary of the Week: Tiffany Bixel serves with Cru in Texas. Her ministry is equipping cadets of Texas A&M to be spiritual leaders who intentionally live out the good news of Christ throughout their entire lives. It was good to have Tiffany here for Missions Conference week and to share with us her work. She asks for prayer that she will be ready and willing to listen to the Holy Spirit at all times. Please take the time to send Tiffany a word of encouragement at: 311 Glade Street, College Station, TX 77840 or e-mail at: tiffany.bixel@militaryministry.org.

~ FAITH PROMISE UPDATE~

The promises presently stand at \$259,014.20. Faith Promise pledges will be taken until the end of December. Pledge cards may be picked up in the Missions Center. Thank you again for your prayers and pledges that make our missions program a great blessing to many missionaries and ministries. - *Missions Committee*

~ TODAY'S GREETERS ~

Nicki Biery, Brittany Reigle – *Missions Center*

Mark & Kay Spallinger – *Crossroads Ministry Center*

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: DECEMBER 16-22

Tuesday	6:30 a.m.	Men's Small Group (<i>Bluffton Arby's</i>)
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Game Time (<i>FH</i>)
	6:15 p.m.	Worship Team Rehearsal (<i>CMC</i>)
	7:00 p.m.	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>)
	8:30 p.m.	Bread of Life Ministries (<i>Church Kitchen</i>)
		Dodgeball (<i>CMC</i>)
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Deacon Meeting (<i>103</i>)
Friday	6:00 p.m.	Senior High Girls' Night Extravaganza (<i>meet here at the church</i>)
Saturday	4:15 p.m.	Senior High Christmas Sweater Party (<i>meet here at the church</i>)
Sunday	**No Sunday School or ABF Classes**	
	10:00 a.m.	The Good News Hour (<i>2&3 year olds-B10, 4 year olds-K-B11</i>)
	10:15 a.m.	Christmas Worship Service (<i>CMC</i>)
		No Evening Fellowship Service

~ HELPERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 ~

Nursery:

The Infant and Toddler Nursery will not be staffed but open to parents to use them, including a TV monitor with the live service.

Good News Hour:

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

~ YOUTH NEWS ~

Senior High Girls' Night Extravaganza: We will be having a girls' all-nighter consisting of food (supper and breakfast), baking cookies, playing games, and having a good time. There will also be a scarf exchange, so bring a scarf! The fun will begin here at the church on Friday, December 20, at 6 p.m. and will last until Saturday at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Evania Bonifaz at 803-847-2591 or Hanné Burkholder at 567-204-4772 or check out the Facebook Event Page!

Senior High Christmas Sweater Party: On Saturday, December 21, meet at 4:15 p.m. here at the church. We will have a youth night, we will go caroling and deliver cookies at the Mennonite Memorial Home in Bluffton. Afterwards, we will order pizza and play games from sardines to dodgeball at the church. There will also be a sweet prize for the ugliest and sweetest sweater, so rock your best sweater!

Junior High Ice Camp January 10-12: We will leave the church on Friday, January 10, at 4 p.m. and return Sunday at 4 p.m. We will begin registering for Ice Camp today. Registration forms are available in the Junior High Sunday School class and at the Information counter in the Missions Center. The cost is \$100. Please make checks payable to Ebenezer Mennonite Church. Contact Ben or Collin at youth@ebenezymennonite.org for more information.

~ PLEASE NOTE ~

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for donating items for the Sunshine Boxes. All items should be turned in today but if you have forgotten your items, please let Pat King or Bev Stockman know.

"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 small table in the CMC foyer to pick up your copy and a copy for a friend to find encouragement, comfort, and true joy this Christmas season.

Congregational Meeting: The following persons were elected at the annual meeting on Wednesday, December 11: **Deacons:** Three-year term – Jack Bash, Jeff Eiden; **Trustees:** Four-year term – Mike Powell, Bill Spallinger; two-year term – John Shaw; **Nominating Committee:** One-year term – Frank Boehm, Rosemary Good; **Head Usher:** One-year term – Ron Steiner; **Ushers:** One-year term – 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, Tom Willow, Bob Zimmerman, Jr. **Standing Committees Slate Ballot – Christian Education:** Tim Diller, Marti Meza, Ruth Seefeldt, Heidi Steiner, Kathy Steiner, Tom Willow; **Missions:** Jeremy Fry, Janie Wireman; **Music Ministry:** Sam Brauen, Marvin Foster, Sarah Lehman, Greg Luginbill, Sue Sheehan, Angela Steiner, Brent Zimmerman, Renea Zimmerman, Kara Zink. **Outreach Ministries:** Ann Leader, Don Leader, Clyde Wireman, Janie Wireman; **Women's Ministries:** Christy Garmatter, Teresa Marquart, Kelli Foster all were approved. The 2014 General Fund, Building Fund, and Christian Education Fund proposed budgets were approved.