

January 5, 2014

Ebenezer Emissary



We greet you in the name of our Lord. Let us join with the psalmist who prayed: You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. (Psalm 16:11). Be assured that God's love is present here for one and all.

~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DAY ~

- 9:00 a.m.** Adult Bible Fellowship
Stephen Ministries (112)
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 & Communion Service – Pastor Jim (CMC)
God the Giver of Good Gifts-Gift of the Church
- 11:30 a.m.** FaithFull Singles Luncheon (FH)
- 5:00 p.m.** Trustee Meeting (103)
- 6:00 p.m.** Disciple Singers – Acting tryouts for spring musical
(Room 115)
- 6:31 p.m.** Small Groups (King, Lemley)
- 7:00 p.m.** Evening Fellowship Service (Sanctuary)
Disciple Singers – Choir Rehearsal (Rooms 118&119)
Senior High Small Groups (Various locations)

Please note: All loose offerings taken during the Morning Worship Gathering today (in connection with communion) will go towards the Benevolent Fund.

FaithFull Singles: The deacons and pastors would like to invite our widows, widowers, and *all* singles age 50 and older to a luncheon today following the Worship & Communion Service. All food will be provided and hope to see you there!

~ PRAYER CONCERNS ~

In the Hospital: Tom Willow, OSU Medical Center, Columbus.

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.

~ ECHO RANCH BIBLE CAMP EST. 1964 ~

Save the Date: August 17-23

Anyone who has ever had a part in the life of Echo Ranch Bible Camp is invited to come to ERBC to celebrate this event. Former directors will be present and speaking during the week. Start making your plans to attend.

~ WE ARE THE CHURCH ~

We - Membership

Do you desire membership at Ebenezer?

Join the adventure of partnering with us to help people know and grow in Jesus Christ.

See today's insert on how you can sign up.

We - Special offering!

In response to the message on Sunday morning, January 19, we are asking every family/person to give the gift of food. Bring a large paper sack of groceries (box or canned, no glass) to be offered and then donated to the Bluffton Community Assistance program. We can make a difference, right here, right now!

We - Small Groups

Connect with a group at Ebenezer in 2014. So many opportunities: Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship, and Small Groups. You can even create a small group or your own. We need each other!

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

- 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 Rally** (CMC)
- Mar. 29** **Wild Game Event** (5:00 p.m., CMC)
- May 3** Senior High (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Mission)
- June 29-July 6** Youth Missions Trip (BMHC, Black Mountain, NC)
- July 18-20** Family Camp (Chain O'Lakes, Albion, Indiana)

The ladies of St. John Mennonite would like to invite the Ebenezer ladies to join us next Sunday, January 12, at 12:30 p.m. in the St. John's Fellowship Hall, for a service project. This is for the Mission Possible trip to Haiti in February. We will be sewing, cutting, tracing, and pinning items for the hygiene bags. Please bring your scissors and/or sewing machine. Lunch will be provided. If you have any questions, please call Bettina Schroeder at 567-204-1615 or Gera Bixel at 419-358-1678.

Cookie Time is Here Again: Cookie dough or mixes are needed for the SIM Missions Trip (February 9-15). Make a cookie recipe dough, form into logs or balls, and freeze on a cookie sheet. **Please do not bake.** Then place in plastic bags marked with the kind and temperature to bake. Put in the church freezer. If you prefer to buy cookie or cake mixes there will be a labeled box in the kitchen for those. Thank you for your help in supplying these items as they are greatly appreciated by the staff and workers at the mission.

Year-end reports for 2013 are due on Sunday, January 19. All boards and committees should submit their annual reports to the church office for inclusion in the 2013 Annual Report. The congregational business meeting to approve the 2013 Reports and the proposed 2014 Missions Budget is scheduled for February 23, following the morning Worship Gathering.

SIM Missions Trip: A work team is scheduled to go to Charlotte, North Carolina on February 9-15 with an additional roofing week planned for February 2-8. Help is needed in the following areas: roofing, vehicle/equipment maintenance, carpentry, new concrete, wallpaper removal, sorting shop and warehouse inventory, food preparation, and archives. A detailed list of potential jobs is on the bulletin boards across from the kitchen and in the Missions Center. Please contact Frank Boehm at 567-371-9541 if you would like to join the team this year.

Assistant Receptionist/Secretary: We are searching for a person to provide vacation and sick time relief for Deb Hilty. This person needs to be proficient with telephone communication, computer applications including Word and Excel, scheduling, database entry, and e-mail correspondence. Stop by Kathy Brauen's office to pick up a job description with more detail. Please contact Kathy for a job application.

2014 Birthday/Anniversary Calendars are now ready and available in the Missions Center on the Information Counter.

~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

Attendance on December 29:

Sunday School & ABF	(9:00 a.m.)	237
Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	385

Giving on December 29:

\$21,211.51

Benevolent	1,615.00
Building Fund	1,770.00
Christian Education Fund	1,402.51
General Fund	12,133.00
Missions Fund	3,846.00
New Building Fund	445.00
Youth Fund	700.00

~ OUR MISSIONARIES ~

Missionaries of the Week-Brad & Debbie Dukes. Cru as an organization offers an 11 month developmental program called Lake Hart STINT, in Orlando, Florida at Cru's World Headquarters. Brad & Debbie were accepted and moved to Orlando in August. In June they will return to Toledo and the Cru Movement at University of Toledo. They feel God is not finished with them yet at UT with the Cru Movement. Thank you for praying for them and for your love and partnership with them. Please send a note to encourage Brad & Debbie at: 2426 Meadowwood Drive, Toledo, OH 43606 or e-mail at: brad.dukes@uscm.org.

~ YOUTH NEWS ~

Junior High Ice Camp January 10-12: Today is the last day to sign up! We will leave the church on Friday, January 10, at 4 p.m. and return Sunday at 4 p.m. An information sheet and 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. For more information please contact Ben or Collin at youth@ebenezermennonite.org.

Attention all kids in Grades 1-6: Come join Disciple Singers as we begin practicing tonight, for the spring musical, *I Can Only Imagine*. Tryouts for acting parts will begin at 6 p.m. in Room 115 with the choir rehearsal starting at 7 p.m. in Room 118 & 119. Contact Renea Zimmerman or Angela Steiner if you're interested in joining the choir or have any other questions.

~ TODAY'S GREETERS ~

Wayne & Susan Bixel – *Missions Center*
Dan & Barb Steiner – *Crossroads Ministry Center*

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: JANUARY 6-12

- Monday 7:05 p.m.** Small Group (*173 Albert St., Bluffton*)
- Tuesday 6:30 a.m.** Men's Small Group (*Bluffton Arby's*)
- 7:00 p.m.** Missions Committee (*103*)
- Wednesday 9:00 a.m.** Game Time (*FH*)
- 6:15 p.m.** Worship Team Rehearsal (*CMC*)
- 7:00 p.m.** Adult Bible Study & Prayer (*103*)
- Adult Choir Rehearsal (*115*)
- Children's Ministries (*age 3-Grade 6*)
- Junior High Meet (*CMC*)
- Men's Bible Study (*Sanctuary Overflow*)
- Women's Bible Study (*S4*)
- 7:05 p.m.** Connections (*Bluffton McDonald's*)
- 8:30 p.m.** Bread of Life Ministries (*Church Kitchen*)
- Dodgeball (*CMC*)
- Thursday 6:00 p.m.** Men's Basketball (*CMC*)
- Friday 4:00 p.m.** Junior High Ice Camp (*Miracle Camp*)
- Sunday 9:00 a.m.** Sunday School & ABF (*Various classrooms*)
- 10:00 a.m.** The Good News Hour (*2&3 year olds-B10, 4 year olds-K-B11*)
- 10:15 a.m.** Worship Gathering (*CMC*)
- 3:00 p.m.** Power Team Meeting (*103*)
- 4:00 p.m.** Haiti Missions Trip (*FH*)
- 7:00 p.m.** Evening Fellowship Service (*Sanctuary*)
- Disciple Singers Rehearsal (*Room 118&119*)
- Senior High Small Groups (*Various locations*)
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~ HELPERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 ~

Good News Hour:

Janet Brauen, Alton Burkholder, Conner Dawson,
Marti & Melina Meza

~ MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES ~

Nursery workers are needed for the Sunday School Hour and during the Worship Gatherings on Sunday mornings. We are down six workers for this upcoming quarter. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Melissa Hilty by e-mail at hilty.melissa@gmail.com, text or call 419-357-5823. Thanks!

The Wednesday Night Children's Ministries is in need of a teacher for the Grade 3&4 boys beginning January 22. This could be a couple or a team of two adult men. Please contact Marti Meza at 419-296-9574 or m.m.meza@juno.com for information.

~ POWER TEAM RALLY NEWS ~

In eight weeks, it's Power Time! The Power Team Rally is coming Wednesday, February 26, thru Sunday, March 2. Sign up starts **today** in the Crossroads Ministry Center Foyer. You can help in so many ways – stage crew, sell products, prayer, kitchen helpers, welcome people, door attendants, youth, and be the first to welcome new believers. Stop by and ask questions, there is a place for everyone. - *Kevin & Gina Burkholder Coordinators*

~ PLEASE NOTE ~

Women's Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 8. We will meet in the Grade 5 classroom next to the Sanctuary Foyer and will be studying 1 & 2 Thessalonians. First study will be an introduction. Please bring your Bible and a notebook.

BENGAY® Basketball: Calling all high school basketball stars from 1988 and earlier. Lace up those Chuck Taylors, strap on the knee braces, and come on out to the Men's Over-40 Open Gyms being held in the Crossroads Ministry Center beginning Thursday, January 9, at 6:00 p.m. No 10-second rule and, unlike when you were in school, you can now make a 3-point shot! (Remember, bring some Tylenol® to share!)

Family Camp News: Information for registration for Family Camp, **July 18-20, 2014** at **Chain O'Lakes**, Albion, Indiana can be found in the Missions Center today. 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."