

January 12, 2014

Ebenezer Emissary



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 next 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.

The Transport for Christ Second Chance Chapel Banquet is February 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Marbeck Center at Bluffton University. The meal has been paid for, but a free will offering will be taken. Our musical guest this year is the Southern Gospel group, The Piefers.

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 and application.

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

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.

~ THANKS ~

Thank you for your cards, thoughts, and prayers for me after I fell and then underwent a procedure for my fractured right arm and dislocated shoulder. I am grateful for Pastor Dick and Kathy Brauen coming to pray with me before the procedure. Thank you for your continued prayers for my good healing and rehabilitation. God is so good to us! - Rhody Hartman

Dear Ebenezer Family: We would like to thank all of you who sent cards, gave Bibles, prayed, and encouraged us during and after mom's home going. We will miss her, but know she is now with Jesus for all eternity. Thank you Pastor Jim, Pastor Dick, Pastor Warren, and Kathy for praying with us before we left for Nebraska. We are comforted and looking for the day we can join her in heaven. All of you continue to be such a blessing in our lives and we thank God for your faithfulness. – Ron & Sue Epp Family

~ 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.

Copies of last Sunday's insert on how you can sign up can be found in the Missions Center at the Information Center or you may check the appropriate box on the green EMC Communications Card.

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. If you are interested please check the appropriate box on the green EMC Communications Card. We need each other!

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

- 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. 21** *Transport For Christ Second Chance Chapel Banquet (6:30 p.m., Marbeck Center, BU)*
- 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)*

Welcome friends! Remember the words of the psalmist who prayed: *We are filled with the good things of your house.* (Psalm 65:4) God is here! We are here! Let us join together in mind and spirit to worship the source of all life, Almighty 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-Prayer
- 11:30 p.m.** *Power Team Meeting (103)*
- 4:00 p.m.** *Haiti Missions Trip (FH)*
- 5:00 p.m.** *Women's Ministries Committee Meeting (115)*
- 6:00 p.m.** *Disciple Singers – Acting tryouts for spring musical (Room 103)*
- 6:31 p.m.** *Small Groups (King, Lemley)*
- 7:00 p.m.** *Evening Fellowship Service (Sanctuary)*
Disciple Singers Rehearsal (Room 118&119)
Senior High Small Groups (Various locations)

~ PRAYER CONCERNS ~

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

Please pray for those who are traveling today. The 20 plus Junior High Students and their leaders will return from Ice Camp this afternoon.

~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

Attendance on January 5:

Sunday School & ABF	(9:00 a.m.)	231
Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	382

Giving on January 5:

\$13,917.03

Benevolent	1,990.00
Building Fund	280.00
Christian Education Fund	347.03
General Fund	5,765.00
Missions Fund	5,335.00
New Building Fund	150.00
Youth Fund	50.00

~ OUR MISSIONARIES ~

Missionary of the week: *Margaret Edmondson* lives in Tampa, Florida and serves with **Life in Messiah International**. Ministry among her Jewish lady friends continues to be a blessing. Please pray the Lord will provide opportunities for Margaret to share the gospel. Margaret sends her thank you for being such great teammates. She praises the Lord for us! Please send a note of encouragement to Margaret at: 14813 Carnation Drive, Tampa, Florida 33613 or e-mail at: singertoo8@hotmail.com.

~ YOUTH NEWS ~

Please notice that Junior High Small Groups will begin on Sunday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m.

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 103 with the choir rehearsal starting at 7 p.m. in Rooms 118 & 119. Contact Renea Zimmerman or Angela Steiner if you're interested in joining the choir or have any other questions.

~ TODAY'S GREETERS ~

Steve & Doneta Reigle – *Missions Center*
Mike & Kathy Biery – *Crossroads Ministry Center*

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: JANUARY 13-19

Monday	9:00 a.m.	<i>MOPS (FH)</i>
	7:00 p.m.	Christian Education Com. Meeting (103) Legacy Investments Meeting (FH)
	7:05 p.m.	Small Group (173 Albert St., Bluffton)
Tuesday	6:30 a.m.	Men's Small Group (Bluffton Arby's)
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)
	7:00 p.m.	Deacon Meeting (103)
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.	Prayer Action Team Meeting (103)
	4:00 p.m.	Haiti Missions Trip (FH)
	6:31 p.m.	Small Groups (King, Lemley)
	7:00 p.m.	Evening Fellowship Service (Sanctuary) Disciple Singers Rehearsal (Room 118&119) Junior & Senior High Small Groups (Various locations)

~ HELPERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 ~

Infant & Toddler Nursery: Mandy & Emma Klinger,
Jeremy & Christina Lemley, Jeff & Julie McKanna

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 ~

Power Team Rally is seven weeks away! February 26 - March 2 should be marked on your calendar as a time that Ebenezer is going to Rally for our Lord. Sign up in the Crossroads Ministry Center Foyer to be part of this great event. We need volunteers to be greeters, product, stage, kitchen, prayer, altar, youth, and welcome the new believers. Thank you also to so many who are sponsors. The Power Team will be able to do 24 assemblies. - *Kevin & Gina Burkholder Coordinators*

~ PLEASE NOTE ~

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. Please pick up your packet where you will find registration options as well as campground and cabin information. The Family Camp committee members will be available today and next Sunday, January 19 to answer your questions and collect your registration. The registration window opens exactly six months prior to your first night of camping. Link up with your camping friends and start the registration "chain."

Women's Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 15. 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 on Thursdays 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!)