



December 14, 2014

Ebenezer Emissary

~ EBENEZER COMMUNICATIONS CARD ~

Please take a moment to complete the information below.

Place in the offering plate or the box provided in the Missions Center on the Prayer Counter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I am interested in information on:

Ebenezer Mennonite Church Baptism Membership

Child dedication Getting involved in ministry

Joining a small group Prayer requests _____

Attention College Students and Young Adults: Join us as we see the Bible come to life Saturday, December 20, at the Creation Museum! The cost is \$10 plus money for food, and if you wish to view the planetarium, it will cost an extra \$8. We will be leaving from Ebenezer at 8:00 a.m. and stopping for lunch on the way. We will stay at the museum until 6:00 p.m. and stop for supper on the way home. Plan to arrive back at Ebenezer around 9:00 p.m. If interested, please contact Jaden August at 419-889-9652.

Women's Ministry is still in need of many items for the Sunshine Boxes for the elderly and shut-ins. If you have forgotten your items, there is still time to get them in. More sheets were passed out in ABF classes and are on the bulletin boards, asking for the items to be contributed. Please place them in the red tub in the Mission Center as soon as possible. Thanks you for your help.

The Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio newsletter, *The Vine*, is available in the Missions Center. This issue includes the 2013 annual financial report and gives thanks to the many contributors who support the ministries of MHCO.

Anyone willing to donate a deer or any type of wild game for our Wild Game Event Saturday, April 11, 2015, please contact Joe Alt at 419-234-1247. Thank you.

Finding Peace at Christmas: *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 get your copy and a copy for a friend to find encouragement, comfort, and true joy this Christmas season.

SIM Missions Trip: A work team is scheduled to go to Charlotte, North Carolina February 8-14, with an additional roofing week planned for February 1-7. Sign-up is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Frank Boehm at 567-371-9541 by December 31, if interested.

Cookies for Transport for Christ: Starting Thursday, December 18, we would like to pass out cookies and ministry literature to our truckers at the TFC Second Chance Chapels at the Pilot Travel Center and the Flying J Travel Plaza. Our Chaplains will bag them to pass out to our truckers. If you can bake some cookies and deliver them to one of the Chapels, our truckers will really appreciate this 'little bit of home' at Christmas when they cannot be home with their loved ones. Thank you so much for your cookies and, as you bake them, pray that each trucker who receives them will get a blessing from this and being at our TFC Chapels. – *David Lugibihl*

~ THANK YOU ~

I want to thank Kathy Brauen and the Pastors for their prayers and visits. Also thank you to all who prayed for my recovery. Psalm 46:1 – *Marvin Reigle*

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service (6:00 p.m., CMC)

Jan. 9-11 Junior High Ice Camp (*Miracle Camp*)

Jan. 18 Adult Sunday School Workshop (6:30 p.m., FH)

Jan. 30-Feb. 1 High School Ice Camp (*Miracle Camp*)

Feb. 1-14 SIM Roofing Team (*Charlotte, North Carolina*)

Feb. 8-14 SIM Work Team (*Charlotte, North Carolina*)

Apr. 11 Wild Game Event (5:00 p.m., CMC)

~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DAY ~

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Fellowship (*Various Classrooms*)
Sunday School (*2-year-olds – High School*)

10:00 a.m. The Good News Hour
(*2 year olds-B16, 3 year olds-B10, 4,5&6 year olds-B11*)

10:15 a.m. Worship Gathering – Pastor Jim (*CMC*)
Adventures in Advent: Arrival

6:00 p.m. All Children in Christmas Program Meet (*115*)

7:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program (*CMC*)

Children's Christmas Program: The whole church family is invited to the Children's Christmas program tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the Crossroads Ministry Center. Come celebrate with the Disciple Singers, Cherubs, Sunday School classes, 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.

~ PRAYER CONCERNS ~

In the Hospital: Bill Schantz, St. Rita's Medical Center and Jane Shaw, OSU James Center.

Scheduled Surgery: Brittany Sheehan, tomorrow at the OSU Ross Hospital, Columbus.

~ BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT ~

Congratulations to Seth & Kara Zink on the birth of their son, Levi Richard, on Wednesday, December 10, weighing 7 lb. 15 oz.

~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

Attendance on December 7:

Sunday School & ABF	(9:00 a.m.)	262
Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	424

Giving on December 7:

		\$22,831.14
Benevolent Fund		85.00
Building Fund		1,130.25
Christian Education Fund		1,354.89
General Fund		13,592.00
Missions Fund		6,299.00
New Building		270.00
Youth Fund		100.00

~ MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK ~

Missionaries of the Week are **Brad & Debbie Dukes** serving with **Cru** at the **University of Toledo**. *College students are hungry for truth and they have questions they want answered. Deep down we believe that they know they were created for more than what typical American culture tells them is the "American Dream." We are seeing God work in amazing ways on campus. One upcoming event we are looking forward to is "INDY CC," our annual Winter conference in Indianapolis from December 28 – January 1. We are hoping for 100 students to go.* Please send a message of encouragement to the Dukes family by writing to: 2426 Meadowwood Drive, Toledo OH 43606 or by sending an email: brad.dukes@cru.org.

~ FAITH PROMISE UPDATE ~

The promises presently amount to \$238,007, towards our goal of \$275,000. Faith Promise pledges will be taken until the end of December. Pledge cards may be picked up in the Missions Center or the church office. 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 ~

Al & Carolyn Frysinger – *Crossroads Ministry Center*

Nicki Biery, Brittany Reigle – *Missions Center*

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: DECEMBER 15-21

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>)
	6:45 p.m.	Children's Ministries Christmas Caroling (<i>age 3-Grade 6, meet at church</i>)
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study & Prayer (<i>103</i>) Adult Choir Rehearsal (<i>115</i>) Junior High Youth Group (<i>CMC</i>) Men's Bible Study (<i>Sanctuary overflow</i>) Women's Bible Study (<i>S4</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>)
	8:30 p.m.	Young Adult Basketball (<i>CMC</i>)
Friday	7:00 a.m.	Youth Prayer Group (<i>Bluffton McDonald's</i>)
	6:00 p.m.	High School Christmas Caroling (<i>meet at the church</i>)
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	College/Young Adult Creation Museum trip (<i>meet at the church</i>)
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	The Good News Hour (<i>2 year olds-B16, 3 year olds-B10, 4,5&6 year olds-B11</i>)
	10:15 a.m.	Christmas Worship Service (<i>CMC</i>) <i>No Sunday School, ABF, or Evening Fellowship Service</i>
	1:15 p.m.	Junior High and Senior High Ice Skating (<i>meet at the church</i>)

~ NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 ~

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

The Good News Hour will not meet, so families may attend the Christmas Worship Service together.

~ YOUTH NEWS ~

JH and HS Small Groups: We will not be meeting the rest of December for small group due to Christmas Season. High School, continue to look at the book of John!

High School Christmas Caroling: On Friday, December 19, at 6:00 p.m. we will meet at the church to go Christmas caroling at the Mennonite Memorial Home. After we carol we will get some food and play some games at the church. It should be a fun night!

Junior High and High School Ice Skating: On Sunday, December 21, at 1:15 p.m. we will meet at the church to head over to the Cube in Findlay to go ice skating. We will be back at the church around 4:30 p.m. Please bring \$5 to cover all costs. Get ready to get your skate on!

Junior High Ice Camp: For those Junior High students interested in going to Ice Camp January 9-11, please sign up now. There is a sheet at the Information Center in the Missions Center or you can e-mail ben.moser@ebenezymennonite.org to reserve your spot. The cost is \$100. Please make checks out to Ebenezer. We are looking forward to this awesome weekend!

~ PLEASE NOTE ~

Please bring plenty of finger foods tonight to share with family and visiting friends who attend the Children's Christmas Program at 7:00.

Congregational Meeting: The following persons were elected and approved at the annual meeting on Wednesday, December 10: **Deacons:** Three-year term – Jared Lehman, Chuck Niswander, Lynn Saunders; **Trustees:** Four-year term – Tony Gratz, Steve Shaw; **Nominating Committee:** One-year term – Tammy Spallinger, Bev Stockman; **Head Usher:** One-year term – Ron Steiner; **Standing Committees Slate Ballot – Christian Education:** Ginny Moser – *Secretary*, Bill Steiner - *Treasurer*; **Missions:** Wayne Bixel, Cheryl Burkholder, Jeremy Lemley; **Outreach Ministries:** Pastor Jim King – *Discipleship/Evangelism*, Pastor Dick Potter – *Secretary/Treasurer*, Clyde & Janie Wireman – *Greeter Coordinators*; **Ushers:** One-year term Keith Bates, Mike Biery, Jim Bish, Stephen Burkholder, 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; **Women's Ministries:** Kerris & Nancy Wright – *Kitchen Coordinators*. The 2015 General Fund, Building Fund, and Christian Education Fund proposed budgets and the three additional points added to doctrinal statement were all approved.