

Ebenezer Emissary



For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise...wrote the psalmist (Psalm 96:4). We welcome everyone who has come to worship today. Let us sing for joy to the God of all nations who has revealed love and truth and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DAY ~

- 10:15 a.m.** Christmas Worship Service – Pastor Jim (CMC)
Adventures in Advent: Announcement
- 1:15 p.m.** Junior High and Senior High Ice Skating
(meet at the church)

No Sunday School, ABF, or Evening Fellowship Service today

~ PRAYER CONCERNS ~

- In the Hospital:** Bill Schantz, St. Rita's Medical Center.
- In Rehabilitation:** Joan Jones, Mennonite Memorial Home.
- Scheduled Surgery:** Jerry Cartwright, Tuesday, December 23, Findlay Surgery Center.

Congregational Meeting Note: The following persons were elected but were omitted from the note in the Emissary last Sunday. **President:** Three-year term Ron Epp; **Secretary:** Three-year term Jean Bash; **Assistant Secretary:** Three-year term Caroline Dawson.

FaithFull Singles: The deacons and pastors would like to invite our widows, widowers, and *all* singles age 50 and older to our next gathering scheduled for Sunday, January 4. A luncheon will be provided following the Worship & Communion Service. Hope to see you there!

1 Corinthians 13 Christmas-Style

By Sharon Jaynes

If I decorate my house perfectly with lovely plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny glass balls, but do not show **love** – I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show **love** – I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show **love** – It profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on **Christ**, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never fails. Video games will break; pearl necklaces will be lost; golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of **love** will endure.

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

- Jan. 4** Worship & Communion Service (10:15 a.m., CMC)
FaithFull Singles Luncheon (11:30 a.m., FH)
- 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. 15** Congregational Meeting (11:30 a.m., CMC)

~ 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 _____

Financial Report – November 2014

Giving & Expenses

	General Fund	Missions Fund	C. E. Fund	Building Fund
Budgeted YTD	492,892	267,866	39,096	126,958
Expenses YTD	452,548	242,589	36,583	32,329
Actual Income	411,382	227,354	31,796	38,685

Cash Fund Balances as of 11/30/14:

General.....	\$7,294
Missions.....	\$78,903
Christian Education	\$20,493
Building	\$11,944
Cemetery Restoration Project	\$9,867
New Building/Land Purchase	\$87,880
Benevolent.....	\$7,679

Note: General Fund income is lagging behind expenses, as is the income for the Missions Fund and the Christian Education Fund. Please prayerfully consider these needs while making year-end donations. Thank you for your faithful giving in 2014!

~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

Attendance on December 14:

Sunday School & ABF	(9:00 a.m.)	270
Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	423
Children's Christmas Program	(7:00 p.m.)	436

Giving on December 14:

\$16,768.87

Benevolent Fund	580.00
Building Fund	957.00
Christian Education Fund	503.87
General Fund	9,473.00
Missions Fund	5,205.00
New Building	50.00

Memorials:

Rev. Dan Dalke-Missions Fund	\$50.00
Jackie Diller-General Fund	\$100.00
Paul Reichenbach-Building Fund	\$30.00

~ MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK ~

Missionary of the Week is *Margaret Edmondson* who serves with **Life in Messiah International in Tampa, Florida.** *I am overjoyed to tell you that a woman who has been in our prayers is saved! She had been close to accepting the Lord as Savior for a while and now she has! She is exhibiting a hunger for God's Word and is thoroughly enjoying the fellowship she is experiencing with the ladies in my home Bible study - with her new family of believers. It is a beautiful thing to see! How can I thank you enough for your prayers for her salvation?* To write a message to Margaret, send it to: 14813 Carnation Dr., Tampa, FL 33613 or e-mail her at: singertoo8@hotmail.com.

~ 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*

~ WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ~

Congratulations to Max & Judy Rodabaugh. Friday, December 26, will mark their 60th wedding anniversary!

~ TODAY'S GREETERS ~

Ralph & Melba Gerber – *Crossroads Ministry Center*
Alton Burkholder, Hunter Garmatter – *Missions Center*

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: DECEMBER 22-28

Tuesday	6:30 a.m.	Men's Small Group (<i>Bluffton Arby's</i>)
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Game Time (<i>FH</i>)
	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service (<i>CMC</i>)
Thursday	**Church Office Closed – Merry Christmas!**	
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School & ABF (<i>Various Classrooms</i>)
	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.	Worship Gathering (<i>CMC</i>)
	7:00 p.m.	Evening Fellowship Service (<i>Sanctuary</i>)

~ NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 ~

Infant and Toddler Nursery:

Kevin & Melissa Hilty, Wesley Klinger Family

Good News Hour:

Pat King, Emma Klinger, Krista Lehman,
Milo & Deb Luginbuhl, Joan Steiner, Bev Stockman

~ CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~

All are invited Wednesday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossroads Ministry Center for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Bring your family and friends for the evening as we worship the Newborn King!

~ YOUTH NEWS ~

Junior High and High School Ice Skating: This afternoon at 1:15 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!

India Missions Trip Parent Meeting: On Sunday, January 4, following the Worship Gathering there will be a meeting in the schoolhouse for the parents of the students interested in the India Missions trip. You will learn about our trip, safety information, vaccinations, and a time for all your questions to be answered. We highly recommend each parent attend this informational meeting.

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

New Year's Eve Bash for all High School students on Wednesday, December 31. We will be going with the St. John Mennonite Youth Group to the Pandora Store Front (130 E. Main St. Pandora) from 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. There will be pizza, games, ping-pong, dodgeball, and of course the ball drop. Guys bring a 2 liter of pop and girls bring a snack to share.

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 an awesome weekend!

~ THANK YOU ~

Ebenezer Mennonite Church: Thank you for your faithful support with your prayers, finances, and many of you volunteering with Findlay Area, Pandora/Bluffton, or Rally Point Youth Center Youth for Christ. We are blessed to have your partnership with the staff as they meet needy and hurting kids daily. It is our privilege to serve with you. Please continue to pray for the board leadership team as they seek the best way to reach more students for Christ. Ann and I feel your prayers as we discern God's leading, distinguishing His wisdom in the work we are called to do. - *Thank you, Don & Ann Leader*

Ebenezer Church Family: Thank you for your kind words, thoughts, and prayers during this time of loss. Thank you to Pastor Warren, Pastor Dick & Cheryl, and Kathy Brauen for your visits. We cannot tell you how much every one of them meant to us. - *Blessings to you all, Paul & Cheryl Burkholder*

~ PLEASE NOTE ~

Women's Ministry: Please place your Sunshine Box items in the red tub in the Missions Center as soon as possible. Thank you for your help. - *Bev Stockman and Pat King*

Year-end reports for 2014 are due on Sunday, January 18. All boards and committees please submit their annual reports to the church office for inclusion in the 2014 Annual Report.