

December 13, 2015

Ebenezer Emissary



Welcome friends! St. Luke reminds us that Christ came "to shine on those living in darkness and to guide our feet into the path of peace" Luke 1:79. Let us open ourselves to the light of the Savior and walk in love and peace with one another as the children of God.

Make yourself at home. You are among friends who would love for you to be part of the family! Please take a moment to fill out the Ebenezer Communications Card which is part of the Emissary. This communication is a vital link which helps our Body stay connected. Please feel free to place completed cards in the offering plate or in the box provided in the Missions Center on the Prayer Counter.

~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DAY ~

- 9:00 a.m.** Stephen Ministries (112)
Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship
(Various Classrooms)
- 10:00 a.m.** Disciple Singers' Choir & Kindergarten-Grade 12
Classes Meet *(Fellowship Hall hallway)*
The Good News Hour
(2 year olds-B16, 3 year olds-B10, 4,5&6 year olds-B11)
- 10:15 a.m.** Worship Gathering *(Crossroads Ministry Center)*
Shattered Joy: Crazy Garbage - Pastor Jim
- 5:00 p.m.** Disciple Singers' Actors *(CMC Stage)*
Disciple Singers' Choir light supper *(Fellowship Hall)*
- 6:30 p.m.** Children's Christmas Program
(Crossroads Ministry Center)

Everyone is invited to the Children's Christmas program this evening at 6:30 in the Crossroads Ministry Center. Come celebrate with the Cherubs as they proclaim the Good News of Jesus' birth. The Disciple Singers' Choir will perform the musical, "Wise Guys and Starry Skies," where three kings, a camel boy, and cook travel to find and worship the heavenly king. Invite your family and friends and come support our children as they minister this evening. An afterglow will be held following the program.

Sewing needs: In February, Mission Possible will be teaching the ladies in Haiti to make quilts, rugs, and hot pads. We are in need of the following items for these sewing projects: fabric (all sizes), thread of any color (partial or full spools), safety pins (1-1/2 to 2 inches), needles (size 7 or 8), and seam rippers. Please place the donated items in the box placed in the Crossroads Ministry Center Foyer. Contact Bev Stockman at 419-234-8278 for further details. Thank you! We appreciate any and all contributions!

For God So Loved: *Our Daily Bread* has published a special devotional with ten reflections designed to help you in your spiritual journey during the Christmas season. Please stop by the Foyer or 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.

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

- Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Service *(6:00 p.m., CMC)*
- Jan. 2** Living Faith Adult Bible Fellowship Class
(7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
- Jan. 31-Feb. 13** SIM Building Maintenance Team
(Charlotte, North Carolina)
- Feb. 6** Maranatha Adult Bible Fellowship Class
(7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
- Feb. 7-13** SIM Work Team *(Charlotte, North Carolina)*

~ STAFF ~

- James King, Senior Pastor**
jim.king@ebenezymennonite.org
- Dale Seefeldt, Pastor of Christian Education and Family Ministries**
dale.seefeldt@ebenezymennonite.org
- David Glick, Pastor of Student Ministries**
david.glick@ebenezymennonite.org
- Richard Potter, Assistant Pastor**
dick.potter@ebenezymennonite.org
- Charles Warren, Pastor Emeritus**
cewarren21@gmail.com
- Kathy Brauen, Church Administrator**
kathy.brauen@ebenezymennonite.org
- Deb Hilty, Secretary**
info@ebenezymennonite.org

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 _____

Congregational Meeting: The following persons were elected and approved at the annual meeting on Wednesday, December 9:
Deacons: Three-year term – Ben Carman, Bart Moser, Dan Steiner;
Trustees: Four-year term – Mike Hilty, Jim Lemley; **Nominating Committee:** One-year term – Tammy Spallinger, Bev Stockman;
Head Usher: One-year term – Ron Steiner; **Standing Committees Slate Ballot – Christian Education:** Tim Diller, Marti Meza, Ruth Seefeldt, Heidi Steiner; **Missions:** Alison Mosler, Barb Steiner; **Engage/Outreach Ministries:** Hanné Burkholder, Clyde Wireman, Janie Wireman; **Ushers:** One-year term Mike Biery, Jim Bish, Steve Burkholder, Jerry Cartwright, Randy Forrer, Alan Garmatter, Randy Garmatter, Bob Geiger, John Good, Darrell Groman, Alan Hefner, Russell Koontz, Ben Moser, Larry Moser, Mike Powell, Jim Spallinger, Robert Spallinger, Ron Steiner, Bob Zimmerman; The 2016 General Fund, Building Fund, and Christian Education Fund proposed budgets and the Constitutional revision were all approved.

SIM Missions Trip: A work team is scheduled to go to Charlotte, North Carolina February 7-13 with an additional building maintenance week planned for January 31-February 6. If you are interested in serving with the team, please contact Frank Boehm at 567-371-9541 by December 31.

~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

Attendance on December 6:

Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship	(9:00 a.m.)	311
Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	458

Giving on December 6:

\$27,250.51

Benevolent	405.00
Building Fund	2,305.00
Christian Education Fund	829.51
General Fund	15,484.00
Missions Fund	8,157.00
New Building Fund	50.00
Youth Fund – Rally Point	20.00

Missions Giving:

\$500	Child Evangelism Fellowship-Mike Todd, director.
\$720	Mission Possible-Haiti missions trip, Jodi Conley, Rachel Moser, and Rich Streicher.
\$1,000	BEE World-Deb Leach, training in Myanmar.
\$500	Lifeline Christian Mission-Haiti food ministry.

~MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK ~

Missionaries of the Week are **Bryan & Felicia Friesen** who serve in **Waxhaw, North Carolina with Wycliffe Bible Translators**. Bryan serves in a global training role. In 2015 he traveled to Africa and Asia to help train Bible translation partners in the areas of spiritual and relational vitality in a multicultural team setting. He also is on the training staff of ICC (Intercultural Communications Course) providing pre-field training for new missionaries from Wycliffe and several other organizations. Felicia does marriage and family counseling in the community, working mostly with couples. To send a note to Bryan & Felicia write to: 200 Yamasee Rd., Waxhaw, NC 28173 or e-mail them at: bwfriesen5@gmail.com.

The Faith Promises presently amount to \$241,230, towards our goal of \$250,000. 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 ~

Crossroads Ministry Center: Marvin & Karen Garmatter
Missions Center: Nicki Biery, Brittany Reigle

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: DECEMBER 14-20

Monday	9:00 a.m.	MOPS (<i>Fellowship Hall</i>)
	7:00 p.m.	Beth Moore Study Group (<i>115</i>)
Tuesday	6:30 a.m.	Men's Small Group (<i>Arby's</i>)
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Game Time (<i>Fellowship Hall</i>)
	6:15 p.m.	Worship Team Rehearsal (<i>115</i>)
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study & Prayer (<i>103</i>)
		Children's Ministries and Junior High – Christmas Caroling (<i>meet at church</i>)
	8:30 p.m.	Bread of Life Ministries (<i>Church Kitchen</i>)
		Junior High and High School Dodgeball (<i>Crossroads Ministry Center</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>)
Sunday	10:15 a.m.	Christmas Worship Service (<i>Crossroads Ministry Center</i>)
	12:00 p.m.	Agape ABF Class Party (<i>Dan & Barb Steiner's</i>)
	7:00 p.m.	Junior High and High School Students Small Groups Christmas Party (<i>Meet at the schoolhouse</i>)

No Adult Bible Fellowship, Sunday School, and Evening Fellowship Service

~ NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 ~

Nurseries: Ann Gladwell, Barry & Mandy Schneck, Sarah Shank
The Good News Hour will not meet, so families may attend the Christmas Worship Service together.

~ ALL JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ~

Sunday, December 20: Small groups Christmas party at 7:00 p.m., please meet at the schoolhouse. Free event! Free food, games, and Christmas Caroling!

Wednesday, December 30: Ice skating at the Cube in Findlay. Meet at the church at 1:00 p.m., cost is \$5. You may bring extra money for the snack shop. Please sign up with Pastor David by December 29.

~ OUR SYMPATHY ~

Alice Giardini: Alice, mother of Gail Schantz, passed away Sunday, December 6. Services were held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Swanton, Ohio on Thursday, December 10.

Marvin Diller: Marvin, father of Jane Gladwell, passed away on Monday, December 7. Services were held Saturday, December 12, at the Pandora Missionary Church.

~ RECENT MOVE ~

New Address: Joan Jones, 700 Maple Crest Court, Apt. N025, Bluffton, OH 45817.

~PLEASE NOTE ~

Sunday School Classes (Kindergarten-Grade 12): You will be singing Twelve Days of Christmas at the beginning of the church service today. Each class will walk together to the Fellowship Hall hallway and be in line ready to go on stage by 10:05 a.m.

Agape Adult Bible Fellowship class party (aka College & Career). Please join us for lunch next Sunday, December 20, at 12:00 noon, at Dan & Barb Steiner's home – 8320 Swaney Road, Bluffton.

Lost and found is full! Please look over the items we have placed on the rack across from the kitchen in the Crossroads Ministry Center and in the cupboards in the Missions Center for anything that may belong to you or someone you know. Thanks for checking!

If you have a deer or any type of wild game you are willing to donate for the Wild Game Event (April 9, 2016), please contact Joe Alt at 419-234-1247. Thank you.

Year-end reports for 2015 are due on Sunday, January 17. All boards and committees please submit their annual reports to the church office (info@ebenenezermennonite.org) for inclusion in the 2015 Annual Report.

~ CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~

All are invited Thursday, 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!