

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 2016

Giving & Expenses

	General	Missions	C. E.	Building
Budgeted YTD	460,258	244,283	43,496	54,615
Expenses YTD	463,116	197,967	41,178	83,013
Actual Income	434,477	225,938	38,437	92,263

Cash Balances as of 11/30/16:

General* (\$19,388)
 Missions.....\$103,869
 Christian Education\$14,751
 Building\$31,278
 Cemetery Restoration Project.....\$3,440
 Archive\$4,600
 Sanctuary Roof Replacement(\$10,255)
 New Building.....\$27,989
 Benevolent.....\$7,570
 Van.....\$14,797

* Please note the General Fund balance made a small bit of progress during November but is still lagging behind actual expenses and budgeted amount. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord will supply to handle this deficit. The General Fund would need approximately \$35,000 to end the year in the black.

**Thank you for your generous and sacrificial giving.
 God is blessing!**

The House of Christmas

By GK Chesterton (1874-1936)

There fared a mother driven forth
 Out of an inn to roam;
 In the place where she was homeless
 All men are at home.
 The crazy stable close at hand,
 With shaking timber and shifting sand,
 Grew a stronger thing to abide and stand
 Than the square stones of Rome.
 For men are homesick in their homes,
 And strangers under the sun,
 And they lay their heads in a foreign land
 Whenever the day is done.
 Here we have battle and blazing eyes,
 And chance and honor and high surprise,
 But our homes are under miraculous skies
 Where the yule tale was begun.
 A Child in a foul stable,
 Where the beasts feed and foam,
 Only where He was homeless
 Are you and I at home;
 We have hands that fashion and heads that know,
 But our hearts we lost – how long ago!
 In a place no chart nor ship can show
 Under the sky's dome.
 This world is wild as an old wives' tale,
 And strange the plain things are,
 The earth is enough and the air is enough
 For our wonder and our war;
 But our rest is as far as the fire-drake swings
 And our peace is put in impossible things
 Where clashed and thundered unthinkable wings
 Round an incredible star.
 To an open house in the evening
 Home shall men come,
 To an older place than Eden
 And a taller town than Rome.
 To the end of the way of the wandering star,
 To the things that cannot be and that are,
 To the place where God was homeless
 And all men are at home.



December 18, 2016

**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. Let us sing for joy to the God of all nations who has revealed love, truth, and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. 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.** Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship
(Various Classrooms)
- 10:00 a.m.** The Good News Hour *(2 year olds-B16, 3 year olds-B10, 4&5 year olds-B11)*
- 10:15 a.m.** Worship Gathering, Pastor Jim *(CMC)*
*A Different Kind of Christmas – Escape to Egypt
 Scripture and Children’s Story – Pastor Dale
 Special Music: Dave & Kathy Brauen, Kevin Gratz*
- 5:30 p.m.** Junior High & High School Small Groups
 Christmas Caroling *(Meet in schoolhouse)*
- 6:30 p.m.** All Small Group Christmas Party *(at Jim & Marty Lemley’s)*
****No Evening Fellowship Service****

~ PRAYER CONCERNS ~

In the Hospital: Rev. Mark Burden, Lima Memorial Hospital.

~ O HOLY NIGHT! ~

Join the Ebenezer family Saturday, 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!

~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

Attendance on December 11:

Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship	(9:00 a.m.)	267
Morning Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	401
Children's Christmas Program	(6:30 p.m.)	324

~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: DECEMBER 19-25 ~

(CMC-Crossroads Ministry Center, FH-Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday	6:30 a.m.	Men's Small Group (<i>Bluffton McDonald's</i>)
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Game Time (<i>FH</i>)
	6:15 p.m.	Worship Team Rehearsal (<i>CMC</i>)
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Men's Prayer Time (<i>Sanctuary</i>) Young Adult Small Group (<i>Jaden & Amber August's home</i>)
	8:30 p.m.	Young Adult Basketball (<i>CMC</i>)
Saturday	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service (<i>CMC</i>)
Sunday	10:15 a.m.	Christmas Worship Service (<i>CMC</i>)

No Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship, or Evening Service

~ NEXT SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY ~

The Infant and Toddler Nursery: Josh & Heidi Steiner
The Good News Hour will not meet, so families may attend the
Christmas Worship Service together.

~ CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS ~

The following persons were elected and approved at the annual meeting on Wednesday, December 14: **Deacons:** Three-year term – Jack Bash, Don Leader; **Trustees:** Four-year term – John Good, John Shaw; **Christian Education Committee-Secretary:** Ashley Fry; **Engage Ministries:** Hanné Burkholder, Clyde & Janie Wireman; **Legacy & Investment:** Dave Miller; **Missions:** Jeremy Fry, Janie Wireman, Hanné Burkholder; **Nominating Committee:** One-year term – Tammy Spallinger, Bev Stockman; **Head Usher:** One-year term – Mike Biery; **Ushers:** One-year term Steve Burkholder, Randy Forrer, Alan Garmatter, David Garmatter, Randy Garmatter, Bob Geiger, John Good, Alan Hefner, Bob Holt, Russell Koontz, Ron Meyer, Mike Powell, Barry Schneck, Alan Sommer, Jim Spallinger, Robert Spallinger, Ron Steiner, Bob Zimmerman
Ancillary: Jerry Cartwright and Larry Moser. The 2017 General Fund, Building Fund, and Christian Education Fund proposed budgets were all approved.

Year-end reports for 2016 are due on Sunday, January 22. All boards and committees should submit their annual reports to the church office for inclusion in the 2016 Annual Report.

The Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study & Prayer, Children's Ministries, Junior High, Bread of Life Ministries, and Dodgeball for Junior High and High School will not meet until January 4. The Wednesday Night Family Supper, Women's War Room, and Men's Prayertime for Families will not meet until January 11.

New Pictorial Directories: If you had your photo taken you receive a free directory. Please see Deb Hilty for your copy today or anytime through the week. Extra copies are available at \$5 each.

Do you have an abundance of t-shirts and want to get rid of some of them? The sewing team going to Haiti in February is in need of adult-sized t-shirts for one of their projects. All colors and even stained t-shirts are welcomed! They also need spools of black, white, and beige colored thread. A box has been placed in the CMC foyer for your donations. Thank you for helping!

Dear Friends: As 2016 comes to a close our hearts are filled with gratitude as we reflect on your faithful partnership over the last 28 years. You have blessed us more than words can express! Thank you for your faithfulness. Merry Christmas! - *Lee & Michelle Sonius, Reach Beyond*

Dear Ebenezer Mennonite Church: You are making a difference in the lives of the people of Korah, Ethiopia and we are deeply grateful! Thank you for your very generous donation towards Alison's fundraiser. You are not only contributing to meet practical needs, but you are also bringing joy and transformation into the lives of families, children, and elders in Korah. Thank you! Wishing you and your loved ones God's blessings for this Christmas and the coming year! – *Sincerely, Karissa and the Hope for Korah team*

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

- Dec. 28** Junior High and High School Ice Skating-Findlay
(12:30 p.m., meet at the Schoolhouse)
- Jan. 1** New Year's Day Worship Gathering (10:15 a.m., CMC)
No Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship, or Evening Service
- Jan. 7** Living Faith ABF (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
- Jan. 13-15** Junior High Ice Camp (*Miracle Camp*)
- Jan. 21** Ebenezer Cleaning Day (8:00 a.m., - noon, Various Rooms)
- Jan. 22** FaithFull Singles Luncheon (11:30 a.m., FH)
- Jan. 29-Feb. 11** SIM Building Maintenance Team (*Charlotte, NC*)
- Feb. 5-11** SIM Work Team (*Charlotte, NC*)
- Feb. 24-26** High School Ice Camp (*Miracle Camp*)

~ FAITH PROMISE UPDATE~

The promises presently amount to \$263,040, 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 ~

Crossroads Ministry Center: Mark & Kay Spallinger
Missions Center: Jady Barhorst, Emily Metzger