

From the Trustees: With the move to the Crossroads Ministry Center (CMC) there are some pieces of equipment which will make the facility more worship service friendly. The acoustic panels and classroom carpeting have been ordered and will soon be installed, but some specific pieces of equipment are video projection equipment (\$19,459) and a portable stage (\$4,780). If you would like to give a gift for these upgrades, please mark your giving envelope **Transition Equipment**. Feel free to speak with Trustee Chairman, Lynn Lehman, or technicians, Greg Luginbill and Marvin Foster, with further questions. *Also, please contact Randy Garmatter* to volunteer to help with CMC set-up and tear-down.

Attention All Men: There will be a Men's Fellowship Breakfast on Saturday, January 10, at 7:30 a.m. Dick Shaneyfelt from Pandora will be giving his testimony. Please check the appropriate box on the green EMC Communication Card or sign up on the bulletin board in the Missions Center so we can have a good count on how many to plan for the breakfast.

Please give your attention: When borrowing items from the church kitchen please fill out the equipment sign out sheet and return clean items to the kitchen.

A great big thank you to those who volunteered their time and energy to help move the Sunday School classrooms. - *Trustees and Christian Education Committee*

Family and friends at Ebenezer: We had the opportunity to visit recently and we were blessed to be able to sit among you as we worshipped on Sunday morning. What fun it was to see familiar faces and shake familiar hands. We are so blessed to have such a loving church family to come home to. Your hugs, encouragement, and prayers mean so much to us. We praise God for you. - *Kerry & Krista Wright*

Attention Hunters: The Wild Game Committee is in need of your *game* that you have harvested (especially venison). The meat will be used for the 2009 Wild Game Event. Contact Gary Lugibihl at 419-235-9416 or Joe Alt at 419-234-1247 with your meat donations. Thank you and good luck hunting!

SIM workers needed February 1-7. Contact Ruth Bixel as soon as possible at 419-358-5078.

~ COOKIES NEEDED FOR SIM TRIP ~

Just dough or unbaked balls/logs preferred, but will also be taking baked ones (they just take more room and don't stay fresh as long) or boxes of brownie or cookie mixes. Please leave in the church kitchen marked plainly for SIM. Please note that the missions trip is earlier this year so we will need the cookies before the first of February. Thank you very much! - *Ginny Moser*

► UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ◀

- Jan. 12** **MOPS** (9:00 a.m., FH)
- Jan. 18** Chili Festival & **Wacky Talent** Night (5:00 p.m., CMC)
- Jan. 26** **MOPS** (9:00 a.m., FH)
- Jan. 30-Feb.1** Senior High Winter Retreat (Miracle Camp)
- Feb. 7** Living Faith Class (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
- Feb. 14** Men's Fellowship Breakfast (7:30 a.m., FH)
- Mar. 7** Senior High/Agape Class (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
- Mar. 14** Men's Fellowship Breakfast (7:30 a.m., FH)
- Apr. 4** Ambassador Class (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
- Apr. 18** Wild Game Event (5:00 p.m., CMC)
- May 2** Berean Class (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)

Ebenezer Mennonite Church Staff

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EBENEZER
Emissary Weekly

January 4, 2009

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-year-olds-K, Room B10)
- 10:15 a.m.** Worship Gathering - Pastor Jim King (CMC)
- 7:00 p.m.** Evening Fellowship Service (Sanctuary)
Junior & Senior High School Small Groups

Congratulations to Peter & Jennifer Bixel on the birth of their son, Nathan Richard, on Monday, December 22, weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz.

Congratulations to Tim & Tiffany Gallant on the birth of their daughter, Katherine Maybelle, on Friday, December 26, weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz.

Congratulations to Mike & Kathy Biery on the birth of their son, Levi James, on Monday, December 29, weighing 8 lbs. 5 oz.

In the Hospital: Will Steiner, St. Rita's Medical Center.

Scheduled Surgery: Donna Steiner, tomorrow at Blanchard Valley. She will then be at the Hilty Home for rehabilitation beginning Thursday, January 8.

Volunteers for the Good News Hour: Please meet for a 10 minute informational meeting today following the Worship Gathering. The meeting will be held in the basement (B10).

The Cherub & Children's Choirs will not meet this evening. Rehearsals will resume next Sunday, January 11. Please note the Children's Choir grades 1-6 will meet at 6:30 p.m. in Room 118.

Attendance and Giving

Attendance on December 28:

Contemporary Worship Service	(8:15 a.m.)	166
Sunday School & ABF	(9:30 a.m.)	328
Traditional Worship Service	(10:30 a.m.)	258

Giving on December 28:

\$25,473.18

Benevolent Fund	120.00
Building Fund	2,552.00
Christian Education Fund	2,348.58
Current Expense Fund	6,114.32
Missions Fund	6,515.00
New Building Fund	7,795.28*
Youth Fund	28.00

Missionaries of the Week: Gary & Pearl Nussbaum serve with **Transport for Christ**. Their home address is Dalton, OH. They initially work with developing new locations for chapels. It has been needful to focus their time on strengthening some of the existing locations. Please send an encouraging note to them at gpntfc@aol.com.

***Debt Reduction:** A recent payment of \$22,000 was applied to the construction loan, and the balance now stands at \$38,000. Thank you for your abundant generosity towards paying down our debt and keeping our other funds healthy in 2008.

Praise the Lord! The total amount of faith promises received towards our 2009 Missions Budget is at \$194,257.00.

2009 Birthday/Anniversary Calendars are ready and available on the table in the Crossroads Ministry Center and in the rack in the Missions Center.

Sunday Evenings beginning tonight at 7:00 in the Sanctuary we will be studying the book of Habakkuk. With all the crises before us, such as the economic crisis, the loss of moral principles, the encroachment of government into almost every aspect of life, and the squeezing of God out of the public arena, we will find the book of Habakkuk very applicable today. Join us as we search for and find some answers that refocus us on the Lord and how to live in this environment.

Opportunities of the Week: January 5-11

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. Walking Program – CMC

Monday	6:30 p.m. Ladies' Walking Program
	7:00 p.m. Ebenezer Men's Basketball Game (CMC)
Tuesday	6:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study (FH)
	6:30 p.m. Ladies' Walking Program
	7:00 p.m. Missions Committee Meeting (B14)
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. Game Time (FH)
	6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper (CMC)
	7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study & Prayer (112)
	Children's Ministry (ages 2-grade 6)
	Ladies' Bible Study (B17)
	Men's Bible Study (115)
	Music Ministry Rehearsal (Choir Loft)
	Prayer Group Meet (114)
	Small Group Meet (Pastor Jim's home)
Thursday	6:30 p.m. Ladies' Walking Program
	7:00 p.m. Open Gym (CMC)
Friday	4:00 p.m. Junior High Winter Retreat (Miracle Camp)
Saturday	7:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship Breakfast (FH)
Sunday	9:00 a.m. Sunday School & ABF (Various classrooms)
	10:00 a.m. The Good News Hour (ages 2-K, B10)
	10:15 a.m. Worship Gathering (CMC)
	11:30 a.m. Music Ministry Carry-in Lunch (FH)

~ Helpers for Sunday, January 11 ~

Nursery: Sarah Amstutz, Janet Brauen, Karla Burkholder, Joyce Gratz, Melissa Hilty, Marti & Manny Meza
The Good News Hour: Hanné Burkholder, Diane Sharrock, Jamie Wickert, Renea Zimmerman

Needed: Wacky Talent for the Chili Festival on Sunday, January 18, at 5:00 p.m. Please contact Saun Niswander at 419-384-3588 if you have talent you would like to share.

TODAY'S GREETERS

Bart & Joy Moser, Missions Center
 Jerry & Vickie Cartwright, Crossroads Ministry Center

Junior High Winter Retreat: Students, be sure to pick up a medical release form for Miracle Camp Winter Retreat from the Junior High Classroom. If you plan to attend this year's Winter Retreat, January 9-11, please return completed form to either Pastor Wade or the church office. Please meet here at the church on Friday, January 9, at 4:00 p.m. to leave for camp.

Year-end reports and proposed budgets for 2009 are due on Sunday, January 25. All boards and committees should submit their annual reports for 2008 and proposed budgets for 2009 to the church office for inclusion in the 2008 Annual Report. The annual congregational business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18.

Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 7, in Room 114 for scripture meditation, praise, prayer requests, and prayer. This week's special emphasis will be our Ebenezer Church Family. We will begin praying through the directory for each person listed. This prayer gathering is led by the Prayer Action Team and is open to anyone.

Prepare to enter another world as we explore *Narnia*. We'll join the characters Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy in a world frozen by the evil White Witch, Jadis. Join Jim & Pat King for a journey through the film, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. For nine Wednesdays we'll meet to make *Connections – Where Culture Meets Christ*. We'll start Wednesday, January 7, at Jim & Pat's home at 152 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton. Time frame will be 7:05 to 8:10 p.m. Contact Jim at 419-296-0885 or jim.king@ebenezymennonite.org or on Facebook. Bring your Bible. Anyone 18 years and older are welcome to attend this discussion group. Please invite your friends.

Epicenter gives you the headlines before they happen. **Epicenter** explains what is happening in the Middle East and how it will impact you. **Epicenter** provides inside information found nowhere else. This is the next book for the Ladies' Reading Fellowship. We will be meeting at Common Grounds in Bluffton on Thursday, March 19, at 7:00 p.m. The book is in the church library and the author is Joel C. Rosenberg. If you want a paperback edition please notify Angela Steiner by Thursday, January 15.