

The Ladies' Reading Fellowship will be discussing the book *The Shack* by William P. Young on Thursday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. at Common Grounds in Bluffton. Michael W. Smith wrote, *The Shack is the most absorbing work of fiction I've read in many years. My wife and I laughed, cried, and repented of our own lack of faith along the way. The Shack will leave you craving for the presence of God.* Please contact Angela Steiner at 419-643-8260 for more information.

Attention Ladies of All Ages: The Daughters of Promise Night is scheduled for Friday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m. so mark your calendars. Remember to invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives! You won't want to miss the fun evening that we have planned for you!

Attention junior high through any age adult: Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible School needs **YOU!** Stop by the table in the Crossroads Ministry Center Foyer to sign up. Each evening there are 75 volunteers needed. Dates for VBS are May 31 – June 5, at 6:30 each evening.

Baby Food Jars Needed: The VBS committee is looking for the stage 2 baby food jars. These jars will be used for a craft project. Please place them in the church library. Any questions contact Melissa Hilty at hiltme@wapak.org.

Dear Friends and Family at Ebenezer: I just want to thank everyone for your prayers and faithful support. It is a blessing to have your trust as I serve the Lord at Black Forest Academy in Germany. I am able to serve because of your faithfulness. Thank you. – *Bonnie Spallinger*

Dear Ebenezer Church Family: How can we begin to thank you for the outpouring of prayer, love, and support our family has received since Katherine's arrival. The encouraging notes and kind words you've expressed have really lifted our spirits and are a constant reminder of how blessed we are to be part of such a caring church family. A simple thank you hardly seems like enough for all that you've done and continue to do for us. But please know that we appreciate everything so much – especially for your continued prayers for Katherine's healing. - *With thanks, Dan, Joanna, and Katherine Gratz*

▶ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ◀

- Apr. 10** Good Friday Service (7:00 p.m., Sanctuary)
- Apr. 12** Easter SonRise Service (7:30 a.m., Sanctuary)
Easter SonRise Breakfast (8:30 a.m., CMC)
Easter Service (10:15 a.m., CMC)
Don & Brenda Ernst (7:00 p.m., Sanctuary)
- Apr. 13** Wild Game Committee Meeting (7:00 p.m., 103)
- Apr. 16** Ladies' Reading Fellowship (7:00 p.m., Common Grounds)
- Apr. 18** Wild Game Event (5:00 p.m., CMC)
- Apr. 19** Mortgage Burning Service (10:15 a.m., CMC)
Mortgage Burning Celebration Meal (Noon., CMC)
- Apr. 26** Children's Choir Spring Musical (7:00 p.m., CMC)
Slate Ballot Elections (9:00 a.m., ABF Classes)
- Apr. 27** Area Mennonite Women Meeting (6:30 p.m., CMC)
- May 2** Berean Class (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
- May 3** Vacation Bible School Student Registration Begins
- May 8** Daughters of Promise (6:30 p.m., CMC)
- May 10** Mother's Day/Child Dedication (10:15 a.m., CMC)
- May 17** Communion Service (10:15 a.m., CMC)
- May 24** Graduates Recognition Service (10:15 a.m., CMC)
No Evening Service
- May 31** Promotion Sunday
- May 31-June 5** Vacation Bible School/**Crocodile Dock** (6:30 p.m.)
- June 14-20** Grade School Full Week (Grades 2-4, Miracle Camp)
- June 21-27** Middle School (Grades 5-6, Miracle Camp)
- June 21-July 5** Youth Missions Trip to Sondernach, France
- June 28-July 1** Grade School Short Week (Grades 2-4, Miracle Camp)
- June 5-11** Junior High (Grades 7-8, Miracle Camp)
- July 12-18** Senior High (Grades 9-12, Miracle Camp)
- July 24-26** Family Camp 2009 (Maumee Bay State Park)
- Aug. 30** Teacher Appreciation Sunday (CMC)

FAMILY CAMP 2009
Maumee Bay State Park - **July 24-26**
Contact Greg & Sue Luginbill for reservations.
kglugin@fairpoint.net or 419-306-4122/419-384-3586



EBENEZER

Emissary Weekly

March 29, 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 (2-3-year-olds, Room B10 & 4-5-year-olds, B17)
- 10:15 a.m.** Worship Gathering – Pastor Dick (CMC)
- 11:30 a.m.** Youth Fund-Raiser/Lasagna Dinner (CMC)
- 6:00 p.m.** Children's Choir (Grades 1-6, Rooms 118-119)
- 7:00 p.m.** Hymn Sing (Sanctuary)
Cherub Choir (2-year-old – Room B10)
Junior & Senior High Small Groups

The Flowers in the Crossroads Ministry Center Foyer are in loving memory of Betty Zimmerman.

Join us tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a great time of singing hymns and hearing encouraging special music. Have your favorite hymns in mind as requests will be taken.

Our Sympathy to the family of Charles Lemley. Charles, the father of Jim and grandfather of Jeremy, passed away early Saturday, March 21. A memorial service was held yesterday at Grace Mennonite Church in Pandora.

Our Sympathy to the family of Terry Robnolte. Terry, the son of Gene & Carolyn, passed away on Tuesday, March 24.

Missionaries of the week: Phil & Mindy Steiner have been serving in **Novato, California** for the past five years as youth directors of **The Quest**, a church plant. They have two children, Caleb who is four-years-old, Chloe who is two-years-old. They have seen growth in their youth ministry especially their Mexico Missions Trip. This year they are taking two trips, spring break and summer, because the team has grown so much. Please send an encouraging e-mail note to Phil & Mindy at: pmsteiner@juno.com.

Attendance and Giving

Attendance on March 22:

Sunday School & ABF	(9:00 a.m.)	345
Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	411
Evening Fellowship Service	(7:00 p.m.)	109

Giving on March 22:

\$9,663.60

Benevolent Fund	90.00
Building Fund	223.00
Christian Education Fund	239.60
Current Expense Fund	6,598.80
Missions Fund	1,502.20
New Building Fund	1,000.00

Don't forget to pick up your Lasagna Dinners today following the Worship Gathering. Your donations will help with the cost of the Youth Missions Trip to France this summer (June 21-July 5). If you did not reserve a meal ahead of time there may still be a few extras available. You may take out or dine in.

Wild Game – Saturday, April 18: Tickets are available today in the Crossroads Minister Center Foyer for this year's Wild Game Supper. Our event will start at 5:00 p.m. with appetizers, vendors, and door prizes. The meal will begin at 6:00 p.m., and we will conclude with the speaker at 7:00 p.m. The menu for the meal is venison spaghetti, salad, bread sticks, and dessert. Our speaker this year is John Paul Moody, the 2008 World Predator Calling Champion. Tickets are \$10.00 each or you can purchase a table (8 tickets with priority seating) for \$70.00 Invite your friends!

Remember to sign-up: Plan now to attend the SonRise Breakfast Sunday, April 12, at 8:30 a.m. Please check the appropriate box on the green communications card or sign the sheet on the bulletin boards in Missions Center or in the hall across from the kitchen.

Lost & Found Items are located on a table in the Missions Center. Please check it out to see if something looks familiar. Thanks!

Opportunities of the Week: March 30-April 5

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

Tuesday	6:15 a.m.	Men's Bible Study (FH)
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)
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Ambassador ABF Class (Lima Rescue Home)
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School & ABF (Various classrooms)
	10:00 a.m.	Good News Hour (ages 2-3, B10, 4-5-year-olds, B17)
	10:15 a.m.	Worship Gathering (CMC)
	5:00 p.m.	Trustee Meeting (FH)
	7:00 p.m.	Evening Fellowship Service Zechariah 3-4/When God Encourages (Sanctuary)

~ Helpers for Sunday, April 5 ~

Nursery: Crystal Badertscher, Leah Eiden, Arlene Garmatter, Melba Gerber, Gail, Quinn, Madison, & Ariel Schantz

Recent move: Donna Steiner – Hilty Home for rehabilitation.

Thinking of mowing? The Trustees are now accepting bids on mowing the church/cemetery lawn for the 2009 season. Bids must be submitted in writing to the Trustees or the church office before next Sunday, April 5.

TODAY'S GREETERS

Kevin & Gina Burkholder, Missions Center
Don & Vicki Kirkendall, Crossroads Ministry Center

Praise the Lord! The Trustees have used a portion of the money from the sale of the parsonage to pay off the New Building Loan. We would like to commend and thank the congregation for their faithfulness in paying down this loan. On Sunday, April 19, we will have a **Mortgage Burning Service** during the morning Worship Gathering. We will also have a catered meal at noon in the Crossroads Ministry Center that day to celebrate this event. Pick up your tickets today for the meal at the table in the CMC Foyer. There is no charge for the tickets but you will need one to reserve your meal. We will accept donations the day of the service. Please come and celebrate God's faithfulness with us!

Wednesday evening discussion group: The book *The Last Lecture* has been a consistent best seller for months. It's written by Randy Pausch, who was a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon. When asked to give his last lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he recently had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave wasn't about dying but about living. We'll explore his lecture like good students to see if and how Jesus is present in it. For six Wednesdays (April 8 – May 13) we'll meet to make *Connections – Where Culture Meets Christ*. We'll start Wednesday, April 8, at Pastor Jim & Pat's home at 152 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton. Time frame will be 7:05 to 8:10 p.m. You'll need to get a copy of the book and read Part 1. Contact Jim at 419-296-0885 or jim.king@ebenezer mennonite.org or on Facebook with any questions. Bring your Bible. Anyone 18 years and older is welcome to attend this discussion group. Please invite your friends.

PrimeTimers Fellowship's luncheon is Tuesday, April 7, at noon in the St. John Mennonite Fellowship Hall. D.V. Dillinger will be presenting *Magic or US* this month. More information is located on the bulletin board in the Missions Center.

The Women's Service Group will be holding an Easter Bake Sale at the Mennonite Memorial Home in the lobby on Friday, April 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you would like to contribute baked goods to this event please leave the items in the church kitchen marked for the MMH. You may also deliver your baked goods to the MMH by 9:00 a.m. Friday, April 10. Thank you for supporting the WSG and the mission of serving the residents of MMH.