

Our MOPS group has seen a dramatic increase in our numbers this year with over two-thirds of our moms not attending Ebenezer. *That's where we desperately need your help.* We have an urgent need for helpers in the toddler and 2-year-old class. Would you be able to help out even once or twice during the year? If this ministry is something that you would be willing to assist with, or if you have questions, please contact Marti Meza at 419-358-0789 or Sarah Lehman at 419-957-3607 as soon as you can. Thank you all so much for supporting this ministry!!

Dear Friends at Ebenezer Mennonite: We wanted to write and say thank you for the gift cards that you sent our family. It was so sweet of you to think of our family in this special way. Our hearts are full of thanks and gratitude for the love and prayers you have shown our family, especially during the past month. We cannot express in words how thankful we are to our Heavenly Father for the precious gift of your friendship. Your love and concern for our family has been seen many times over the years and we are so very thankful for the blessing you are to our family and ministry. – *In His Service, Chuck & Naomi, David, Rachel, & Jordan*

I CORINTHIANS 13- A CHRISTMAS VERSION

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, 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, to my family, 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 to my family, 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 sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried, and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in 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 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. *Merry Christmas to you and yours!*

Two Small Groups facilitated by Pastor Jim King, *Each One Connected.* Are you looking for friends? Do you desire to meet others in our church community? Need a place to invite friends from the community? How about an opportunity to grow in your Christian faith? Join a small group!

1. Connections – Where Culture Meets Christ: Wednesdays January 6 – January 27. Join Jim & Pat King for a book discussion with, *Love Is the Killer App: How to Win Business and Influence Friends*, by Tim Sanders. With *Love Is the Killer App* in one hand and the Bible in the other, we'll take four Wednesdays to explore the conversation about ways to glorify Jesus in the work place. Is love really all you need? Tim Sanders, director of Yahoo's in-house think tank, believes love is the crucial element in the search for personal and professional success. In *Love Is the Killer App* he explains why. Sander's advice is to be a *lovecat*. It starts with amassing as much usable knowledge as possible, which he explains can be done by religiously carving out time to read and then poring through as many cutting-edge books in your field as possible. It follows with an emphasis on networking to the extreme. And he concludes by advocating a true mindset of compassion. The book presents great insights on relationship building. This makes it a great tool for anyone. This is an excellent opportunity to invite business people in the community to join in the discussion! We'll start Wednesday, January 6, at The Common Grounds, 101 S. Main St., Bluffton. Time frame will be 7:05 to 8:10 pm. You'll need a copy of the book and a Bible. (Pastor Jim can order the book for you at a cost of \$10.00).

2. Journey through Life: Sundays, January 3 – January 31, (five Sundays) Join Jim & Pat King for a journey through Jonah. We'll start Sunday, January 3, at Jim & Pat's home at 152 S. Jackson St. Bluffton. Time frame will be 6:31 p.m. to 8:05 p.m. Please bring a Bible and an open heart.

Anyone 18 years and older are invited to attend either or both of these small groups. Limit of 20 participants. Contact Jim at 419-296-0885 or jim.king@ebenezymennonite.org or on Facebook to indicate your planned participation. Please invite your friends!

► UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ◀

- Jan. 8-10** Junior High Winter Retreat (Miracle Camp)
- Jan. 11** MOPS (9:00 a.m., FH)
- Jan. 29-31** Senior High Winter Retreat (Miracle Camp)
- Feb. 7-13** SIM Missions Trip (Charlotte, NC)
- Feb. 17** Annual Congregational Meeting (7:00 p.m., Sanctuary)



EBENEZER

Emissary Weekly

December 27, 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 (CMC)
- 7:00 p.m.** Evening Fellowship Service /Silencing the Christians Series (Sanctuary)

Congratulations to Jeff & Melissa (Garmatter) Richards on the birth of their daughter, Natalie Faith, on Saturday, December 19, weighing 7 lb. 14 oz.

2010 Faith Promise Update: The total amount of faith promises received to date towards our 2010 missions budget is at \$191,154 towards our goal of \$195,000. Additional cards (which are located on the tables in the Missions Center and Foyer) may be completed and turned in to the Church Office or placed in the offering plate through the end of the year.

A Special Note from the Gallants: Due to mailing problems, Tim & Tiffany have sent their prayer letter via e-mail here at the church. Our prayers for the Gallants work in Cambodia are of the utmost importance. This is a crucial time for them as God is taking the ministry to the next step of maturity. Please pick up a copy of their prayer letter from the table in the Missions Center.

Missionaries of the week: Scott & Nikki Russell serve with ABWE in Chile. They have served over twenty years since they felt God's call to them for missions. It was good to have contact with them by Skype during Missions Conference. Please send a note of encouragement to Scott & Nikki at scottandnikki@abwe.cc.

Attendance and Giving

Attendance on December 20:

Christmas Worship (10:15 a.m.) 454

Giving on December 20:

\$19,602.93

Benevolent Fund	330.00
Building Fund	345.00
Christian Education Fund	1,046.00
Current Expense Fund	13,256.93
Missions Fund	4,570.00
New Building Fund	35.00
Van Fund	20.00

Thank you to Ralph Gerber, Marvin Diller, and Bill Steiner who have faithfully assisted in counting and securely depositing the offering each week during the past year. Thank you for serving the Lord in this way! - *Sam Brauen*

Thank you to everyone who purchased cheese for our Youth Fundraiser. A little over \$800 was raised for our missions trip to Louisville, Kentucky this summer! - *Pastor Wade*

Alice Wingate wants to thank everyone who sent her special greetings on her 90th birthday and for all the beautiful Christmas cards she has received from her church family. God bless you all!

Maranatha ABF Class: Plan now to attend New Year's Eve at 7:00 p.m. in the Crossroads Ministry Center and bring your family and friends. Also bring games and food to share.

Invitation to all: Luke & Rebekah Cherry would like to extend an invitation to the members of the Ebenezer family to a reception in celebration of their wedding that took place on November 14, 2009. Please join them Saturday, January 2, from 2-4 p.m. in the Crossroads Ministry Center.

SIM Workers Needed: If interested please contact Ruth Anna Bixel at 419-358-5078. Dates of SIM trip are February 7-13, 2010.

Opportunities of the Week: Dec. 28 - Jan. 3

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

Tuesday 6:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study/Breakfast (FH)

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Game Time (FH)

6:30 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal (115)

Thursday 7:00 p.m. Maranatha Class Party (CMC)

Friday ****Happy New Year – Church office closed****

Saturday 7:00 p.m. Living Faith ABF (Lima Rescue Home)

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & ABF (Various classrooms)

10:00 a.m. The 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)

6:31 p.m. Journey Through Life (Pastor Jim's home)

7:00 p.m. Evening Fellowship Service (Sanctuary)

~ Helpers for Sunday, January 3 ~

Nursery: Crystal Badertscher, Arlene Garmatter, Melba Gerber,
Gail Schantz, Andrea Spallinger

Year-end reports and proposed budgets for 2010 are due on Sunday, January 24. All boards and committees should submit their annual reports for 2009 and proposed budgets for 2010 to the church office for inclusion in the 2009 Annual Report. The annual congregational business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17.

The Wild Game Committee is in need of any type of wild game you are willing to donate for our Wild Game Night on March 27, 2010. Please contact Mark or Kay Spallinger at 419-230-9346 if you are willing to donate any type of meat. Thank you.

TODAY'S GREETERS

Jerry & Vickie Cartwright - Missions Center
Al & Carolyn Frysinger - Crossroads Ministry Center



~ The Plug ~

Parents of Junior High Students who are going to Winter Retreat at Miracle Camp, have your student's payment of \$93 (\$83 if deposit was paid) turned in by Sunday, January 3. Medical Release Forms need to be completed before your student can go. You can find the form at <http://www.miraclecamp.com/AttendaRetreat/YouthIceCamps/tabid/95/Default.aspx>

Go to the downloads Link and click on sample medical form, print it out, and complete it. You can also get a form from the church. If you have any questions let Pastor Wade know.

Registration for 2010 Miracle Camp Winter Retreat, January 8-10 Junior High and January 29-31 Senior High. A sign-up sheet will be in your Sunday School Class or see Pastor Wade. Please bring a \$10.00 deposit and sign up **ASAP**.

Supply Drive for Romania: From Andy LaBreche (Missionary with GEM in Romania) *This past year we have been involved with a day center for underprivileged kids in Romania which runs an afterschool VBS type program. If anyone has unused supplies at home, we can ship them to be used at the center. (No crayons – someone gave us an entire case!) Any sewing supplies (fabric remnants, buttons, & other notions) would be welcome. It doesn't have to be new stuff. Winter wear is also something the center has asked for. Along with any donations please include a check to help with the shipping costs. We are getting a deal of \$1.05 (charge) per pound, but have close to 1,000 pounds already.* Donated items can be placed in the box in the Missions Center. The LaBreche's will be in our area to pick them up January 9, 2010. Funds for shipping are greatly needed and can be sent directly to **Greater Europe Mission, P.O. Box 1669, Monument CO 80132-1669** designated *LaBreche Ministry* or made out to Ebenezer Mennonite Church and designated for LaBreche's. Thank you very much for your help with this great project! - *Missions Committee*