

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. We'll start this Wednesday 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) We'll start today 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!

Dear Friends & Family at Ebenezer: Thank you so much for your faithful and consistent support. It is a blessing to have such a strong group of believers behind me. The year has begun well and the girls are already busy with school and sports. Please pray that God will keep the girls and their families safe. Please pray that I would be a good role model to the girls. – *God bless, Bonnie Spallinger*

Dear Pastors, Staff, and Ebenezer Family: Greetings from the beautiful north island of New Zealand! Thank you for your prayers for me, Beth, and Gordon as we arrived after a long, but safe and enjoyable journey flying over the West and the Pacific Ocean to *the land down under* – New Zealand! It is summertime here with the warm sunshine making the days pleasant and inviting to be outside. The lush green is the result of plentiful rains. Barbara and Paul live on the hillside in a scenic area of the city of Auckland, population of 1¼ million people of many ethnic backgrounds! God is good, but hardly recognized by so many – they are caught up with the pursuits of pleasure, but true happiness evades! Pray for the strong witness to Christ that Barbara, Paul, and family give. Praying for you and thanking God that He is with us wherever we may be! Barbara and Paul send greetings as well. *Merry Christmas, Pastor Warren* - Psalm 34:1-3,15

2010 Birthday & Anniversary Calendars are available on the table in the Crossroads Ministry Center Foyer and the Missions Center.

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!!

► UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ◀

- Jan. 11** MOPS (9:00 a.m., FH)
Jan. 25 MOPS (9:00 a.m., FH)
Jan. 29-31 Senior High Winter Retreat (Miracle Camp)
Feb. 7-13 SIM Missions Trip (Charlotte, NC)
Feb. 8 MOPS (9:00 a.m., FH)
Feb. 17 Annual Congregational Meeting (7:00 p.m., Sanctuary)
Feb. 19 Transport for Christ Banquet (6:30 p.m., BU)
Feb. 22 MOPS (9:00 a.m., FH)
Feb. 24-28 PowerTeam Crusade (CMC, 7:00 p.m.)
Mar. 6 Senior High & Agape CLASS (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)

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EBENEZER

Emissary Weekly

January 3, 2010

Happy New Year!

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 & Communion Service (*CMC*)
- 5:00 p.m.** Trustee Meeting (*FH*)
- 6:31 p.m.** Journey through Life (*at Jim King's home*)
- 7:00 p.m.** Evening Fellowship Service
Begin with Prayer (*Sanctuary*)
Cherub Choir (*Age 2-Kindergarten, B10*)
Junior & Senior High Small Groups Meet

Benevolence: In conjunction with this morning's communion service a benevolent offering will be taken by the ushers following the service.

Congratulations to Mark & Elizabeth (Wright) Sexton on the birth of their son, Silas Lee, on Monday, December 28, weighing 9 lb. 11 oz.

Scheduled Surgery: Ron Zimmerly, tomorrow at Bluffton Hospital.

Praise the Lord for the faith promises of \$200,454 received for our 2010 missions budget! We look to Him to supply the funds needed to fulfill these promises and our other 2010 budget needs.

Missionaries of the week: Dale & Ruth Seefeldt have returned to the states from India. They will be serving in Georgia where they are living. Their new address is 77 Peachtree Place NE, Unit 319, Atlanta, GA 30309. Their official relationship with **TEAM** will end this month. Remember to pray for the Seefeldts as they continue to serve the Lord. Please send a note of encouragement to Dale & Ruth at dalseefeldt@gmail.com.

Attendance and Giving

Attendance on December 24:

Christmas Eve Service (6:00 p.m.) 290

Attendance on December 27:

Sunday School & ABF (9:00 a.m.) 272

Worship Gathering (10:15 a.m.) 515

Evening Fellowship Service (7:00 p.m.) 18

Giving through December 31:

\$17,340.90

Benevolent Fund 690.00

Building Fund 600.00

Christian Education Fund 1,339.90

Current Expense Fund 8,217.00

Missions Fund 6,004.00

New Building Fund 490.00

A Special Note from the Gallants: Due to mailing problems, Tim & Tiffany have sent their updated 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.

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 next Saturday.** 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**

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: Jan. 4-10

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

Monday 8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball Game (CMC)

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

7:00 p.m. Missions Committee Meeting (103-104)

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

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper (CMC)

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

7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study & Prayer

Love to Pray (103-104)

Adult Choir Rehearsal (115)

Children's Ministry (ages 2-grade 6)

Financial Peace University Preview

(Sanctuary Foyer)

Ladies' Bible Study (B17)

Men's Bible Study (Sanctuary overflow)

7:05 p.m. Connections – Where Culture Meets

Christ (Common Grounds)

8:30 p.m. Dodgeball (CMC)

Friday 3:30 p.m. Junior High Winter Retreat

(meet at church to leave for Miracle Camp)

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Financial Peace University Preview (116)

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)

6:00 p.m. PowerTeam Committee Meeting (FH)

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

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

Please remember to pray for our Junior High Students traveling to Miracle Camp this Friday, January 8: Mateo Bonifaz, Audrey Bowsher, Molly Moser, Andrew Schutz, Erica Sheehan, Adel Sommers, Andrew Spallinger, Allene Thompson, Alyssa Willow, Ross Zimmerman.

~ Helpers for Sunday, January 10 ~

Nursery: Sarah Amstutz, Caroline & Kyla Dawson, Deb Huber, Jared & Sarah Lehman, Joshua & Heidi Steiner

Good News Hour: Tyler Breidenbach, Jaime Combs, Cory Hilty, Milo & Deb Luginbuhl, Madison Schantz, Hannah Slechter, Dru Spallinger

TODAY'S GREETERS

Kelli Foster & Teresa Marquart - *Missions Center*

Ron & Sue Epp - *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 today. 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**.



53 Days till PowerTime! We are in 18 schools with 23 assemblies. We will be needing drivers to drive Wednesday, February 24 – 26 to the schools during the day, so check your schedules.

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.