



EBENEZER
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Board of Elders Meeting April 8, 2019

Roll Call

The following elders were **present**: Tim Gibson, Dick Bickings, Dennis Flanagan, Tom Galloway, Bob Gill, Swannie Griffin, Kevin Hardy, Jeremy Harkins, Scott Holwick, Chris Jones, Phil Norris, Mike Notary, Byron Roth

There were no elders **absent**.

Prayer Time: Elders spent time in prayer corporately for the congregation

Devotional: Remembrance from Romans 4:25, Jesus was raised for our Justification!

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the Elders meeting held March 11, 2019; it was seconded and passed unanimously.

Financial Report – March 2019 (*Attachment 1*)

The **motion was made to approve this financial report as written**, it was **seconded** and **passed unanimously**. The elders made note of the following other items:

- Giving is \$400+ above budget
- Expenditures are below budget
- In great shape financially
- Sale of Parsonage will be going through shortly (pending subdivision approval)

Discussion Items:

1) Lynfield Ministry Update (Dick)

- Update on the Worship Service
 - Worship Services have dropped in attendance
 - The community, however, continues to show interest
 - A bus will be run from EBFC to Lynfield on Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, to bring the Lynfield community to Ebenezer.
- Part Time Lynfield Ministry Person Job Description
 - We are currently taking a look at two EBFC members and their involvement in both the Lynfield community in general, and their preaching for the worship service.

2) Confidentiality Policy (Byron)

- Byron presented his version of the agreement to the elders for approval. There was some concern that the agreement might “hand-cuff” the elders if it ever became necessary for them to be a “Whistle-Blower” because of ministry wrong doings.
- Byron will rework the agreement to be more specific to the application the individual is using.

3) Audit Committee Update (Byron)

- A meeting was held with the Audit Committee to go over findings/issues with the 2018 Financial Audit.
- A response will be sent to address concerns raised by the committee
- We will be looking for additional members to be added to the Audit Committee
- Phil Norris prayed a prayer of thanksgiving and asked for wisdom.

4) Property Committee - Foyer & Signs (Mike)

- Lighting (Bergy Electric) is next, different than existing, use pendant lighting, had to get a permit
- Flooring to follow
- Foyer, the goal is to be completed one month after Easter.
- Horizon Signs is putting together designs for township approval

5) Deaconess Request - (Attachment 2) (Tim)

- A Congregant presented a letter to the elders, recommending that we consider allowing women to be deaconesses and the reasons why he believed it was biblical.
- Elders discussed the exegesis from scripture for or against deaconesses (1 Tim 3:11).
- Though there are good arguments on both sides of this issue, the elders believe that the weightier evidence falls on the side of interpreting 1 Tim 3:11 as deacon's wives, and not deaconesses (*Attachment 3*)
- Based upon this exegesis of 1 Tim 3:11, the elders therefore will continue to affirm our by-laws which state that the board of deacons must be made up of men.
- A **motion** was made and **seconded** to affirm our current by-laws concerning deacons, and the **vote** was, **11- yes, 2- abstentions**.

Swannie Griffin adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Pastoral Reports:

Pastor of Discipleship – Dick Bickings (*Attachment 4*)

Respectfully submitted,



Pastor Dick Bickings
Secretary to the Board of Elders

EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

BUDGET VS. ACTUALS: FY 2019 BUDGET - FINAL - FY19 P&L

March 2019

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue				
1100 Offerings / Gifts	103,150.58	102,988.44	162.14	100.16 %
1400 Interest	20.76	27.25	-6.49	76.18 %
1700 Memorials	150.00	58.00	92.00	258.62 %
1900 Bethlehem Christian School		0.00	0.00	
1901 Other Building Use	200.00	25.00	175.00	800.00 %
Total Revenue	\$103,521.34	\$103,098.69	\$422.65	100.41 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$103,521.34	\$103,098.69	\$422.65	100.41 %
Expenditures				
10000 Congregational Care Ministries		233.00	-233.00	
11000 Compensation	52,065.02	53,015.92	-950.90	98.21 %
2000 General Church Finance	5,084.74	6,055.92	-971.18	83.96 %
3000 Discipleship Ministries	7,935.47	3,248.00	4,687.47	244.32 %
5000 Evangelism Ministries	169.29	3,615.00	-3,445.71	4.68 %
6000 Missions	29,034.44	28,125.50	908.94	103.23 %
7000 Deacon Ministries	4,519.15	7,853.00	-3,333.85	57.55 %
8000 Worship	-6.90	517.00	-523.90	-1.33 %
9000 Office Expenses	1,749.25	1,898.00	-148.75	92.16 %
Total Expenditures	\$100,550.46	\$104,561.34	\$ -4,010.88	96.16 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$2,970.88	\$ -1,462.65	\$4,433.53	-203.12 %
NET REVENUE	\$2,970.88	\$ -1,462.65	\$4,433.53	-203.12 %

Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church

BUDGET VS. ACTUALS: FY 2019 BUDGET - FINAL - FY19 P&L

January - March, 2019

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue				
1100 Offerings / Gifts	262,520.80	267,775.10	-5,254.30	98.04 %
1400 Interest	44.03	114.50	-70.47	38.45 %
1700 Memorials	150.00	174.00	-24.00	86.21 %
1900 Bethlehem Christian School		0.00	0.00	
1901 Other Building Use	300.00	75.00	225.00	400.00 %
Total Revenue	\$263,014.83	\$268,138.60	\$ -5,123.77	98.09 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$263,014.83	\$268,138.60	\$ -5,123.77	98.09 %
Expenditures				
10000 Congregational Care Ministries	50.00	699.00	-649.00	7.15 %
11000 Compensation	156,083.98	164,542.76	-8,458.78	94.86 %
2000 General Church Finance	7,306.08	20,670.76	-13,364.68	35.35 %
3000 Discipleship Ministries	9,213.17	9,454.00	-240.83	97.45 %
5000 Evangelism Ministries	444.29	3,640.00	-3,195.71	12.21 %
6000 Missions	48,374.44	49,091.50	-717.06	98.54 %
7000 Deacon Ministries	19,637.15	23,739.00	-4,101.85	82.72 %
8000 Worship	1,135.66	1,564.00	-428.34	72.61 %
9000 Office Expenses	2,335.39	5,679.00	-3,343.61	41.12 %
Total Expenditures	\$244,580.16	\$279,080.02	\$ -34,499.86	87.64 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$18,434.67	\$ -10,941.42	\$29,376.09	-168.49 %
NET REVENUE	\$18,434.67	\$ -10,941.42	\$29,376.09	-168.49 %

EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET VS. PRIOR YEAR

As of March 31, 2019

	TOTAL			
	AS OF MAR 31, 2019	AS OF MAR 31, 2018 (PY)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts				
18000 Branch Banking & Trust	552,028.59	531,888.60	20,139.99	3.79 %
18002 BB&T Certificates of Deposit	67,864.38	67,799.37	65.01	0.10 %
19000 M&T Bank Savings	93,161.60	93,068.49	93.11	0.10 %
19001 M&T Bank Checking	5,375.67	5,375.67	0.00	0.00 %
Total Bank Accounts	\$718,430.24	\$698,132.13	\$20,298.11	2.91 %
Total Current Assets	\$718,430.24	\$698,132.13	\$20,298.11	2.91 %
TOTAL ASSETS	\$718,430.24	\$698,132.13	\$20,298.11	2.91 %
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
100 Payroll Liabilities	-2,964.81	-4,672.47	1,707.66	36.55 %
2111 Direct Deposit Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	
901 Building Fund	59,335.64	71,847.70	-12,512.06	-17.41 %
902 Capital Improvement Fund	0.00	-16,389.00	16,389.00	100.00 %
903 Transportation Fund	488.00	288.00	200.00	69.44 %
904 Scholarships	2,843.44	3,739.44	-896.00	-23.96 %
905 Faith Promise	21,002.29	16,537.82	4,464.47	27.00 %
907 Benevolence Fund	21,097.21	14,961.50	6,135.71	41.01 %
908 Music Fund	198.31	384.20	-185.89	-48.38 %
909 Heyer Trust Fund	43,513.10	18,634.14	24,878.96	133.51 %
911 Year End Accruals	8,480.16	8,480.16	0.00	0.00 %
912 Run for the Children	0.00	110.86	-110.86	-100.00 %
914 Health Care Accounts	5,006.11	5,269.03	-262.92	-4.99 %
915 Youth Summer Missions	7,698.00	13,423.99	-5,725.99	-42.65 %
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$166,697.45	\$132,615.37	\$34,082.08	25.70 %
Total Current Liabilities	\$166,697.45	\$132,615.37	\$34,082.08	25.70 %
Total Liabilities	\$166,697.45	\$132,615.37	\$34,082.08	25.70 %
Equity				
1000 Opening Bal Equity	-407,878.80	-407,878.80	0.00	0.00 %
900 Retained Earnings	941,176.92	988,024.88	-46,847.96	-4.74 %
Net Revenue	18,434.67	-14,629.32	33,063.99	226.01 %
Total Equity	\$551,732.79	\$565,516.76	\$ -13,783.97	-2.44 %
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$718,430.24	\$698,132.13	\$20,298.11	2.91 %

EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET CURRENT VS. PRIOR MONTH

As of March 31, 2019

	TOTAL			
	AS OF MAR 31, 2019	AS OF FEB 28, 2019 (PP)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts				
18000 Branch Banking & Trust	552,028.59	544,168.18	7,860.41	1.44 %
18002 BB&T Certificates of Deposit	67,864.38	67,855.85	8.53	0.01 %
19000 M&T Bank Savings	93,161.60	93,153.69	7.91	0.01 %
19001 M&T Bank Checking	5,375.67	5,375.67	0.00	0.00 %
Total Bank Accounts	\$718,430.24	\$710,553.39	\$7,876.85	1.11 %
Total Current Assets	\$718,430.24	\$710,553.39	\$7,876.85	1.11 %
TOTAL ASSETS	\$718,430.24	\$710,553.39	\$7,876.85	1.11 %
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
100 Payroll Liabilities	-2,964.81	-2,964.81	0.00	0.00 %
2111 Direct Deposit Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	
901 Building Fund	59,335.64	69,810.64	-10,475.00	-15.00 %
902 Capital Improvement Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	
903 Transportation Fund	488.00	488.00	0.00	0.00 %
904 Scholarships	2,843.44	3,221.44	-378.00	-11.73 %
905 Faith Promise	21,002.29	15,095.89	5,906.40	39.13 %
907 Benevolence Fund	21,097.21	18,677.59	2,419.62	12.95 %
908 Music Fund	198.31	279.45	-81.14	-29.04 %
909 Heyer Trust Fund	43,513.10	43,581.28	-68.18	-0.16 %
911 Year End Accruals	8,480.16	8,480.16	0.00	0.00 %
912 Run for the Children	0.00	0.00	0.00	
914 Health Care Accounts	5,006.11	5,121.84	-115.73	-2.26 %
915 Youth Summer Missions	7,698.00	0.00	7,698.00	
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$166,697.45	\$161,791.48	\$4,905.97	3.03 %
Total Current Liabilities	\$166,697.45	\$161,791.48	\$4,905.97	3.03 %
Total Liabilities	\$166,697.45	\$161,791.48	\$4,905.97	3.03 %
Equity				
1000 Opening Bal Equity	-407,878.80	-407,878.80	0.00	0.00 %
900 Retained Earnings	941,176.92	941,176.92	0.00	0.00 %
Net Revenue	18,434.67	15,463.79	2,970.88	19.21 %
Total Equity	\$551,732.79	\$548,761.91	\$2,970.88	0.54 %
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$718,430.24	\$710,553.39	\$7,876.85	1.11 %

TO: Ebenezer BFC Elder Board

FROM: Kyle Ebel

DATE: March 18, 2019

SUBJECT: Consideration for Deaconesses

I would like the Elder and Deacon committee to consider applying the requirements for Deacons, towards Church appointed Deaconesses.

Before I make my point on why I would like for the committee to address this request, I want to make it known that this position is an instruction, written by the Apostle Paul, for the good and building of God's Church. I am not merely promoting female Deacons for equality reasons. With that being said, I have seen the Church, as well as the appointed individual, benefit from appointing Deaconesses to an office position.

I do not believe I need to address the qualifications of the Deacon to the fellow readers of this consideration, however it may be beneficial to address what the Deacons are and are not to better understand why Paul has given authority to appoint Deaconesses inside the church. Deacons are not; overseers, superintendents, managers, or guardians. Deacons are; servants, commissioned messengers, and agents of superiors (elders). Deacons must stand in relationship to an elder, or a body of people for direction. They must be tasked by an overseer to function. Deacons are subordinate to the overseers. Notice how the the deacons cannot exercise any form of authority, without the permission of an overseer himself. If the Church were to appoint Deaconesses, they would in no capacity have the authority to make decisions over the elders of the church. Thus is needed to obey what Paul has previously written in 1 Tim 2:12.

In 1 Tim 3, Paul gives us an outline on how we are to appoint office holding positions in the Church. Paul writes the authoritative order in secession from the top which are Overseers, then Deacons, and then Deaconesses. Paul uses the same order in the beginning of Philippians (minus deaconesses). Paul gives the qualifications for overseers, then the qualifications for deacons, now in verse 11 Paul gives the qualification of women, stating, "women must likewise..." which relates these women to an office of the church (verse 1). The argument can be made that Paul is talking about the Deacon's wives in verse 11. However, why would the Deacon's wives be held more accountable then the overseer's wives, which there is no mention of. Another argument is that Paul does not say "women deacons" or something close in vernacular. There is no feminine form of Deacon in the Greek, so it would have been unclear if Paul were to use the same word *diakonos* again when he was talking about women, so Paul used *gunaikas*. This is backed by Paul himself in Romans 16:1, "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant (*diakonos*) of the church which is at Cenchrea".

My hopes for the appointment of women to an office of the Church is for:

1: The women's ministry

We cannot account for women's leadership, discipleship, or servant hood without holding them to the same due diligence and necessity for public examination and the qualification process as we do for Deacons. I urge the church to appoint Deaconesses to lead discipleship with other women, thus giving mature women in faith an official position of public trust to exercise a specialized ministry for which only certain women qualify.

2: Godly examples for younger believers

Previously being a member of a church who had appointed Deaconesses when we were younger in our faith, was of great benefit for my wife. When a church appoints a woman member in the church as a Deaconess, it says "Look, we have done our due diligence on this woman. She was and still is holding to the qualifications of Deaconess as per 1Tim 3:11. We have examined her life and this woman is an example of what a Godly woman looks like. This is a woman who you should seek out when you are undergoing various trials in your faith to point you back to scripture and the cross." What love that would show to younger women of the faith, even mature women of faith. Also what joy would it bring to the women appointed as Deaconesses. Serving as a Deaconess, women will see their faith in Christ grow. Paul says in 1 Tim 3:13, "For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus".

3: More qualified servants

These Deaconesses would not be exercising authority over men in their servant hood, however, if the elders find a need that could be better presented to a woman by women Deaconess, it could bless both parties and give more glory to Christ. Finally, by adding more qualified servants to serve under elders, it allows the deacons and deaconesses to do their primary job, which is to allow the elders to do their primary job, which is to preach Christ's Gospel, feed, guide, and protect God's blood-bought flock entrusted to them.

Respectfully,

Kyle Ebel

1 Timothy 3:8-13 – “Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”

v. 11 - Γυναῖκας, ὡσαύτως, σεμνάς, μὴ διαβόλους, νηφαλίους, πιστὰς ἐν πᾶσιν.
Gynaikas hōsautōs semnas mē diabolous nēphalious pistas en pasin

v. 11 - Women, likewise, must be dignified, not slanderers, clear-minded, faithful in all things.

1. Arguments Against Deaconess:

- 1) Γυναῖκας is translated in the ESV as “wives” while the NASB translates the word “women.” This is the same word that is used in 1 Tim 3:2 & the following verse 12 in which both cases is certainly without question translated as wife. It seems consistent to translate both words within a given paragraph in the same manner. Furthermore, the word woman is so commonly used that is difficult to think that Paul was designating a new office.
- 2) The word “likewise” sandwiches this reference clearly between the qualification of male deacons in v. 8-10 & 12. If Paul’s purpose was to establish the teaching that women should serve as deacons, would it not make better sense to place the reference after verse 12 and then refer to both in v. 13?
- 3) If this is a list of qualifications for female deacons, **the list seems quite slim**. The list for deacons is quite comprehensive. The list in verse 11 omits important qualifications for deacons – not greedy, moral purity, doctrinal integrity, domestic qualifications, and the need for testing (all important qualities for those serving as deacon). It is also interesting that there is no mention of a reference to family life. While the wife is not the head of the house, it is interesting that for a widow to be put on the list she had to be the wife of one man (5:9). Both elders and deacons have the qualification of being husband of one wife. This omission is strange if this is indeed a list for deaconess. One short verse hardly seems adequate to cover the qualifications for a deaconess, especially since it is imbedded in the deep qualifications of a deacon.
- 4) The reference to Phoebe in Romans 16:1 is simply a servant not a deaconess. “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many and of myself as well.” Proponents of deaconess use this as an example for female deacon. However, the word used there is δῆκονον. This term is often used to mean servant in general (Matthew 20:26, 22:13, 2 Cor 6:4, 11:23, 1 Tim 4:6). The word “Apostle” is a good illustration of the multi-use of a particular word. While the twelve disciples are officially the “Apostles” appointed by Christ (Eph 4:11, 1 Tim 1:1), the word can also be used more broadly to refer to those sent

out by the church (apostles) on a special mission. Most often the term is then translated “messengers” (2 Cor 8:23, Phil 2:25). When Paul says that Phoebe was a servant of the church, he means that she faithfully served the saints in Cenchrea.

- 5) In light of 1 Timothy 2:11-14, a woman is not to exercise authority in the church over a man. It is a stretch to say that a deaconess would not exercise authority by making decisions about property, handling church funds, recommending budgets, etc.
- 6) There are no OT illustrations of women in any office of prophet, priest or king.
- 7) Acts 6 would have been an opportune time to institute deaconess, but only men were chosen by the Apostles.

2. Arguments for Deaconess:

- 1) The strongest reason for thinking that these women were deaconesses is the way they are introduced. Both verse 8 and verse 11 contain the word “likewise” which sounds like it introduces a new office. MacArthur says, “The use of likewise argues strongly for seeing a third and distinct group here in addition to elders and deacons.”
- 2) If Paul meant wives, he could have simply added in the possessive pronoun “their wives” to eliminate confusion.
- 3) The absence of qualifications for elder’s wives is strange. How does the wife of the elder/overseer escape the need for official qualifications but not the wife of a servant of the church?
- 4) There are plenty of other words Paul could have used to describe Phoebe in Romans 16:1. But Phoebe is actually called a *διάκονον τῆς ἐκκλησίας* (deacon/servant “of the church”). Phoebe is NOT simply just a servant “at” the church but “of” the church, belonging to that church. Furthermore, there was no Greek word for “deaconess” so the masculine form of diakonos was used of both men and women.
 - *sundoulos* – fellow bondservant
 - *doúlos* – servant or slave;
 - *therápōn* – attendant;
 - *hupēretēs* – a servant;
 - *leitourgós* – a public servant, usually one serving at the temple or one who performs religious public duties.
- 5) The deacon or deaconess has no connotation of authority or teaching. The word deacon means “serving, helping, assisting, waiting on, ministering to” and never ruling, managing, organizing, overseeing, teaching. So, there is no reason a woman could not occupy that role in the church as she would not be teaching or exercising authority over men.

Pastor of Discipleship Report, Mar/Apr 2019

As I continued my trek through the OT, my next stop was 2 Samuel, chapter 7, which outlines God's Davidic covenant in verses 16-17:

““And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.” (2 Samuel 7:16–17, ESV)

I love this passage since it points to King David's eternal progeny, which ultimately is the Lord Jesus Christ who will reign for ever and ever as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords!

With that in mind, here are some of the ministry updates from March/April 2019:

Kids Crossing

- VBS 2019 (June 17-21, Theme: “In The Wild”): Jennifer Schanely, Cindy Lasso, and Charity Roth are working hard and gearing up for this year's Vacation Bible School's evangelistic outreach. Here are the details...

Promotional Info: “Throw on your camera strap and buckle your seatbelt. VBS 2019 takes you on a wild adventure—with elephants and egrets, polar bears and penguins, cockatoos and crocodiles. As you seek out exotic animals, you'll also find snapshots of real-life encounters with Jesus in Scripture. Kids go from bewildered to believing as they get In The Wild at this summer's VBS.”

Theme Verse: “but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31, ESV)

Motto: “Zoom in! Focus on Jesus!”

Volunteers: We are currently registering volunteers for VBS, and presently, the count is around 30.

- Cross Time Sunday School (10:05 AM): All Cross Time classes are currently studying how the Children of Israel conquered the Promise Land under Joshua. We praise the Lord for this Christ honoring curriculum! Also, we currently have an opening for a teacher/helper for Grade 3&4.
- Early Childhood (2&3 year-olds): Praise the Lord, he has brought us all the teachers and helpers, for all the services, and for both odd and even months!.
- Children's Church: The Gospel Project curriculum worship segment continues to work well for Children's Church. We continue to see around 12-15 students each week.
- Wednesday Evening Programs: We continue to be blessed to have the elders teach both the Sparks and T&T groups. We have been focusing on being “Agents of Grace”, displaying, Courage, Humility, Wisdom, Obedience, Honor, Hope, and Grace. Please continue to pray for this vital ministry of implanting God's Word into these young hearts..

Adult Ministry

- Adult Electives: The current Spring semester contains the following classes:
 - 2 Peter/Jude: Scott Holwick
 - Proverbs: “Be Wise”: Phil Norris
 - Marriage Class - “What Did You Expect” by Paul Tripp: Chris Jones
 - Evangelism: Marcus Brunstetter & John Yost
- Student Ministry: See Pastor Mike Notary's Report.
- Senior Fellowship Ministry: No update
- Men's Ministry:

- o Bethel Series: The Bethel Series NT, will be complete on Saturday, April 27. We will graduate three students who have worked hard to finish.
- o Bethel Series: The Bethel Series OT class which meets on Thursday evenings, will be complete on Thursday, April 25. This class, taught by Jason Lee will reconvene in October 2019 with The Bethel Series NT.
- o Men's Bible Studies/Prayer:
 - Thursday mornings from 6:15 AM – 7:30 AM, This early morning bible study group is currently studying, "The Pursuit of God" by AW Tozer.
 - Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, This Men's Bible Study is currently studying the book of James.
 - Saturday mornings from 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM, This men's pray time is for men who are serious about going before the throne of grace together to cry out to God for their marriages, family, jobs, neighbors, country, etc.
 - Saturday mornings from 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM, This new Men's Bible Study is studying the book of 1 Timothy and is taught by Marcus Brunstetter.
- Women's Ministry: From Laura Sommons:

"I really wanted to just highlight the most exciting event this past month, our women's retreat! We had a total of 42 women come to our retreat this past month. Our theme was Be Still and Know based on Psalms 46. We met at the beautiful Traber center in Pottstown, Pa. That weekend proved to be so impacting for all the women who came. We had a total of three sessions and worship for each time. The lovely Jen Schanley help to lead. We broke for discussion group time where the ladies were able to share and encourage one another after each session. Lindsay Harkins provided a craft for the women to do on Saturday. We ended our time with praise and testimony of the weekend. It was so wonderful to have such a vast age group on this retreat as we were able to move into each others lives. I am in such awe of how God worked out all the details for this weekend. The WM team did an incredible job and Linda Visco my retreat coordinator left no detail uncovered. It takes a village and many hours of work to pull this event off. We are so excited to have our retreat booked for next year in 2020 at the beautiful LaDore Conference Center for March 6-9th.

We did have about 8 ladies on scholarship so they could come to the retreat. This will be reflected in our budget. We are hoping to add this into next years budget to help ladies get there.

Thank you for all the prayers and to all the husbands who stepped up so that their wives could be part of this with us.

Blessings, Laura"

Discipleship Support

- Kinship: Our 18 kinship Groups continue to be a blessing to our congregation in providing a smaller setting in which to engage in our Biblical "one-anotherings". Please pray that the Lord will continue to use these groups to disciple, grow, and meet the needs of our people who attend.

Other:

- Continued to visit and provide physical & Spiritual care for several people in our church.
- Involved in Discipling one couple.
- Facilitate the Men's Prayer Group each Saturday mornings.
- Taught Bethel class

- Facilitated the Men's Breakfast in March, with a new series called, "Sound Men", the study of the book of Titus.

Respectfully Submitted, Dick Bickings, Pastor of Discipleship