



EBENEZER
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Board of Elders Meeting October 15, 2018

Opening

Roll Call

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

The following elder was **absent**: Byron Roth

Prayer Time: The elders prayed together for the spiritual and physical needs of the congregation.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the Elders Meeting held September 10, 2018, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

Financial Report - September 2018 (*Attachment 1*)

The motion was made to approve this financial report, it was seconded and passed unanimously. Byron Roth presented the following highlights via email:

- No major concerns at this time.
- Giving continues to track slightly behind the projection but no significant concerns.
- We continue to do a good job of controlling our spending.

Discussion Items:

1) Lynfield: Hiring a Campus Pastor

- Should we do a church plant or have a church as an EBFC extension?
- Use our resources to start a church
- Pray for a man that the Lord will send to that ministry.
- **Motion made to hire a campus pastor for Lynfield committing the majority or all of our Heyer Estate resources for that ministry. Seconded, passed unanimously.**
- Sunday services to begin after we hire the pastor.
- **Motion to allow the Lynfield Ministry Team to be the search committee to hire this pastor, establishing the job description, with the final approval by the elder board. Seconded, passed unanimously.**

2) Building Committee Update

- Hire an architect to determine how to maximize the space, using double the size of the sanctuary as a model.
- How to design the foyer

3) Church Discipline Update

- Met with congregant and disclosed our intention to proceed with church discipline
- Congregant was here on Sunday, praise the Lord.

4) Goals for 2019: Elders & Church-Wide

- List of goals for the church, **Theme: Faithfulness**
 - Faithful to God in Devotion: Attendance in Worship, Personal Prayer & Bible Reading
 - Faithful to One Another in Community: Loving one another....
 - Faithful in Giving: Committing to give on a regular basis
 - Faithful in Evangelizing: Sharing our faith on a regular basis
 - Faithful in Service: Volunteering to serve using our spiritual gifts
 - Faithful in Holiness: Growing in godliness
- List of goals for the elders - be thinking about some tangible goals for next time.
 - Personal growth
 - Ministry goals

5) Parsonage Update - Currently under contract for sale.

6) Security updates - Office area doors have new locks installed.

7) Elder's Stepping Down at year's end:

- Shawn Sommons:
- Pat Barry

8) Elder Job Change: Motion to nominate Tom Galloway to head the PRC, beginning January 2019. Seconded, passed, 12 yeas, 1 abstention.

9) Finance Committee - will meet with elders for training.

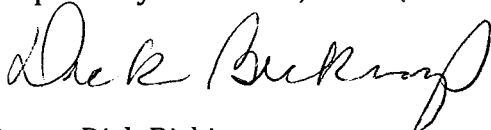
10) Miracle Month - The elders approved hosting Miracle Month during the month of December as a special offering for our missionaries with a fundraising goal of \$25,000.

Pat Barry adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Pastoral Reports

- Pastor Dick Bickings (*Attachment 2*)
- Pastor Mike Notary (*Attachment 3*)
- Pastor Jeremy Harkins (*Attachment 4*)

Respectfully submitted,



Pastor Dick Bickings
Secretary to the Board of Elders

EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

BUDGET VS. ACTUALS: FY 2018 FINAL BUDGET - FY18 P&L

September 2018

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue				
1100 Offerings / Gifts	96,119.57	98,480.00	-2,360.43	97.60 %
1400 Interest	39.94	30.00	9.94	133.13 %
1700 Memorials		59.00	-59.00	
1900 Bethlehem Christian School		1,220.79	-1,220.79	
1901 Other Building Use		25.00	-25.00	
Total Revenue	\$96,159.51	\$99,814.79	\$ -3,655.28	96.34 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$96,159.51	\$99,814.79	\$ -3,655.28	96.34 %
Expenditures				
10000 Congregational Care Ministries	257.20	232.00	25.20	110.86 %
11000 Compensation	48,124.14	50,570.12	-2,445.98	95.16 %
2000 General Church Finance	5,645.22	809.00	4,836.22	697.80 %
3000 Discipleship Ministries	2,148.07	2,593.00	-444.93	82.84 %
5000 Evangelism Ministries	831.05	550.00	281.05	151.10 %
6000 Missions	23,162.50	23,025.50	137.00	100.59 %
7000 Deacon Ministries	13,786.03	5,823.00	7,963.03	236.75 %
8000 Worship	5,945.86	2,767.00	3,178.86	214.88 %
9000 Office Expenses	1,650.97	1,894.00	-243.03	87.17 %
Total Expenditures	\$101,551.04	\$88,263.62	\$13,287.42	115.05 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -5,391.53	\$11,551.17	\$ -16,942.70	-46.68 %
NET REVENUE	\$ -5,391.53	\$11,551.17	\$ -16,942.70	-46.68 %

Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church

BUDGET VS. ACTUALS: FY 2018 BUDGET - FINAL - FY18 P&L

January - September, 2018

	ACTUAL	TOTAL		
		BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue				
1100 Offerings / Gifts	757,753.86	768,144.00	-10,390.14	98.65 %
1400 Interest	288.42	330.00	-41.58	87.40 %
1700 Memorials	640.00	523.00	117.00	122.37 %
1900 Bethlehem Christian School	7,324.74	10,987.11	-3,662.37	66.67 %
1901 Other Building Use		225.00	-225.00	
Total Revenue	\$766,007.02	\$780,209.11	\$ -14,202.09	98.18 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$766,007.02	\$780,209.11	\$ -14,202.09	98.18 %
Expenditures				
10000 Congregational Care Ministries	2,352.69	2,094.00	258.69	112.35 %
11000 Compensation	467,788.94	460,557.49	7,231.45	101.57 %
2000 General Church Finance	49,914.19	39,611.14	10,303.05	126.01 %
3000 Discipleship Ministries	20,145.82	24,262.50	-4,116.68	83.03 %
5000 Evangelism Ministries	4,611.75	6,960.00	-2,348.25	66.26 %
6000 Missions	131,193.30	132,874.50	-1,681.20	98.73 %
7000 Deacon Ministries	72,503.07	106,709.07	-34,206.00	67.94 %
8000 Worship	12,624.01	8,566.00	4,058.01	147.37 %
9000 Office Expenses	11,068.97	14,980.00	-3,911.03	73.89 %
Total Expenditures	\$772,202.74	\$796,614.70	\$ -24,411.96	96.94 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -6,195.72	\$ -16,405.59	\$10,209.87	37.77 %
NET REVENUE	\$ -6,195.72	\$ -16,405.59	\$10,209.87	37.77 %

EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET CURRENT VS. PRIOR MONTH

As of September 30, 2018

	TOTAL			
	AS OF SEP 30, 2018	AS OF AUG 31, 2018 (PP)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts				
18000 Branch Banking & Trust	512,330.72	518,859.79	-6,529.07	-1.26 %
18002 BB&T Certificates of Deposit	67,855.85	67,827.42	28.43	0.04 %
19000 M&T Bank Savings	93,115.16	93,107.51	7.65	0.01 %
19001 M&T Bank Checking	5,375.67	5,375.67	0.00	0.00 %
Total Bank Accounts	\$678,677.40	\$685,170.39	\$ -6,492.99	-0.95 %
Total Current Assets	\$678,677.40	\$685,170.39	\$ -6,492.99	-0.95 %
TOTAL ASSETS	\$678,677.40	\$685,170.39	\$ -6,492.99	-0.95 %
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
100 Payroll Liabilities	-15,939.93	-14,290.03	-1,649.90	-11.55 %
2111 Direct Deposit Liabilities	123.02	123.02	0.00	0.00 %
901 Building Fund	75,371.70	74,691.70	680.00	0.91 %
902 Capital Improvement Fund	-16,389.00	-16,389.00	0.00	0.00 %
903 Transportation Fund	488.00	488.00	0.00	0.00 %
904 Scholarships	4,384.44	4,099.44	285.00	6.95 %
905 Faith Promise	14,509.00	14,234.00	275.00	1.93 %
907 Benevolence Fund	16,104.81	16,901.39	-796.58	-4.71 %
908 Music Fund	380.10	334.10	46.00	13.77 %
909 Heyer Trust Fund	9,033.99	9,062.99	-29.00	-0.32 %
911 Year End Accruals	8,480.16	8,480.16	0.00	0.00 %
912 Run for the Children	269.56	110.86	158.70	143.15 %
914 Health Care Accounts	4,011.62	4,218.30	-206.68	-4.90 %
915 Youth Summer Missions	3,899.57	3,763.57	136.00	3.61 %
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$104,727.04	\$105,828.50	\$ -1,101.46	-1.04 %
Total Current Liabilities	\$104,727.04	\$105,828.50	\$ -1,101.46	-1.04 %
Total Liabilities	\$104,727.04	\$105,828.50	\$ -1,101.46	-1.04 %
Equity				
1000 Opening Bal Equity	-407,878.80	-407,878.80	0.00	0.00 %
900 Retained Earnings	988,024.88	988,024.88	0.00	0.00 %
Net Revenue	-6,195.72	-804.19	-5,391.53	-670.43 %
Total Equity	\$573,950.36	\$579,341.89	\$ -5,391.53	-0.93 %
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$678,677.40	\$685,170.39	\$ -6,492.99	-0.95 %

EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET VS. PRIOR YEAR

As of September 30, 2018

	TOTAL			
	AS OF SEP 30, 2018	AS OF SEP 30, 2017 (PY)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts				
18000 Branch Banking & Trust	512,330.72	454,251.19	58,079.53	12.79 %
18002 BB&T Certificates of Deposit	67,855.85	67,770.97	84.88	0.13 %
19000 M&T Bank Savings	93,115.16	93,014.45	100.71	0.11 %
19001 M&T Bank Checking	5,375.67	5,375.67	0.00	0.00 %
Total Bank Accounts	\$678,677.40	\$620,412.28	\$58,265.12	9.39 %
Total Current Assets	\$678,677.40	\$620,412.28	\$58,265.12	9.39 %
TOTAL ASSETS	\$678,677.40	\$620,412.28	\$58,265.12	9.39 %
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
100 Payroll Liabilities	-15,939.93	6,660.20	-22,600.13	-339.33 %
2111 Direct Deposit Liabilities	123.02	123.02	0.00	0.00 %
901 Building Fund	75,371.70	68,169.70	7,202.00	10.56 %
902 Capital Improvement Fund	-16,389.00	-69,760.47	53,371.47	76.51 %
903 Transportation Fund	488.00	268.00	220.00	82.09 %
904 Scholarships	4,384.44	3,555.00	829.44	23.33 %
905 Faith Promise	14,509.00	12,567.75	1,941.25	15.45 %
907 Benevolence Fund	16,104.81	15,781.41	323.40	2.05 %
908 Music Fund	380.10	374.20	5.90	1.58 %
909 Heyer Trust Fund	9,033.99		9,033.99	
911 Year End Accruals	8,480.16	8,480.16	0.00	0.00 %
912 Run for the Children	269.56	649.83	-380.27	-58.52 %
914 Health Care Accounts	4,011.62	1,922.54	2,089.08	108.66 %
915 Youth Summer Missions	3,899.57	-20.01	3,919.58	19,588.11 %
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$104,727.04	\$48,771.33	\$55,955.71	114.73 %
Total Current Liabilities	\$104,727.04	\$48,771.33	\$55,955.71	114.73 %
Total Liabilities	\$104,727.04	\$48,771.33	\$55,955.71	114.73 %
Equity				
1000 Opening Bal Equity	-407,878.80	-407,878.80	0.00	0.00 %
900 Retained Earnings	988,024.88	941,468.45	46,556.43	4.95 %
Net Revenue	-6,195.72	38,051.30	-44,247.02	-116.28 %
Total Equity	\$573,950.36	\$571,640.95	\$2,309.41	0.40 %
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$678,677.40	\$620,412.28	\$58,265.12	9.39 %

Pastor of Discipleship Report, Sep/Oct 2018

In my continuing trek through the Old Testament, I currently am in the book of Numbers, and recently read this:

"But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are." So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."'" (Numbers 13:30-33, ESV)

As I read this passage I asked myself the question, what is the difference between the two views? All the spies had gone together to spy out the land of Canaan, all saw the same things and reported back in the same way. What made Caleb proclaim, *"Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it."* Is it not what was stated in the beginning of this same chapter?

*"The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I **am giving to the people of Israel**. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them."'" (Numbers 13:1-2, ESV)*

The difference between, Joshua and Caleb, and the rest was that with Joshua and Caleb, the LORD (*Yahweh*) was in the equation, and with the others, He was not (at least in their minds). Oh Lord, help me never forget that the arm of flesh is weak, but your arm is unstoppable, and what you have commanded, you will perform!, Amen.

With that in mind, here are some of the ministry updates from September/October 2018:

Kids Crossing

- **New Children's Ministry Director:** We are pleased to welcome aboard, Jennifer Schanely, our new Children's Ministry Director. Jennifer began her duties on Monday, September 17, and will assume all aspects of Children's Ministry, both administrative, and hands on. We anticipate great things as the Lord uses her in this vital ministry. Also, a big thank you goes to Rachel Marks for her 12 years of service in our children's ministry, and wish her the Lord's richest blessings as she assumes her important task as a stay-at-home mom.
- **Cross Time Sunday School (10:05 AM):** All Cross Time classes, are currently studying the book of Genesis. We praise the Lord for this Christ honoring curriculum! We are back on our normal class schedules, with all grades in their respective rooms. Please pray that the Lord would raise up a teacher that is needed for the even months in the 3rd & 4th grade class.
- **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 have seen an increase in attendance to between 12-16 students each week. ***Praise the Lord for raising up a fourth team***, Jennifer Schanely and her helpers will fill that fourth team spot, allowing the teams to return to an eight-week rotation.
- **Wednesday Evening Programs:** Awana, which began on September 12, is now in full swing, with an average of 65-70 children each week. We are privileged to have the elders teaching once again during both the T&T and Sparks' clubs large group time. Please continue to pray that the Lord will provide the volunteers needed for this ministry.

Adult Ministry

- **Adult Electives:** Our new fall classes began on September 23. Here's the breakdown:

- o The Book of Judges: Rich Mastronardo
- o The Books of 1&2 Peter: Scott Holwick
- o The Book of Ephesians: Phil Norris

- **Men's Ministry:**

- o **Bethel Series:** The Bethel NT Series Saturday class began on October 13, 2018. Jason Lee is also teaching the Bethel OT Series, on Thursday evenings, which began on October 4.
- 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 "The Twelve Disciples".
 - Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, This Men's Bible Study is studying the book, "The Pursuit of God" by A.W. Tozer.
 - 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.

- **Women's Ministry:** Here's the update from Laura Sommons:

"Bible Studies: How encouraging to see so many women involved in Bible Studies for the fall. On Tuesday mornings we are studying Ruth and we have 30 women coming. It is so wonderful to see new ladies they're joining with us. Vicki has the same amount coming on Monday evenings as they are studying the parables.

Tis So Sweet: Linda Visco has 15 women and is at max capacity as the work thru the book: "Choosing Gratitude" by Nancy Leigh DeMoss Wogelmuth.

MOPS: We had a great first day of MOPS. We currently have about 25 moms this year and 35 children. We are looking forward to a great year. Our theme this year is Find Your Fire based on the verse, Romans 12:11-13. This week we will have Jessie Seneca from More of Him Ministries come and on Godly friendships.

MOM to MOM: This discipleship class began this week as well. Lisa Pyles leads and we had 14 moms come. The focus of this class is being a Godly wife and mother.

Welcome to the Well: This is a monthly gathering and we will meet this month at the home of Debbie Flannigan's. Debbie Flannigan will be sharing her testimony and Linda Visco will lead in devotion.

WM Team: The women's ministry team has really been busy formulating specific job descriptions and taking on their roles with more purpose. We seem to be well organized and moving forward.

We welcomed Jess Whitmer to our team as our new publicity coordinator and we are so glad to have her.

Retreat: We had our first retreat planning day. Linda Visco is my retreat coordinator and is doing an amazing job getting things organized. Our theme for this coming March 22-24, 2019 is: "Be Still and Know". I will be speaking this coming year and we will be in Psalms 46. We are very excited and looking forward to more women coming.

I do have a need for mentors. I have a couple of ladies who would like to be mentored and the need for some of the "older" women to help there.

It is my joy to serve here; Laura Sommons"

Discipleship Support

- **Kinship:** Our Kinship Groups began again on September 23, 2018. Bob & Laurie Gill worked very hard at recruiting and meeting with the Kinship leaders, and placing new members. 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.
- Facilitate the Men's Prayer Group each Saturday mornings.
- Facilitate the men's bible study in Lynfield.
- Working with my seminary mentor to come up with a schedule to finish my course work. It has been 10 years since I began, and he would like to see me finish soon.

Respectfully Submitted, Dick Bickings, Pastor of Discipleship

Upcoming Dates:

- Nov. 6th – Growth Group OCC Shopping Night
- Nov. 10th – Run For the Children
- Nov. 11th – Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

Current Study Series: 1 Corinthians

As we wrap up our 1 Cor. Study we have spent the majority of this month focusing on spiritual gifts and God's call for us to practice all of our gifts in love. While many might debate over continuation or cessation of the supernatural gifts we chose an approach in which we focused on the only concrete truths that Paul presents in his letter. The first is that spiritual gifts are a gift of the Trinity empowered through His Spirit. Secondly, spiritual gifts are to be used for the common good of the Body of Christ. And finally, they are to always be practiced in love. I believe this approach has allowed our focus to be on Christ and His love for us that we are called to express in our love for others. Our time in 1 Cor. has been an encouraging time as we see Paul continually remind a wayward church of their security in Christ, the joy in pursuing maturity, and the purpose for unity in God's church. Each week we have been reminded that although these were Paul's words to the church in Corinth, they are God's words to us today. As a result, we have had the opportunity to examine our own hearts in regard to Paul's challenges to the Corinthian church. In doing so, we have been drawn into times of repentance and rejoicing at God's holiness and grace. Please pray that our students would be continually challenged and blessed as we conclude this series.

2019 Study:

After prayer and some discussion, our youth staff has decided to prepare a study on the book of Jonah for our next series. This series will begin in the new year. We are excited to spend some time in the Old Testament as we consider God's redemptive plan for His creation from the beginning. As we consider how all of Scripture points to and through Christ, we are eager for youth to see Christ in the book of Jonah. Many of us are familiar with the miracle of Jonah's survival in the belly of a great fish, but are we as familiar with the before and after of Jonah's heart? Our prayer is that we would not be tempted to focus too much on the great fish, but more on the great heart of God who continues to call the broken to Himself.

Student Leadership:

We had an opportunity to meet with this year's G3 Student Leadership group at our house on Sept. 28th. It was a great time of fellowship, laughter, and prayer. This year's study will focus on finding our identity in Christ. We are constantly facing temptations to identify with our talents, social groups, passions, circumstances, finances, etc. yet our only secure identity is in Christ's love and sacrifice for us. This study will challenge us to not only believe this truth, but to live a life that reflects our security in Christ. G3 meets twice a month on Sunday nights at Jenn and my house. Youth will not only study God's Word, but they will be challenged to grow in specific areas and struggles in their life. The study is designed to challenge us individually and corporately as well. Our G3 group consists of 14 youth and 3 leaders. Pray that each one of us would allow His Spirit to challenge our hearts as we study His Word, grow in maturity, and pursue His mission for our lives.

Youth Volunteer Staff Retreat:

On Oct. 19th - 21st our volunteer youth staff was able to take a retreat to my mother's cabin in Sullivan County. We had 13 adults and 7 children attend the retreat and were blessed by a wonderful weekend. Our time away allowed us to spend time examining our hearts, praying for one another, and worshipping together. We spent some time in Ed Welch's book *Side by Side*. The premise of the book is that our

neediness is what really qualifies us to minister to the needs of others. I believe Ed Welch sums up the call to ministry leadership well when he says, *"If you feel quite weak and ordinary, if you feel like a mess but have the Spirit, you have the right credentials."* We spent some time sharing some of our weaknesses and how they remind us of our desperate need for the cross. While we spent some time in discussion in regard to the administrative aspects of our ministry, the majority of our time was designed to grow in fellowship, be refreshed, and then be energized to return to ministering to the lives of youth and their families. Perhaps Acts 2:42 best sums up our time together. *"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."* We praise God for the times of great laughter, worship, and fellowship. A few of us returned in need of more sleep but would all agree that our time together was worth it. Jenn and I continue to marvel at God's provision of such wonderful leaders for our ministry but also at the friendships He has developed throughout our group.

Individual Discipleship:

Jenn is excited to have two freshman girls join our G3 Student Leadership group. She is hoping to be able to spend some time with them in order to get to know them, encourage them, and grow together. She continues to connect with many of the returning girls as they prepare to transition into college next year. I have had the opportunity to meet with a few of our young men who are struggling in specific sin patterns. These times can be challenging because they remind us all of the brokenness of creation and our hearts, but they can also be encouraging as we look to our only hope, Jesus Christ. As I have been able to meet with some of these guys on a more regular basis I am excited to see how God will provide growth and victory over our sin. Please pray for these times. Pray that schedules would align for more consistent discipleship, that youth would be open to counsel, and that hearts would be changed.

Operation Christmas Child:

The youth are excited to be participating in Operation Christmas Child again this year. We will hold our annual OCC Packing Party on Nov. 11th after the second service. Families and congregants are invited to join us for lunch and box packing. Each week youth have been collecting specific items to contribute toward the boxes. To date we have collected toys, school supplies, and hygiene products. There is a competition between MS girls, MS boys, HS girls, and HS boys. Currently, the MS girls are running away with the competition having collected the most items all three weeks! We are praying that these boxes would be a blessing to the recipients and that the Gospel presentation included with them would change their lives. Please join us in praying over these boxes as they are shipped throughout the world.

Youth Room Remodel:

The youth ministry room will be getting a makeover! We are excited to share that the property committee has allocated some money for the youth to update the seating area in the back of the youth room. We have purchased three new couches to replace the ones that have been breaking under normal wear and tear. The room will be painted as well. Our prayer is that these updates would also allow the room to be a bit more multifunctional in the future.

Ministry Needs:

We praise God that He has recently brought 4 new volunteer leaders to our MERGE youth ministry nights on Tues. However, we are still in need of a MS girls Sunday School teacher to come alongside Sandy Galloway who has faithfully served as they only teacher for this group for quite a while. Please pray that God would raise up another MS girls teacher to help share the teaching load.

Jeremy Harkins, Worship Pastor August-October

WORSHIP/COLLEGE MINISTRY

Ministry Reflections:

When we think about the cross and the atoning work of Christ we have to reflect upon the state of our souls as leaders of this church. In a recent song that has been presented to the church called "Show Us Christ". It is a heart cry to be sanctified through the living Word. The first verse begins with "Prepare our heart's" "help us to receive", "break the hard and stony ground", "help our unbelief", "plant Your Word down deep in us", "cause it to bear fruit". "open up our ears to hear", "lead us in your truth". Matthew 3:7-8 says this:

7 When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance.

As shepherds of the flock our place in growing in the fullness of Christ is "producing fruit consistent with repentance". As our lives compound many demands how often are we asking God for his help in receiving His Word to be living light on this dark world specifically our church body. Repentance of our sin is directly connected to living in the joy of the promises of God. This, in turn, causes us to bear fruit and sets the example to our brothers and sisters in Christ to do the same! I know that many of the Pharisees and Sadducees did not submit and continued to remain calloused. May we ever more cry to God for deliverance from any pride that builds within our hearts and continue to reflect a repentant heart that is strengthened in weakness.

MUSIC

As we carry forth the message of God's word in song, I feel so thankful to be given the opportunity to select songs that glorify the name of Jesus and proclaim the truths of His word. It is a great responsibility that I do not take lightly and I am continually humbled in the role that God has placed me in. Please continue to pray that with all that is done within the church when it comes to music that we are continually humbled and in awe of who God is and that He is glorified above all else.

(TURN OVER)

Outreach Opportunities

- **Community Weekend (September 14th-16th).** Our community weekend went well and we were able to utilize the tent for outreach and fellowship. A couple new families attended the Friday night movie night. While approximately 100 people came to the Seeker & Servant concert on Saturday night. Sunday's outdoor service and meal following allowed 530 congregation members to gather together to hear God's word, testimonies, and fellowship!

Shepherding & Teaching

- **Dan Trafford, Max Whylings and I** continue to go through the book of John with the College Age during Sunday school hour
- **I** continue to meet weekly with music team members for discipleship and prayer.
- **I** continue to meet with and study through God's word with a college intern who has started coming to Ebenezer.
- **The college men and I** continue to meet and study God's word every other Thursday night.
- **I** connected with a couple college students before they headed back to school in August.
- **I** was able to meet with one college age
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Additional Areas

- **It** continues to be a great blessing to visit and be encouraged by those in spiritual/physical needs within our church body through Hospital and Home visits.
- **Dan Trafford and I** continue to discuss how to reach the college age within our church and the surrounding colleges most effectively as we partner together in discipling college young people
- **Alyssa** finished strong with her internship on August 16th and was a true blessing in her hard work and growth throughout the summer!
- **We** will be planning the orchestration of a children's choir and youth/adult choir for Christmas. Karris Pennington will continue to direct the children while Jennie Flicker will be leading the youth and adult choir.
- **It** is a joy to recently be designated to lead the Young Adult Committee, in the board of Youth and Young Adults. This committee is to help further cast vision on ways to reach our college age in our local BFC churches and grow them in Christ.
- **The Ministerium** retreat at Pinebrook was refreshing and I was privileged to also help with the music leading with Aaron Suseck.
- **I** had the opportunity to help orchestrate the sound and music for two weddings, one in August and one in September.