



Annual Report 2012

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Addendum added 01/27/13*

A Place to Believe, Belong and Become

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Ebenezer **Bible Fellowship Church**

Church Phone: (610) 868-5501
E-mail: Office@APlaceForYou.org
Web Site: www.APlaceForYou.org

Sunday Worship Services: 8:45, 11:15 am
Sunday School: Children, Youth, College Students: 10:05 am
Sunday Adult Electives: 10:05 am

Our Purpose is to...

Introduce people to Jesus Christ and
help them become devoted followers of Him.

Our Vision is to...

Glorify God through heartfelt worship
Reach out to others with the love of Christ
Obey God's command to make disciples
Win others to Christ

Our Name Means...

Ebenezer – “the Lord is our helper” (1 Sam. 7:12)
Bible – God’s inspired truth to guide us (II Tim. 3:16)
Fellowship – a family who cares (John 13:34,35)
Church – a people called by God for His glory

Our Ministry Staff

Dr. Tim Gibson, Senior Pastor
Dick Bickings, Pastor of Discipleship
Mark Culton, Youth Pastor
Jason Hoy, Pastor of Congregational Care
Jennie Flicker, Worship Coordinator
Heather Hunsberger, Worship/Youth Ministry Assistant
Robbin Hunsberger, Office Administrator
Kevin Kritzberger, Facilities Manager
Rachel Norris, Kids Crossing/Office Assistant
Laura Sommons, Women’s Ministry Coordinator

A Place to Believe, Belong and Become

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Financial Summary	Addendum
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“Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come or see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” Philippians 1:27

I remember the exact spot in Guymon, Oklahoma when as a young teenager I diligently prayed asking the Lord to use me in a great way for His glory. I would have never dreamed that the Lord would one day send me to Bethlehem, Pa. to such a great church.

From my estimation, God truly blessed Ebenezer over the last several years with a solid and steady group of shepherds. Though the church experienced a very difficult doctrinal debate, it seems to me that Ebenezer has done exactly what Paul commanded in Philippians 1:27. The body of Saints at EBFC seems to be “standing in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” For this I rejoice!

I am overwhelmed with joy over the Pastoral staff. Pastors Dick, Jason and Mark have been nothing but welcoming and supportive. I am amazed at the unity and the camaraderie that we have developed over just 6 months. I am also thankful that as a pastoral staff we are amazingly unified in doctrine, philosophy of ministry, and passion for ministry. It makes me very excited when I think that these are the men, which I get to work with every day. In just the six months that I have known these men they have proven to be men of integrity, men of incredible work ethic, and men who are striving to fulfill their calling in ministry. I know if the Lord permits, EBFC will be tremendously blessed in 2013 as these men lead.

Furthermore, I can't say enough about the rest of the staff. It has been a joy to be a part of such a great team. Robbin runs a tight ship and I'm thankful for her that she has such gifts in administration and uses those gifts to help our ministry remain as excellent as possible. Rachel & Heather are also hard workers who are doing excellent work in their areas of children's ministry and youth ministry. I'm thankful for Jennie who organizes our worship each and every week with incredible excellence and leadership ability. I'm thankful for Laura who faithfully organizes bible-based studies and programs to lead our women to love Christ more supremely. And last but not least, Kevin is an incredible blessing! He works hard at keeping our facility in tiptop shape. He (& Robbin) made sure that I personally have an incredible office to work in with a new desk, shelving, and carpet. Overall the entire staff has proven to work very well together. Every staff member brings his or her unique talents, gifts and spirit to our team. It is a joy to lead these incredible servants.

I am very impressed with the leadership at Ebenezer. I was first introduced to an incredible group of people who led on the Pastor Search Committee. It was a hard job, but I'm thankful for their diligence in bringing me here. I'm thankful that they asked the right questions and discovered, as the Lord led them, a right fit for this ministry. I know it was a long process for the church, but hopefully the wounds of the past are being healed and the church and ministry will now continue to move forward with strength.

The Elder board is a wonderful group of men. I'm thankful that they are unified doctrinally and in spirit. We have had nothing but Spirit-filled meetings. It is a joy to work alongside such great men. The Deacons are also incredible men and I'm thankful for their service each week ensuring that our services run smoothly and oversee ministries within the Church.

Overall, my entire family has adjusted well to the new culture of the northeast, as well as to the climate. We are settling in nicely in our new home in Nazareth. Leaving family and friends has been difficult, but the Ebenezer Church family has made all the difference. We have truly felt a warm and welcoming reception from you all. It takes time to make adjustments but overall, I am proud of my family for their perseverance, faith and trust in the Lord and in my leadership as their father and husband. We all have no doubt that the step of faith we took to move here was the Lord's directing.

For the six months that I have been here in 2012, I believe the Lord is continuing to unify Ebenezer. I'm thankful that I have gotten to know many within the congregation and I am beginning to discern who are visitors. We are seeing a great number of visitors each and every week. My prayer is that they are seeing the clear distinctives that set EBFC apart as a ministry which is God honoring, Christ-centered and Word driven.

My first big sermon series has been through the book of Philippians, entitled “A Blueprint for Joy.” We stopped for a short series through December, which we entitled “More than a Holiday.” Overall, I have received nothing but positive comments from many in the congregation each week. My prayer is that God would continue to use His Word in the life of the saints, as well as bringing the lost to salvation.

I am very excited to be the Senior Pastor of Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church. I'm excited because of the staff I get to work with. I'm excited because of the Elders & Deacons, which are serving so well. I'm excited because I sense the Lord working in this ministry to build the body and evangelize the lost. I truly believe that 2013 is going to be a great year. My prayer is that the “good hand of the Lord” will be upon us so that we will be empowered to do ministry, and fulfill our Lord's great commission to make disciples who love and obey Jesus with all their heart!

Serving Christ,
Tim Gibson,
Senior Pastor

*“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”
(Phil 1:6 ESV)*

I begin each year’s annual report with this same verse (no I didn’t just copy and paste the previous year’s report) because this verse has been my life verse for some time, reminding me that God promises to *bring to completion* that good work which He has started. I have found a great sense of peace and motivation in doing His Kingdom work as a result. This translates into another amazing year in ministry, and I praise the Lord for the privilege of being a shepherd...the blessings abound! The variety of ministry opportunities that the Lord has given me this year has brought great peace, joy, and satisfaction. Though there is still much to learn and do, to know I am where the Lord has called me, and that **He is doing** a good work in and through me, makes the tough times bearable.

As I reflect back over my fourth full year in full-time vocational ministry and look forward to a new year, I am compelled once again to take personal inventory of what was accomplished for the Kingdom of God in 2012. It’s always an enormous reality check to see the failures of incomplete goals, as each year begins with great intentions, and noble plans, it’s always those unforeseen intangibles that get us every time. The reality of the limitations of being human become more evident each year, but also, and this is a great truth, there comes with this reality an acute awareness that our sovereign God is not encumbered by intangible things nor does he possess any limitations. He is in absolute control. His plan is always done, his goals are always complete, and nothing thwarts his activities. This amazing truth is a great comfort as we create our ministry plans for 2013, realizing that he is doing a work in us and in his church that will not be thwarted, even by the gates of hell! Our inadequacies are replaced by God’s equipping process as described by the apostle Peter in his second epistle...

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.” (2 Peter 1:3–4, ESV)

Jesus Christ has both *commissioned* us and *equipped* us to *Make Disciples*. This command is fulfilled through the two-fold strategy of *evangelism* and *teaching*. Thus, our commission is not to add more programs or provide more times to socialize but to involve ourselves in the lives of our people in every age group with a combined emphasis on *equipping the saints* through *solid biblical teaching* in our adult, youth, and children’s Sunday Schools, and various bible studies and events for both men and women, and, a renewed focus on the importance of *prayer*, so that those so equipped, would do the *work of the ministry*. This *work of the ministry* was seen several times throughout 2012 with our involvement in serving at the *Bridge Ministry*, contacting newcomers, and doing benevolent service to reach the world outside our local church. We also continued to deemphasize the social events side of ministry in order to place a greater emphasis on the fellowship/discipleship side through one-on-one mentoring and *Kinship* groups.

For 2013, the small changes that will be noticed in ministry strategy will be fueled by our overall purpose of making disciples as defined above. We will attempt to build on what is already in place, but we plan on pursuing a change in our Kid’s Crossing material to a more gospel centered and biblically focused curriculum called *The Gospel Project*. This we hope to do by the fall of 2013. We also plan to continue evaluating each discipleship ministry to understand how each is aligned with our overall church’s purpose to *Worship God, Edify the Saints, and Evangelize the Lost*.

Please continue to pray and ask the Lord what part you might have in fulfilling our vision for 2013, as we continue to be challenged by our volunteer needs, especially in the children’s ministries. Remember that we are in this together as the living, visible, functioning body of Christ.

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” (Gal 6:9 ESV)

Blessings,
Dick Bickings,
Pastor of Discipleship Ministries

Pastor of Congregational Care

Ministry Staff

*“It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.”
- Philippians 1:7-8*

Our Lord Jesus has been so good to Ebenezer over the years, even though the difficult times. He has remained faithful to us, and as we strive to be faithful back to him, He continues to build his church here in Bethlehem Township (Matthew 16:18). We have much to be thankful for: God bringing Pastor Tim and his family to us, faithful leadership who are devoted to the gospel and the passionate preaching and teaching of the precious Word of God. God is being glorified, saints are being edified, and sinners are being saved.

It was an immense privilege to finish up the book of Mark for our preaching series, moving on to the book of Jonah and the 4 Pillars of a Healthy Church. And now, we rejoice week after week as Pastor Tim preaches through the wonderful book of Philippians. Praise the Lord for our preaching ministry at EBFC.

I praise God for all the different ministry areas where the Scriptures are changing lives. As I think about the Congregational Role, I am thankful for being used in our Sunday school adult electives. This past fall in our parenting class, we looked at how to build into our children a “God awareness” and also how to have a redemptive mindset toward our children where the Redeemer and His gospel changes both the parent and the child. This year in adult electives, we will look at the biblical model of counseling that I was trained under at Westminster Seminary using the curriculums *How People Change* and *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*.

We are thankful for the ministries that reach out and come alongside the hurting. Support Groups offer a place where the *God of all comfort* (2 Cor. 1) ministers to all of us. It is also a place where God prunes and refines His people as He conforms us into the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. *GriefShare* and *DivorceCare* continue to impact and change lives, praise God. Many thanks to those leaders, who are willing to come alongside people when they need it.

Counseling remains a vital ministry of our church. Along with me and other staff members, we are blessed to have two godly and competent counselors: Eric Johnson and Janet Vinson, both of whom are working hard for our people. I also keep myself busy with visitation, weddings, and funerals. I consider it a privilege to represent our Lord and serve Him in this way. One other important note to mention is the *Art of Marriage* Seminar that we offered in October. Due to the overwhelming positive feedback, there is currently a team going through the 6 week study of that material which we hope to implement throughout the life of our church. Stay tuned for further plans about that.

On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed my work here, and I am extremely grateful for your support and words of encouragement. It is a great privilege to work in our Lord’s church, and to serve His people. May He remain central to everything we do.

Blessings,
Jason Hoy
Pastor of Congregational Care

Youth Pastor

Ministry Staff

See Student Ministry Report, Page 28.

Facilities Manager

Ministry Staff

I thank God daily for allowing me to serve Him here at Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church. We had another busy year at EBFC. We finally renovated the two women's restrooms on the north and south sides of the sanctuary. We apologize for the inconvenience that it caused during the construction time. Window blinds were added to the south side of the gym. Rooms 4 and 5 were renovated for the BCS preschool and a new heat pump was installed in room 4 as well. Due to God's answered prayer in bringing us Pastor Tim, we completely renovated the Senior Pastor's office which included all new furniture, bookcases, and carpet. We also had a new roof installed over the east and north side of the lower sanctuary due to the metal "pitting" which caused leaks. The parsonage had many trees removed and pruned which will bring much needed sunlight to the front yard and a much safer play area for the kids in the backyard. We want to thank BCS for working tirelessly in pursuing grants thru the IU20 to get two more starboards added to the classrooms. These have been a blessing to have for the teachers and the students from both BCS and EBFC.

I would like to thank the many volunteers who so graciously gave of their time to serve their Lord. This year we had 23 people serving which averaged 17 hours per week. I also want to thank those of you who have volunteered to take care of the flower gardens thru the "adopt – a – flower bed" program. They added a lot of color to the outside. What an awesome display of God's talent being put to good use.

Lastly, I want to thank the staff and the congregation for your support during this year and again it is my desire to serve you faithfully and diligently in my role here at EBFC. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to volunteer please feel free to contact me.

For His glory,
Kevin Kritzberger

Kids Crossing Assistant

Ministry Staff

Kids Crossing Children's Ministry was blessed to have a productive year in 2012 filled with continual growth. I am constantly blessed by the wisdom & leadership of Pastor Dick and his diligence to disciple & equip children in biblical truths. We have worked together to maintain and strengthen our children's ministry programs by staying in regular contact with volunteers & parents through email updates, department meetings, and parent meetings. We regularly use our Facebook group to help keep everyone up-to-date and promote events.

Highlights of the year include opportunities for growth & service through camp retreats and drama. We sent 23 kids to camp at Victory Valley for Winter Blast & Day Camp. I coordinated both events for Ebenezer, delegated scholarship money, and chaperoned at Sno Valley. Several volunteers attended a children's ministry conference at Lancaster Bible College in March; we look forward to making this an annual training event. Instead of our regular "Journey to Jerusalem" Good Friday program, we offered a specialized Passover Seder for kids, which they really enjoyed. The kids' drama team performed "Love Never Fails" twice this summer in August. We had over 70 children plus volunteers & parents attend "Bethlehem & Beyond" in December; the kids really loved having live animals, and it was wonderful to see so many families participate in this special Christmas program together. I greatly enjoy mentoring the same group of young girls on Wednesday nights for FaithWeaver Friends; it's hard to believe they are now in 3rd grade! I also enjoyed being a small group leader at VBS in June.

This past year has been a busy time that was full of many blessings. I personally had a very busy summer between buying a house, going to Mexico on a mission trip, getting married, and going on a honeymoon to Puerto Rico, yet the ministry of Kids Crossing was in very good hands while I was away. I greatly appreciate the many volunteers in Kids Crossing children's ministry and their desire to see children grow in their love and knowledge of Christ. The leadership team, comprised of ministry leaders from various departments, has done a great job of organizing, planning, and recruiting despite various volunteer needs and busy schedules. We ask for your prayers, patience, participation, and partnership as we review curriculum, recruit volunteers, and reaffirm our commitment to partnering with parents in discipleship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Marks,
Kids Crossing Assistant

Office Administrator

Ministry Staff

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Office Administrator of Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church for the past eight years. I have enjoyed the opportunities to interact with many members of our church family through phone calls, emails, and office visits. It has also been a privilege to assist and support the staff and ministry leaders as much as possible.

A main focus of my job continues to be keeping the congregation well-informed about what is going on at Ebenezer through the email newsletter, bulletin, posters & sign-up sheets, web site, online calendar, and facebook. I am constantly looking to keep the information we share up-to-date, with clearly-worded announcements and eye-appealing design, and keep it in line with our ministry's vision and purpose.

I also assist the Finance Team as a check writer and help with reports, filing, and ministry leaders' questions.

Other areas of responsibility include: room reservations, church sign, literature racks, reception, advertising, permanent records, data base admin, web site admin, copier & office equipment admin, phone system admin.

Highlights for 2012:

- Headed up the project of mailing & handing out 15,000 Christmas cards to our friends & neighbors
- Attended "Catalyst One-Day" conference at LCBC in November
- Added "Facebook Event" as an official way for ministries to publicize their events

Plans for 2013:

- Organize a new pictorial directory (April)
- Be extremely diligent with security in light of recent events in our nation
- Evaluate the website for new development needs
- Look into getting Ebenezer T-Shirts (would be for sale for anyone who wants them)

A huge thanks to Rachel Marks, our Office Assistant, who helps in nearly all aspects of this work and makes it possible for the Front Office to accomplish so much. And also a huge thanks to the volunteers who help with office tasks including: Norma Hall (wedding coordinator), Liza Mastronardo (bulletin stuffing), Ankita Bassi (community service).

Respectfully Submitted,
Robbin Hunsberger,
Office Administrator

Women's Ministry Coordinator

Ministry Staff

See Women's Ministry Report, Page 34.

Worship Coordinator

Ministry Staff

See Worship Ministries Report, Page 37.

Current Elders and Deacons

Elders and Their Terms: *(each term is for 3 years)*

2011 - 2013	2012 - 2014	2013-2015
Mike Capaldi Andy Brimer Shawn Van Doren	Wayne Batten Scott Holwick	Shawn Sommons Shawn Van Doren

The following men served on our Elder Board in 2012:

- Tim Gibson – Senior Pastor, Elder Board Chairman, Nominating Committee, Strategic Planning
- Wayne Batten – President, Nominating, Missions
- Dick Bickings – Pastor of Discipleship, Membership & Discipline
- Andy Brimer – Assimilation, Co-Treasurer
- Mike Capaldi – Secretary, Pastoral Relations, Senior Pastor Hiring, Kinship, Co-Treasurer
- Mark Culton – Youth Pastor, Worship Committee
- Jason Hoy – Interim Senior Pastor, Elder Board Chairman, Nominating, Strategic Planning, Membership & Discipline
- Shawn Sommons – Vice President, Deacon Liaison, Senior Pastor Hiring
- Shawn Van Doren – Evangelism
- Scott Holwick

Deacons and Their Terms: *(each term is for 3 years unless otherwise noted)*

2011 - 2013	2012 - 2014	2013-2015
Bruce Eckel Kamba Kalubi Robert Smith (2012-2013) Otis Powell (2012-2013)	Kevin Kritzberger John Romero Rob Christiansen Mark Hardy	George Hardy Joe Meier

The following men served on our Deacon Board in 2012:

- Bruce Eckel – Deacon Board Chairman, Counting
- Kevin Kritzberger – Deacon Board Vice-Chairman, Activities, Facilities Manager
- Mark Hardy – Transportation
- John Romero – Ushers/Emergency Response
- George Hardy – Property
- Joe Meier – Benevolence
- Kamba Kalubi – Ordinances
- Rob Christiansen – Caregivers
- Rob Lofthouse – Security
- Robert Smith – Community Concerns
- Otis Powell – Church/BCS Liaison

¹ Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. ⁷ He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

- 1Timothy 3:1-7

I have spent just 6 months with the board of Elders at EBFC. I am overjoyed to work with such great men who are concerned about doctrine, ministry philosophy, and faithfulness to God's Word. I have found these men to be men with hearts after God, His glory, and His Word.

The Elders met once a month throughout the year. In every meeting we began with a devotional from the Articles of Faith by Dick Bickings. This was to continue our understanding in doctrine. Most of the meetings simply discussed the business of the Church. We devoted a couple of meetings to prayer, and one meeting for vision casting.

In the vision-casting meeting, the consensus from the Elders was that the purpose for the Church of Jesus Christ at EBFC was threefold. The overarching purpose of the Church is to glorify God. This is accomplished through the **Worship of God, Edification of the Saints**, and the **Evangelization of the lost**. The Elders agreed that these three purposes should provide a grid in which all Church ministries can be evaluated as to whether or not they fit into our purpose.

As the Church continues to grow, the Elders are strategizing to keep up with what the Lord is doing. The strategic planning committee was put into place at the end of 2012, with hopes to determine a future plan for the ministry at EBFC. Much prayer has been devoted to seeking the Lord and what His will is for our Church.

The following congregational meetings were held in 2012:

- Annual Congregational Meeting – January 29
- Special Congregational Meeting – Senior Pastor Candidate Vote – June 3
- Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting & Senior Pastor Installation Service – August 5
- Congregational Budget Meeting – December 9

I'm thankful to work alongside such godly men and anticipate a great new year in 2013. We covet the prayers of the congregation as we strive to lead this church into God's perfect will. Please continue to pray for wisdom, unity and progress in the Gospel.

Serving Christ,
Pastor Tim Gibson
Elder Board Chairman

Board of Deacons

Church Leadership

As we continue to trust God for our finances amid a sluggish economy, our Deacon budget will need to remain flat for 2013 with every committee continuing to practice good stewardship in our budgets. We pray that the economic conditions will improve and that we all will be blessed with a brighter 2013. The good news of 2012 for our church was the appointment of Tim Gibson as our senior pastor. God, we were patient and you have rewarded us with a strong pastor that will lead us forward in the coming years. We praise you for your deliverance of our new pastor and special thanks to the Search Committee for their untiring search for the right man. Attendance has increased since the new hiring and we hope this continues to be a positive indication of the health of the church.

As far as the Deacon Board, we continue to perform our work in the Lord's name and continue to ask for his wisdom in all matters that we must decide upon. We also ask for your prayers as we continue to serve the people of Ebenezer in our deacon duties. The Deacons meet once every-other month. For 2012 the Deacon Board consisted of 11 men who served the church in many areas: security, benevolence, property and maintenance, community concerns, church-school liaison, ushering and emergency response, ordinances (communion & baptisms), transportation, activities, caregivers, and counting. Rob Lofthouse, who took the security deaconship to a new level, stepped off of the Deacon Board at the end of 2012 since it was the end of his term. His leadership in the security ministry will be greatly missed. We all wish him the best in the future.

Under the various deacon ministries listed above there are committees formed and if any of them might interest anyone, we would be glad to have you serve as a volunteer. By being a committee member you can serve your church in a positive way and become more involved in the workings of your church. Please see any of the deacons if you have interest in participating. Thank you.

Even though the economy was sluggish your contributions to the benevolence fund was up for the year and for that we thank you for your generosity as we were able to assist close to 50 individuals and couples from your heartfelt contributions. Without your support we would not be able to financially assist those in need. God Bless you all.

Deuteronomy 14:22-23 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always.

For His Honor,
Bruce Eckel,
Chairman of Deacon Board

Activities Committee

The Activities committee is here to promote fun and fellowship and in a church our size we understand that it is harder to get to know people. By planning different social and sporting events we are able to move people one step closer to each other. This in turn will promote harmony and unity amongst the church.

We plan many different events throughout the year. Some winters we plan ski outings, bowling nights and some years a Valentine's Banquet. In the spring and fall we have camping trips and hikes. During the summer we plan two day-trips to the beach. We also help organize our church picnic.

On the sports end of this committee we have an organized softball team and a dart baseball team. We also have intramural men's basketball, floor hockey, and ultimate Frisbee (coordinated by young adults). This year we also had two types of women's fitness classes. One was for endurance training while the other was static training, both of which had an emphasis not only on physical strengthening but spiritual as well. This year we have continued our partnership with Athletes for Christ for boys and girls basketball and soccer programs. We look forward to this program and its impact on the young lives it is touching as it continues to grow in numbers.

There are so many new faces here at the church that we are constantly mixing up our events so that we can try to touch each and every interest that you may have. Please feel free to contact one of the members on this committee if you have any questions or ideas for an event or if you would like to serve on this committee.

For His Glory,
Kevin Kritzberger, Chairman

Committee Members:

- Mike and Donna D'Imperio
- Linda Tona
- Sharon Kritzberger
- Lamont and Judy Seyfried
- Steve and Kathy Magditch
- Rob Christiansen

Adult Electives

Adult Electives are our Adult classes that run at 10:05am Sunday mornings. Unlike Kinships that are usually focused more on relationships than teaching, the Adult Electives focus more on teaching than on relationships. It is one of the main teaching arms of Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church. The following classes were held in 2012:

Spring 2012:

- 1) **Church History**, Top220, Pastor Dick Bickings
- 2) **Genesis (Part 2 of 2)**, Exp301, Rich Mastronardo
- 3) **New Testament Survey**, Top110, Joe Maddock

Summer I, 2012:

- 1) **Lives of the Kings of Israel**, Top244, Pastor Dick Bickings
- 2) **Life of Paul**, Top245, Scott Holwick
- 3) **Peter: A Fragile Stone**, Top144, Mike Capaldi

Summer II, 2012

- 1) **Process Spirituality**, Top111, Pastor Dick Bickings
- 2) **Jonah: Going Deeper**, Exp323, Rich Mastronardo
- 3) **Philippians, Exp215**, Andy Barnes

Fall 2012:

- 1) **Revelation (Part 1 of 2)**, Exp309, Scott Holwick
- 2) **Romans: The Righteousness of God Revealed (Part 1 of 2)**, Exp310, Pastor Dick Bickings
- 3) **James: Genuine Faith**, Exp319, Mike Capaldi
- 4) **Case for Kids**, Top223, Pastor Jason Hoy

Over the past year we have continued to develop and work on ways to help people get better acquainted with Ebenezer from who we are as a local body, to what we believe and to better connect with people so they truly feel like they *belong*. Two components of this process are *Welcome Desserts* and *Networking*.

Welcome Desserts:

These gatherings are scheduled once per quarter, and are an informal time where a smaller group of people can learn more about the church and meet others. It is also a way for us to find out how to better serve people and how we can present ways to connect them. A practice that we started during this year was to send invitations to people who recently began attending Ebenezer. Luz Forero has contributed her time and skill in crafting the invitations.

The Maderas family has opened their home this year for these marvelous times of refreshment, fellowship and encouragement.

Networking:

“The Right People in the Right Places for the Right Reasons” is something we should all keep in the forefront as we continue to work out where God has called us to uniquely serve to build up the Kingdom based on our God-given Passion, Spiritual Gifts and Personality Style.

At Ebenezer, we are using Networking as the primary approach to connect people with service opportunities within the various ministries of the church. This is accomplished by aligning an individual’s profile with ministry position descriptions that are provided by ministry leaders. This process is divided into two sections. The Discovery Session is the group setting in which the material is presented. After completing the profiles in the Discovery portion of the process, each person has an individual session with a consultant to talk through the Ministry Profile and make the best person-ministry match. In order for this to be most effective, it is critical that each member of the congregation go through the Network process. It is also important that ministry leaders communicate the service opportunities within their ministries so that the best fit can be found.

During 2012, two Discovery Sessions were held. If you have not yet been through the Network Discovery Session, please prayerfully consider attending one in 2013. Even if you are already serving in the ministry which you know you are gifted in and called to, you will benefit from having your Passion for ministry, your Spiritual Gifts and your Personality Style affirmed. The result will be the confirmation that where you are serving is the place you should be to fill the unique role that God has designed and equipped you for and prepared for **you** to do.

Serving with you,
Andy Brimer

Benevolence

We want to heartily thank the members and attendees of EBFC who contributed \$23,338.40 in 2012 to the Benevolence Fund. The Benevolence Committee approved and distributed \$30,635.76 to those in need both inside and outside our congregation. At the end of December, we have a balance of \$6,042.91 in the Benevolence Fund. As in previous years, in 2012, EBFC gave financial assistance to many families. In fact you have provided assistance to over 40 different families.

Besides helping out financially, we continue to provide financial counseling. We require anyone who needs assistance more than once to meet with one of the financial counselors on the Benevolence Committee to help them create a sustainable budget and teach them the basics on how God wants us to handle our money.

In 2012 we gave about \$1,500 in Giant Gift cards at Thanksgiving and Christmas. At Christmas time, the YACS also provided turkeys and other fixings for these families. Without the generous financial support of those giving to the Benevolence Fund, none of these support efforts could have happened. And of course, neither could the significant financial support we have given to many people in their time in need.

We are instructed by God in Deuteronomy 15:7-8 “ If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. Rather be openhanded and freely lend (give) him whatever he needs.” Obviously the members and attendees of EBFC take this charge seriously and are helping those in need as God has told us to do.

On behalf of those serving on the Benevolence Committee, it is a privilege to serve in this role, carrying out for the members of EBFC the charge that God gave us in helping those in need.

I would like to thank the members of the Benevolence Committee for their time and dedication in serving our Lord and the EBFC congregation in this capacity. It certainly is a privilege and an honor to serve with each one of them.

In Christ,
Joe Meier

Current Benevolence Committee Members:

Bruce Eckel, Kevin Kritzberger, Eric and Maria Sherer, Diann and Steve McDaniel, and Joe Meier

The Caregivers ministry is focused on serving widows, widowers and single parents within our church family. During the 2012 year, Caregiver volunteers have had the opportunity to serve several members through planned visitations, providing assistance to a member while recovering from an accident, as well as providing minor repairs for some who received damage from Hurricane Sandy. Our requests to serve congregants have come from referrals from pastors, Kinship leaders, requests made by members, as well as the prayer request updates.

I continue to talk to others about the vision of Caregivers in serving those in need. Looking forward to 2013 the Caregivers committee will meet with Pastor Jason to pray and determine more needs within the congregation. We continue to seek servants available to meet the needs and walk along side of Ebenezer's widows, widowers and single parents. Please consider serving as well as praying that more members of our congregation would volunteer to serve in this ministry. Also, please prayerfully consider a member of our congregation who might benefit from having this ministry group volunteer to serve them.

Meals Ministry:

- **Meals for Moms w/ Newborns (Cheryl Hutchinson)**

Our church welcomed 4 new babies this year and provided a total of 16 meals for the Rathmells, Hoys, Doughertys, and Hardys. If anyone is interested in making meals for new moms, I would always welcome extra help.

- **Funeral Luncheons (Norma Hall)**

The Funeral Luncheon Committee provided six luncheon/dinners during the 2012 year for Jacqueline Walters, Kitty Bachman, Pastor A.L. Seifert, Fred Tona, Virginia Strump and Elaine Baker. Approximately 450 people were served. It is hard to plan exactly how much food will be needed for these events. What was left over was taken to New Bethany Ministries. (There were five other funerals that did not request a luncheon: Doris DeNardo, Gary Bachman, Thomas Flanagan, Shirley Smith, Jennie Amerman.)

- **Emergency Meals (Judy Lasso)**

Though we no longer have a formal Emergency Meals committee (it was dissolved at the end of 2010 with the ELM Committee), meals have been provided for those in emergency situations by their Kinship Groups, Women's Ministry groups, Bible Studies, and friends in the congregation who see and fill a need. We ask that everyone continue providing meals for those they know in emergency situations in 2013. For people in emergency situations who do not belong to any of these groups, Judy Lasso will coordinate volunteers to provide meals for them.

Please consider serving in Caregivers or one of our Meal Ministries as we move on to 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Christiansen,
Chairman of Caregivers

Children's Ministry: Kids Crossing

Discipleship Ministry

Bible Memory Program:

The Bible Memory Program's goal is to encourage and motivate students in Kindergarten through eighth grade to memorize the Word of God so that they will carry it with them the rest of their lives. The program is open to those students who attend Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church's Sunday School. The program took place January 22 through May 13, 2012.

Eighteen children successfully completed the Bible Memory Program this year. Thirteen of the children chose the \$35.00 Hackman's Bible Book Store gift certificate as their award. Two chose the \$70.00 camp scholarship to Explorer Girls' Camp and three chose the \$70.00 camp scholarship to Victory Valley Camp. Eleven of the children participating earned an extra bonus (\$10.00 Hackman's gift certificate) by memorizing the books of the Bible and reciting them to us.

It is our hope and prayer that in the coming year there will be an even greater participation of the children to "hide God's word" (Psalm 119:11) in their hearts.

In His Service,
Lori Bernhardt and Robin Laudenslager

Children's Church:

The Children's Church program continues to provide regular classes for children during the 11:15 service on Sunday mornings. We are using the "Kids Own Worship" material by Group Publishing which reinforces the FaithWeaver material. Volunteers serve on an 8 week rotation where they teach for 2 weeks and have 6 weeks off.

In the fall, we stopped offering Children's Church for 3 year-olds and now it is only available for children age 4 – kindergarten as it was originally intended. (We are hoping that the early childhood class for ages 2 & 3 can resume during this time, but volunteers are needed to teach it.)

We have discussed the possibility of moving Children's Church to the 8:45 am service since more families seem to attend that service. We would love to have more teens and parents involved in this program. As always, we appreciate your feedback and would love to have you consider being a part of this ministry!

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Marks, Children's Church Coordinator, Kids Crossing Assistant

Cross Time Sunday School:

Cross Time Sunday School is blessed to have a team of dedicated teachers and assistants who willingly give of their time, energy, and effort to serve the children at Ebenezer. Our teachers continue to serve on a rotating schedule which allows them to attend Adult Electives since they have every-other month off. We have been especially blessed to have several teen volunteers who have done an excellent job; however, a few have needed to discontinue their involvement, so we would love to have more teens who are willing to impact the next generation.

We continue using Group's FaithWeaver material and appreciate its chronological, comprehensive approach that builds continuity between the various age groups. We are, however, reviewing another similar curriculum (The Gospel Project) which emphasizes Christ's redemption throughout the Bible and may be more easily adaptable for teachers.

We are very grateful for the volunteers who continue to give of their time, energy, and hearts to teach children on Sunday mornings. Although we currently are fully staffed, we still struggle with getting consistent volunteers in the 1st & 2nd grade class and will need a new lead teacher for that class in the coming fall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Marks, Cross Time Sunday School Coordinator, Kids Crossing Assistant

Early Childhood:

The Early Childhood Department ministers to approximately 12-15 children ages 2-3 years old and their families every week during first service and the Sunday School hour. During our time together, children play, read stories and enjoy time with each other and our adult volunteers. We worship God through lively songs and hymns. We spend time in prayer, Scripture reading and memorization. Our Bible lessons come from the FaithWeaver curriculum, which allows the entire family to focus on the same Bible point and verse each week.

I am thankful for all the volunteers who continue to give their time and open their hearts to these precious children and their growing relationship with Jesus.

We are still looking for more helpers (either as substitutes or permanent volunteers) and lead teachers. Please consider being a blessing to these little ones and their families. You will be blessed in return.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Christiansen

FaithWeaver Friends MidWeek:

This is the third year we used the FaithWeaver Friends Curriculum from Group Publishing for our Wednesday evening kids ministry. This curriculum addresses every major theme throughout the entire Bible in three years. This program, much like our VBS program, does challenge children in their walk with Christ and provides a gender specific small group setting for personal growth and mentoring. This program continues to reinforce what was learned the previous Sunday in Sunday School and Children's Church.

We have two age-specific groups comprising of a preschool group for ages four through kindergarten, and an elementary group for grades one through five. We start and end our Wednesday evenings in a large group setting, and break the children into small gender-specific groups for activities and mentoring. We currently minister to 50 children in the 1st – 5th grade age group and 10 in the preschool age group.

This program would not be possible without the commitment of adult leaders. We have been blessed to have 10 adult leaders and 4 teens to mentor the children and run the activity centers.

In addition to our usual Wednesday evening program, the children had a few special events. In February we had a roller skating outing at the Bethlehem Skateaway, and in December we ministered to residents at Country Meadows by singing Christmas carols and giving cookies and hand-made cards.

It is with a humble and loving heart that we thank you for all the support in prayer and participation.

Respectfully Submitted,
David and Kristen Lissy (elementary),
Carol Burress and Megan Gasho (pre-school)

Nursery:

The Nursery is a vital ministry at Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church. Our purpose is to provide a safe, fun, and loving environment, where we introduce God's love to the youngest of our children's ministry. Our ministry continues to grow. The nursery is available for much more than just during Sunday worship. We provide childcare for many different bible studies, programs and events throughout the year.

It takes many volunteers to make this ministry work. We currently have 35 individuals who faithfully serve. I want to thank all of them for giving of their time and talents to better His kingdom.

In His Service,
Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Kritzberger, Nursery Coordinator

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. Psalm 25:4-5

As the Lord continually teaches us, it is our desire to be humbly used by Him in ministering to the college and career students. I pray that we may never take these opportunities for granted each week. We have had a very faithful group of students (5-7) that have attended on Sundays and we have thoroughly enjoyed our fellowship together as we seek to follow the Lord's path and His truth. We started the year out in an apologetics type study as we had the opportunity to work through a long letter from an old friend. The letter contained tough theological questions pertaining to God's work throughout history, sin, Satan, the accuracy of the Bible and many other challenging questions. We felt this study was particularly relevant because the age of 18-23 is such a tender age for transitions, questioning and even doubt.

Our most recent study has been in Genesis. Studying about 1 chapter per week, God's faithfulness has been made so clear to us through this book.

Several times throughout the year, we enjoyed trips to Dunkin Donuts for some breakfast, fellowship and prayer. We also had the opportunity of having lunch with Ian and Heather Thompson and some of the young adults this fall. Thanks so much for your hospitality, Thompson's!

A special thank you to the Young Adult ministry for providing care packages to many college students at the beginning of the fall semester. They took a lot of time initiating the idea and much effort was given to collecting items, packaging all of them up and shipping/delivering them.

Lastly, we'd like to ask you to please pray that we may continually seek His will for this ministry. Many have asked, including ourselves, how we can better integrate this ministry into the church, how we can better reach out to our area colleges and community and how we can encourage deeper spiritual growth within this age group? Please pray that as leaders we are willing to be selfless with our time and resources so that we may be able to be used fully by the Lord as He sees fit.

In His Service,
Kevin Hardy

(For the leaders: Kevin Hardy and Sam Eatmon)

Community Concerns

Deacon Ministry

I accepted the Community Concerns area as a new deacon in 2012. I was given an overview of the job and what had been done in the past. As the year progressed it became apparent that the scope of the job is wider than I had anticipated.

There are many organizations in the community which are looking for either funds or physical help or both. Many of the requests are placed on the Community Bulletin Board (near the church kitchen) for our members to consider; since my limited budget is easily consumed by dedicated activities. The following are the areas specifically addressed in 2012.

Care Net of the Lehigh Valley (Crisis Pregnancy Center)

Ministry Leader – Sandy Baron

Baby Bottle Campaign netted \$836 for Care Net.

Ebenezer sponsored a table in support of the Care Net Gala \$350.

Blessings to Sandy & others who aid in this ministry.

Manna Ministries

Ministry Leaders – Linda Tona & Bob Gill

Regular donations of day-old bread, pastries and some groceries are received from Panera Bread, Weiss Markets, Flour Bakery, Starbucks, and Wegmans. They are available for hand out at EBFC to needy community persons & church members on Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday. Surplus is transported to New Betheny Ministries as available by volunteers. Policies were implemented to assure sanitary handling of unwrapped food & disposal of unsatisfactory food.

Blessings to Bob & Linda for the work they do and to the people who assist them.

Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive

Ministry Leaders – Prime Timers

Canned and dry food was collected again this year and transported to the Bethlehem Salvation Army Food Bank. This year 346 items were collected which when added to the previous total equals 8664 items collected since inception.

The Prime Timers assumed responsibility for this ministry to replace Ben Kusiak.

They will perform it as an annual service project.

Lifeline Screening

Ministry Leader – Bob Smith

This service has been offered for three years now. Only 38 people attended this year with only two being from Ebenezer. Typically, tests are offered for a variety of potential problem areas at a small discount. I am considering discontinuing this activity next year due to low interest and medical information which does not support testing that may not be indicated. If we allow them to use the building next year perhaps a facility charge should be levied since it is an all day activity.

St. Luke's Visiting Nurses Christmas Gift Collection

Ministry Leader – Bob Smith

I revived this activity which did not occur last year due to communication problems. Annually the visiting nurses request Christmas presents for children of at risk families in the Lehigh Valley. They were delighted that we wanted to help again. They provided me with an initial 40 children's names, age & sex which were quickly consumed by the congregation from the lobby Christmas tree. An additional 25 names was requested. The suggested gift was for an age appropriate book & educational toy. The gifts were delivered one week before Christmas with assistance by the Prime Timers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Smith,
Deacon Community Concerns

Counting Offering

Deacon Ministry

The six team (12 people) concept was used in 2012 until the fall when we had the resignation of two counters and the death of one other. This left us three people short and through the weekly online update and the Sunday bulletin we were only able to secure one new volunteer. Therefore we revised the schedule to have five teams (10 people) going forward. It is only a one week difference in the time schedule and everyone anticipates no problems going forward. Once again the teams worked internally contacting each other for coverage on schedule conflicts and things were worked out for full coverage.

My thanks and appreciation go out to everyone who participated in this important ministry, and for their time, dedication and accountability in this endeavor. Thanks also goes out to the four substitutes who helped fill in when switches could not be accomplished sometimes literally at the last moment.

We look forward to providing timely and correct counting in 2013 so the other ministries will have their budget money for use in a timely fashion.

In His Service,
Bruce Eckel,
Deacon of Counting

Evangelism Committee

Elder Ministry

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.~ Mark 16:15 (ESV)

We at Ebenezer have been using the EV2 (Everyday Evangelism) curriculum for many years. This is a program designed to help draw out the scriptures to aid and encourage the Gospel sharing in your life. Over the past two years this class has not been well attended, nor do I receive many questions in regard to sharing one's faith. However, I am blessed by the faithful stories I occasionally hear. I know God is sovereign and He shows your faithfulness in the outreach you are doing. Those who share the love of Christ in the communities that surround us are certainly being obedient to God. I hope at Ebenezer you can find the encouragement and resources to help, but know that it is the power of the Holy Spirit in us that guides and directs. If anyone is in need of learning materials and cannot attend the EV class, please just ask. My prayer is that each of us submits fully to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and that God will provide the boldness we all need to make Christ known.

The opportunities are endless to engage the culture around us, and God is faithful by brining many opportunities. Some include; personal sharing with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, as well as through ministries such as The Bridge, CareNet, Candy Carnival, Athletes for Christ, Nehemiah's Wall, prison ministry, nursing home ministry, Young Life, and so many others.

We have been blessed by many opportunities to serve not only individually, but also together. I pray that if you have not engaged with any of the outreach ministries that you will consider joining us. Let us all strive to be the hands, feet, and voice of Christ in this day, and at times let's do it together!

Respectfully Submitted,
Shawn Van Doren

Greeters

Elder Ministry

The Welcome Center continues to serve as a focal point of the main lobby where newcomers and long-time attendees congregate to find current information about our church, receive Welcome Packets, sign up for events and most importantly receive the warmth and care of Jesus Christ through the faithfully committed Greeting Team. Our greeters continue to joyfully serve, being fully staffed with a team of greeters who are very loving individuals enjoying the ministry God has chosen for them!!

We handed out over 800 individually wrapped chocolates at Valentine's, Easter and Christmas which brought a smile to many faces making the season just that much brighter! Please continue to stop by, looking for information and asking questions, we will gladly try to help orient you in the right direction and practice 3 John 14, "Greet the friends there by name."

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Lofthouse

Kinship Groups

Discipleship Ministry

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:42–47 ESV)

The purpose of Kinship Groups is to be a microcosm of our local church to provide smaller informal gatherings for growing in our faith in God and fellowshiping (sharing in common) with one another. Our goals are to nurture, fellowship, worship, care, train, serve, and grow. Kinship strives to take various people with different experiences and backgrounds and assimilate them into one body and one faith. This encourages growth and community at different age groups, family status, and genders. The beauty of these Kinship groups is that we can increase the church body in fellowship and in the spirit of Jesus without being restricted to building space.

Currently, there are 259 involved in 12 Kinship Groups, 163 adults and 96 children. These groups are led by men gifted by God to shepherd, including, Wayne Batten, Tom Galloway, Bob Smith, Rich Mastronardo, Dick Bickings, Jason Hoy, Dennis Flanagan, Bob Gill, Neil Cowley, Otis Powell, Andy Brimer, Dan Hutchinson, Mike Capaldi, Chris Jones, Scott Holwick, and Shawn VanDoren.

What are some of the challenges with Kinship groups? Since Kinship is one of the core ministries of our church, our desire is that every member or regular attendee has the opportunity to be a part of a group. This of course presents the challenge of having enough groups and group leaders to meet the demand. We have seen a number of new people come into our church and seek to join a group this past year, but we have struggled to place them because of the very limited space within the existing groups. Work is being devoted to identifying and training new leaders so that more groups can be formed to increase our capacity.

For 2013, we will continue to meet this challenge by raising up new leaders and training the existing leaders to provide the shepherding care necessary to meet the needs of each group, and in turn this should reflect in a congregation who is being fed, having their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs met, and are reaching out to help others with the love of Christ. Along with this training, we plan to help our leaders understand the overall vision and purpose of our church and how to implement this into their groups. Please continue to pray and even consider being a group leader.

I would like to personally thank the Kinship leaders for their diligence and vision for this most important ministry!

Respectfully Submitted,
Dick Bickings, Pastor of Discipleship

Liaison – Church/School

Deacon Ministry

Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church and Bethlehem Christian School bid farewell and Godspeed to Janie Hughes who, with her husband John, relocated to Greensboro, NC in early January 2013. Janie has been the BCS Principal for the past 5 years, and was a teacher here for 10 years before that. The committee expressed much appreciation to Janie for her many years of dedicated service, teaching and ministry to the School.

Enrolment in grades K – 4 is 104 (up 3% over last year). In July – August 2012, the Pre-School program relocated from Steel City to Ebenezer utilizing Rooms 4 and 5. Pre-School enrolment is 40 children total with average daily attendance of 28. Beginning in Sept 2012, there are now 9 teachers, all certified by the PA Department of Education. In addition there is a support/administration staff of 6 and approximately 15 volunteers that help in classrooms and kitchen/serving room for snacks and lunch. Two additional electronic Star Boards were provided by the school and installed in Rooms 8 (Kindergarten) and 17 (math & English lab).

Members of the committee are Otis Powell, Janie Hughes, Sharon Kritzberger, Kevin Kritzberger, Bob Smith, Steve McDaniel, and Pastor Dick Bickings

Both BCS and EBFC continue to work well together with no major issues. Kevin Kritzberger and Janie Hughes continued to do a great job in handling any problems before they became issues. I would personally like to thank the entire Liaison Committee who continues to work together for God's Glory.

Respectfully Submitted,
Otis Powell,
Chairman of Liaison Committee

Library

Discipleship Ministry

The Ebenezer growth Garden Library has now been a ministry for 26 years and has grown and changed along with the church body.

The Library was able to purchase about \$3,000 worth of non-fiction and fiction books, DVDs and audios for children, teens and adults this year. We have continued to add to our audio books and compact discs area. The library strives to maintain a selection of the newest Christian materials and to make selections that appeal to all ages and levels of spiritual maturity. Our church families continue to take advantage of our Sunday hours to browse and borrow from our selection.

The children's area, despite our decrease in membership, continues to flourish and is the most heavily used part of the library. We have made a conscious effort to make the library as child-friendly as possible, providing a space furnished especially for our smaller patrons.

Our library staff is comprised of 14 wonderful volunteers. As a team, we each carry more responsibility than in previous years and have a more equal distribution of leadership. Without all of these giving and faithful people we would not be able to have such a great library. We truly depend on each other.

We are busy each Sunday morning as well as during the week when books are processed for computerization. We are still valiantly working on computerizing our collection but this continues to be a work in progress.

We praise God for all that the congregation and church leadership has done to help the library flourish. Our goal is to be a ministry that presents a warm, welcoming environment where everyone can come and find resources to help their spiritual growth. Our church has a valuable ministry in its library. If you haven't utilized the library's resources, we strongly encourage you to stop by.

We welcome any who would like to be a part of this ministry. At the very least, we ask that you would please partner with us in praying for God's guidance for the coming year. Please stop by and check out The Ebenezer Growth Garden Library.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria Sherer and Nancy Murphy

Membership and Discipline

Elder Ministry

We thank the Lord that 2012 was another year for many to seek membership in our church. We held 2 membership classes with around 20 attendees, one on Wednesday evenings in the spring, and the other on Sunday evenings in the fall.

- We started the year with 516 members and added 17 new members throughout the year.
- We had 27 baptisms this year.
- We dedicated 4 children to the Lord this year.
- There were 5 weddings this year.
- 11 funerals were held this year for those in, or affiliated with, our church family (5 were members). Doris DeNardo, Gary Bachman, Thomas Flanagan, Shirley Smith, Elaine Baker, Virginia Stump, Jennie Amerman, Fred Tona, Pastor A.L. Seifert, Catherine Bachman, Jacqueline Walters. We will miss all of them dearly.

This brings our membership total to 521 at the end of 2012. God is still building his church here at Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church; the evidences are everywhere. Let's continue to pray that we would be faithful to develop committed followers of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We have much to be thankful for as the Kingdom of God advances through Ebenezer.

Together in Ministry,
Pastor Dick Bickings

Men's Ministry

Discipleship Ministry

The Men's Ministry exists primarily to disciple men to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ. In order to do this we focus our efforts on training men how to be the godly leaders and examples that Christ commanded in their homes, jobs, society, and church. This training is done in the following ways:

- Bible Studies – Weekly Men's bible studies were held throughout the year:
 - Saturday mornings – "The Bethel Series" (for men & women), taught by Dick Bickings
 - Wednesday evenings – "The Bethel Series" (for men & women), taught by Jason Lee
 - Thursday mornings – 6:15 am, currently studying 1 Thessalonians, taught/facilitated by various men in the group
- BattleZONE – A premier powerful discipleship tool for our men here at EBFC. A number of men in our congregation (including myself) have worked through their own internal struggles and have emerged as victorious, spiritual leaders.
- Breakfasts – Well-attended men's breakfasts were held quarterly, providing fellowship, teaching, worship time, and prayer. A faithful crew of men cooked (directed by Bob Guadagnino) and set up (directed by Jim Travisano) for this event very early each Saturday morning. The worship time was led by either Randy Shelly or Pastor Mark Culton. The theme of this year's teaching time was, "Spiritual Power Tools," taken from the BattleZone material covering topics on how to, pray, study God's word, handle temptation, and find Biblical answers to life's problems.
- Community/Church Outreach – The men were called upon frequently throughout the year to lend a hand whether it was for someone who was moving, or some other physical labor.

Praise the Lord for providing an excellent men's leadership team to provide ideas and implement plans to keep this vital ministry on track.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dick Bickings, Pastor of Discipleship Ministries

Missions Committee

Committee Members:

Emily Barry	Marianne Gable
Wayne Batten, chairman	Shelley Penchick
Tom Carlstrom	John Romero
Doug Chen	

Committee Meetings:

The committee meets once per month on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm (except for July & August).

2012 Missionary Support Through Budget Giving:

Bible Fellowship Church Board of Missions:

BFCBOM Administrative Support	2,400.00
Davies, Larry and Michelle - Czech Republic	3,800.00
Elias, John and Karen - England	2,400.00
Ethnic Church Planting	1,600.00
Head, Jim and Lynne - World Team	7,000.00
Knaub, Kim - Tanzania	1,200.00
Masessa, Becky - Tanzania	4,800.00
Missionary Retirement Fund	2,200.00
Moyer, Duane and Joetta - Guadeloupe	3,200.00
Pastoral Scholarship Initiative	2,000.00
Reyes, Art and Vickie - Mexico	5,520.00
Riddell, David and Rebecca - France	7,480.00
Solt, Lillian - Costa Rica	5,720.00
Weller, Dana and Lanette - Director BFCBOM	2,400.00
Wimble, Mark and Cathy - Thailand	10,000.00
Widman, Scott and Joanna - North Ireland	3,000.00
Ziegenfuss, Carrie - Tanzania,	4,800.00
Zurbrick, Rebecca - Uruguay	3,000.00

Bible Fellowship Church Agencies:

Bible Fellowship Homes	3,500.00
Church Extension	21,500.00
Pinebrook Bible Conference	3,500.00
Victory Valley Camp	3,500.00

Special Missions: (Non-BFC-Board of Missions)

Albright, Dick and Pat - Fellowship International Mission	2,700.00
Bovard, John and Joanie - Youth for Christ	2,300.00
Caret Lehigh Valley	4,800.00
Child Evangelism Fellowship - Benjamin Triestman	2,000.00
Fodale, Mark and Shannon - Disciple Makers	1,800.00
Hanna, Ed and Christy - CRU	6,000.00
Napier, Al and Nancy - Italy	8,300.00
Poysti, David and Ute - European Christian Mission	2,400.00
Ritchie, Josiah and Rachel - Fellowship International Mission	1,800.00
Russian Christian Radio	3,400.00
Tshudy, Dale - Fellowship of Christian Athletes	1,800.00
Trans World Radio	2,800.00
Truth for Women	1,200.00
Young Life - Eric Johnson	1,500.00
Young Lives	1,200.00

Missions Giving through Faith Promise:

Tanzania Project - Alagua Team Bible storying training	1,000.00
Child Evangelism Fellowship - budget deficit	1,000.00
Youth missions trip to Guadeloupe	200.00
Summer missions trip to Dominican Republic	500.00
Rachel Norris - missions trip to Mexico	400.00
Daniel Marks - missions trip to Mexico	400.00
Isaac Hoyle - work support at Victory Valley	400.00
Allison Sommons - work support at Victory Valley	400.00
Mark Fodale - Disciple Makers, under support	1,200.00
Theresa and Colby Weinhofer - Japan, language training	1,000.00
Mark and Cathy Wimble - Thailand, under support	500.00
Jim and Lynne Head - World Team, under support	500.00
Jamie Zackavitch - Coalition for Christian Outreach	1,200.00
Ed and Christy Hannah - CRU, under support and unexpected expenses	2,500.00
Al and Nancy Napier - Navigators, under support	500.00
Lillian Solt - CEDCAS, medical clinic staffing	1,000.00
Ramabai Mukti Mission - India	1,200.00
Nehemiah Wall	1,000.00
Hurricane Sandy BFCBOM Fund	100.00
Keith Strunk - Cape May Community BFC, under support	4,000.00
Missionary Encouragement	2,200.00

Missions Emphasis 2012 – March 11 & 18

- Worship – Special speakers Pastor Dana Weller, director of Bible Fellowship Church Board of Missions, and Pastor Tim Zuck, Pastor of Saucon Community BFC, gave presentations in the worship service.
- Sunday School – Adult classes heard presentations by Colby and Theresa Weinhofer, missionaries to Japan, and Mark and Cathy Wimble, missionaries to Thailand. Our youth heard directly from Pastor Dana Weller one week and the second week participated in presentations of puppets and the New Mexico missions youth team to the younger children. Ben Triestman from Child Evangelism Fellowship also ministered to the younger children.
- Evening – An all-church international potluck dinner was enjoyed along with a presentation by John and Nancy LoRusso, leaders of the BFC Tanzania project.
- One-Day Missions – Special one-day mission opportunities for anyone to volunteer were also made available with CareNet, Lehigh International Students, and the Friendship Center in Flemington, NJ.

Respectfully Submitted
Wayne Batten, Chairman
For the Missions Committee

Ordinances

Deacon Ministry

Communion:

We had 12 communion services in 2012 and everything went as planned. Deacons, Elders and Ushers worked hard to make everything run smoothly and they showed enthusiasm and availability to serve. Jim Ernst has been a good help with the preparation of the elements. I would like to take this time to say thank you to him and his wife for all the help.

Baptism:

We had 4 baptism services in 2012, with a total of 27 believers who were baptized; "all glory to God." Sometimes people do not bring their towels, so I would like to see if we can get some nice towels that we can put aside just in case someone doesn't have one at the time of baptism. We also need a couple XL and XXL gowns.

I would like to thank all the Deacons, Elders and Ushers for their help serving communion and preparing for baptism.

Respectfully,
Kamba M. Kalubi, Ordinance Committee

Pastoral Relations Committee

Elder Ministry

The 2012 Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) was composed of Elders: Wayne Batten, Shawn Sommons and Mike Capaldi.

The purpose of the PRC is to (1) Encourage the pastors in their endeavors to minister to the congregation and (2) to promote good relationships between the pastors and the congregation. In doing so, we meet periodically as a PRC and with each Pastor informally throughout the year. We also meet with them formally to conduct annual reviews.

During the month of October the committee publicly recognizes each pastor, expressing the church's love and appreciation for them and their ministry. The congregation is encouraged to do the same and many of you followed through so we thank you.

As mentioned, the committee also seeks to promote unity in the church through our work. At times, conflicts and differences can arise. The PRC mediates such conflicts and supports reconciliation. We are always open to questions or concerns from the congregation as it relates to our pastors so do not hesitate to contact any of us.

At Ebenezer, the PRC also fills the role of supporting the entire staff in personnel matters such as creating/updating employee policies as well as other like matters.

Below is a list of activities that the PRC completed in 2012:

- Completed pastoral evaluations for 2011 and provided feedback to the Pastors early last year.
- Supported the hiring and formal call of Senior Pastor Tim Gibson including coordination with the BFC denomination.
- Provided input and recommendations for the 2013 compensation budget.
- Facilitated steps in the ordination process for Pastor Dick Bickings.
- Established a 2013 pension benefit for the three pastors who are currently eligible. (Gibson, Hoy, Bickings)
- Updated the vacation policy for part-time staff members. They are now eligible for two weeks of paid vacation.
- Created a Missions policy that provides one week of paid leave to any non-Pastoral staff member who participates in a short-term mission trip.

We are truly blessed to have such godly men serving as our Pastors here at Ebenezer. Please make it a point to encourage Pastors Tim, Jason, Dick and Mark throughout the year.

In His Service,
Mike Capaldi, Chairman, Pastoral Relations Committee

Committee at Year-End:

Ron and Pat DiStefano
Gordon Baker
Otis and Carolyn Powell
Bob and Hazel Smith
Lee and Jean Tress
Donald and Lois Wieand

The Prime Timers ministry provides three types of activities and services. Senior members and friends of Ebenezer have the opportunity to enjoy fellowship, service to others, and bond and care for one another. We also provided transportation services to events where needed. We welcome 2 new committee members in Don and Lois Wieand.

Lunches – Monthly lunches were attended by an average of 32 people. Lunch programs included a presentation on the Seven Secrets of Grand Central Terminal, early church history, building bridges, the Galapagos Islands, a speaker from Crayola and a tour of the State Theatre. The June picnic was held in Fellowship Hall at EBFC due to the extreme heat, 38 attended. Our Christmas Dinner had 75 attending with a wonderful program from the Christian ventriloquist Sandy and Friends.

Special Events – We held one theme dinner (Oktoberfest) and four movie nights with an average of 35-40 each movie night. Forty people attended the dinner theater held at DeSales University. The Iron Pigs baseball game on Faith night in July was rained out but the tickets could be used for other games. Our yearly trip to Shady Maple was attended by 28 where we enjoyed their wonderful buffet.

Service Projects – 7 Activity continues in this important area.

- 1) Prime Timer Care bears – 4 delivered along with a visitation
- 2) Samaritans Purse – 172 shoe boxes were wrapped, and gifts for boys and girls were collected for world distribution.
- 3) Wheels for the World – wheel chairs, walkers, and metal crutches were collected and shipped.
- 4) Stitches of Love – A group of active knitters meets monthly. Donated materials are shared among the knitters and other volunteers. Made in 2012 were 27 dresses for children in Haiti, baby caps and sweaters, blankets, scarves and gloves. They donated 4 large bags of knitted items to the military, missions, hospitals, Bridge Ministry, and Lehigh County abused children and women.
- 5) Clothing Drives – over 42 large bags of clothing were collected and transported to New Bethany church in Allentown.
- 6) Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive – 346 items were delivered to the Salvation Army in Bethlehem
- 7) St Luke's Visiting Nurse Gifts for Children of At-Risk Families – a total of 60 gifts were delivered

We are planning many activities for 2013:

- Group tickets have been reserved for an Iron Pigs baseball game on Thursday July 18.
- Hunterdon Hills Playhouse dinner theater will be on April 6th at 11am for “Butterflies are Free”
- Monthly lunches will continue plus other interesting and surprise events.

We are blessed to have many volunteers from within the Prime Timers group who help with setup and cleanup after meetings and programs.

Ron and Pat DiStefano
Co-Chairs of Prime Timers Committee

Property Committee

Deacon Ministry

Property committee members: George Hardy (chairman), Kevin Kritzberger, Dave Van Schoick, Otis Powell, Gary Young, Don Lynch and Wayne Batten

Some of the projects completed this year were:

- Both of the original ladies bathrooms were renovated
- The original metal roof over rooms 2,4,5,6, the baby nursery and the BCS library was replaced. The roof over the sanctuary, office wing and west end of the building still needs to be done in the near future.
- Installed blinds in the south end of the gym
- Replaced the heat pump in room 4
- Renovated the senior pastor's office
- Removed four trees and shrubs in front of the parsonage and dead limbs were removed from a rear tree. Landscaping and reseeding will be done in the spring
- Several trees were lost due to Hurricane Sandy and some may be replaced in 2013

We greatly appreciate all those who signed up to take care of the various flowerbeds. It was a tremendous help and they looked great.

Thank you to the many volunteers that helped Kevin Kritzberger and the Property Committee throughout the year with hundreds of hours of donated labor to help maintain and improve our building and grounds.

I would also like to thank the committee members who served with me this year on the property committee. It was a pleasure working with you and I look forward to serving with you on the committee for 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
George Hardy
Property Committee Chairman

The Security Committee was merged into a new Safety Committee, which was created in the latter half of the year to address a much broader safety ministry covering people, building and assets. The Safety Committee will positionally replace the Security Committee on the Deacon Board. The changes noted in this report are in effect as of the Deacon meeting on September 17, 2012.

We are honored to see the work God has done this year through His humble servants on this committee and look forward to how He will bless the Ebenezer body with grace and mercy throughout the coming year.

The Safety Committee will focus more on risk management, including security, medical response, emergency evacuation, first aid and emergency planning.

Key roles & responsibilities, September - December 2012:

Chairman* – Rob Lofthouse

Medical – Shawn Van Doren, Ruth Romero, Carol Warner, Leonor Forero

Security - Blake Kuntz (chair), Tom Galloway, Joe Maddock, Leroy Marsh, Andy Meeks, Dave Messinger, Marlin Bozes, Tom Murphy, John Romero, Juan Torres, Dean Wilson, Gary Young, Don Lynch, Kamba Kalubi, and Rob Christiansen

The Safety Committee is responsible for the development of relevant policies & procedures for personal & building security, individual safety, and emergency response. We work cooperatively with other ministries including facilities management, property committee, IT, and ushers. We provide guidance to Elders, Deacons, Ushers, Staff, ministry leaders, members and visitors in the event of a risk breached. Teams for security, medical response, and emergency evacuation are on duty during the Sunday Services and on Wednesday nights. We also coordinate relevant training on safety related items for the Safety Teams and the ministry leaders. This includes topics like CPR, first aid, emergency response (what to do until the professional first responders arrive on the scene), and emergency evacuation of the building.

“But I will defend my house against marauding forces. Never again will an oppressor overrun my people, for now I am keeping watch.” ~ Zechariah 9:8

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Lofthouse,
Chairman*

* At the end of 2012 Robert Lofthouse stepped down from his position as Deacon and Chairman of the Safety Committee since it was the end of his term. John Romero will be assuming these responsibilities in 2013. We are very thankful to Rob for his dedicated service during the last many years.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,
⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 ESV

As 2012 came to a close and we launched into the new year, we as a youth staff took some time at our last meeting to discuss what went well last year, what wasn't that good, and what God had for us to accomplish in 2013. We asked the question - What are we to be all about as a student ministry? We agreed on a number of important things, but we ended by looking at 1 Corinthians 15 and realizing that, more than anything else, we want students to know Jesus Christ, who was crucified and risen so we might have new life. We don't want to ever get distracted from this very important task. Paul said it was the most important focus of his ministry - and we hope to follow his model as we serve families at Ebenezer.

In the church, and especially in youth ministry, we can get distracted by so many things - having the biggest events, trying to be hipster, etc... In fact, if we aren't careful we can even get distracted by really good things - super fun events that make students want to come back, loud and vibrant worship music, giving students life skills that help them advance in life, teaching them how to stay out of trouble and be good individuals. Yet all of this, if not connected to the cross of Jesus Christ and the power of the gospel, makes for a shallow youth ministry. Our goal is to help students survive high school and succeed in college - yes. But we want this success in life to come through a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ that is saturated in gospel grace. It is not enough for them to have fun at Ebenezer youth group. It is not even enough that they stay out of trouble and stay clean as teenagers. Even more, they are called to love Jesus with all their heart, mind, soul and strength!

This is why two of our biggest pillars are mentoring and growth groups. These are times where our students get to experience a discipleship relationship, and where the truths about Jesus Christ that they learn in youth group are fleshed out. We now meet in small groups every week for a time, so that students are really "getting" the concepts of grace and Jesus' redemption, since this is our real focus. It has been one of the best changes we have made over the years, as leaders and students find it to be a valuable time of growth.

We ask each of you to regularly pray for us as we continue to seek what God has for the student ministry. Without His Spirit moving in hearts and creating life where there is no life, all of our efforts are in vain!

You can also pray specifically for mentors to be raised up for God's glory! This is still a key heartbeat that we have, because Jesus is clearly seen in a mentoring relationship.

It is such a privilege to serve here at Ebenezer for God's glory!

Some of the things God has accomplished through us this past year are:

- The continuation of a mentoring ministry which has been successful with students. While this has slowed down in the number of active mentors going through the specific 12 week curriculum, we have many adults continuing to mentor, and those who are engaging in this ministry are going even deeper with the students! We also launched Pray21 this past fall, and out of that we have a number of unofficial mentors who are still connecting with our students, and that is some super cool stuff!
- A growing awareness of a need to partner with parents and minister to them. This endeavor will have exponential effects on our students.
- Successful, God-glorifying missions trips to Cape May and Guadeloupe. We thoroughly enjoyed ministering with the Strunks, and they have seen abiding fruit from that trip. Our team was stretched in new ways in Guadeloupe, and I believe our team served faithfully and made Jesus known!
- Our youth staff has grown even closer through staff meetings, a staff retreat, and a staff training weekend. In addition, serving together on the same night of youth group and having more combined staff meetings has helped to bring unity and cohesion to our volunteer leaders.

- We made the jump from two separate youth nights (high school Tuesday and middle school Wednesday) to one combined night (Tuesday). This has pros and cons, but we are excited about the new opportunities it has brought. Some of those include: older and younger students together, middle and high school staff members serving together, one night for parents of middle and high schools students to be out instead of two, longer time frame which allows for small group time every week, etc.
- Our Invert group (student leadership) has grown through a RWR retreat and has started to focus on evangelism and community service.
- We have spent a good deal of time in middle and high school youth group focusing on evangelism - this is central to our calling as Christians, and we plan to do that this coming year again!
- An increasing unity with the other evangelical churches and their youth ministries through Lehigh Valley Unite.
- A weekly small group time, where growth group leaders are able to connect with their students and personalize what they are hearing in teaching time.
- A restructuring of the way we organize growth groups which allows for our youth staff to walk through several years of ministry to a specific group of students. This opens the door for deeper mentoring.
- Students who have come through our student ministry and are now in college have joined middle school youth staff and are ministering as co-laborers. This is especially exciting to me!

Some of the goals that we have for the coming year are:

- Guide the mentoring ministry so it grows and becomes more of a focal point again. Some of the greatest fruit I see is through the mentoring ministry. We are always looking for more good mentors, and I am praying that God raises up even more. It may be that some mentors come from our Pray21 endeavor.
- Have a successful local mission trip to Allentown, PA. We are joining Cedar Crest BFC in their "Light in the Park" endeavor, and this is a great opportunity for local ministry to kids in need, and unity with teenagers from one of our sister churches.
- Further develop our volunteer MS and HS staff – they are the life-blood of our student ministry! We are attending YS Palooza again in April.
- Further develop our student leadership – this will most likely involve another RWR where we will serve all weekend. One of our big goals is for our student leaders to share their faith more and for us to see some of their friends come to know Jesus as Savior!
- Build synergy by seeing our youth parents and youth staff become more connected. We are always looking for ways to partner with parents - we have a blog that we post to occasionally, a family youth group every quarter, and there are plans for an email newsletter.

Our Purpose Statement

Our student ministry seeks to **partner with parents** as we **disciple students for God's glory**.

Our **context**: partnership with parents

Our **focus**: discipleship of students

Our **goal**: worship of God

Thank you to all those who partner with us as we seek to fulfill this high calling.

Opportunities to serve with the student ministry:

In our ministry we are praying that God will raise up -

- male and female mentors
- male and female growth group leaders, especially high school.
- male middle and high school staff

Please let me know if you are interested, and we can talk more about what this involves.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Culton,
Youth Pastor

*“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
~ Galatians 6:2*

As David Powlison says, the church needs to “reclaim the ‘cure of souls’ ministry.” He says, “According to the Bible, caring for souls – sustaining sufferers and transforming sinners – is a component of the total ministry of the church, however poorly the contemporary church may be doing the job. The Lord whose gaze and will the Bible reveals lays claim to the cure of souls.” My vision and goal for the care of EBFC is to close the gap between the Christ of Scripture and every facet of life lived, including the “care of souls.”

Support groups are one way to do this. And I am thankful that our church recognizes that this is a vital ministry for the church of Jesus Christ. Too many churches are running away from the things that we hit head on in our church. Things like addictions, depression, bi-polar, suffering, divorce, grief, pregnancy loss, etc., should be addressed from a biblical perspective where we try to “comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable.” The God of the Bible really does have something to say about the various diagnoses and issues that we all face. Our task is to make the “teaching about God our Savior attractive” in this area.

I am grateful for all the people who share my vision. Peggy Cook, Chet Lehman, Shawn Sommons, and Byron Roth have blessed many people in our *DivorceCare* and *Griefshare* groups. Not only do our people come to these groups, but folks from the community have come as well. What a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and the hope that the redeemer brings to lives that have been shattered by divorce or loss of a loved one. I am grateful that Carol Burress was willing to give DivorceCare4Kids a chance this past fall, but there were no participants. We will see if the Lord would like us to continue offering this or not.

A vision that the pastoral staff had for 2011 was to ask our kinship group leaders to engage in the “cure of souls” ministry, which has been carried into 2012. Many of our leaders have done counseling and mentoring, on top of regularly scheduled kinship time. I praise God for this. And I praise God for those of you whom I have asked to informally mentor, counsel, or come alongside another brother or sister in Jesus Christ.

That’s what ministry in the body of Christ is all about.

Jason Hoy,
Pastor of Congregational Care

Technology & Web Site

Purpose: The Technology Team is charged with planning, purchasing, installing, and maintaining the IT (information technology) systems at Ebenezer.

Responsibilities: Our team is responsible for supporting the Church Staff with the tools they need to serve the church and the Lord with the most efficient and up to date systems possible. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Hardware and software support for 20 workstations
- Maintaining a server network, wireless network and internet connections
- Web Site – www.aplaceforyou.org
- Troubleshooting and problem solving
- Technology planning for the future needs of a modern church

In 2012: This was a quiet year with only minor hardware & software upgrades being made.

- Soundroom & Youthroom PC's were replaced with refurbished units
- Kim White and her Web Team continued their hard work refining & maintaining the new and improved website "aplaceforyou.org"
- Pastors & staff were kept up to date with various peripherals & accessories to support their workstations

In 2013: We will continue to help our staff serve our Lord by providing an efficient, reliable and secure computer network. We also continue to maintain and improve our website; "aplaceforyou.org".

Challenges: Our biggest challenge continues to be troubleshooting network, hardware, and software issues during business hours. When the network is down, staff productivity can grind to a halt. This makes it imperative that solutions be found as quickly as possible, so finding a team member available at the time a problem occurs is imperative, yet often difficult.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Murphy,
Chairman, Technology

Transportation Committee

Deacon Ministry

Number of trips (use frequency) of the church vehicles in 2012 was approximately the same as in 2011. The need for rental vans remained level. Rental vehicles are used (in addition to EBFC's vehicles) when the ministry in need of transportation requires more seating than EBFC's vehicles provide, and when it is impractical for multiple volunteer vehicles to be driven.

In June, we sold our 15 passenger 1997 Ford E-350 Econoline to La Roca BFC. La Roca, is a BFC mission church in Reading, PA. Grace BFC (La Roca's parent church) sponsored the purchase of the van. The van had just under 98,000 miles at time of sale.

In August, we purchased a replacement van from Crown Ford, in NY (near JFK airport), for \$24,075. The following is a brief summary of the new van: 2011 Ford E-350 Super Duty XLT

- Mileage: 17, 235
- Powertrain:
 - 5.4 Liter, V8 engine, Automatic Transmission
 - Rear wheel drive with Traction Control System.
- Features (abbreviated list)
 - Electronic Roll Stability is integrated with the Anti-Lock braking system, to reduce the risk of rollover during an accident or driver induced incident.
 - Electrically adjustable mirrors, with small convex sections at the top right corner for 'clearing' side blind spots.
 - Cruise Control
 - Dual front airbags
 - Factory installed hitch
 - Reverse Obstacle Warning system (aural tone)
- Warranty (standard Ford Truck):
 - 5 years/60,000 miles Powertrain & System Restraint System warranty.
 - 3 year/36,000 miles 'bumper to bumper'.
 - 5 year/60,000 mile Ford Roadside Assistance Program

Maintenance

- Mini-Bus [2008 Ford Omnibus, assembled by Eldorado National]: In March, while traveling on the highway, the windshield received a moderately sized chip and crack caused by road spray from a truck. A claim was made to our insurance, and Safelite determined it was unrepairable, so the windshield was replaced; we were responsible for a deductible.
- Leibensperger Transportation (Macungie, PA) performed some complimentary upkeep maintenance for us this summer. The back wall (separates cabin from cargo compartment) was secured more firmly with additional bolts and screws. Also, two additional air ducts were added (from the rear A/C unit into the cabin), to increase airflow. They also repainted a thoroughly rusted metal cover plate (under the rear doors) in the cargo compartment.

Thanks to Kevin Kritzberger, Swannie Griffin, and Fred Parris, for their service and insight in 2012. Special thanks to Andy Brimer for his assistance in the sale and purchase of the vans.

Mark Hardy,
Transportation Chairman

Ushers

Deacon Ministry

The Ebenezer Church Family has again been blessed by a group of men who care about the needs of this congregation. It has been a true blessing for me working alongside each and every one and I would like thank all ushers.

We have met as a group this year to discuss the duties of ushers and have made changes to meet the needs. Also, during this meeting security and medical advice was given by trained personnel to the usher teams to help with emergency situations. I would like to thank those individuals for taking the time and sharing their knowledge with the ushers and security members.

This year we have seen an increase in attendance in the first service and have addressed this issue by reserving the back two rows on both sides for those who arrive after the service begins. This helps the ushers to seat people without disrupting church during worship. We also set up a back row of chairs when the head usher feels the need. Communication from the pastors asking the congregation to move toward the center also helps us seat people who arrive late. Ushers will be directing latecomers to enter the sanctuary by the side doors; ushers will greet and seat these people. We will continue to watch and make updates as necessary. Updating Emergency Evacuation Plans are now in progress.

There is still a need for more ushers, so if any men would like to join the team, please contact me:

John Romero
484-860-5911 (cell)
610-691-6202 (home)
jgromero57@yahoo.com

All for HIS Glory,
John Romero, Chairman

Ebenezer's Women's Ministry has experienced many exciting changes to meet the needs of today's woman. Our focus is to equip, empower and encourage women so they can reach their God-given potential to serve their Lord, their family, and their community. Our goal is to help women feel accepted and minister to them right where they are in their walk of life. This is done by:

1. **Leading** women to know who Christ is as their Savior, to know how to build their entire lives on God and His Word, and to live their lives out of that relationship.
2. **Helping** women to discover their God-given gift and find their place in ministry.
3. **Teaching** women how to reach out to other women.

Ephesians 3:17-20 "And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep in to the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand as all God's people should how wide, how long, how high and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we could ever dare to ask or hope."

I am reminded in these verses that I cannot fully grasp the love that my Savior has for me. I am so glad that He is continually doing a mighty work in my life. I am thankful that His love for me is total. It reaches every corner of my life. It is wide; it reaches the whole world. It is high. It rises to the highest of heavens. His love is deep. It reaches to the depths of our discouragement, despair and even death. The prayer of my heart is that God will continually show me through His word how to move more and more into the lives of women at this church, and to encourage them with these truths.

I am so very thankful for the opportunity to be on staff here and have the privilege to minister to the women here at this church. It is hard to believe that another year has gone by. I have had another year full of meeting with different women, building relationships and encouraging them in their walk with Jesus Christ. This aspect of ministry is still my favorite and most rewarding. This position also keeps me very accountable with my own walk with Jesus and reminds me that women will only be as excited about their Savior as the one who is trying to lead them. God continues to teach me many things through serving Him. Just that, I am serving Him!!

With that being said, I am blessed with a great ministry team of women. Our leadership team consists of Coordinators and a few Ministry Partners. We meet every month to pray over this ministry and how we can meet the needs of the women here. As we are *very thankful for the leaders we have on Women's ministry, we do have a need for other women to rise up to help disciple the women of this church.* Below is a list of our current team:

Women's Ministry Coordinator: Laura Sommons (staff position)
Hospitality: Debbie Flannigan (ministry partners: Lisa Pyles, Heather Thompson)
Team Members: Amy Hardy, Jennifer Yeager, Doris Lynch
Secret Sisters: Debbie Flannigan and Alyssa Nye
MOPS Coordinator: Alyssa Nye

Women's Bible Studies

In 2012 we offered numerous Bible studies, reaching out to the many needs of the women here and outside of our church. Below is a list of the studies we offered:

- 1) Winter/Spring: Bethel Series OT led by Peggy Brimer
Bethel Series NT led by Gail Tshudy
- 2) Jan- April: James Mercy Triumphs by Beth Moore led by Laura Sommons and Vicki Cowley
- 3) Summer Session: Listening to the Voice of God led by Laura Sommons, Melissa Griffin, Vicki Cowley
- 4) Fall: The Secret is Out study in Colossians led by Vicki Cowley
- 5) Fall & Spring: Bethel Series NT led by Gail Tshudy
- 6) Fall: The Secret is Out a study in Colossians led by: Laura Sommons
- 7) Fall: Joseph: A Character Study: Led by Debbie Flannigan
- 8) Fall & Spring: Bible Study Fellowship: Genesis

Speaking Engagements:

I was able to speak at two different Mother Daughter Banquets this past spring at First Baptist Church of Allentown, and at Eatonville Baptist Church. This was and is a tremendous time for me. I always feel that God is stretching me and using me in ways that are not always where I feel most confident. I also led a couple of devotions for MOPS throughout the year.

Women's Special Events:

- March: Soup, Salad, Soulfood Night
- May: Lancaster Trip
- June: Soup, Salad, Soulfood Night
- July: Hosted the first "She Leads" Conference here with More of Him Ministries
- September: "Kick-off to Fall" Potluck Dinner
- September: "Lunch at Laura's" for the Prime Timer Ladies
- September: Beth Moore Conference in Reading; over 50 tickets sold for this event
- October: Hosted the Nehemiah Wall Fundraising Dinner
- Training Offered : How to Facilitate a Bible Study
- December: Ladies Christmas Banquet-- We were very excited to have our second ladies Christmas banquet this year. We enjoyed special music by Bethany Cable, and Janie Hughes from Bethlehem Christian School spoke. We enjoyed a wonderful catered dinner with some amazing men helping to serve. We had over 90 women share in celebrating our Savior's birth. This was a beautiful night to kick off the Christmas season.
- We as women love to fellowship with one another. These special events make it possible to build and strengthen relationships with one another and provide the opportunity to move into the lives of each other.

Outreach:

We realize the vital importance of outreach as women of EBFC. We had the privilege of partnering with Truth for Women again this year at their 4th annual Fall Fashion Show. We also hosted the Nehemiah Wall dinner here in October and look forward to seeing how we can continue to meet the needs of the women who stay at Nehemiah's Wall.

Women's Small Groups:

We still continue to offer small groups in our ministry. These include: Mothers of Teenagers, Homeschooling Fellowship, and Prayer & Share Together for Emotional Wholeness. We also offered, for the first time, a new exercise class called "Wholly Fit." This was a time of devotional exercise as well as physical exercise. I would really love to see more women involved in the small group ministry.

Training:

We offered a training night for women who have the desire to lead a small group. Jessie Seneca from More of Him Ministries came in October and did a session on how to facilitate a bible study. We had a couple of women take this class. I would love to see more women be equipped to lead and facilitate bible studies here at Ebenezer. I also had the privilege of taking the Networking class taught by Andy Brimer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Sommons,
Women's Ministry Coordinator

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers):

MOPS International exists to encourage, equip, and develop every mother of preschoolers to realize her potential as a woman, mother, and leader in the name of Jesus Christ.

MOPS stands for Mothers of Preschoolers. MOPS International exists to meet the needs of every mom - urban, suburban and rural moms, stay-at-home and working moms, teen, single and married moms - moms with different lifestyles who all share a similar desire to be the very best moms they can be. MOPS recognizes that the years from infancy through kindergarten are foundational in a mother-child relationship and are filled with unique needs. MOPS helps moms through relationships established in the context of local groups that provide a caring atmosphere for today's mother of young children. Our group here at Ebenezer reaches out to more than 38 moms, more than half of whom do not attend Ebenezer. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings each month from September through May.

We have over 70 children in our MOPPETS program led by approximately 20 wonderful helpers who teach our children about Jesus, love them and care for them. MOPPETS is still our biggest struggle and greatest need. Trying to find volunteers to help in each of our classrooms is an area we continually lift in prayer. However, God is good and the workers we have are faithful. We continue to offer a room specifically dedicated to homeschooled children. This room has grown and is now comprised of approximately 17 children.

Our current theme is "Plunge" and our theme verse is "Love as if your life depends on it" – 1 Peter 4:8. We are learning how to love others in all walks of life, and be bold with sharing our faith. We are learning to share MOPS wherever we go so no mom is alone.

We continue to have fine and engaging speakers come and share God's Word and offer solid teaching on marriage, parenting, and the passing of our faith as a legacy to our children. We anticipate hearing topics ranging from loving our families using the "5 Love Languages" by Gary Chapman, canning and juicing, and learning CPR, to having the gospel message shared at our Easter meeting.

We have 19 moms in leadership positions, five of whom are Discussion Group Leaders, five Assistant Discussion Group Leaders, and nine Leadership Team Members (this also includes our Mentor Moms).

In July 2012, we had a training seminar, which one of our leadership team members was able to attend. This was very helpful as it allowed our group to network and gain ideas and understanding of the new theme, allowing us to plan for the start of our 2012-2013 MOPS year. We were unable to attend the MOPS Major convention this year, but we are looking forward to possible attendance for this upcoming Major in 2013, along with other MOPS training seminars as they become available.

As the current ministry's coordinator I would ask you to pray for MOPS, pray for growth so we can introduce Jesus to more women, who can then take Him home and introduce Him to their children, husbands, and families. Pray for our leaders and MOPPETS workers. We also request prayer for the leaders of our MOPS ministry for next year. Several, if not all, of the leadership team may not be returning in the fall of 2013. Jody Bogar will be graduating from the MOPS program and other vacancies may exist. We are also hoping to add some more mentor moms as they are essential to our MOPS ministry. This ministry is so vitally important and necessary and so loved by so many. Ebenezer has created and established a well run MOPS ministry that has blessed many, many women over the years.

Our current Leadership Team is Alyssa Nye- Coordinator, Kyla Dougherty- Discussion Group Coordinator, Andrea Mitchletree- Hospitality Coordinator, Nicole Huie- Finance Coordinator, Jody Bogar- Creative Activities Coordinator, Jessica Donnelly- Publicity Coordinator, Tracy Young- MOPPETS Coordinator, and Lisa Pyles and Laura Sommons- Mentors.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alyssa Nye,
MOPS Coordinator

Worship Ministries

Elder Ministry

Worship Committee Members:

Pastor Tim Gibson – Committee Chair
Jennie Flicker – Worship Coordinator
Pastor Mark Culton – Committee Chair (through July)

Adult Choir:

We spent 2012 praying for one another, rehearsing music, and worshipping through song on Sunday mornings. We could use a few more voices in the choir, so if you're interested in giving choir a try, let us know! The ministry is open to anyone in 6th grade or older. We are also in need of a regular accompanist. So, let us know if you're interested in helping out on the piano.

The Choir Committee currently consists of the following Choir Members: Beth Bozes, Jennie Flicker (chair), Nicole Huie, and Doug Pyles (co-chair).

Sound Room:

We've had some new recruits join the team this year. We could still use a little more help – especially on the sound board. If you're interested in becoming trained, we'd be happy to show you around. Jim Hans has developed a training program where folks can be trained in a few sessions. All of the sound techs are currently completing this training process so that we can have a consistency in board coverage. Thanks to the Tech Team for helping our computers run smoothly! Dale Sine continues to manage the CD duplication ministry. Sermons are also available on the church website for free download.

The Sound Room Committee currently consists of the following members: Jennie Flicker (chair), Kevin Gascho, and Jim Hans.

Worship Team:

The worship team meets each Wednesday evening to prepare for Sunday morning worship. We currently have 3 volunteer worship leaders. They are beginning to meet regularly in order to select new music and intentionally plan worship sets in order to be faithful in excellence. The Worship Team Committee meets as needed and is a great support to the ministry – seeking God's desire in our worship of Him.

The Worship Committee is currently made up of Jennie Flicker (chair), Matt Flicker, Jim Hans, John Huie, and Dan Hutchinson.

Worship Coordinator:

This past Easter, we had a Sunrise Service followed by a potluck breakfast. Worship Ministries sponsored the All-Church Christmas Caroling. We were able to visit with some of our shut-ins and hopefully bless them. Every three months, we plan and carry out a service at Fellowship Manor alongside LeRoy Wilcox. This has also been an opportunity for some of our children, youth, families, and Kinship Groups to serve the Lord. If you are interested in participating, let us know. We'd love to have you! Heather Hunsberger continues as Worship Assistant. She takes care of many worship details throughout the year.

For 2013, I would like to continue to use the children and youth in our services and other ministry opportunities through worship. We are constantly seeking to serve the Lord with excellence and diligence.

"Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore." Psalm 113:2

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie Flicker,
Worship Coordinator

YACS meets on Thursday nights at the Thompson's for Bible study, hosts Ultimate Frisbee on Sunday nights, and does a lot of other activities together. A year can contain a lot to remember, and sometimes we forget all the blessings God has given us - both the good times and the tough times that He has brought us through. Here is a look at 2012, lest we not forget what the Lord has done:

SOME FORMAL EVENTS:

January –

- *The Parables of Jesus*, 15-week study began

February –

- *Radical* book discussion
- Winter retreat at the Spade Inn, sessions led by Pastor Aaron Susek on American Church History

March –

- Maple sugar harvesting
- Roller skating & dinner outreach event for Lehigh students
- BFC young adult coffee house

April –

- Ebenezer's Journey to Jerusalem Passover Seder Good Friday program
- BFC Day of Fun at Victory Valley

May –

- *How People Change*, book study began
- Day of Sports

June –

- BFC Young Adult Retreat at Pinebrook

July –

- YACS Beach Trip to Ocean Grove, NJ
- BFC Young Adult mission trip to Mexico

August –

- Dan and Rachel's wedding

September –

- *When Helping Hurts* book discussion
- Meet Pastor Tim & Devo night
- Fire pit and s'mores at the Chen's

October –

- Church Membership study with Pastor Dick
- Study: Death of John the Baptist, Mark 6:14-29
- Prayer Week
- Harvest Festival at the Warners'
- Ebenezer's Candy Carnival
- Care packages sent to college students
- Hurricane power outage: dinner & ultimate at church

November –

- *Ruth* inductive study began
- Work day at the SPADE Inn
- YACS went to the reformed theology conference at Grace BFC Quakertown
- YACS ran in the Run for the Children

December –

- YACS Christmas party at the Mastronardo's
- Caroling at Good Shepherd
- Christmas dinner boxes for families
- Ebenezer's Bethlehem & Beyond Christmas program

HAPPENINGS TO PEOPLE WE LOVE:

- Leila graduated from grad school
- Erik and Briel got married
- Dan and Rachel got married
- Aimee and Brady got married
- Brady moved east from California to be with Aimee and YACS
- Adam and Jess got engaged
- Shad visited from China
- Ted visited from Kentucky
- Stacy visited from Texas
- Heather visited Becky and Carrie in Tanzania
- Continued to pray for Becky and Carrie who are in Tanzania

The YACS Leadership Team: Ian & Heather Thompson, Doug & Beth Chen, Lisa Harrison, Janet Kichline



Financial Report for 2012

General Fund income was \$943,558 in 2012. This represents an \$82,895 or 10% overage when compared to budget; however, after excluding Miracle Month giving and a one-time, substantial donation from a non-EBFC member, our annual General Fund income was \$859,558 or 99.9% of our annual budgeted amount.

Thanks goes to the ministry leaders who were diligent in managing the individual budget lines through the course of the year. There were some additionally approved expenditures above the budget which resulted in a total spending of \$898,867 or 4% overage.

Consistent and steady giving to our Designated Funds enabled EBFC to purchase a used van through the Transportation Fund. Two other funds to highlight were Faith Promise, which is used for the needs of missionaries and short-term missions requests, and the Benevolence Fund, which is used to help those in need in our congregation and community.

EBFC's financial status throughout 2012 was stable and we have a fairly positive outlook for 2013. Total Cash & Cash Equivalent Assets increased by about \$51,000 to \$641,463 in 2012, which includes \$90,062 set aside for Designated Funds.

Let us continue to be thankful to God for providing for our needs. May we prayerfully seek how we worship through our giving and continue to be good stewards in building His Kingdom.

Serving with you,

Andrew Brimer

Treasurer