



Annual Report 2013

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Addendum added 01/17/14*

A Place to Worship God, Build Believers, Reach the Lost

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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:

Worship God with our whole heart
Build believers with the Word of God
Reach the lost with the Good News

Our Vision:

- ...to be a **church** where people are transformed by the truth of God's Word.
- ...to be a **community** of believers unified in worship, prayer, and service.
- ...to be a **fellowship** of people who exercise the love of Christ for one another by our caring, sharing, and encouraging.
- ...to be **reaching arms** for the Gospel through individual evangelism; as well as collectively through our efforts in counseling, church planting and missions.

Our Name Means...

- Ebenezer** – “the Lord is our helper” (I 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 Marks, Kids Crossing/Office Assistant
- Laura Sommons, Women's Ministry Coordinator

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Senior Pastor

Ministry Staff



*"I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in **the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.**" 1 Timothy 3:14-15*

It is an honor and joy to be a servant of the Lord Jesus in His Church. He promises to build His Church (Matthew 16:18), and it is our role as His servants to simply be as faithful as possible. I believe that 2013 was a year of building. After having gotten acclimated to the church environment, the desire of my heart was to fortify and strengthen the infrastructure of the local church as the Lord has led my heart according to His Word. This was accomplished by building theology into the hearts of our people as well as attempting to discover new leaders who can help lead into the future.

One area of major concern for 2013 was establishing our ministry philosophy among the staff, elders, deacons & other leaders. Having a biblical philosophy of ministry and being able to articulate that philosophy to others was a major emphasis among the staff in 2013. As a staff we went through John MacArthur's book, *Ashamed of the Gospel*. This book proved to be a good tool for discussion and helped identify what we desired to be our philosophy of ministry at Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church. Our philosophy of ministry was clearly articulated. First and foremost our focus is upward, striving to be God-centered in all that we do. We reject the more man-centered philosophies that many are adopting that strive to be "attractional" in nature. We understand that our role is first to be faithful in our calling, which means that we must be Christ honoring in everything (from music to preaching), & Word driven rather than program driven. Faithfulness to our calling with a strong effort to be excellent in all things is what God requires. And when we are faithful, we trust that the Lord will grow His Church! We do not have to use manipulative methods in order to reach people with the Gospel. We are striving to have a philosophy of ministry, which comes directly from our theological position. In other words we want to practice what we say we believe. Because we understand that God is sovereign in all things, our goal is to be as faithful to the Scriptural mandate as possible. This provides a great relief for those in Church leadership.

Discovering new leaders was a key in 2013. The LEAD class that began in September was designed not only to train potential leaders, but also to discover leaders that the Holy Spirit is calling out to be a part of the ministry here at Ebenezer. The class is designed to cover the doctrine of salvation, Church health, ministry philosophy, & Church leadership. As the class spills over into 2014, our hearts' desire is to see more qualified men step up into leadership roles in the Church.

Biblical preaching of course proved to be the most important aspect of the ministry at Ebenezer in 2013. As the pulpit goes so goes the ministry. It is my heart's desire to be as faithful as possible to Scripture. We have adopted a method of preaching at Ebenezer, which is expository in nature, rather than topical. This will continue to characterize our ministry as it is our desire to simply be as faithful as possible to our charge to "preach the Word."

In short, here are a few highlights that God's grace permitted in 2013:

- 3 New member classes conducted throughout the year with approximately 57 in attendance.
- Conducted Christian Belief's Class (Basic Theology Class) over a period of 12 weeks with approximately 80+ attending each week.
- Attended the Shepherd's Conference in Los Angeles with the Pastors in March.
- Began putting an "invite card" in the bulletin each week for our people to actually practice outreach.
- Started a new Wednesday night service of Bible study & prayer in the sanctuary from 6:30-7:30: Teaching through the Gospel of Matthew.
- Preached through the book of Philippians.
- Highlighted evangelism month in August: 2 sermons focused on equipping, 2 sermons were evangelistic.
- Began preaching through the book of Hebrews. I also began adding application questions to the back of the sermon guide in hopes that the sermon will be meditated on during the week.
- Began a new men's leadership class (LEAD: Leaders, Elders & Deacons) with approximately 30 men attending.
- Started a Kinship Group in my house with approximately 16 in attendance.
- Highlighted Miracle Month in December raising \$26,524 for missions.

2013 was also a year of real physical growth. We saw the Lord save a number of people. Many came out of a background of Catholicism as well as other religions (Hindu). Both older (80+ year old couple) as well as the young came to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Overall, we were able to baptize 41, while 47 became new members. Praise the Lord!

It is a joy to serve our Lord here at Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church. I am thrilled with the staff I work alongside in the ministry. Our hope and prayer is that as we are faithful to plant and water that God will continue to give the increase here at this local ministry, (1 Cor 3:7) and our ministry will truly prove to be the church of the living God, and a pillar and buttress of the truth!

Serving Christ,
Tim Gibson
Senior Pastor

Pastor of Discipleship

Ministry Staff



As I begin this year's annual report, I want to share with you some thoughts from my personal bible study trek through the New Testament, specifically that great doxology at the end of the book of Jude...

*"Now to **him who is able** to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." (Jude 24–25, ESV)*

As you can tell by my highlights, we serve THE God, who **is able**...He is not learning this ability, nor is He becoming able, but He is able! Able to do two things in reference to His fallible, puny, sinful children, and that is, to *keep us from falling* (idea of falling away or becoming apostate), and *presenting us blameless* (qualifying us for service). He does this **through** Jesus Christ, and **for** His glory!

This truly is the impetus for ministry! So much so that the next time we feel discouraged and unqualified because of our sinful failures, we must remember it is not us who keeps us qualified, it is the eternal, sovereign God!

Therefore, as I reflect back over my fifth full year in full-time vocational ministry and look forward to what God will do in 2014, I am compelled once again to take personal inventory of what was accomplished for the Kingdom of God in 2013. 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, for he is ABLE! 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 2014, 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** (physical) and **godliness** (spiritual), 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 (emphasis mine))*

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* and *evangelism*, so that those so equipped, would do the *work of the ministry*. This *work of the ministry* was seen several times throughout 2013 with our involvement in serving at the *Bridge Ministry*, contacting newcomers, and doing benevolent service to reach the world outside our local church, and several intentional evangelistic events. 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.

In 2013, we changed our Kid's Crossing Sunday School and Children's Church material to a more gospel centered and Christ focused curriculum called *The Gospel Project*. This change has made a huge impact on both teachers and students. However, because of this change, there was also a need to change our Wednesday night children's program since the old program linked the two together. We therefore chose the AWANA program for Wednesday nights, and are thrilled to see how the Lord has used His Word in the hearts of the children involved!

For 2014, besides what has already been established in Discipleship Ministries, we plan to maximize the effectiveness of our outreach programs through our evangelism and teaching programs, and hope for a possible presence in downtown Bethlehem in order to meet physical and spiritual needs of our community. As an essential part of this, we want to develop visitation/evangelism teams to interface with the physical/spiritual needs of our community, and to visit those who have visited us. We hope to begin training these teams of people very early in 2014.

Please continue to pray and ask the Lord what part you might have in fulfilling our vision for 2014, as we continue to be challenged by our volunteer needs, especially in the children's ministries, and Adult Elective teachers. 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)

Respectfully Submitted,
Dick Bickings,
Pastor of Discipleship

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*

It seems a little strange to write this report from another office! It reminds me of how much I miss all you. I will always cherish my time at Ebenezer, serving our Lord in various ways, and having the opportunity to shepherd and minister to so many that I love dearly. You will always be in my heart.

Ebenezer has so much to be thankful for: faithful leadership that is devoted to the gospel and the passionate preaching and teaching of the precious Word of God; the faithful deacons who wonderfully provide for the physical needs of the church; and a faithful staff who work hard in the Lord. God is being glorified, saints are being edified and encouraged, and sinners are being saved.

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 Adult Electives. This past spring and fall, we looked 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 have many in our congregation who desire change for themselves and to be used in our Lord's hands to facilitate biblical change in others. It has been a blessing to teach and to watch people grow.

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 (Shawn Sommons, Byron Roth – Griefshare; Peggy Cook, Chet Lehmann – DivorceCare).

Counseling remains a vital ministry of our church. Along with me and other staff members, Ebenezer was blessed to have two godly and competent counselors: Eric Johnson and Janet Vinson, both of whom are working hard for our people. I also kept myself busy with visitation, weddings, and funerals. I consider it a privilege to represent our Lord and serve Him in this way.

On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed my work at Ebenezer, and I will always be 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 I continue with the same attitude in my new role at Ephrata Bible Fellowship Church in 2014 and beyond.

Blessings,
Jason Hoy
Pastor of Congregational Care



I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 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. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace... ~ Philippians 1:3-7, ESV

As 2013 came to a close, I was overwhelmed with a sense of fellowship and support from the students, youth families and the rest of the members of Ebenezer. Having gone through a very difficult November, I was surrounded by so many who provided prayer, encouragement, and even attended the memorial service for my brother Ben. This along with the time Preslie went in for surgery really has taught me what a close-knit body of believers looks like. I have been reminded of how deeply I appreciate Ebenezer and particularly the students and their families. We have co-labored for over 5 years now, and I have had the privilege of not only seeing students and their families through their own struggles, but have also had others see my family through struggles. This is one of the true blessings of ministering alongside of families at a church for years, and I am so thankful for God's faithfulness these last 5 years. God is good, and I look forward to what God has in this new year of ministry!

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

- The continuation of mentoring. We took a break from the official mentoring program, and yet we have seen increased mentoring through the weekly growth group times, as well as through things like Illuminite and Pray21. Through Pray21, we have even gleaned potential mentors for our new mentoring program we are launching in 2014.
- A growing awareness of a need to partner with parents and minister to them. I see this grow every year the longer we are at Ebenezer, and 2013 was no exception. I believe this will have exponential effects on our students.
- Successful, God-glorifying missions trips to Allentown (Light in the Park) and Long Neck, Delaware. Our partnership with Cedarcrest and El Faro was very enriching, and we look forward to ministering in that way again this year. Ministering with the Barnes family in Long Neck was also a great experience for our students as we saw our faith stretched and God work powerfully.
- Had an excellent Sno Glo for MS and HS where the focus of the weekend was on the book of Ephesians.
- Had a great Planet Wisdom trip where the focus was Relationships.
- Great 30 Hour Famine where several churches came together at Ebenezer to fight poverty and focus on Jesus.
- Had a great "Kickback" where we focused on "The Future"
- We began a new monthly ministry named "Illuminite", whose purpose is to reach unchurched students and give our students an opportunity to grow in leadership.
- I believe our youth staff has grown even closer through joint staff meetings, a staff retreat, and a staff training weekend (YS Palooza).
- We have continued meeting on one night (Tuesdays), and while there have been some transitional challenges, it has been a positive experience that has brought rewards despite the challenges.
- Our Invert group (student leadership) has grown through an RWR retreat and our regular meetings.
- A 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.
- In our high school ministry we studied through the books of Nehemiah, Judges and finished the book of Ephesians. We also did a video series on Living an Extraordinary Life in God's power.
- In our middle school ministry, we finished the Core Truth Curriculum studying Justice and Mercy, Loving God, and circled back to the beginning of the curriculum with our study of the Trinity - God the Father and then God the Son.
- With both our MS and HS ministry we went through the video series "Gospel Journey Maui", which taught the students how to share their faith boldly yet naturally and lovingly.
- Began a new SS curriculum called "The Gospel Project" with MS and HS.
- We are in our 2nd year with a new format for growth groups, where leaders walk through several years of ministry to a specific group of students. I believe this has opened the door for deeper mentoring.

- 3 great “Family Nights” at youth group.
- Students who have come through our student ministry and are now in college have joined us at various points in ministry to some extent or another - some with teaching, and others with mentoring/small groups. This is always an incredible blessing!
- I had the opportunity to be on a couple school campuses this past year - Nazareth High School, BCS, LVCHS, and Lehigh University
- Do pre-marital counseling with a former student and his fiancée.
- Meet with numerous teens and teen parents.

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

- Re-launch 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.
- Have a successful local mission trip to Allentown, PA as we do Light in the Park with Cedar Crest and El Faro BFC churches again. We also want to have an instrumental role in the outreach-driven VBS that Ebenezer does in the park.
- Further develop our volunteer MS and HS staff – they are the life-blood of our student ministry! We are attending a YS Training again in the beginning of May.
- 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.
- See our Illuminite ministry really become a constant place where we see unchurched teens - particularly HS students as it has been more attractive for MS students.
- 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**: the glory of God

Thank you to all those who partner with us as we seek to fulfill this high calling (my wife, youth staff, growth group leaders, Heather).

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 and youth staff, especially high school.
 - middle school girl's SS and high school SS teachers
 - Youth scholarship fund
 - PRAY!!

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Culton, Youth Pastor

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 here at EBFC due to the fact that this Facility is used quite heavily for God's kingdom work. We repainted many areas in the building and upgraded many pieces of hardware. We also upgraded some more surveillance cameras which were put to very good use immediately. We also did some other capital projects which can be reviewed on the Property Committee's annual report. We want to thank BCS for working tirelessly in pursuing grants thru the IU20 to get some more starboards and computer related items 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 25 people who served which averaged 13 hours per week. I also want to thank those of you who have volunteered to take care of the flower gardens through the "adopt-a-flowerbed" program. They added a lot of color and beauty 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, Facilities Manager

Office Administrator

Ministry Staff



It has been my pleasure to serve as the Office Administrator for 9 years now! I am grateful for a great work environment, and love helping congregants & visitors throughout the day.

General responsibilities include: reception, correspondence, newsletter, bulletin, room reservations, church sign, literature racks, graphic design, advertising, permanent records, data base admin, web site admin, copier & office equipment admin, phone system admin, online calendar admin, check writing, assisting the Senior Pastor, HR support, Prayer Requests.

Notes from 2013:

- New pictorial directory was printed in 2013 (photos taken in April, directories available by July). We are glad for new pictures of everyone, but since the photo quality wasn't very good we'll probably use a different directory company next time.
- Began creating "invite cards" for each new sermon series
- Now responsible for the Prayer Chain and Prayer Sheet
- Providing new levels of support for HR issues
- Assisting with some aspects of online giving (available in 2014)
- Attempted a database upgrade to a cloud-based system, only to realize the software had many bugs (and fees). We may try again in a year.
- Began using a web-based "Shepherd's List" that enables me to keep the pastors informed of congregational needs and address them quickly. Thanks to Pastor Dick for programming this system.
- Attended "Catalyst One-Day" conference at LCBC in November

A huge thanks to Rachel Marks, our Office Assistant who helps in nearly all aspects of this work, and to the volunteers who help with office tasks including: Norma Hall (wedding coordinator), Heather Thompson (vacation fill-in), Liza Mastronardo (bulletin stuffing).

Respectfully Submitted,
Robbin Hunsberger, Office Administrator

Kids Crossing Assistant

Ministry Staff



Kids Crossing Children's Ministry was blessed to have a productive year in 2013 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 maintaining regular contact with volunteers & parents through email & Facebook updates, department meetings, and meetings.

Once again, we found ourselves changing curriculum for all of our Sunday morning and Wednesday night programs in order to best meet the needs of our teachers and children. This was a necessity after realizing that our past Wednesday night program, FaithWeaver Friends, was not meeting the needs of kids or challenging them spiritually. We also did not have enough volunteers to properly staff the program. After much research and discussion, we decided to begin an Awana program on Wednesday nights, which promotes hands-on Bible study, Bible memory, and small groups in addition to encouraging parents to help their children learn verses at home.

We also found that the FaithWeaver material for Sunday School and Children's Church was not in-depth doctrinally and was not well-liked by teachers as the activities and lessons were not well-suited for class structure. Again after much research and discussion, we decided to change to LifeWay's new material, "The Gospel Project." Like FaithWeaver, it is a 3 year, comprehensive, chronological curriculum. In addition, however, it gives a weekly Christ Connection that ties in Jesus and redemption to each lesson, along with a Big Picture Question to help kids understand the main emphasis of the lesson. Exciting new changes for this material include allowing volunteers to view the material online at home and that the digital material is also available on the classroom Starboards. Kids love the audio visuals which include songs, visuals, and videos all relating to the Bible lesson.

Highlights of the year include opportunities for growth & service through camp retreats and drama. We sent 22 kids plus adult & teen chaperones to camp at Victory Valley for Winter Blast & Summer Day Camp. I coordinated both events for Ebenezer, delegated scholarship money, and chaperoned at Winter Blast. Several volunteers attended a children's ministry conference at Lancaster Bible College in March; we look forward to making this an annual training event. We also presented Journey to Jerusalem on Good Friday and Bethlehem & Beyond right before Christmas. I have greatly enjoyed mentoring my small group of young girls on Wednesday nights for FaithWeaver Friends and Awana; I have had several of the girls for several years since they were in 1st grade (and will greatly miss Hannah Hoy!) I also enjoyed being a small group leader at VBS in June.

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.

This past year has been a good but hard time in many ways for me and my husband Dan as we experienced God's goodness and faithfulness in the loss of our first baby who was born at 19 weeks in July while we were on the young adult beach trip in NJ. Some days and moments are harder than others, and we still covet your prayers for God to heal our hearts. We have grown together through this loss and have truly felt the power of prayer, the peace of God's presence, and the compassionate love of our church family, including many cards & meals. We do ask that you remember us in your prayers and ask God to bless us again with more babies this side of Heaven who we can raise to love the Lord with all their hearts.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Marks
Kids Crossing Assistant

Women's Ministry Coordinator

Ministry Staff



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 loved and ministered to right where they are in their walk of life. This is done by:

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.

Helping women to discover their God-given gift and find their place in ministry.

Teaching women how to reach out to other women.

Psalms 92:1,4,5 "It is good to give thanks to the Lord to sing praises to the Most High. You thrill me, Lord with all you have done for me! I sing for joy because of what you have done. O Lord, what great miracles you do!"

I am so very thankful for the opportunity to be on staff at Ebenezer 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. I have had the privilege of seeing women accept Christ as their Lord and Savior, and be a part of discipling them in their walk. This aspect of ministry is so thrilling; to see lives be changed and transformed. Leading women in Bible studies is precious time well spent. It is my favorite time and the most rewarding. This also keeps me very accountable with my own walk with Jesus. Women will only be as excited about their Savior as the one who is trying to lead them. God continues to teach me and stretch me in ways I could never have imagined. One of my goals for this coming year is to equip women to reflect godliness in their homes, work, or school. Opportunities to do this will be through a Feminine Appeal Class, She Leads 2014, and a mother/daughter conference in the Fall of 2014.

...Continued in the "Women's Ministry" report on Page 40

Worship Coordinator

Ministry Staff



This past Easter, once again we had a Sunrise Service followed by a potluck breakfast. Unfortunately, the All-Church Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins was cancelled due to poor weather. Every two months, we provide the music for a service at Fellowship Manor under the leadership of LeRoy Wilcox. This continues to be an opportunity for some of our children, youth, families, and Kinship Groups to serve the Lord with their gifts. If you are interested in participating, let me know. I continue to coordinate music for weddings, funerals, and other church events. I was happy to help out with a music "flash mob" at the Candy Carnival and play for the Women's Christmas Banquet. I also sang for the Lehigh Valley Prayer Breakfast in November. I enjoy playing the piano for the Bible Study on Wednesday nights when I am able. The New Fellowship Trio held a concert at Ebenezer for the second year in a row. It was well attended. Finally, we had approximately 15 folks from Ebenezer who participated in the BFC sponsored Getty Concert this past fall. We had a few rehearsals followed by a sold out concert performance. Those involved agreed it was a wonderful worship experience.

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

...Continued in the "Worship Ministries" report on Page 40

Current Elders and Deacons

Church Leadership

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

| 2012 - 2014 | 2013 - 2015 | 2014 - 2016 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Wayne Batten Scott Holwick | Shawn Sommons | Andy Brimer Byron Roth* |

** pending congregational approval*

The following men served on our Elder Board in 2013:

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

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

| 2012 - 2014 | 2013 - 2015 | 2014 - 2016 |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|
| Kevin Kritzberger John Romero Rob Christiansen Mark Hardy | George Hardy Joe Meier | Kamba Kalubi |

The following men served on our Deacon Board in 2013:

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

Board of Elders

Church Leadership

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

Year 2013 was a tremendous year of great blessing from the Lord. Overall, the Elder board served with great unity. Again, it is a joy to work with such godly men who are committed to the Word of God, committed to a God-centered philosophy of ministry and are deeply committed to the doctrine of God's Holy Word.

The Elders met on the second Monday of each month throughout the year. We began each meeting with prayer & devotion. Most of the meetings consisted of business of the Church. One meeting was devoted to vision casting.

In February, the elders voted "yes" to accept revisions presented by the BFC denomination to Article 21 concerning The Lord's Day, & Article 27 concerning The Kingdom of God. I believe that the revisions made were intended to provide a less legalistic spirit and restrictive understanding respectively regarding these particular articles. While these revisions are still being discussed in the denomination, our Elder board felt like the revisions were more in keeping with the spirit of the liberty, which we have in Christ concerning the Lord's Day and provided a broader umbrella for understanding eschatological concerns.

This year the Elders established the three fold purpose of the Church: **Worship of God** with our whole heart, **Build Believers** with the Word of God, and **Reach the Lost** with the Good News. We also focused more on what our vision is for our specific ministry at Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church in the Lehigh Valley. The following vision statement is the product of many months of prayer and hard work by the Elder board.

Our Vision is.....

- To be a **church** where people are transformed by the truth of God's Word.
- To be a **community** of believers unified in worship, prayer, and service.
- To be a **fellowship** of people who exercise the love of Christ for one another by our caring, sharing, and encouraging.
- To be **reaching arms** for the Gospel through individual evangelism; as well as, collectively through our efforts in counseling, Church planting, and missions.

A big item of discussion in 2013 was our commitment to help the BFC Church Plant in Forks Township under the leadership of Tim Zuck (Pastor of Saucon Valley BFC) and the special interest of Mike Capaldi, one of our own elders. It is the heart of the elders to participate financially, prayerfully and through membership as the Lord leads in 2014.

The Elders also discussed space for our ministry at EBFC at several meetings. The conclusion of our discussion was that if we need more space we are going to attempt to video stream the service into the gymnasium during the worship services (both if needed) to provide for more space during worship times as the congregation grows. While this may not be ideal, it is a method that many churches are using as an inexpensive way to fully utilize space that is available. All the logistics have not been set in place, but this is the vision that will lead us in the future if the Lord continues to grow our congregation.

The following congregational meetings were held in 2013:

- Annual Congregational Meeting – January 27
- Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting – August 18
- Congregational Budget Meeting – December 8

It is with a mixture of great joy and sadness that we see one of our pastors, Jason Hoy move to be the Senior Pastor of the Bible Fellowship Church in Ephrata, PA. Jason is a precious brother and served the Lord well during his many years at Ebenezer. We are thankful for how the Lord used Jason in the transition at Ebenezer while the Church sought a new pastor. We will always have a deep love for our brother Jason and his precious family.

I'm thankful to work alongside such godly men and anticipate a great new year in 2014. 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

The year 2013 was a good one for Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church. Our Senior Pastor, Tim Gibson provided strong leadership and powerful sermons during the year that have set the church on the right path to growth. We are thankful for the increased attendance numbers and new members who have joined Ebenezer in 2013. We have learned that with patience and trust in God that things will improve and the church will grow stronger. Faithfulness has been rewarded with a new feeling of family and friendship in our healthy church as we move forward into 2014 to build upon that new foundation.

The deacon board continues to ask each and every one of you for your continued prayers as we serve the people of Ebenezer in our many areas of responsibility. Deacons are responsible for the following items in the church: activities, benevolence, caregivers, church-school liaison, community concerns, counting, ordinances (communion and baptisms), property, security, transportation, emergency response/evacuation, and ushers. The deacons meet on the third Monday of every-other month (odd months), and do a lot of work and service in between meetings. Two of our deacons, Bob Smith and Otis Powell, have decided to step down from their deaconships at the end of 2013. We would like to thank them for their contributions to the board and their time of service. Anyone who would like to become a deacon should contact the nominating committee to relay their interest and to be taken into consideration for a deacon opening.

Remember also that under most of the deaconships listed above there are committees formed which help the responsible deacon carry out the ministry. We would be glad to have you volunteer to serve on one of these committees if your heart is drawn to do so. This allows you to serve your church in a positive way and to become more involved in the sense of community that being a volunteer offers. If you have more interest in any one of the deacon ministries please contact one of the deacons to let them know your interest in serving.

The deacons were able to accomplish many tasks due to your faithful tithing and we ask that you continue to tithe so other projects can be completed to make the church more functional. We praise the congregation for their continued faithfulness in contributing to the benevolence fund which has enabled the committee to assist many worthy recipients. Without your support we would not be able to financially assist those in need. So again thank you all and God Bless you all.

1 Peter 4:10-11 - Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve other, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

In His Service,
Bruce Eckel
Chairman of Deacon Board



Activities Committee

Deacon Ministry

The Activities committee is here to promote fun and fellowship. We especially see this as a need in a church our size since we understand that it is hard to get to know so many 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 family.

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 basketball, floor hockey, and ultimate Frisbee (coordinated by young adults). This year we have continued our partnership with Athletes for Christ for boys and girls basketball and soccer programs. Another program which was started with this partnership was the ladies ZUMBA fitness class. All of their programs are designed to have an emphasis not only on physical strengthening and sport knowledge but spiritual growth as well. We look forward to these programs growing and the impact on the lives it is touching.

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 would like to serve on this committee.

Committee Members:

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

For His Glory,
Kevin Kritzberger,
Chairman



Adult Electives

Discipleship Ministry

Adult Electives are our Adult classes that are offered at 10:05am Sunday mornings. On average we have around 120 people regularly attending these teaching sessions. 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.

Review of 2013:

In 2013 we held 15 classes, with three of them being 'extended' offerings covering two or more semesters to provide more depth to the study. In addition we provided training in evangelism and training for Kinship leaders. One of the newest features was that we recorded and posted most of the classes and materials (those with no copyright issues) on the church's website.

| Spring | Summer 1 | Summer 2 | Fall |
|--|--|--|--|
| Revelation (Part 2 of 3) Romans (Part 2 of 3) How People Change OT Survey | Revelation (Part 3 of 3) Romans (Part 3 of 3) Kinship Leader Training Micah | Names of God The Reformation Kinship Leader Training | Acts (Part 1 of 2) Evangelism Training Putting Your Beliefs to the Test Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands |

Planning 2014:

As we began planning for 2014 we were looking to improve on the following items:

- Training of additional teachers
- Looking to maintain multiple offerings of different levels.
- Continue offering extended classes for larger books and greater depth.
- Offering only one summer session instead of two short ones.

In addition, we have established the following tentative schedule for 2014:

| Spring 2014 Jan 12—April 27 | Summer 2014 May 18—Aug 24 | Fall 2014 Sept 7—Dec 14 |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Acts Part 2 of 2) Joshua John | Living by the Book Ezekiel (Part 1 of 3) NT (TBD) | Basic Beliefs Ezekiel (Part of 3) Numbers/Deuteronomy (1 of 2) NT (TBD) |

Thanks to the following teachers who diligently work to study God's Word in order to provide it to the congregation each Sunday morning:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Dick Bickings | Jason Hoy |
| Mike Capaldi | Joe Maddock |
| Scott Holwick | Richard Mastronardo |

Lastly, thank you to all who regularly attend the Adult Electives. All of us are humbled by your trust in us, and are very thankful for the opportunities to assist everyone in growing to be more like our Lord Jesus.

In His Service,
Richard Mastronardo,
Leader of Adult Electives



Assimilation

Elder Ministry

Over the past year we have continued to develop and work on ways to help people get better acquainted with Ebenezer: who we are as a local body, what we believe, and how they can better connect with people so they truly feel like they belong. Currently, the two components of this process are Welcome Desserts and Networking. For the coming year, we are discussing how to connect and follow-up with people in additional ways, and we are also looking at incorporating Networking as part of the membership process.

Welcome Desserts:

Welcome Desserts are intended to be held once per quarter but were only held one time this past year. These gathering are an informal time where a smaller group can learn more about the church and meet others. This is also a way for us to find out how to better serve people and how we can present ways to connect them.

Thanks to Luz Forero for contributing her time and skill in crafting invitations, and to the Maderas family for opening their home.

Networking:

“The Right People in the Right Places for the Right Reasons” is a concept we should all keep in the forefront of our minds as we continue to work out where God has called us to serve uniquely 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 2013, one Discovery Session was held. If you have not yet been through the Network Discovery Session, please prayerfully consider attending one in 2014. 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

Deacon Ministry

We want to heartily thank the members and attendees of EBFC who contributed \$29,617.21 to the Benevolence Fund this year. The Benevolence Committee approved and distributed \$21,268.82 to those in need both inside and outside our congregation. At the end of December 2013, we had a balance of \$14,391.3 in the Benevolence Fund. In 2013, EBFC gave financial assistance to many families.

Besides helping out financially, we have provided financial counseling on several occasions. 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 2013 we again gave out over \$1,300 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.

The members of EBFC and the Benevolence Committee are following God's principle that he laid out for His chosen people in Leviticus 23: 22 "And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God."

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 both current and past 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.

Benevolence Committee Members:

Bruce Eckel, Kevin Kritzberger, Eric & Maria Sherer,
Steve & Diann McDaniel, Keith Beyer, Joe Meier

In Christ,
Joe Meier, Chairman



Bridge Ministry

Deacon Ministry

The Bridge Ministry is a blessing for approx. 80-100 people every Wednesday evening, providing a message, food, warmth and fellowship to the poor and homeless in the Easton/Philipsburg area. Ebenezer hosts once per month by providing the food and message. During the past 6 months we have also been blessed to provide worship with The Fellowship Trio and with some worship leaders donating their talent as well. Ebenezer has also provided a new microwave and helped purchase food through the benevolence and missions funds. We have about a dozen volunteers who either come to help make and serve our meal or donate the food. Some have donated money for supplies and other needs. A few women have volunteered when we needed food to be precooked (cooking it at their homes so all we had to do was transport it the Bridge). We are getting to know 'the regular attendees' better, and opportunities are abounding for those who wish to share the gospel. We are very grateful for those who are involved in this ministry, but please pray that God would provide more hearts willing to donate food as this is the area of most need. Also pray that the Lord would open hearts to the gospel.

All for HIS Glory
John Romero



Caregivers

Deacon Ministry

The Caregivers ministry is focused on serving widows, widowers and single parents within our church family. During the 2013 year, Caregiver volunteers have served several members through planned visitations and completed some yard maintenance for some of our shut-ins. We also met with Pastor Jason on occasion to discuss any applicable needs and pray for our church body. As in the past, our requests to serve congregants have come from referrals from pastors, Kinship leaders, fellow church members, as well as the prayer request updates.

I continue to talk to others about the vision of Caregivers in serving those in need. We are looking forward to the Lord's direction in this ministry for 2014. We are open to the direction in which this ministry goes with the void left by Pastor Jason's departure. We continue to seek servants available to meet the needs and walk alongside 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.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Christiansen,
Chairman of Caregivers



College Ministry

Discipleship Ministry

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." James 4:13-15

This passage has been on our minds this past semester as we wrapped up a great study on understanding and seeking the will of God. In so many ways, the world [and sin] have distracted us from fully seeking our Lord and Savior and going hard after Him.

The college and career age (18-23) can be such an age of "tinkering" in today's culture. This fall, during the Sunday school hour, we read through the book, "Just Do Something" by Kevin DeYoung, pastor of University Reformed Church in Michigan. We were challenged to move beyond "tinkering" and press on toward the goal as Paul instructs. Each week we dove into much scripture that really pushed us to continually seek the Lord in whatever we do and be transformed into His likeness. It's been such a blessing to hear from the hearts of these young adults as they earnestly desire to glorify the Lord through all of the decisions that are before them.

Earlier in the year we finished up our study of Genesis. The beauty of going straight through this book was seeing how the sovereignty of God is so evident and how faithful He is through all of the messiness. He continually chose to use broken vessels in His plan which is so relevant to us today and also quite humbling.

Several times throughout the year, we also enjoyed trips to Dunkin Donuts for some breakfast, fellowship and prayer.

This fall, Sam Eatmon and I were blessed to discuss, with Pastor Mark, about new ways to continually reach out to the college age and also better integrate these young adults into our church body. We decided that monthly lunches at the homes of our church family would be a great opportunity to encourage fellowship and build relationships within the church body. A few families have already come forward and offered to host. Please let us know if you're interested in hosting as well. At this point, it would most likely only be a handful of students. Secondly, with the blessing of the elders, this semester we will be attending an adult elective together during the Sunday school hour instead of holding a separate class. We believe this may be good to have the young adults learn alongside older adults and this could give older adults the opportunity to glean insights from a younger generation's perspective as well. At the end of the semester, we'll meet to evaluate how this integrated process is going. Lastly, we are striving to engage more actively with the high school seniors as we seek to develop relationships with them and pray for them as many of them head off to college each fall.

Please continue to pray for new opportunities to reach out to these young adults within our church body and the surrounding area. It is such a transitional point in their lives and being tightly woven within a solid church body is so vital in their walks with the Lord.

In His Service,
Kevin Hardy
(For the leaders: Kevin Hardy and Sam & Christy Eatmon
(who recently moved to North Carolina, we will miss them!))



Children's Ministry: Kids Crossing

Discipleship Ministry

Awana:

This year Ebenezer transitioned from the FaithWeaver Friends program to Awana. The name Awana comes from the phrase "approved workmen are not ashamed" from 2 Timothy 2:15. In other words believers are eager to share the good news of the gospel, and that's what Awana is all about.

Founded in 1950, Awana is a ministry that helps parents and churches raise children and youth to know, love, and serve Christ using:

- Fully integrated programs
- The best Evangelism tools to reach unsaved children, youth and families
- Teaching that builds an enduring biblical faith
- Resources that bring churches and parents together to disciple the next generation
- Irresistible fun for children, teens and adults alike

The Five Principles

Awana is centered on the gospel
Scripture memory is key
Awana is fun and exciting
Children and youth are trained to serve
Awana is built on strong leadership

From preschool to middle school, children and youth have fun playing age appropriate games, memorizing Bible verses in an organized, topical system and participating in large-group Bible teaching.

We have three age specific groups comprising of Cubbies for ages 3-4, Sparks for Kindergarten through 2nd grade, and T&T for 3rd through 5th grade. We start and end our Wednesday evenings in a large group setting, but break the children into small gender-specific groups for activities and mentoring. We currently minister to 100 children in the preschool – 5th grade age group.

This program would not be possible without the commitment of adult and teen leaders. We have been blessed to have 20 adult leaders and 10 teens to mentor the children and run the activity centers. It is with a humble and loving heart that we thank you for all the support in prayer and participation.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Lissy, Commander



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 20 through May 12, 2013.

23 children successfully completed the Bible Memory Program this year. Nineteen of the children chose the \$35.00 Hackman's Bible Book Store gift certificate as their award. One 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.

This year there were five more children who completed the program than last year. 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.

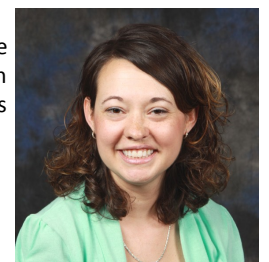
In His Service,
Lori Bernhardt and Robin Laudenslager



Children's Church:

The Children's Church program continues to provide regular classes for children ages 4-Kindergarten. In the fall, we began using the worship segment of "The Gospel Project" material by LifeWay. Volunteers serve on an 8 week rotation where they teach for 2 weeks and have 6 weeks off. 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.

As seems to be the norm, just when we think we have enough volunteers, we find ourselves needing to recruit more workers. We have had several adult volunteers step down this year. But God has provided and we currently have a full team of very qualified and gifted teachers. We are so thankful for the parents and young adults who have stepped into various positions. In the past, we also had several teens who volunteered in this ministry; however, they all have had to step down due to starting college or for other various reasons. We would love to have more teens become a part of serving and building relationships with younger children.

In the fall, we began using “The Gospel Project” material by LifeWay. We enjoy its chronological, comprehensive approach that builds continuity between the various age groups, along with a weekly “Christ Connection” that ties in the themes of Christ and redemption throughout the entire Bible. We have heard great things from teachers and parents who have said that kids truly understand the material and what they learned each week.

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



Early Childhood:

During 2013, the Early Childhood Department was able to bless and minister to approximately 22 EBFC families and 15 visiting families with children aged 2-3 years old. During our time together, children play, read stories and enjoy time with each other and our volunteers. We worship God through lively songs and hymns. We spend time in prayer, Scripture reading and memorization. Starting in September with our Promotion Sunday, we were able to open our room during the second service time. We are now available during both services and the Sunday School hour. Praise the Lord for faithful and available believers who volunteered to serve and bless these families! Along with the Cross Time Sunday School classes, we also changed our curriculum to “The Gospel Project” by Lifeway Church Resource.

As always, I am truly blessed and thankful for all the volunteers (13 adults and 4 youth) who continue to give their time and open their hearts to these precious children and their growing relationship with Jesus.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Christiansen



Nursery:

It has been my pleasure to minister as the nursery coordinator again this year. 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 have a successful ministry like nursery. We currently have 30 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



Community Concerns

Deacon Ministry

I accepted the Community Concerns area as a new deacon in 2012. I was given an overview of specifics of the job and what had been done in the past. As my term 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). My replacement will need more advice on what organizations are to be supported. Guidelines are needed for addressing the various organizations requesting help and needed budget.

Care Net

Ministry Leader – Sandy Barron

The Baby Bottle Campaign was held this summer in support of Care Net. Empty baby bottles were distributed, and people were asked to return them in several weeks filled with change/cash/checks. We were not asked to sponsor a table at the Care Net Gala this year, so this dedicated \$350 expense was not consumed from the budget. Blessings to Sandy & others who aid in this ministry.

Manna Ministry

Ministry Leader – Margie Cruz

This ministry picks up the day-old bread & pastries from nearby bakeries, and provides them free of charge to local people in need. Margie Cruz assumed the job as ministry leader mid-year. We worked to solve some problems including schedule, volunteer staff-staffing, target audience, food quality, sanitation, security, etc. Many of these problems were resolved and we were able to make bread available in the church lobby for much of the year (usually on Tuesdays & Wednesdays). However, due to a lack of volunteers, we are no longer able to provide bread at the church. However, we do still pick it up from the bakeries deliver it to New Bethany Ministry and other local soup kitchens several times a week. Blessings to Margie and her helpers.

Thanksgiving Food Collection

Ministry Leaders – Prime Timers

Canned and dry food was collected again this year and transported to the Bethlehem Salvation Army Food Bank. This year 120 items were collected which when added to the previous total equals over 9000 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 activity was suspended due to low interest on the part of the congregation.

Blood Drive

Ministry Leaders – Bob Smith & Frank Homme

At Franklin Homme's request, we attempted to resume holding blood drives at Ebenezer. The hope was to have a blood drive at the church on a Sunday after second service. However, Miller-Keystone wanted a guarantee of at least 20 pints of blood. Based on our history we have never donated that much, and so I declined the request.

St. Luke's Visiting Nurses Christmas Gift Tree

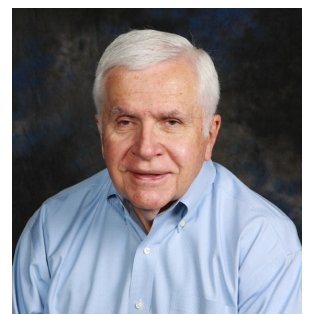
Ministry Leader – Bob Smith/Prime Timers

For several years Ebenezer has helped the Visiting Nurses provide Christmas gifts for children of at-risk families in the Lehigh Valley. Children's first names & ages are provided on gift tags that hang on a Christmas tree in the church foyer. Congregants are encouraged to take a tag and bring back a gift for the child and place it under the tree. We recommend giving an age-appropriate book and an educational toy. We are grateful for the 44 gifts that were provided and the children who were blessed by them. However, we were discouraged that 11 tags were taken with no gifts provided. Blessings to Robbin for creating the gift tags.

Nancy Run Fire Company

Ministry Leader – Bob Smith

\$150 was sent to the Nancy Run Fire Company in support of their fund raising goals.



Respectfully submitted,
Bob Smith
Deacon Community Service

Counting

Deacon Ministry

The counting crew for 2013 consisted of five teams of two members each. One team counted each Sunday during the year and also during special services on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Their hard work and dedication was very much appreciated in this important ministry. The year was bittersweet as we had three counters resign. However, four new volunteers stepped forward to offer their services and the procedure moved forward with hardly a ripple.

I thank each and every one of the counters for their service and pray that 2014 will be a glorious one for the church. I also thank each and every one of the congregation for their tithes during the year as this is what keeps the church functioning and the counting crews busy. Please continue to keep the counting crews busy in 2014.

Deuteronomy 14:22 - Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.

For His Kingdom,
Bruce Eckel
Counting Deacon



Evangelism

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 our lives. This year we added "The Way Of The Master" evangelistic training, which purports to evangelize the way Jesus did in the New Testament, and were greatly encouraged by the number who attended the class. The emphasis of both evangelistic tools is that evangelism is not an event, but a lifestyle. We are commanded by our Lord to make disciples (Matt. 28:18-20), wherever we are, whatever we're doing. We know God is sovereign and He shows his faithfulness in the outreach we do. Those who share the love of Christ in the communities that surround us are certainly being obedient to God. Our goal at Ebenezer is that all who strive to obey our Lord's command will be able to find the encouragement and resources to help, ultimately knowing that it is the power of the Holy Spirit in us that guides and directs. If anyone is in need of learning materials or Gospel tracks 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 bringing many opportunities. Some include personal sharing with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Other opportunities include serving in ministries such as The Bridge, CareNet, Candy Carnival, Athletes for Christ, prison ministry, nursing home ministry, Young Life, and so many others. We are also seeking a presence in downtown Bethlehem where we can meet both physical and spiritual needs. This year's Candy Carnival experienced over 500 in attendance and an intentional presentation of the Gospel was given to all who attended. We plan to extend our Children's VBS ministry to the Pembroke, Bethlehem area sometime this summer, as we have been invited to do so. Please pray for what part you might play in these evangelistic "events".

We have been blessed by many opportunities to serve not only individually, but also together. We 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,
Dick Bickings,
Pastor of Discipleship



Greeters

Elder Ministry

The Greeting Ministry has expanded to accommodate the needs of our growing church. As many as 25 Greeters serve monthly, depending on the number of Sundays and special events.

Visitors continually request current information regarding our church. Our Welcome Packets include much of the information they are seeking, and we are handing out approximately 3-4 packets weekly.

Greeters' responsibilities are to serve once monthly by welcoming at the front doors, staffing the Welcome Center, assisting with signing up for events, orienting newcomers to classrooms, answering members' questions regarding current activities, and displaying the warmth and care of Jesus Christ through their faithfulness.

Over 1,000 individually wrapped chocolates were given as a gift at Valentine's, Easter and Christmas, and were very well received!

Please stop by the Welcome Center, we'd love to help you, and you will help us to 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.

In 2013, there were 262 involved in 14 Kinship Groups, 173 adults and 89 children. These groups were 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, Shawn Sommons, Chris Jones, Scott Holwick, Shawn VanDoren, Andy Meeks, and Tim Gibson.

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 2014, 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

Laura Harris joined the BCS staff as Principal in January 2013. She has over twenty years' experience in education as a classroom teacher and reading specialist. Laura was also a program developer at the reading research center at the University of Texas and has been a national reading consultant.

The 2013 – 2014 enrolment in grades K – 4 is 99, and Pre-School enrollment is 37. New additions for this school year include a second Kindergarten class meeting half-day (during the mornings), and Spanish language classes are being taught one day per week for grades K – 4. One teacher teaches reading on a specialized, small group basis to grades 2, 3 and 4. An additional electronic Star Board was provided by the school and installed in Room 16 to serve the am Kindergarten class.

As of Sept 2013, there are 10 teachers, all of whom are certified by the PA Department of Education. There is also a support / administration staff of 6 and approximately 15 volunteers who help in classrooms and kitchen/serving room for snacks and lunch.

Both the School and Church continue to work well together with no major issues. Kevin Kritzberger and Laura Harris continue to do an excellent job in handling any problems before they became issues. I would personally like to thank the entire Liaison Committee who continue to work together for God's Glory.

2013 Committee Members: Otis Powell, Sharon Kritzberger, Kevin Kritzberger, Bob Smith, Steve McDaniel, Pastor Dick Bickings

Respectfully Submitted,
Otis Powell, Chairman of Liaison Committee



Library

Discipleship Ministry

The Ebenezer Growth Garden Library is honored to be entering its 27th year of ministry to the Ebenezer church family.

In 2013, the Library was able to purchase about \$1,700 worth of supplies, books, DVDs, and audios for children, teens and adults. The library strives to maintain a selection of the newest Christian materials that appeal to all ages and levels of spiritual maturity, while staying true to the articles of faith.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, we were able to purchase new user friendly computer software that will expedite the modernization of the library. This generous donation not only went to new software, but to system upgrades that will streamline future modernization.

Our church families continue to take advantage of our Sunday hours to browse and borrow from our selection. We have made an effort to make the library as child-friendly as possible, providing a space furnished especially for our smallest patrons.

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 anyone can come and find resources to help their spiritual growth or just relax and read a good book. 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 and see what we are all about.

Our library staff is comprised of 12 wonderful volunteers, including our newest, Pam Reinholz. Without all of these giving and faithful people we would not be able to have such a successful library. We truly depend on each other. As a team, volunteers are taking on more work than in previous years, and now have a more equal distribution of responsibilities.

This coming year brings changes to our staff. Effective January 2014, Maria Sherer will step down as library chairperson, and Nancy Murphy will assume this role. Maria will remain on as a team member.

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. The Ebenezer Growth Garden Library is waiting for you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria Sherer and Nancy Murphy



Membership and Discipline

Elder Ministry

We thank the Lord that 2013 was another year for many to seek membership in our church. We held 3 membership classes throughout the year with approximately 57 in attendance.

- 428 Members as of 01/01/13
- 396 Members as of 12/31/13 (not including children, since minimum age for membership is 16 years)
- 546 Average Sunday Attendance for 2013 (including children)

During 2013:

- 47 Members Added
- 76 Members Dropped (moved, transferred to another church, or no attendance for over a year)
- 41 Baptisms
- 6 Child Dedications
- 4 Weddings: Brian & Erin Harris, Zach & Lora Roberts, Adam & Jessica Whitmer, Charles & Linda Brooks
- 3 Funerals: Elfriede Penchick, Robert Zettle-moyer, Dorothy Hagenbuch. We will miss all of them dearly.
- 494 First-Time Visitors
- 80 Visitor Letters Sent

This brings our membership total to 396 at the end of 2013. God is still building his church here at Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church; the evidences are everywhere. One note of interest regarding the members dropped...beginning in 2012, we began to send out letters to all members who had not attended for a year or more, and depending on their response, we either did or did not drop them from membership. So the number you see there is a result of the response we received from them. 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.

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 (Jan-May, 2013) & Tuesday evenings (Oct-Nov, 2013) – "The Bethel Series" (for men & women), taught by Jason Lee
 - ◇ Thursday mornings – 6:15 am, currently studying the book *What is Providence?* by Derek W.H. Thomas, 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 have worked through their own internal struggles and have emerged as victorious, spiritual leaders. This year, the Lord opened an exciting opportunity to teach BattleZone for the first time in Northampton County Prison, where we were able to encourage, train, and disciple 4 incarcerated men.
- 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, "Servant Leadership," from which we were given several opportunities to implement what we learned.
- 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



Missions Committee

Elder Ministry

Committee Members:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Carol Barry | Doug Chen |
| Felicia Bauder | Marianne Gable |
| Wayne Batten, chairman | Shelley Penchick |
| Tom Carlstrom | John Romero |

Committee Meetings:

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

2013 Missionary Support Through Budget Giving:

Bible Fellowship Church Board of Missions:

| | |
|---|----------|
| BFCBOM Administrative Support | 2,400.00 |
| Davies, Larry and Michelle - Czech Republic | 4,000.00 |
| Elias, John and Karen – Lehigh Valley | 2,400.00 |
| Ethnic Church Planting | 1,600.00 |
| Head, Jim and Lynne - World Team | 7,000.00 |
| Knaub, Kim - Tanzania | 1,200.00 |
| Koval, Kyle and Rebecca – Team Expansion, Ancona, Italy | 3,600.00 |
| Masessa, Becky - Tanzania | 4,800.00 |
| Missionary Retirement Fund | 2,200.00 |
| Moyer, Duane and Joetta - Guadeloupe | 3,200.00 |
| Pastoral Scholarship Initiative | 2,792.00 |
| Reyes, Art and Vickie - Mexico | 6,500.00 |
| Riddell, David and Rebecca - France | 7,480.00 |
| Solt, Lillian - Costa Rica | 5,720.00 |
| Weller, Dana and Lanette - Director BFCBOM | 2,400.00 |
| Widman, Scott and Joanna - North Ireland | 3,000.00 |
| Ziegenfuss, Carrie - Tanzania, | 4,800.00 |
| Weinhofer, Colby and Theresa | 1,200.00 |

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: (Not from the BFC Board of Missions)

| | |
|---|----------|
| Albright, Dick and Pat - Fellowship International Mission | 2,100.00 |
| Bovard, John and Joanie - Youth for Christ | 2,300.00 |
| Carenet Lehigh Valley | 4,800.00 |
| Child Evangelism Fellowship - Benjamin Triestman | 2,000.00 |
| Fodale, Mark and Shannon - Disciple Makers | 2,250.00 |
| Hanna, Ed and Christy - CRU | 6,000.00 |
| Napier, Al and Nancy - Italy | 8,300.00 |
| Poysti, David and Ute - European Christian Mission | 3,400.00 |
| 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 |

Missions Giving through Faith Promise:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Bruce and Heather Beal – Wycliffe, housing repairs | 1,000.00 |
| Matt and Kristy Messick – World Venture, general support | 5,000.00 |
| David and Ute Poysti – European Christian Mission, relocation expense | 1,000.00 |
| Duane and Joetta Moyer – World Team, residence card expense | 740.00 |
| Colby and Theresa Weinhofer – Pioneers, under support | 1,500.00 |
| Ed and Christy Hanna – CRU, leadership training | 2,000.00 |
| John and Karen Elias – BFC Board of Missions, under support | 2,400.00 |
| Ramabai Mutki Mission – India, orphan ministry | 2,400.00 |
| Bridge Ministry – microwave oven | 253.34 |
| Jamie Zackavitch – Coalition for Christian Outreach, general support | 1,200.00 |
| Matt and Erin Kay – CRU, Lehigh Valley, general support | 1,200.00 |
| Victory Valley, support for Isaac Hoyle and Sara MacLachlan | 800.00 |
| Pinebrook Bible Conference – room renovations | 2,600.00 |
| CareNet Banquet | 400.00 |
| Philippines Relief Fund | 100.00 |
| Lillian Solt - CEDCAS, Disaster Relief and financial shortfall | 2,500.00 |
| Al and Nancy Napier – Navigators, Italy, emergency travel and housing | 2,550.00 |
| Missionary Encouragement – checks to 24 of our missionaries | 2,400.00 |
| Short Term Mission Trips: | |
| Erik Carlstrom – Athletes in Action, Moldova | 500.00 |
| Joe and Ruth Meier – Partners in Evangelism, Russia | 1,000.00 |
| CEDCAS – Costa Rica Team | 4,330.00 |
| Dominican Republic Team – building materials | 1,000.00 |

Missions Giving through Miracle Month:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Additional offering was given in December 2012 and disbursed in January 2013 | 40,820.00 |
|--|-----------|

Missions Emphasis 2013 – March 10 & 17

- Worship – Special speakers Pastor Bert Baker, Newark NJ, and Dr. Fred Clark, Director of World Impact, Newark, NJ, gave presentations during the worship service.
- Sunday School – Adult classes heard presentations by Mark and Elizabeth Hoyle, missionaries to France; Chip DLeon, minister with Bridge, Easton PA; Dr. Fred Clark, World Impact, Newark NJ. Our youth grades 6-12 heard presentations by David Day, Navigators; and Al Terhune, “Takin it 2 the Streets.” Our children grades 3-5 heard presentations by the Ebenezer Dominican Republic Team; and Joe & Ruth Meier, short-term missionaries to Russia. Our children age 4 – grade 2 heard presentations by Joe & Ruth Meier, short-term missionaries to Russia; and Ben Trietsman, Child Evangelism Fellowship.
- Evening – An all-church international potluck dinner was enjoyed along with brief presentations from EBFC members involved in various ministries in our community.
- One-Day Missions – Special one-day mission opportunities for anyone to volunteer were also made available with International Friendship Program at Lehigh University, World Impact in Newark NJ, and CareNet of the Lehigh Valley.

Special Presentations:

Throughout the year, presentations were made during combined Adult Elective classes by:

- Matt and Kristy Messick, appointees to Ecuador
- Tanzania Team: Carrie Ziegenfuss, Becky Masessa, Kim Knaub, and National Pastor Emmanuel Shilikali
- Larry and Michelle Davies, Czech Republic
- Robert Vargo, Shoe Box Gifts, Montenegro
- Jim and Lynn Head, World Team



Respectfully Submitted
Wayne Batten, Chairman
For the Missions Committee

Ordinances

Deacon Ministry

Communion:

We had 12 communion services in 2013 and everything went as planned. Deacons, Elders and Ushers worked hard to make everything run smoothly and they showed enthusiasm and availability to serve. Claire and Jim Earnest have been a good help with the preparation of the elements. I would like to take this time to say thank you to them for all the help.

Baptism:

We had 5 baptism services in 2013, with 41 people being baptized. Sunday August 18, was especially memorable as Pastor Tim Gibson baptized 10 believers with "all glory to God."

In 2012, the Ordinance Committee expressed the need for towels that could be used by those being baptized. We gratefully received 2 bags full of towels this year, and we would like to take this time to say thank you to everyone who donated. Ricardo Maderas has been a great help cleaning after baptism, and we would like to say thanks to him as well. In 2013, George Hardy purchased a new baptism gown.

Looking forward, the Ordinance Committee is in dire need of replacing our baptism gowns, which are originals and were made by a former member and donated to the church. Each new gown would cost around \$100 to purchase. Ebenezer Bible Fellowship is a big community with people of different talents and hobbies - we would welcome and love to see a current member donate their time and sewing talents to help meet this need.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Kamba M Kalubi,
Ordinance Committee Chairman



Pastoral Relations Committee

Elder Ministry

The 2013 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 2013:

- Recommended and facilitated a recognition event for Pastor Dick Bickings' ordination as a pastor in the Bible Fellowship Church denomination.
- Facilitated the formal evaluation for Pastor Tim Gibson & Pastor Jason Hoy for the BFC ordination process.
- Met with the Pastors individually to encourage them and to understand their needs.
- Updated the maternity leave policy and published the changes in the employee handbook.
- Sanctioned an HR audit by a third-party (HR for Hire Inc.) to ensure that our employment policies and procedures are compliant with the requisite laws and made necessary changes/improvements.
- Provided input and recommendations for the 2014 compensation budget.
- Facilitated the addition of Pastor Mark Culton to the pension plan.
- Processed the resignation of Pastor Jason Hoy, which was approved by the congregation and BFC denomination.

If you have any questions or would like additional details about any of these activities, please contact any member of this committee.

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, Dick and Mark throughout the year.

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



Prime Timers

Deacon Ministry

Committee at Year-End:

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Bob and Hazel Smith | Ron and Pat DiStefano | Otis Powell |
| Gordon Baker | 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.

Lunches – Monthly lunches were attended by an average of 30 people. Lunch programs included a presentation on Plants in the Bible, the Lehigh Canal, Lunch with Lucy, and a tour of the Sigal Museum in Easton. The June picnic was held at Louise Moore Park with 45 attending. Our Christmas Dinner had 67 attending with a wonderful program by Kim Darst and her Iditarod experiences and raising the race dogs.

Special Events – We held one theme dinner (Oktoberfest) and four movie nights/lunches with an average of 30-35 each movie night. Forty people attended the dinner theater held at Hunterdon Hills. The Iron Pigs baseball game on Faith night on July 18 was well attended by 50 people. Our yearly trip to Shady Maple was attended by 30 where we enjoyed their wonderful buffet.

Service Projects – Activity continues in this important area.

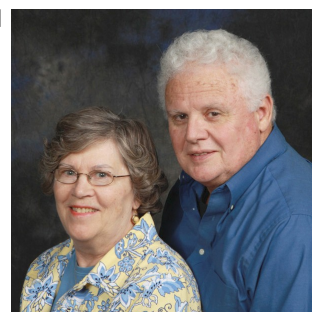
- Prime Timer Care bears – 3 delivered along with a visitation
- Samaritan's Purse – 383 shoe boxes were wrapped, and gifts for boys and girls were collected for world distribution. We had 3 wrapping parties with PTers and other congregants along with a final OCC packing and wrapping luncheon with the youth which was very well attended.
- Wheels for the World – Wheel chairs, walkers, and metal crutches were collected and shipped.
- Stitches of Love – A group of active knitters and sewers meet monthly. Donated materials are shared among the knitters and other volunteers. Items made in 2013 were 69 scarves, 188 baby hats, 9 baby sweaters, 5 sets of gloves/mittens, 20 dresses for children, 1 vest, 4 baby blankets, 4 buntings, and 1 shawl. Also sent to an Indian reservation were 3 sewing machines. The women plan to visit and teach the Native Americans how to use the machines as well as teaching them to knit. Items were donated to the military, missions, hospitals, Bridge Ministry, and Lehigh County abused children and women.
- Clothing Drives – Over 230 large bags of clothing were collected and transported to New Bethany Church in Allentown.
- Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive – 220 items were delivered to the Salvation Army in Bethlehem
- St. Luke's Visiting Nurse Association gifts for children of at-risk families –A total of 44 Christmas gifts were donated and delivered to the St. Lukes visiting nurses .

We are planning many activities for 2014:

- Group tickets have been reserved for an Iron Pigs baseball game on Thursday, July 17.
- DeSales show and dinner will be on April 23rd for "The Music Man"
- 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. God bless you!

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 and Wayne Batten

Some of the projects completed this year were:

- Excavating work was done at the parsonage and on the north side of the church
- The parking lot cracks and curbing were sealed.
- A used convection oven was donated by Lehigh Country Club and installed by Kevin Kritzberger and Otis Powell
- The HVAC unit in room 8 was replaced with two wall mounted mini-split units (This installation work was done with donated labor from Jim McMahon, Gary Young and Otis Powell and saved the church over \$2000 in installation costs.)

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 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
George Hardy
Property Committee Chairman



Safety: Security/First Aid

Deacon Ministry

We had a couple of situations this past year with theft at the church and school. These all were handled with urgency and respect. Again, I would like to remind everyone, we must continue to keep our eyes open when we are in the church building, whether as an usher or for any other reason, to protect our brothers and sisters in Christ. All first aid boxes have been updated and are checked periodically.

All for HIS Glory,
John Romero



Technology

Elder Ministry

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 Lord and his church 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, growing church

In 2014: We will continue to help our staff serve our Lord by providing an efficient, reliable and secure computer network, both wired and WiFi. 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 2013 was approximately the same as in 2012. The need(s) 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.

Maintenance

- **Mini-Bus** [2008 Ford Omnibus, assembled by Eldorado National]: The tires had been showing increasing signs of dry rotting and cracking since early summer 2012. Due to the visibly deepening side-wall cracks, we decided to replace the tires in March. All 6 tires were replaced, for a total cost of \$936; mounting, balancing, and alignment were included. The front left side-marker light bulb, was also replaced.
- **Van** [2011 Ford E-350 Super Duty XLT]: In 2013, for a cost of \$210, Horizon Signs (company we used for the Mini-Bus logo/lettering) was hired to add the church name and logo to the rear quarter panels of the new van. The committee decided to go with a smaller version of the font/lettering used on the mini-bus, and decided to include only the name and logo - no maroon stripe or website lettering. This was done in part, due to anticipation that the church's logo may be changed in the near future.

Thanks to Kevin Kritzberger, and Swannie Griffin for their service in 2013.

Mark Hardy
Transportation Chairman



Ushers

Deacon Ministry

Again, I would like to thank all Head Ushers and Ushers who serve this congregation. Your dedication goes above and beyond the duties of your positions from helping seat people to sharing and welcoming all. I have heard of some wonderful situations where ushers shared the gospel and introduced new families to the Pastors. A big thank you for working together and caring about the needs of others.

We still have a need for new ushers. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact one of the Head Ushers and I will get the message and get back to anyone interested.

All for HIS Glory,
John Romero



Women's Ministry

Discipleship Ministry

Women's Ministry is blessed with a great ministry team of women. Our leadership team consists of Coordinators and a few Ministry Partners. We meet together every month to pray over this ministry and discuss how we can meet the needs of women. 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 Leader: Laura Sommons (staff position)
Hospitality: Debbie Flannigan (ministry partner: Lisa Pyles)
Team Members: Amy Hardy, Alyssa Nye, Dawn Blackton
Secret Sisters: Debbie Flannigan and Felicia Bauder
MOPS Coordinator: Alyssa Nye

Women's Bible Studies:

In 2013 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:

Fall/Winter: Bethel Series OT led by Peggy Brimer
Winter/Spring: Bethel Series NT led by Gail Tshudy
Jan - April: "Missing Pieces " by Jennifer Rothschild: led by Laura Sommons and Vicki Cowley
Summer Session: DVD series of our favorite speakers led by Laura Sommons, Melissa Griffin, Vicki Cowley
Fall: "Discerning The Voice of God" by Priscilla Shirer, led by Vicki Cowley and Laura Sommons
Job: A Character Study: Led by Debbie Flannigan
Bible Study Fellowship: Mathew – contact person Carol Barry

Women's Special Events:

We as women love to fellowship with one another. These special events make it possible to build and strengthen relationships with one another and the opportunity to move into the lives of each other.

- February: Fellowship night at Laura's
- April: Priscilla Shirer Simulcast event at Life Church
- Lunch at Laura's with the Prime Timer Ladies
- May: Breakfast and Blessings
- June: Soup, Salad, and Soul Food Night
- July: Hosted 2nd "SHE LEADS Conference" here with More of Ministries
- August: Women's Poolside Fellowship at the Gibson Home
- September: Prime Timer Luncheon at Laura's Home, Beth Moore Simulcast at Calvary
- November: Christmas Candy Making Night in Serving Room
- December: Ladies Christmas Banquet-- We were very excited to have our third ladies Christmas banquet this year. We enjoyed special music by our own Fellowship Trio, and Lynne Head, one of our missionaries, spoke. We enjoyed a wonderful catered dinner with some amazing men helping to serve. We had over 70 women share in celebrating our Savior's birth. This was a beautiful night to kick off the Christmas season.

Outreach:

We realize the vital importance of outreach as women of EBFC. We had the privilege of partnering alongside of Truth for Women again this year at their 5th annual Silent Auction and Fashion show. We also have helped with Flowers for Freedom using their flowers for some of our events.

Women's Small Groups:

We still continue to offer small groups in our ministry. These include: Mothers of Teenagers, Homeschooling Fellowship, Prayer and Share Together, and Stitches of Love. Here is a brief update from Stitches of Love:

Stitches of Love meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Susan Bittner's home in Nazareth to make knitted and crocheted items for missions and the needy. Approximately 17 ladies are involved in the group. Our donations for 2013 were as follows: 69 scarves, 9, baby sweaters, 188 hats, 5 mittens/gloves, 20 dresses, 1 vest, 4 blankets, 4 buntings, 1 shawl, and 3 sewing machines for the Indian reservation in Arizona.

Training:

I had the opportunity to travel with the staff to the "Catalyst One-Day" conference this past November. We had a great time together and took away some vital things that we could use in our ministries. I am looking forward to a training conference in 2014 with Lifeway that is specifically designed for Women's Ministry leaders.

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 of 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 15 children.

Our current theme is "A Beautiful Mess, Embrace Your Story" and our theme verse is "For we are God's masterpiece, He created us anew in Christ Jesus, to do good things he planned for us long ago." We are learning how to love others in all walks of life, and be bold with sharing our faith, especially through personal experiences. We are learning to share MOPS wherever we go so no mom is alone.

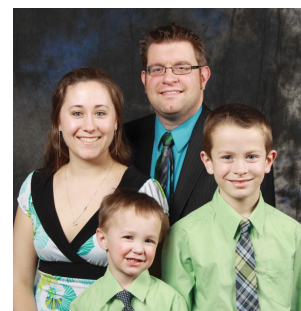
We continue to have fine and engaging speakers come and share God's Word and offer solid teaching on marriage, parenting, and the passing of our faith as a legacy to our children. We anticipate hearing topics ranging from how to be an effective mother, freezer meals, and organization, to having the gospel 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).

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 2014. 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 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 consists of Alyssa Nye- Coordinator, Abby Yorgery- Discussion Group Coordinator, Andrea Mitchletrie- Hospitality Coordinator, Nicole Huie- Finance Coordinator, Angela Fox- Creative Activities Coordinator, Jessica Donnelly- Publicity Coordinator, We are currently in the process of looking for a MOPPETS Coordinator, and Lisa Pyles, Courtney Nagy, 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

Choir:

The student choir sang twice this year. A survey of the parents of these students showed that a few times a year is something that their schedules can handle.

The adult choir had 21 members in the spring. At the start of the fall season, we had 15 members. The choir committee and I agreed that in order to be effective in ministry, we needed to try to increase our membership. So, we decided to sing approximately once a month with one mandatory rehearsal and another optional rehearsal. We were able to add 5 more choir members who were able to commit to the ministry once a month. Keeping the new schedule in mind, if you are interested in joining us even just a few times a year, we'd love to have you! You will be provided with a rehearsal CD and music to help you prepare for the times you are able to join us. Membership is open to anyone in 6th grade through adult.

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 currently have 21 members on the sound crew. This includes 8 students. This is the biggest pool of volunteers we have ever had. It's a blessing to keep the ministry going without burning out our volunteers. Thanks again 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:

We currently have 23 members on the worship team. Four of our members graduated from high school in June. But, we'll be happy to include them if they are able to participate over breaks. Matt Flicker, John Huie, and Dan Hutchinson are the three volunteer worship leaders who lead each month. Their countless hours of preparation, prayer, rehearsal, and other sacrifice should be noted. I am so grateful for all of the hours that each musician on the team commits selflessly.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie Flicker,
Worship Coordinator



Discipleship Ministry

In 2013 all church ministries were set the task of looking at how we can fulfill the threefold vision of Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church—*Worshipping God, Edifying the Saints*, and *Evangelizing the lost*. To fulfill this vision we have been concentrating on three areas: Discipleship; Evangelism and Fellowship.

Discipleship: It is doubly important that we disciple the young adults in the church: firstly for their own spiritual health and secondly to help them transition into leadership roles in the church. Discipleship concentrates on two areas: teaching and mentoring.

Teaching takes place during the regular *Thursday night Bible studies* and the annual *Winter Retreat*. On Thursday nights, 2013 started with an apologetic look at *The Resurrection* leading up to Easter. We learnt that the informed Christian has nothing to fear from skeptical scholars about this central event in the church's faith. We then built on this with a study looking at the church's development in the book of *Acts*, and finished off the year looking at the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives using the book and DVD of *Forgotten God* by Francis Chan.

Big thanks go to the teachers from inside and outside YACS who took the time to prepare and lead the studies.

The annual winter retreat saw Pastor Tim give three talks at a packed Spade Inn on *Romans 12* that encouraged us to give our bodies, minds and wills to God. There were also 4 baptisms in a chilly nearby creek. Many young adults took membership classes as a result of the studies and became members of Ebenezer.

We also encourage those who attend YACS to plug into the church *Bible study and prayer meetings on Wednesday night* and the regular *Sunday Adult Electives*.

Opportunities for mentoring take place through living alongside young adults and on an informal basis through YACS events and the relationships formed there. We have seen many helped to take a stronger role in the church and work through spiritual difficulties.

Evangelism: Thursday night studies give us opportunities to bring people outside the church along, but in 2014 we plan to make more of these opportunities to invite people whom we know and love and are not Christians. We shall be devoting some evenings to discussing *controversial subjects* where Christians need to have answers to those outside the church. Before that, however, and to understand the difference between a Christian worldview and a secular one, we are studying *Ecclesiastes*.

Another area where our Young Adults interact with those outside the church is with events like Sunday afternoon *Frisbee* (where around 1/3rd of the attendees don't come from churches). We are so thankful for people who have opened up their house on an informal basis so that relationships can be developed with these folk—with subsequent opportunities to share the gospel. Other informal activities that have included those outside the church include *games nights* and *movie nights* and plugging into events like *Day of Sports*.

Fellowship: a big element of the young adults group is fellowship—both within the group and in a wider Ebenezer context. We want young adults to primarily get their fellowship through the body of the church so we shall be emphasizing joining in with the *church kinship groups* in 2014 but YACS also organizes fellowship events like the *Summer Beach Trip*. A great deal of fellowship takes place on Thursday nights, on the Winter Retreat, at *work parties*, *social events*, and *Christmas caroling*. Fellowship and care within the wider church has also been shown by commitment to church events like *Run for the Children*, *Christmas gift boxes*, *Candy Carnival*, *Bethlehem and Beyond*, *Journey to Jerusalem*, and *LEAD*.

YACS was pleased to add more people in their 20's during the year. If you are in your 20's or 30's and want to become part of the adventure, join in the next event (you don't have to play Frisbee!).

Prayer topics:

Pray for more to join the leadership team
Pray for more 20's to join in YACS
Pray for those teaching at YACS events
Pray that those at YACS will become leaders in the church



Respectfully Submitted,
Ian Thompson

Financial Report for 2013

Praise God for providing for all of our needs in 2013!

General Fund income was \$903,841 in 2013 which represents essentially 100% (short by \$426) of our targeted annual budget amount of \$904,267.

Thanks goes to the ministry leaders who were diligent in managing the individual budget lines through the course of the year. Including the expenditures for Capital Improvements, the total spending was \$922,215 which is a 2% overage in the total budgeted amount.

EBFC's financial status throughout 2013 was stable and we have a fairly positive outlook for 2014. Total Cash & Cash Equivalent Assets increased by about \$28,016 to \$669,479 in 2013, which includes \$145,702 set aside in Designated Funds.

Thanks to those who served on the Finance Committee through 2013 – Mike Capaldi, Margie Cruz, Debbie Griffin, Joe Meier and Dale Tshudy.

The budgeting process was a bit different this past cycle, and it could not have been as easily accomplished without the assistance of Joe Meier. We met with ministry leaders/budget owners in face to face meetings to discuss plans and budgets for the coming year.

Final thanks goes to the unseen yet important work of the Audit Team led by John Wiegand. This year Rachael Kuntz, Dale Tshudy and Gail Tshudy joined in the monumental task of reviewing our finances and procedures.

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

