



EBENEZER
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Board of Elders Meeting December 11, 2017

Opening & Prayer

Pat Barry opened the meeting in prayer.

Roll Call

The following elders were **present**: Tim Gibson, Wayne Batten, Dick Bickings, Swannie Griffin, Shawn Sommons, Byron Roth, Dennis Flanagan, Chris Jones, Mike Notary, Kevin Hardy, Pat Barry

The following elders were **absent**: Jeremy Harkins, Phil Norris, Scott Holwick

Devotional Time

- The elders discussed chapter eight in Steve Miller's book, C.H. Spurgeon on Spiritual Leadership - "A Passion for Lost Souls"
 - Do the work of an evangelist
 - Have a passion for souls and that they will be eternally judged
 - Love is the motive for reaching lost people
 - We don't love the Lord without loving others
 - Prerequisites:
 - Relying on God
 - Emptying of self

Prayer Time

- The elders split into twos to pray over their Shepherd's lists.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the Elders Meeting held November 13, 2017; it was seconded & passed unanimously.

Financial Report - November 2017 (Attachment 1)

A motion was made to approve this financial report, it was seconded and passed unanimously. Byron Roth gave the following verbal highlights:

- Good income month, very positive
- Expenses on track
- Result is that we will have nearly \$100,000 net positive income for 2017.
- Treasurer – Motion was made to continue to recognize Joe Meier as appointed Treasurer by the elders. Seconded, and passed unanimously

Discussion Items

- 1) Wayne Batten – Pastor Tim honored Wayne Batten with words of appreciation and thanksgiving for his more than 40 years of service as an elder at EBFC. He will be stepping off of the Elder Board at the end of this month.
- 2) Election of Officers – Motion was made, seconded, passed unanimously for the following:
 - **President**: Byron Roth
 - **Vice-President**: Shawn Sommons
 - **Secretary**: Dick Bickings

- 3) New Elder Designations – Motion was made, seconded, passed unanimously for the following:
 - Pastoral Relations Committee Chairman – Pat Barry
 - Evangelism Committee Chairman – Tim Gibson
- 4) Lynfield Outreach Task Force Report
 - Provided benevolence to a transplanted Puerto Rican family in November.
 - Will deliver Christmas gifts to children in the community and have a fellowship time on December 22, 6:00-8:00 pm. Gifts are being provided by the congregation via the Christmas Gift Tree in the church foyer.
- 5) Heyer Trust Fund Usage – Wayne Batten proposed using half of the Elizabeth Heyer Trust for Lynfield, and half for other local community outreach.
 - A ministry “to the least of these” in our local community as Jesus taught in Matt 25:40.
 - Elders will meet to discuss this at a special vision casting meeting to pray and discuss together. (Feb 26, 2018 @ 7:00 PM)
- 6) Parsonage Vision - Required process for the January joint meeting
 - The elders are still waiting for any vision ideas regarding the parsonage...to date, there are none.
 - The elders, upon confirming their vision for outreach into the city of Bethlehem, were motivated to propose and vote on the following vision to be presented at the elder/deacon joint meeting: *Our proposed vision as elders is to sell the parsonage and take the proceeds and use for church facility upgrades, AND for community outreach. The elders will be responsible to determine the allocation of all proceeds. **Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously*** (This proposal will be sent by email to both the Elder Board and the Deacon Board, and still needs joint approval before moving forward.)
- 7) New Elder – Tom Galloway will become our newest elder, effective January 1, 2018, and will have the following responsibilities:
 - Tom will inherit Wayne Batten’s Shepherd’s List (Mast – Mz)
 - The elders will assign Tom’s role on the board at our January elder’s meeting
- 8) New Voting Elder – The elders approved Pastor Mike Notary to be a voting member of the Elder board as he has completed six months on the board.
- 9) Book Concern – Shawn Sommons expressed concern about a book called *God’s High Calling for Women*, by John MacArthur that was distributed at the recent men’s breakfast. The elders will read and evaluate this book and report back at our next elder’s meeting.

Chris Jones adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Pastoral Reports

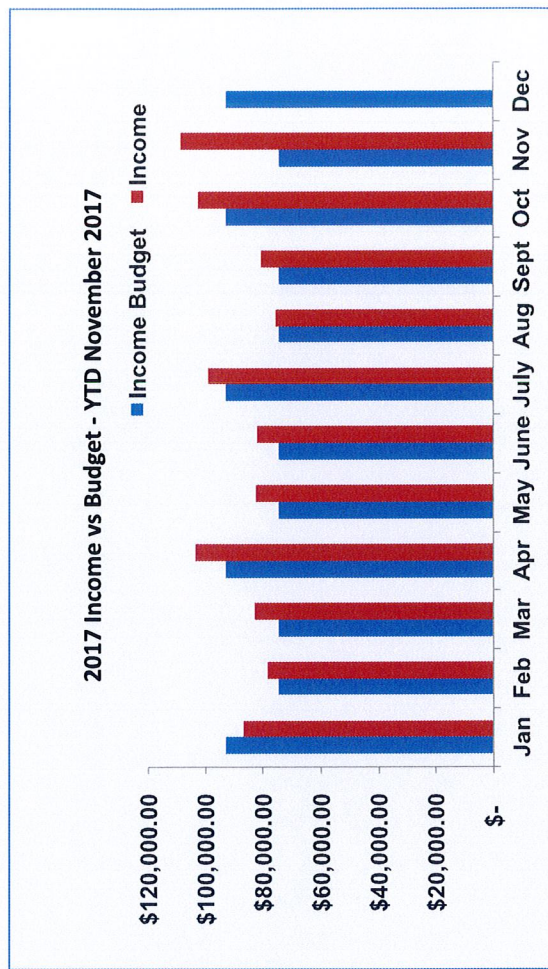
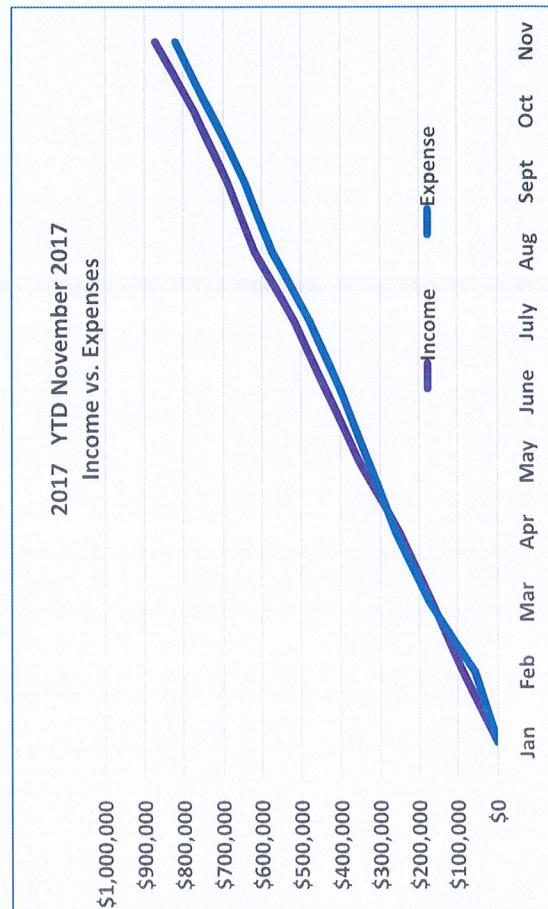
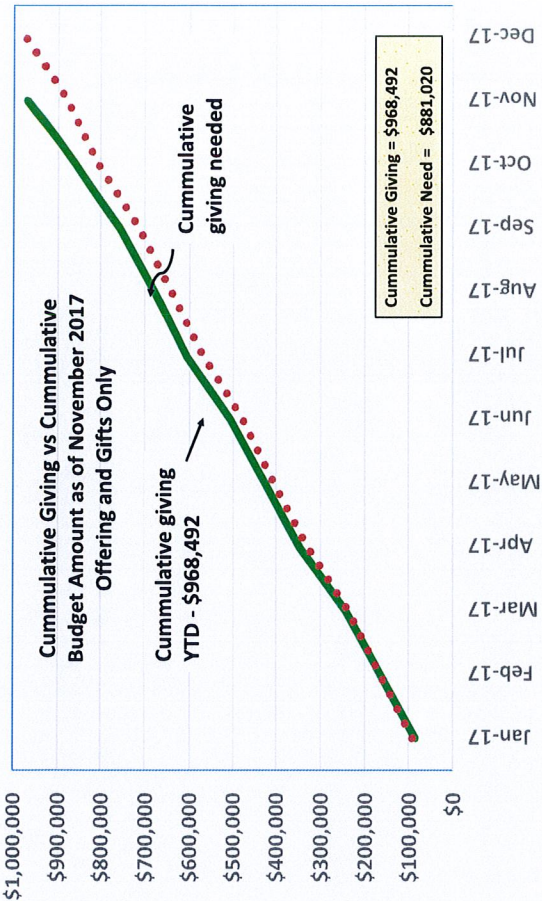
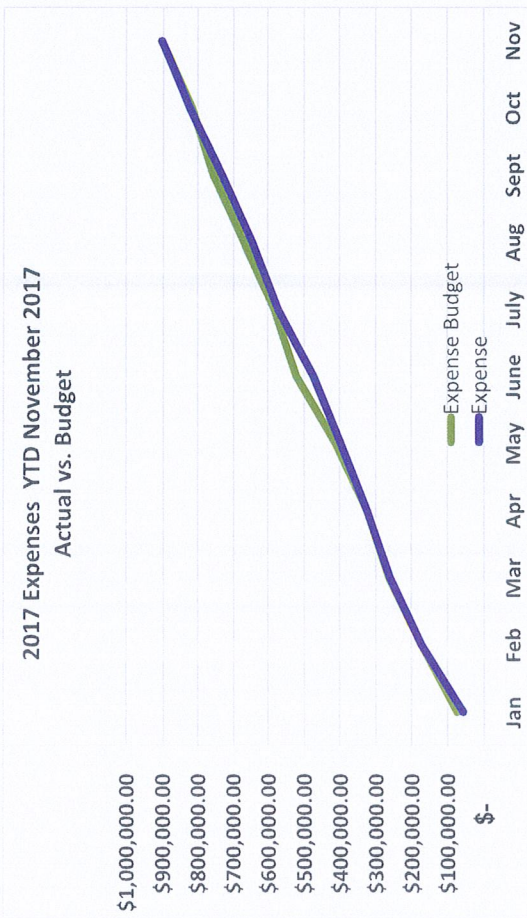
The pastors submitted their monthly reports:

- Tim Gibson, Senior Pastor (*none submitted*)
- Dick Bickings, Pastor of Discipleship (*Attachment 2*)
- Jeremy Harkins, Worship Pastor (*Attachment 3*)
- Mike Notary, Youth Pastor (*Attachment 4*)

Respectfully submitted,



Pastor Dick Bickings
Secretary to the Board of Elders



EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - NOVEMBER 2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BALANCE SHEET REPORT / COMPARISON

GENERAL FUND - BUDGET vs. ACTUAL

ASSETS	30-Nov-17	31-Oct-17	\$ Change	Income	November	Budget	Variance	% BGT MTD
Assets - Checking/Savings								
18000 · Checking (BB&T/KNBT)	507,850.55	463,824.18	44,026.37	1100 · Offerings / Gifts	108,598.25	73,418.32	35,179.93	148%
18002 · CDs (BB&T/KNBT)	67,799.37	67,770.97	28.40	1400 · Interest	46.06	56.60	-10.54	81%
19000 · Savings (M&T Bank)	93,014.45	93,014.45	0.00	1700 · Memorials	0.00	0.00	0.00	
19001 · Checking (M&T Bank)	5,375.67	5,375.67	0.00	1900 · BCS / Bldg Use	0.00	1,137.51	-1,137.51	0%
Total Checking/Savings	674,040.04	629,985.27	44,054.77	Total Income	108,644.31	74,612.43	34,031.88	146%
TOTAL ASSETS	674,040.04	629,985.27	44,054.77					
LIABILITIES								
Current Liabilities				Expense				
901 · Building Fund	68,916.70	68,550.70	366.00	2000 · General Finance	6,507.55	11,784.43	-5,276.88	55%
902 · Capital Improvement	-72,060.47	-72,060.47	0.00	3000 · Discipleship	5,062.73	1,299.59	3,763.14	390%
903 · Transportation Fund	268.00	268.00	0.00	5000 · Evangelism	485.34	361.66	123.68	134%
904 · Scholarship Fund	3,587.44	3,662.44	-75.00	6000 · Missions	17,475.00	18,737.50	-1,262.50	93%
905 · Faith Promise	8,745.65	9,128.75	-383.10	7000 · Deacon	5,704.39	5,920.00	-215.61	96%
907 · Benevolence Fund	16,467.77	15,578.12	889.65	8000 · Worship	152.63	200.00	-47.37	76%
908 · Music Fund	374.20	374.20	0.00	9000 · Office/Admin	1,367.61	1,086.00	281.61	126%
909 · Hoyer Trust	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	10000 · Congregational Care	-160.00	246.62	-406.62	-65%
911 · Year End Accruals	8,480.16	8,480.16	0.00	11000 · Compensation	44,091.36	49,302.55	-5,211.19	89%
912 · Run For The Children	2,337.63	2,303.60	34.03	Total Expense	80,686.61	88,938.35	-8,251.74	91%
914 · HRA	777.54	822.54	-45.00					
915 · Youth Summer Missions	-20.01	-20.01	0.00	Net Ordinary Income	27,957.70	-14,325.92	42,283.62	
100 · Payroll Liabilities	2,298.93	6,988.44	-4,689.51	Net Fund Transfer between Accts.	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Current Liabilities	60,173.54	44,076.47	16,097.07	Net Income	27,957.70	-14,325.92	42,283.62	

DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Income	Expenses	Net
Long Term Liabilities			
810 · Mortgage	366.00	0.00	366.00
Total Long Term Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Liabilities	60,173.54	44,076.47	16,097.07
EQUITY			
900 · Retained Earnings	941,468.45	941,468.45	0.00
Net Income	80,276.85	52,319.15	27,957.70
1000 · Opening Bal Equity	-407,878.80	-407,878.80	0.00
Total Equity	613,866.50	585,908.80	27,957.70
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	674,040.04	629,985.27	44,054.77

OTHER FUNDS

902 · Capital Improvement Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
911 · Year End Accruals	0.00	0.00	0.00
912 · Run For The Children	1,153.70	1,119.67	34.03
914 · HRA	0.00	45.00	-45.00
915 · Youth Summer Missions	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	24,703.06	3,916.48	20,786.58

Joe Meier
Treasurer

12/9/17
Date

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902 - Capital Improvement	-72,060.47	-72,060.47	0.00	3000 - Discipleship	5,062.73	1,299.59	3,763.14	390%	Student Ministries over budget
903 - Transportation Fund	268.00	268.00	0.00	5000 - Evangelism	485.34	361.66	123.68	134%	
904 - Scholarship Fund	3,587.44	3,662.44	-75.00	6000 - Missions	17,475.00	18,737.50	-1,262.50	93%	Bible Fellowship Bld of Mission under budget
905 - Faith Promise	8,745.65	9,128.75	-383.10	7000 - Deacon	5,704.39	5,920.00	-215.61	96%	
907 - Benevolence Fund	16,467.77	15,578.12	889.65	8000 - Worship	152.63	200.00	-47.37	76%	
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				915 - Youth Summer Missions	0.00	0.00	0.00		
				Total Other Current Liabilities	24,703.06	3,916.48	20,786.58		

Joe Meyer

Treasurer

Date

12/9/17

Pastor of Discipleship Report, Nov/Dec 2017

In my continued trek through the NT, I recently read in the book of 1 Corinthians, chapter 3, how the apostle places in perspective the leadership that God has ordained:

“What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.” (1 Corinthians 3:5–9, ESV)

I am reminded that this is not our ministry, we are simply instruments in the hands of the master builder. Our responsibility is to stay sharp and available, the Lord is the one who builds His church.

With that in mind, here are some of the ministry updates from November/December 2017:

Kids Crossing

- **Cross Time Sunday School (10:05 AM):** All Cross Time classes are studying the book of Acts and Christ’s birth this month. We praise the Lord for this Christ honoring curriculum! Also, we currently have all the teacher spots filled, praise the Lord.
- **Early Childhood (2&3 year-olds):** Praise the Lord, he has brought us all the teachers and helpers, for all the services, and for both odd and even months!.
- **Children’s Church:** The Gospel Project curriculum worship segment continues to work well for Children’s Church. We continue to see around 6-8 students each week.
- **Wednesday Evening Programs:** The 2017/2018 Awana year is well under way, with an average of 60 clubbers attending. We are blessed to have the elders teach both the Sparks and T&T groups. Please pray that the Lord sends the necessary number of volunteers needed and that our kids are touched and transformed by the power of God’s word throughout this year.

Adult Ministry

- **Adult Electives:** The 2017 fall session is wrapping up shortly with approximately 100 people attending the following 4 classes:
 - The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Part 2 - Scott Holwick/Matt Zmarzley
 - Daniel: Phil Norris
 - How to Study the Bible: Rich Mastronardo
 - Romans: Part 1 - Dick Bickings
- **Student Ministry:** See Pastor Mike Notary’s Report.
- **Senior Fellowship Ministry:** 11 senior adults attended the Pinebrook Christmas Banquet on December 9, 2017.
- **Men’s Ministry:**
 - **Bethel Series:** A new Bethel Series cycle taught by Dick Bickings on Saturday mornings from 9:00-11:00, is currently taking a holiday hiatus, and will begin again on January 6, 2018.
 - **Men’s Bible Studies/Prayer:**
 - Thursday mornings from 6:15 AM – 7:30 AM, This early morning bible study group has completed their current study and will begin a new study shortly.

- Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, This Men's Bible Study is currently on a holiday break and will begin again January 4, 2018, with a study on the book of Jude.
- Saturday mornings from 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM, This men's pray time is for men who are serious about going before the throne of grace together to cry out to God for their marriages, family, jobs, neighbors, country, etc.

- **Women's Ministry:** No new updates.

Discipleship Support

- **Kinship:** Praise the Lord for this year's 20 Kinship groups, and for Bob and Laurie Gill who have worked tirelessly to place people in these various groups. Our Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by our Kinship Groups on Sunday, November 19, at 5:00 PM, went very well with well over 280 people attending. Please pray that the Lord will continue to use these groups to disciple, grow, and meet the needs of our people who attend.

Other:

- Continued to visit and provide physical & Spiritual care for several people in our church.
- Facilitate the Men's Prayer Group each Saturday mornings.
- Facilitated and taught the Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Taught Membership, Romans and Bethel classes
- Continue with my Seminary Studies, taking a course on Church History as time permits.

Respectfully Submitted, Dick Bickings, Pastor of Discipleship

WORSHIP/COLLEGE MINISTRY UPDATE

Jeremy Harkins, Worship Pastor November-December

MUSIC

The beauty of Jesus Christ is that He came in the lowliest and humblest of manners. We as believers are to demonstrate our humility before an all sovereign God. John Piper put our role in fellowship with God in these three requirements: **"a humble fellowship with God**, that is, childlike dependence on him; then a **love for kindness**, that is, a heart that loves to show mercy; and then **deeds of justice**, that is, an active life, especially on behalf of those who are mistreated".

I think often about the message of the praise music we sing especially around the Christmas season. A specific verse that comes to mind is from "Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel" it says,

**O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace.**

How deep is our humble fellowship with God and how that translates with our church fellowship? How is our love to show Christ-like kindness, how are we standing for those who are mistreated with deeds of justice. All with the end goal of unifying our hearts with God and one-another to the glory of God.

TEACHING & SHEPHERDING

- I am meeting with a college student at Lehigh University prayer for his maturing in Christ!
- I continue to meet with worship team members to encourage them and understand how to pray for them
- I am going through Case for Christmas with a college student. We are continuing to meet once a week.
- During November I have met with several college age to pray together and challenge them to grow in Christ
- I continue to meet with our college age leadership as we disciple each other and plan for continued vision in reaching and shepherding the college age.
- Adam and Dan are continuing the study of Proverbs and Romans during Sunday school hour its been going really well!
- We had a movie night with a couple of the college age it was a good time of fellowship
- I am wrapping up the book of Hebrews with a post college graduate as we continue in our discipleship.
- Dan Trafford and I have been rotating our homes for college fellowship after services every other Sunday

Additional Areas

- Helped in orchestrating the sound for the Veterans Service on November 5th
- Had the opportunity to fellowship with the women of our church at the "Women's Night Out" Concert with the Sparrow Drive on December 9th. Chris Heric and I orchestrated their sound and media needs.
- We had a wonderful Thanksgiving meal of gratitude to God for all He has done in the lives of our church body. It was a joy to help in singing and pointing praise to Him!
- Had a wonderful time fellowshiping and leading the youth in praise and worship at the Youth Retreat on November 17-19th with my family. I am thankful to have Lee Beebe, his wife Cassey, and Zane White help with the music!

- I continue to meet with the Board of Youth and Young Adults ministry in the BFC to continue to group think of ways to minister effectively to youth and young adults.
- Jennie is doing a wonderful job leading our almost 30 choir members this year!
- We are having a Christmas Part/Movie night at our home Friday night December 15th for fellowship and fun for all college age and our college leaders.
- Max Whylings and Nate Gore are considering involvement in teaching our college age during Sunday school hour the beginning of 2018.

MERGE Ministry Update: Dec. 2017

Upcoming Schedule:

- Dec. 3 – G3 Student Leadership
- Dec. 18 – Youth Staff Meeting (Christmas Party)
- Dec. 19 – MERGE Christmas Party
- Jan. 12-14 – HS Sno Glow
- Jan. 19-21 – MS Sno Glow

Update:

Current Study Series:

We will conclude our Person of Jesus Study on Dec. 12. Our continued prayer as we have considered passages in all 4 Gospels has been that youth will have an encounter with Christ that results in the healing and peace that Christ provided for so many. Through His Spirit we pray that youth would enter into the brokenness of this world with the hope of the Gospel. Please continue to pray that this series would have a lasting affect on our youth's hearts as they have wrestled with God's word. Our greatest desire is that these lessons would not come and go with little recognition, but that God's words would illuminate our hearts, transform our lives, and bring many to salvation.

MERGE Fall Retreat:

I am so thankful to report that our MERGE Fall Retreat was a "success". It's always a bit nerve wracking to take almost 50 middle school youth, high school youth, and leaders on an overnight trip but it was certainly worth it. The youth were able to spend a weekend with each other, their leaders, and even our family as my wife and kids tagged along. Both Jenn and I are so thankful for the love and care that the youth showed for our family. Our boys especially enjoyed being included in games and getting to eat with the older kids.

Our time in God's word was rich and our discussions richer as we considered the "Cost of Following Christ". Pat Barry began our time considering David's response to Nathan's exposing of his sin. We considered how important it is to allow the Lord and others to convict us of our sin and then rejoice in the mercy and grace of Christ who came to set us free. Swannie Griffin followed Pat by considering Jeremiah's call to sacrifice and serve as we pursue Christ. Once again we were challenged to consider others beyond ourselves as we follow Christ into a broken world in need of His Gospel. I was blessed with the opportunity to close our time looking at Ruth's selflessness and suffering that ultimately led to meeting her kinsman redeemer in Boaz. All three sessions were designed to help our youth understand that while the cost of following Christ presents many challenges, the One we follow leads us to true life. We continue to pray that as we sacrifice, serve, suffer, live selflessly, and self-reflect that we would rejoice in the sanctification we receive in Christ who experienced all these things in order that we would have life and life abundant.

Student Leadership:

G3 student leadership continues to be a refreshing time for Jenn and I as we challenge a group of youth to growth in spiritual maturity and leadership. Jenn has connected with the girls and has been a source of encouragement to them and they an encouragement to her. I am enjoying getting to know the boys who have committed to growing in their faith and am humbled to be a part of raising these young men to be leaders in this group and future leaders of the church. Please pray that we would be honest with one another, humble in our interactions, and steadfast in our pursuit of Christ.

Youth Volunteer Staff:

This month's youth staff meeting will be our Christmas Party. We are hosting approximately 30 people as we celebrate God's faithfulness to our ministry, blessings on our lives, and provision of leaders for our youth group. It has been a complete joy to serve alongside our faithful volunteers who have welcomed us with open arms. We are so thankful for their commitment to the youth and the sacrifices they willingly make. Please pray that the Lord would sustain them in busy schedules, encourage them through their time with youth, and form them into His likeness.

Upcoming Study:

We are excited to begin our next study series at the beginning of the new year. We will be working through 1 Corinthians throughout the remainder of the school year. Please pray for my time of preparation, our times of discussion, and the power of the Spirit to guide and direct our hearts.

1 CORINTHIANS

From Isolated Infancy to Christlike Community



A Study on Paul's Letter to the Church in Corinth