



The Rock

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far has the Lord helped us."

1 Samuel 7:12

Acts 29 - Ebenezer's Hope, Possibility & Passion

In the Summer 2006 issue of "The Rock" we spoke of the requirement to develop a plan for our church's future. We solicited you for your ideas and thoughts of what you wanted to see your church doing.

Rick Warren speaks to this in his book "The Purpose Driven Church". The key issue is not church growth, but church health. To be a healthy church, we need a plan that makes the church healthier. A healthy congregation grows the way God intends. Without any vision a church can not be healthy and therefore it will eventually die. If our church is genuinely healthy, we do not need to worry about the church growing.

The Ebenezer Administrative Council adopted our Acts 29 plan on August 13 (See Page 2). Is this plan perfect? No. Will it need to be changed? Yes.

"It is from him that all the parts of the body are cared for and held together. So it grows in the way God wants it to grow"

(Colossians 2:19)

As with any plan, some strategies will need to be reevaluated. Those that work will be nourished. Those that do not will be modified or discontinued. We continue to ask for your prayers, ideas, and encouragement.

A Moment with Pastor Susan

Greetings,

Well, this is my first official newsletter submission as Pastor of Columbia Circuit. I just want to share with all of you what an honor and privilege it is to share in the wonderful ministry that is Ebenezer. You truly are the epitome of the family of God but, you have not limited this to just those that attend here each week as evidenced by your mission work. What an amazing accomplishment for a little country church. I am so proud to be a part of this.

I have shared with many of you that I have a vision for Ebenezer that it will grow beyond our wildest dreams. Matthew 19:26 "With man this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible." In that scripture Jesus was talking about who could be saved, but I believe that this applies to anything that is God's will. I will tell you that for this to happen, we have work to do. We need to make sure that we are walking in the light of the Lord, that we are immersing ourselves in the scriptures, and that we are making it a priority to support our church by making regular church attendance an honor and not a chore. We need to support our church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service. We are all ministers and have a responsibility to go and make disciples of all men. Together we can continue serving God and winning souls for Christ.

God's blessing to all,
Susan

Autumn 2006

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Stewardship Committee

- ◆ Susan Knorr
Pastor
- ◆ Donald Miller
Lay Leader
- ◆ Kent Slusser
Treasurer
- ◆ Carol Wall
Assistant Treasurer
Missions Coordinator
- ◆ Janet Naugle
Financial Secretary
- ◆ Karen Slusser
Membership Secretary

Ebenezer's - Acts 29 (Adopted August 13, 2006)

Goal: Prayer will be at the center of all we do seeking God's will for us.

Sub Goal: To strengthen the prayer lives of our members.

- Conduct a video or Bible Study on prayer.
- Continue to hold a prayer meeting between Church and Sunday School.
- Continue to hold prayer breakfasts. Increase attendance and increase the number of breakfasts to ten per year.
- Update the prayer chain and encourage its use.

Goal: We will make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Sub Goal: We will reach out to the unchurched in the local community.

- Continue to hold Vacation Bible School for the children/youth in the local community.
- Continue to hold the Easter Egg Hunt for the children in the local community incorporating a gospel message into the activities.
- Hold a Heroes Unmasked Program as an alternative to Halloween activities for children in the local community.
- Hold "Invite a Friend/Neighbor to Church" Sundays.
- Continue to conduct worship services several times per year at the Orangeville Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.
- Continue to go Christmas caroling to various area nursing homes.

Sub Goal: To Increase our visibility in the local community.

- Continue to hold a Hunter's Breakfast/Lunch on the first day of hunting season.
- Continue to support the Orangeville Fire Company by volunteering to help with the annual carnival.
- Continue to participate in the North Centre Township Community Day Program.
- Provide welcome baskets to new families moving into the local community.

Goal: We will increase our support to missions on a local and global level.

Sub Goal: We will increase our financial support to local/global mission organizations.

- Add a fifth mission Sunday or special service to the calendar year.
- Continue to support the mission of Carl & Caroline Kishbaugh in France.
- Continue to support the Starfish Foundation.

Sub Goal: We will increase our individual/congregational involvement in local/global mission projects.

- Increase the number of shoeboxes donated to Operation Christmas Child. Involve Children's Sunday School in project.
- Increase the number of personal care boxes prepared for Danville State Hospital.
- Collect food donations on a monthly basis for local food banks.
- Collect used clothing for Bloomsburg Fair Outreach Ministry.
- Collect medications for Honduras medical mission trip.

Ebenezer's Act 29 (Continued)

Goal: We will increase and retain our membership.

Sub Goal: To increase our membership through profession of faith.

- Hold membership classes for preteens.
- Discuss membership requirements with regular worship attendees who have not committed to membership.

Sub Goal: To increase spiritual growth in order to retain our members.

- Hold Bible Studies.
- Continue to publish the stewardship newsletter.

Sub Goal: To increase our fellowship with one another.

- Increase attendance at dinners/picnics by arranging for entertainment.
- Hold some events at a local picnic facility or amusement park.

Sub Goal: To involve every member in a ministry according to his/her spiritual gifts.

- Committee on Lay Leadership will match leadership/committee openings to individual's ministry gifts.

Sub Goal: To provide Christian Education classes for all ages.

- Develop a Sunday School class for young adults in the 18-40 age range.
- Continue to hold Sunday School classes for children/youth incorporating contemporary music & videos into the curriculum.
- Continue holding an Adult class using video Bible Studies.

Goal: We will increase our worship attendance.

Sub Goal: To create a worship experience for all generations.

- To incorporate contemporary elements into the worship service.
- Establish a fund for the purchase of screens and computer equipment.



Updates to Prayer Chain

The prayer chain will be update and published in the next issue of "The Rock". If you are not currently on the prayer chain and would like to be included or if your information has changed, please complete the form at right and return to Kent Slusser by **November 19**.

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

(If you would like to be reached during working hours)

Church Office is Moving

Since Pastor Susan will be retaining her own residence, the parsonage will be converted to the Charge's Church Office. This will allow for both the pastor and the charge secretary to have sufficient office space. The move will hopefully take place with the next few weeks. After the move, the office phone number will be (570) 759-8769.

In addition, the parsonage will be used to hold Bible Studies, Youth Meetings, and Charge Committee Meetings. Compassion in Action's Food Pantry will also be moved to the parsonage.

If you have items that could be used to furnish the parsonage, please contact Pastor Susan.

**Do you have items for the
Winter Issue of "The Rock"
DEADLINE: November 19, 2006**

Please submit to: Ebenezer.UMC@verizon.net

Missions Update

Mission Sunday

Mary Jane Wemple representing Volunteers in Missions (VIM) was our speaker for the July 30 Mission Sunday. She spoke to us about the many places throughout the country in which VIM have served God with their mission work not only rebuilding and repairing people's homes but their lives as well. In addition we heard how VIM was helping those affected by the flooding this past June in Columbia County. If you are interested in going on a future mission trip, please let Carol Wall know. An offering of \$706 was collected.

Bloomsburg Fair Outreach

We are collecting clean, gently used clothing for the Bloomsburg Fair Outreach. Donations of men's and women's work clothing (no dress clothes or dress shoes), work shoes, sneakers, jackets, sweatshirts, and blankets are needed. Undergarments and socks must be new and in original packages. If you have items to donate, please have them to the church by September 16.

**Next Mission Sunday
October 29**
If you have a Mission suggestion,
please contact Carol Wall

Offerings* & Ministry Expenses for June/July/August 2006

June	July	August
Offerings: \$3,730.00	Offerings: \$4,643.31	Offerings: \$2,638.00
Expenses: \$4,335.56	Expenses: \$3,437.62	Expenses: \$2,945.49

* Does not reflect special offerings for Building Fund or Memorial Fund

WEEKLY OFFERING NEEDED: \$819

Prayer Breakfasts to Resume

Beginning Saturday September 9 @ 8 AM, the monthly Prayer Breakfasts will resume. We will be trying to have something special each month. Our speaker for October will be Gloria Kremer. Hope you will be able to come out and join us in this time of worship and Christian fellowship.

VBS 2006— "Fiesta" Update

Ebenezer held its first Vacation Bible School in nearly 25 years from June 26 to 30. We had a wonderful time with 41 children attending throughout the week. A big **"THANK YOU"** to all our volunteers who made this week successful. We are already looking forward to VBS 2007!



Calendar of Events

All events at Ebenezer unless otherwise noted.

- Sunday, **September 3** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Saturday, **September 9** @ 8 AM - Prayer Breakfast
- Sunday, **September 10** @ 2 PM - Charge-Wide Lay Leadership Meeting
- Sunday, **September 17** - Food Bank Sunday
- Sunday, **October 1** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Sunday, **October 8** - Communion
- Sunday, **October 8** @ 2 PM - Administrative Board
- Saturday, **October 14** @ 8 AM - Prayer Breakfast
- Sunday, **October 15** - Food Bank Sunday

- Sunday, **October 29** - Mission Sunday
- Sunday, **October 29** @10 AM - Orangeville Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Sunday, **November 5** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Saturday, **November 11** @ 8 AM - Prayer Breakfast
- Sunday, **November 12** - Food Bank Sunday
- Wednesday, **November 22** @7 PM - Thanksgiving Eve Service (*Place to be announced*)
- Monday, **November 27** - Hunter's Breakfast and Lunch (*Times to be announced*)

Every Sunday: Worship 8:30—Sunday School 9:45

**Ebenezer United
Methodist Church**

687 State Route 93
Berwick, PA 18603



Birthdays

- 9/2 Ed Knorr
- 9/10 Sharon Fester
- 9/11 Austin Slusser
- 9/13 Dianne Mordan
- 9/16 Gena Slusser
- 9/18 Kelly Knorr
- 9/18 Erma Jeanne Young
- 9/21 Jolene Shaffer
- 9/21 Donna Livzey
- 9/30 Karen Slusser
- 10/3 Kent Shelhamer, Jr.
- 10/7 Eli Slusser
- 10/14 Leon Eckroth
- 11/13 Nicholas Fester
- 11/26 Trent O'Neil
- 11/27 Carol Wall

- 11/28 Paula Samelski
- 11/30 Kent Shelhamer, Sr.

Anniversaries

- Kurt & Wendy Slusser 9/22/2001
- Kent & Karen Slusser 10/5/1991
- Gene & Sylvia Powlus 10/11/1952
- Kermit & Mavis Heller 10/11/1952

Prayer List

- Donald Miller
- William Slusser
- Russell Whitenight
- Albert Wood
- Erica Yost
- Our Church
- Columbia Circuit

**Is your birthday/anniversary
incorrect or missing?**

Let Us Know!