



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

Spring 2006

Welcome to the 1st Edition of Ebenezer's Stewardship Newsletter

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Stewardship Committee

- ♦ Luther Spertzel
Pastor
- ♦ Donald Miller
Lay Leader
- ♦ Kent Slusser
Treasurer
- ♦ Carol Wall
Assistant Treasurer
Missions Coordinator
- ♦ Janet Naugle
Financial Secretary
- ♦ Karen Slusser
Membership Secretary

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to the 1st Edition of "The Rock", Ebenezer's Stewardship Newsletter. With this newsletter, we hope that you will become a steward of all that God has blessed you with and in turn are able to fulfill our mission—"Being a Church of disciples of Jesus Christ in which all are a member of the Family of God".

What Is a Steward?

A steward literally means 'manager of the household'. We are all called to be stewards of God's blessings, every one of us. It is not an option (See *Matthew 25:31-46*). Christian stewardship starts with one's relationship to God. The good steward is one whose actions are in alignment with God. Through prayer and discernment, seek alignment with God's hopes for our church, the local community, and the world. Ask "What you can do for God?", not "What can God do for me?". Stewardship deepens faith and faith increases stewardship!

Exercising Your Stewardship

You are called regardless of age or other factors, to be a steward within your family, church, and community. Paul lists these gifts that he identified

in the church of his day (See *Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4*). Which of these gifts do you see in your own life today? In addition, you are a steward of your time. How do you allot time to prayer and worship, family, work, and to recreation? You can not escape being a steward of God's possessions (See *Matthew 6: 19-24*). Being a steward of your money and possessions may be a difficult challenge for you to face. The Christian steward joyfully and willingly worships, gives, serves and loves as a response to God's grace.

"Stewardship deepens faith and faith increases stewardship!"

Stewardship Is:

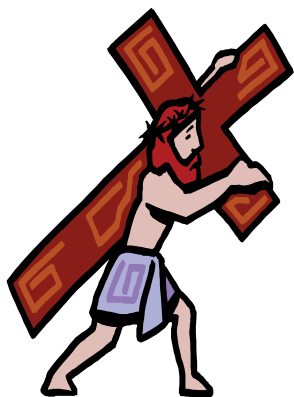
- Not an order, but an invitation to relationship with God
- Not a law, but a life style choice
- Not our possessions or gifts, but centered in our faith
- Not God at life's fringe, but God at life's center
- Not a response to need, but our need to give

Together with God's guidance, we can make Ebenezer a true "Rock of Help".

Ebenezer's Mission Statement

We are a Church of disciples of Jesus Christ in which all are a member of the Family of God. We believe the Bible is the one true word. Our doors are open to all people. We spread God's love through local, regional, and world missions. Our goal is to reach out to the unsaved in the local community and to provide them spiritual well being. *Adopted November 10, 2002*

Lenten Services 2006— “The Lenten Road”



Please join us as we “prepare our hearts and minds” for Easter. Services will all begin at 7:00 PM. Unless otherwise noted, all services are **Wednesday Evenings**.

March 1 *Ash Wednesday* [Summerhill](#)

“**The Road to Damascus**” - Where life is given a new direction.

March 8 [Stone](#)

“**The Road to the Wilderness**” - The Holy Spirit leads us from baptism to confrontation with temptation.

March 15 [Ebenezer](#)

“**The Road Home**” - The prodigal son shows us the wisdom (and the necessity) of seeking this road.

March 22 [Evansville](#)

“**The Road to Jerusalem**” - The disciple Peter becomes a roadblock, prompting Jesus to say, “Get behind me, Satan!” and invite us to take up the cross and follow.

March 29 [Summerhill](#)

“**The Road to Jericho**” - As the good Samaritan stopped, so Jesus stops to care for us in our needs and teaches us to “do likewise”.

April 5 [Stone](#)

“**The Bethany Road**” - Leads to the home of Mary & Martha and the funeral of their brother Lazarus, and then on to Jerusalem for the Palm Sunday parade.

April 13 *Holy Thursday* [Ebenezer](#)

“**The Road to Gethsemane**” - Where we are called, as Jesus’ disciples were called, to watch and pray. *NOTE: Service will include communion and the cantata “One Sacrifice”.*

April 14 *Good Friday* [Evansville](#)

Easter Services

Please join us for our “Easter Celebrations”

Saturday, April 15

10:00 AM - Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 16

6:00 AM - Sunrise Service, Susan Knorr - Speaker

7:00 AM - Breakfast, prepared by Youth

8:30 AM - Worship

Sunday School Will Not Be Held

**Do you have items for the
Summer Issue of “The Rock”
DEADLINE: May 21, 2006**

Please submit to Ebenezer.UMC@verizon.net

Calendar of Events

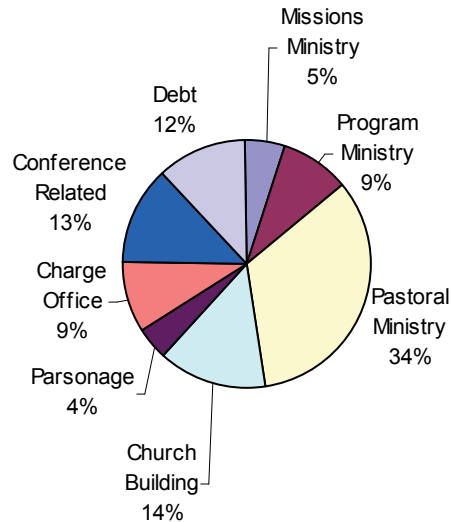
All events at Ebenezer unless otherwise noted.

- Sunday, **March 5** - Kishbaugh Sunday
- Saturday, **March 11** @ 8 AM - Prayer Breakfast
- Saturday, **March 11** 4-7 PM - Christ’s Crusaders Spaghetti Dinner at Evansville
- Sunday, **March 12** - Food Bank Sunday
- Sunday, **March 26** - Building Fund Sunday
- Sunday, **April 2** - Kishbaugh Sunday
- Sunday, **April 2** @10 AM - Orangeville Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Saturday, **April 8** @ 9 AM - Vital Congregations at Wesley UMC, Bloomsburg
- Sunday, **April 9** @ 2 PM - Administrative Board
- Sunday, **April 30** - Mission Sunday
- Sunday, **May 7** - Kishbaugh Sunday
- Saturday, **May 13** @ 8 AM - Prayer Breakfast
- Saturday, **May 20** @ 6 PM - Charge-Wide Family Banquet

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

2006 Funding Ministry Plan

Missions Ministry	2,200
Program Ministry	3,950
Pastoral Ministry	14,060
Operating Ministry (Church Building)	5,919
Operating Ministry (Charge Parsonage)	1,756
Operating Ministry (Charge Office)	4,033
Conference Related	5,585
<u>Principal/Interest Paid on Debt</u>	<u>5,067</u>
TOTAL	\$42,570



Weekly Gifts Needed \$819

Note: A detailed breakdown of the budget is posted on the Church bulletin board.

Offerings & Ministry Expenses for Jan/Feb 2006

January

- Offerings: \$4,125.25
- Expenses: \$3,459.85

February

- Offerings: \$3,056.00
- Expenses: \$3,794.45

Missions Update

Congratulations, your generosity helped to make 2005 a very successful year with our Missions Ministry. A total of **\$5,135** was given during the year to missions. This included our Mission Sundays (Ministry to Missionaries, Starfish Foundation, Mission Central, and Bread of Life) as well as the Kishbaughs ministry in France, Hurricane Relief, and the Brighter Christmas Fund. In addition, **\$323** was collected in Special Offerings throughout the year. Thank you!

We have already had our first Mission Sunday for 2006. Our speaker was Ed Keller, from the Bloomsburg Fair Outreach. An offering of **\$697** was collected. Mr. Keller gave us a different look at that group of individuals who come to our community each fall with the fair.

What started as meal for the fair workers has blossomed into a wonderful ministry. He will be keeping Carol Wall informed of needs and how we can help with this year's fair.

Next Mission Sunday

April 30

**If you have a Mission suggestion,
please contact Carol Wall**

A Farwell and Thank You

It is with great sadness that we learned that Pastor Luther and Shirley have made the decision to leave the Columbia Circuit effective July 1. We appreciate all that they have done during the past four years. They have given so much to our churches during that short time, providing a ministry of healing and renewed hope. We wish them the best in all that God has in store for them. Thank you and God Bless you both.

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

687 State Route 93
Berwick, PA 18603



Birthdays

3/9 Betty Williams
3/16 Melonie Naugle
3/17 Ted Eckroth
3/20 Katelyn Slusser
3/24 Douglas Slusser
4/2 Bart Gunther
4/11 Gene Powlus
4/15 Tami Burkholder
4/15 Earl Dohl
4/23 Jacob O'Neil
5/6 Dale Whitenight
5/7 Joe O'Neil
5/8 Diane Whitenight
5/14 Sylvia Powlus
5/17 Jared Oman
5/18 Doyle Shetterly
5/21 Mavis Heller

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5/22 Kent Slusser
5/22 Kurt Slusser
5/24 Mary Shelhamer
5/26 Janet Slusser
5/27 Susan Knorr
5/31 Iris Eckroth

Anniversaries

Doug and Gena Slusser 5/25/85

Prayer List

Pastor Luther & Shirley
Celia Miller
Alta Sitler
William Slusser
Russell Whitenight
Erica Yost
Our Church
Columbia Circuit

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

Let Us Know!

The Rock