



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 2007

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He Made A Change

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

People fear change. This is natural. They are afraid of the unknown. However, change does not need to be a bad thing, especially when God is in it. For instance, when Paul met the Lord on the road to Damascus, he was never the same again. Likewise, when Peter met the Lord, he left his boat and started fishing for men. Both Paul and Peter allowed the Lord to make a change in their life. This change would alter the course of human history.

Last April, Bishop Middleton spoke to us about change. "Our future will be different from our past. Change is not a choice. You will change. The choice is how you change. The life of your church, not just the desired future,

but the very life of your church is dependent upon your willingness to choose how you will change."

"Our future will be different from our past."

A significant change in the Columbia Circuit's 168 year history will occur March 1, 2007. We will become a three-point charge comprised of Ebenezer, Stone, and Summerhill Evangelical churches. While we will certainly miss the fellowship of our brothers and sisters at Evansville, this change is necessary.

(Continued on Page 2)

A Moment with Pastor Susan

Greetings,

As I am typing this message to you, Regis Philbin just mentioned that it may get up to 50 degrees today. Is that a hint of spring in the air? Change is in the air and we are being called upon to change as well. March 1st brings a change to Columbia Circuit, when we go from a four-point charge to a three-point charge. This does allow for me to be with you every Sunday. It also allows us to look beyond where we have been, and move forward to where we want to be. One of the things that we are doing to move forward is to define ourselves as United Methodists. To do this the decision has been made to purchase United Methodist Hymnals. I am excited at the opportunity to touch base with our heritage by singing the great traditional hymns and to learn new ones as well. We are also beginning a new Adult Sunday School class which will be facilitated by Carol Wall. There is plenty of excitement here and my prayer is that you will join in that excitement, and support the ministries and the leaders as well.

God's blessing to all,
Pastor Susan

Stewardship Committee

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

He Made A Change (Continued from Page 1)

This change will mark a new beginning for our circuit and our churches. Pastor Susan will now be able to be in all churches each Sunday. This will provide for consistency needed to nurture new members. In addition, this will allow her more time with each of the churches as we each develop new and exciting ministries.

One such ministry is an additional Adult Sunday School class targeted for, but not limited to, the 18 to 40 year old age group. Few young adults in this age group attend traditional Sunday School classes. The class will be offered as an informal Bible Study designed to increase spiritual growth, to allow participants to fellowship with and support others in their age range, and to apply lessons to the participants' everyday lives. The class will begin Sunday, March 4.

Another developing ministry will be a charge-wide United Methodist Youth Fellowship to be held at Ebenezer. We hope to begin meeting after Easter.

Please keep the Columbia Circuit and Evansville in your prayers. As we transition to a three-point charge, there will be challenges. With God's guidance we will meet and overcome these challenges. He made a change. We must now allow it to change the life of our church and our future.

Oh, What a Savior!

By Marvin P. Dalton

He gave His life-blood, for even me
Once I was straying in sin's dark valley
No hope within could I see
But they searched thru Heaven and found a Savior
To save a poor lost soul like me
O, what a Savior!
O hallelujah!
His heart was broken on Calvary
His hands were nail-scarred
His side was riven
He gave His life-blood, for even me

Honduras 2007 Needs List

Per Ebenezer's Acts 29 plan, we are collecting items for Steve & Debbie Michael to take on their mission trip to Honduras in August 2007. We will collect the items below up until early August. A "Pill Box" has been placed in the coat room for collection.

A lot of people purchase large bottles at Sam's Club. Generic versions of the medications are acceptable also. Since the medications will not be distributed until August 2007, **the expiration dates on the medications should be well beyond August 2007.**

- ♥ CHILDREN'S VITAMINS (no Gummy Vitamins because they melt)
- ♥ ADULT VITAMINS
- ♥ PRENATAL VITAMINS
- ♥ INFANT TYLENOL
- ♥ CHILDREN'S TYLENOL
- ♥ ADULT TYLENOL
- ♥ ASPIRIN 81MG & 325MG
- ♥ BENADRYL 25MG
- ♥ ARTIFICIAL TEARS EYE DROPS
- ♥ IBUPROFEN (adult & children's)
- ♥ TOOTHPASTE (travel size tubes)
- ♥ TOOTHBRUSHES
- ♥ CHILDREN'S HAIR PRETTIES
- ♥ CHILDREN'S STICKERS (preferably Christian stickers)
- ♥ CHILDREN'S PENCILS
- ♥ CHILDREN'S PENCIL SHARPENERS
- ♥ SPANISH BIBLES
- ♥ SPANISH GOSPEL of JOHN'S
- ♥ CHILDREN'S COMBS

MOST IMPORTANT NEED!!!!!!
Your Prayers!!!!!! Thank You!!!!!!
God Bless! Jesus Te' Ama!

Steve & Debbie Michael

Lenten Services 2007— “Encounters on the Road to the Cross”

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

March 7 [Summerhill](#)

“**The Woman at the Well**” portrayed by Karen Slusser

March 14 [Ebenezer](#)

“**Simon of Cyrene**” portrayed by David Lockard

March 21 [Stone](#)

“**The Mother of James and John**” portrayed by Pastor Susan

March 28 [Summerhill](#)

“**The Rich Young Man**” portrayed by Timothy Lynn

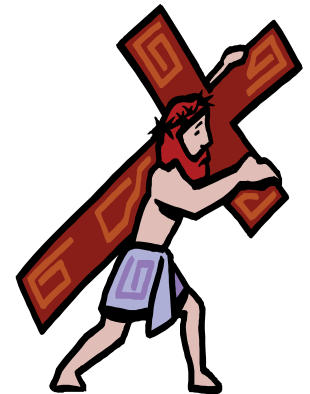
April 5 Maundy Thursday Service [Ebenezer](#)

“**Footprints in the Sand - A Journey to the Cross and Beyond**” presented by the Columbia Circuit Charge Choir.

NOTE: Service will include communion.

April 6 Good Friday [Summerhill](#)

“**Nicodemus**” portrayed by David Lockard



Easter Services

Please join us for our “Easter Celebrations”

Saturday, April 7

10:00 AM - Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 8

6:00 AM - Sunrise Service, Don Sharpless - Speaker

7:00 AM - Breakfast, prepared by Youth

8:30 AM - Worship

Sunday School Will Not Be Held

Daylight Savings Reminder



Remember Daylight Savings Time begins sooner this year, **Sunday, March 11.**

Do not forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed! **You would not want to miss Church!**

Calendar of Events

All events at Ebenezer unless otherwise noted.

- Sunday, **March 4** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Saturday, **March 10 @ 8 AM** - Prayer Breakfast
- Sunday, **March 11** - Food Bank Sunday
- Sunday, **April 1** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Sunday, **April 1 @10 AM** - Orangeville Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Sunday, **April 8** - Food Bank Sunday
- Saturday, **April 14 @ 8 AM** - Prayer Breakfast
- Saturday, **April 28 @ 6 PM** - Dinner & A Movie Night
- Sunday, **April 29** - Mission Sunday
- Sunday, **May 6** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Sunday, **May 6 @ 3 PM** - Administrative Board
- Saturday, **May 12 @ 8 AM** - Prayer Breakfast
- Sunday, **May 13** - Food Bank Sunday
- Sunday, **May 27** - Building Fund Sunday

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

**Do you have items for the Summer Issue of “The Rock”
DEADLINE: May 20, 2007**

Please submit to Ebenezer.UMC@verizon.net

Revised 2007 Funding Ministry Plan

Because of the realignment of the Columbia Circuit to a three-point charge as of March 1, 2007, Ebenezer's budget has been revised. The second column is the amounts prior to the realignment. The third column shows the changes.

CATEGORY	OLD	NEW	
Missions Ministry	3,050	3,050	
Program Ministry	4,950	4,070	<i>(Reduction to Pulpit Supply)</i>
Pastoral Ministry	10,176	13,248	
Operating Ministry (Church Building)	6,419	6,402	<i>(Actual Property Insurance Used)</i>
Operating Ministry (Charge Parsonage)	1,756	2,196	
Operating Ministry (Charge Office)	4,044	4,224	
Conference Related	5,622	5,622	
<u>Principal/Interest Paid on Debt</u>	<u>5,067</u>	<u>5,067</u>	
TOTAL	\$41,084	\$43,879	
 Weekly Gifts Needed	 \$790	 \$844	

Offerings* & Ministry Expenses

December	January	February
Offerings: \$4,844.85	Offerings: \$3,789.00	Offerings: \$3,095.14
Expenses: \$3,878.07	Expenses: \$2,121.11	Expenses: \$4,435.36

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

Missions Update

Missions Ministry Total for 2006

\$402 was collected during Advent for the Brighter Christmas Fund. This brings the total collected for missions in 2006 to **\$5,802.17**. Thank you for your continued support in Ebenezer's Mission Ministry.

Mission Ambassador

Gayla Jean Horn was our guest for the Mission Night held on February 17. She shared with us her experience serving as a Mission Ambassador in 2006 to India. A honorarium of \$250 was sent to Conference to help offset the cost for future Mission Ambassadors.

Next Mission Sunday - April 29

Spare A Buck Campaign Update

As we discussed in the last issue of "The Rock", we are trying something different in 2007 for the Brighter Christmas Fund collection. Envelopes were provided for those interested in setting aside \$1 per week for 50 weeks. On the first Sunday of Advent 2007, the envelopes will be collected and proceeds sent to the Brighter Christmas Fund prior to Christmas. Our hope is that 20 people will participate enabling us to donate **\$1,000**. As of Sunday, February 25, you should have set aside ten dollars. **Envelopes are still available in the church vestibule.**



New IRS Rules Target Tithe Deduction

Changes to the 2007 tax law requires documentation of all gifts to churches regardless of the amount. The old rule required a paper trail for contributions of \$250 or more. This change will only apply to those who complete a long-form tax statement and itemize deductions. Those making contributions via check will be given a year-end report of giving. If you use cash and require documentation, you must use an offering envelope. Please contact Janet Naugle, Financial Secretary or Kent Slusser, Treasurer if you have any questions.

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 Katie Knorr
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
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

Ed and Susan Knorr 3/3/1984
Doug and Gena Slusser 5/25/1985

Prayer List

Donald Miller
William Slusser
Stephanie Spiece
Matayah Weaver
Russell Whitenight
Betty Williams
Albert Wood
Erica Yost
Our Church
Columbia Circuit

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

Let Us Know!