



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 - The Next Chapter Hope, Possibility & Passion

In the fall of 2005 the churches of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church held the first of three events to lead our conference into the new century. The Lewisburg District meet at St. Andrews UMC, Milton. The theme of the first gathering was "Transformational Pastoral Leadership". Conference acknowledges that we do not have a shortage of pastors but instead a shortage of "effective pastors". The pastor of Trinity UMC, Espy, was one of the speakers that morning. She spoke of how her church, on the verge of closing, has been willing to make necessary changes, and is now a thriving church. She left us with this challenge "Are you afraid to die, or just afraid to live?"

The second gathering was held at Wesley UMC, Bloomsburg in April 2006. This session was focused on "Healthy Congregations: Writing Acts 29". We were supplied with statistical information on the make-up of our local area. We were given examples of what other churches have done in their areas to welcome new members.

Bishop Middleton spoke to us about change. "Our future will be different

Susan Knorr to become Pastor July 1

After months of uncertainty, our prayers have been answered. Susan Knorr, current Assistant to the Pastor, has been appointed to serve as the next pastor of the Columbia Circuit as of July 1. We ask for continued prayers for Susan and the charge as she accepts these new responsibilities. Praise be to God!

form 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." She asked us how many of us had had an "experience of feeling great excitement about a dream you have, sharing it with your church council, and having not just cold water but ice cubes poured on it?"

This summer, Ebenezer will be writ-

"Are you afraid to die, or just afraid to live?"

ing it's Acts 29 - Our Hope, Possibility, & Passion. Please take this opportunity to be involved in your church's future. We need your thoughts, ideas, and encouragement. Do not be afraid of the ice cubes!

On September 30, we will meet once again at St. Andrews UMC, Milton. An old-fashioned "Camp Meeting" will be held and the Holy Spirit will be invited into our churches.

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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

VBS 2006— “Fiesta”



It's time for "Fiesta"! After nearly a 25 year absence, Vacation Bible School has returned to Ebenezer. Please keep our children and our volunteers in your prayers so that we can have a successful Vacation Bible School.



Vacation Bible School 2006

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

June 26 – 30

6:00 – 8:30 PM

Fiesta Pre-Registration Form

(Complete one form for each child.)

Name: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Age: _____

Last school grade completed: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Indicate any food allergies or medical conditions of which we should be aware. If none, indicate NONE.

Home church: _____

Name of a special friend your child might like to be with: _____

Missions Update

At the April 9 Administrative Board Meeting, it was decided that in addition to supporting World Team (\$100 per month), there was a need and the ability to support The Starfish Foundation (\$50 per month). Monies collected in the *Special Missions Envelopes* the first Sunday (formerly *Kishbaugh Sunday*) of each month will help to offset expenses for both these missions.

On our April 30 Mission Sunday, we were blessed to have Steve and Debbie Michael speak to us regarding their ongoing mission work in Honduras. Their main goal was to encourage volunteers to join them this August as they return to Honduras to proclaim the "Good News." If you are interested in joining them, please let us know. An offering of \$871 was collected.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all your love and encouragement. You truly have blessed our hearts. Your generosity was overwhelming. Words can't describe how grateful we are to your wonderful mission minded church family at Ebenezer.

God Bless You All!

Debbie & Steve Michael

Next Mission Sunday
July 30
If you have a Mission suggestion,
please contact Carol Wall

Offerings* & Ministry Expenses for March/April/May 2006

March	April	May
Offerings: \$3,388.10	Offerings: \$4,753.00	Offerings: \$3,572.00
Expenses: \$3,753.89	Expenses: \$4,032.55	Expenses: \$3,211.47

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

WEEKLY OFFERING NEEDED: \$819

Congratulations

Congratulations to Nick Fester for crossing over from Cub Scout to Boy Scout on March 4 at the Blue & Gold Banquet. He shot his flaming arrow for his "cross over ceremony" and got the closest to the balloon target! Nick's goal is to continue on to Eagle Scout. Our hopes and prayers are with you!

Calendar of Events

All events at Ebenezer unless otherwise noted.

- Sunday, **June 4** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Saturday, **June 10** @ 8 AM - Prayer Breakfast
- Sunday, **June 11** - Food Bank Sunday
- Sunday, **June 11** 2-4 PM - Open House for Pastor Luther & Shirley (*Please note Administrative Board Meeting scheduled for this time will be canceled.*)
- Saturday, **June 17** @ 9 AM—? - North Centre Community Day at Hilday Lutheran Church
- Sunday, **June 25** - Building Fund Sunday
- Monday-Friday, **June 26-June 30** 6-8:30 PM - VBS
- Sunday, **July 2** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Saturday, **July 8** @ 8 AM - Prayer Breakfast
- Sunday, **July 16** @ 12:30 PM - Sunday School Picnic
- Sunday, **July 23** @ 10 AM - Orangeville Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Friday, **July 28** - Orangeville Carnival (*Tentative*)
- Sunday, **July 30** - Mission Sunday
- Sunday, **August 6** - Special Missions Envelopes

- Saturday, **August 12** @ 8 AM - Prayer Breakfast
- Sunday, **August 13** @ 2 PM - Administrative Board
- Saturday, **August 19** @ 6 PM - Charge-Wide Corn & Hot Dog Roast
- Sunday, **August 27** - Building Fund Sunday

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

Do you have items for the
Autumn Issue of "The Rock"
DEADLINE: August 20, 2006

Please submit to Ebenezer.UMC@verizon.net

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

687 State Route 93
Berwick, PA 18603



Birthdays

6/1 Robert Whitmire
6/3 Becky Knorr
6/4 Pat Loar
6/14 Ray Starr
6/22 Carl Shelhamer
6/22 Eckley Young
6/24 Donald Miller
6/24 Julie O'Neil
7/3 Nancy Gunther
7/6 Rhonda Slusser
7/6 Donzella Smith
7/7 Peter Stephenson
7/8 Luke Fester
7/14 Suzanne Whitenight
7/15 Amanda Slusser
7/22 Reilley Oman
7/29 Nicholas Oman

7/29 Tyler O'Neil
7/30 Bob Knorr
8/1 Ed Mordan
8/3 Jamie Whitenight
8/17 Richard Lamoreaux
8/19 Keith Sitler
8/20 Russell Whitenight
8/21 Cindy Hintz
8/23 Marjorie Rough
8/27 Nathan Wynings
8/30 Kermit Heller
8/30 Deborah Phinney

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

Let Us Know!

Anniversaries

Keith & Sandra Sitler 6/3/1967
Fred & Cindy Sides 8/1/1992
Bart & Nancy Gunther 8/20/1966

Prayer List

Pastor Luther & Shirley
Family of Celia Miller
Donald Miller
Family of Alta Sitler
William Slusser
Russell Whitenight
Albert Wood
Erica Yost
Our Church
Columbia Circuit