



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

Are You a Risk Taker?

At the 2008 Columbia Circuit Church Conference Dr. Thomas Salsgiver, Lewisburg District Superintendent, provided each of the churches with demographic data about the area surrounding each church. He then gave us three questions that he would like answered at the 2009 church conference:

- How did our charge and/or church take risks in 2009?
- What have we done with the demographic data?
- What have you learned from the demographic data?

The data gives us a picture of the population of the Ebenezer community. How we can use this information to develop programs to grow our church? Some of this information was a little surprising. For instance we typically think that our area has an older population but the average age is actually 42. Also nearly 70% of the households have no one under 18. Currently most of our out-reach ministries (VBS, Easter Egg Hunt, Fall Festival, etc..) are focused entirely on children. This is not to say we should end these programs, but instead develop new ones that focus on younger adults. These programs do not have to be religious in nature, but instead would get people to come to the church with the intent that they may return to worship with us. Some possible ideas would be to provide help with taxes, single-parent support groups, hunting programs, community events, etc...

So this is where we need to take some risks. Over the next few weeks be thinking of possible programs that fill a need in our community. Bring them to the August 3rd Administrative Board Meeting. Please remember all members are welcome at these meetings. Together we can make a difference in our community.

A Moment with Pastor Susan

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:25-29 NIV)

"Who is my neighbor?" is a question that has been debated for years. Luke writes about the Good Samaritan in which Jesus illustrates who is our neighbor, as He tells those that have gathered there how the Good Samaritan provided for the care of a man that was robbed and left for dead. This scripture passage reflects positive attributes that we as Christians should have.

As your Pastor, I see these positive attributes within the congregation of Ebenezer. I have shared with Dr. Salsgiver how proud I am of you and the way that you put these attributes into practice, not only locally, but regionally and globally through Missions as well as by welcoming your friends, relatives, associates and neighbors to join you on Sunday for Worship and Sunday school, and by visiting those in the nursing home.

So, you have truly answered the question, "who is my neighbor?" it is everyone.

*God bless you,
Pastor Susan*

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Stewardship Committee

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

Join us at VBS “Crocodile Dock” June 22 - 26 @ 6PM

Come join us at “Crocodile Dock” where kids explore MIRALCES - the big stuff God did to make himself known. A burning bush. An assault of plagues. Jesus’ resurrection. But kids also discover God’s little miracles - demonstrations of God’s love in everyday life.

It is not too late to sign-up for VBS. Get more information at www.EbenezerUMCofBerwick.org or see Karen Slusser.



Youth Fellowship



Upcoming Youth Events

- July - Knoebels (Date and time to be announced)
- August 15 - Camp Out in the Grove following Corn & Hot Dog Roast

Corn & Hot Dog Roast

Come out to enjoy roasted corn, hot dogs and fellowship **August 15** starting at 6 PM.

HELP IS NEEDED to plan this event.



Upcoming Special Offerings

June 14, **Peace with Justice Sunday** - This special offering supports programs that advocate peace and justice at home and around the world. Since half of the offerings collected by your annual conference is retained to fund local peace with justice programs, you can see a difference made locally. In addition, half of the offering is remitted to the General Board of Church and Society to help fund U.S. and global work in social action, public-policy education and advocacy.

Sunday School for Summer is Cancelled

The Sunday School classes are taking a break for the summer in order to give the teachers time to rejuvenate. Sunday School will resume on September 6.

Offerings* & Ministry Expenses

March

Offerings: \$6,823.79

Expenses: \$6,533.35

April

Offerings: \$4,936.00

Expenses: \$7,999.07

May

Offerings: \$6,744.00

Expenses: \$5,173.95

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

Missions Update

United Methodist Home for Children

On March 29, our guest was Dr. David Reed of the United Methodist Home for Children located in Mechanicsburg. For over ninety years, they have provided a caring environment for Central Pennsylvania's children in need. Originally a home for orphans, today the Home is a refuge for children who are the victims of a negative social environment. Each year, UMHC programs provide emergency shelter and residential treatment for hundreds of children.

Children are referred to the Home primarily by county children and youth agencies and family courts. The children, for a variety of reasons, are unable to live with their families or within foster care placements in the community.

An offering of **\$2,000** was received. If you would like to learn more on this mission please go to www.umhcservices.com.

Calendar of Events

All events at Ebenezer unless otherwise noted.

JUNE

- Sunday, **June 7** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Wednesday, **June 10 @ 7 PM** - VBS Planning Meeting
- Sunday, **June 14** - Peace with Justice Sunday Offering
- Sunday, **June 14** - Food Bank Sunday
- The week of **June 22 - 26 @ 6 PM—8:30 PM** - VBS
- Sunday, **June 28** - Fellowship After Worship

JULY

- Sunday, **July 5** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Tuesday, **July 7 @ 6:30 PM** - Trustees Meeting
- Sunday, **July 12** - Food Bank Sunday
- Sunday, **July 19 @ 10 AM** - Orangeville Nursing & Rehab Center
- Friday, **July 24** - Orangeville Carnival Soup Stand
- Sunday, **July 26** - Building Fund Sunday
- Sunday, **July 26** - Fellowship After Worship

Salvation Army

Dee Unger from the Berwick Area Salvation Army was our speaker on May 31. She reminded us of the needs of those less fortunate right here in our own community. The donation for the Salvation Army was **\$1,464**. If you would like to know how you can help, please call 759-1214.

Brighter Christmas Fund

Are you taking part in Brighter Christmas 2009? As of Sunday, May 31, you should have set aside twenty-four dollars. **Envelopes are still available in the church vestibule.**

**Next Mission Sunday
August 30 - WGRC Radio**

AUGUST

- Sunday, **August 2** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Monday, **August 3 @ 6 PM** - Administrative Board
- Sunday, **August 9** - Food Bank Sunday
- Saturday, **August 15 @ 6 PM** - Corn & Hot Dog Roast
- Sunday, **August 30** - Mission Sunday
- Sunday, **August 30** - Fellowship After Worship

Every Sunday: Worship 8:30

Sunday School will resume in September

**Do you have items for the
Autumn Issue of "The Rock"
DEADLINE: August 23, 2009**

**Ebenezer United
Methodist Church**

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

687 State Route 93
Berwick, PA 18603



www.EbenezerUMCofBerwick.org

Birthdays

6/1 Robert Whitmire
6/3 Becky Knorr
6/4 Pat Loar
6/14 Ray Starr
6/15 Tracey Oman
6/22 Carl Shelhamer
6/22 Eckley Young
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
8/21 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

Earl Dohl
Kermit Heller
Rev. Charles Hess
Mary Ruth Krygier
Arlene Shaffer
William Slusser
Pastor and Leaders of Columbia
Circuit