



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

Winter 2006

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"Give It Away!"

"It's that time of year again!" Depending upon how you say this, that could be a good thing or a bad thing. This depends upon your attitude of the Christmas season. Do you see this as a time that you are required to give or as a time that you wish to give? Do you look at this as a season of giving or as a season of receiving? Are you more excited opening a gift or watching someone else open the gift you gave them? Perhaps it's a gift that you sent to someone you have never met and probably never will such as a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child or the Danville State Hospital. Or are you an "Ebenezer Scrooge"?

Bill Gaither speaks of this with regards to his song "Give it Away". There are two kinds of people in this world, givers and takers. Decide which you will be. There are big hearted generous individuals and stingy ones. Attitude has nothing to do with how much one has. It depends upon how you choose to approach life and spend your days here on earth.

Bill goes on to say that this world is suffering from almost an epidemic of depression. We are taught to guard our turf, be independent, not get involved with the people next door, be self-contained, self-protective, and even self-indulgent.

What could happen if the joy of giving everything away should takeover the world? Jesus taught that giving would perfect us as heirs to God's

**"If you want more happy then your heart will hold, if you want to stand taller if the truth were told, take whatever you have and give it away!
If you want less lonely and a lot more fun, and deep satisfaction when the day is done, throw your heart wide open and give it away!"**

kingdom. Give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, hospitality to the stranger, care to the sick, and clothing to the destitute. What if we truly offered food for the soul, water for the spirit, shelter of a place to belong, and cover for the raw and exposed heart?

As the song says, the best antidepressant is this prescription: *"If you want more happy then your heart will hold, if you want to stand taller if the truth were told, take whatever you have and give it away! If you want less lonely and a lot more fun, and deep satisfaction when the day is done, throw your heart wide open and give it away!"*

We can be thankful for how God has enabled Ebenezer this past year to "Give It Away!". But at the same time we must not lose sight of what yet needs to be done in the coming years. We need to continue to work together as the "Family of God" and seek God's guidance to make Ebenezer a true "Rock of Help".

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

A Moment with Pastor Susan

Greetings,

Well here it is that time of the year when we go from zero to stressed in 2.3 minutes or less. It begins with Thanksgiving and ends with a migraine headache by Christmas night. As hard as we try, it is tough to remember that “Jesus is the Reason for the Season” as we are fighting the crowds, standing in lines at the checkout and listening to others complain because the person that they are purchasing this gift for won’t like it anyway.

This is the time that we need to step back and remember that Christmas began in a tiny stall in Bethlehem and that there were no long lines of shoppers standing out in the cold to be the first to buy the item that we are told we can not live without. It was the time that the shepherds left their flocks to go Worship the King instead of worshipping the sales. It was the time that the animals bowed down in reverence instead of animals bowling over others in an attempt to get the best deal. When the stress of the world begins to get to you, I encourage you to take a minute, take a deep cleansing breath and remember the words of Luke as he paints the perfect picture of “Peace on Earth”:

“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2: 1-7

May you and yours enjoy this blessed Christmas season, as we remember the first time that the world welcomed the King of Kings, and anxiously await the time when we as Christian brothers and sisters welcome Him again.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Susan



Ebenezer UMC Administrative Council 2007 (Effective 1/1/07)

Leadership Team

Chairperson of Administrative Council Clyde Naugle
 Assistant Chairperson Erma Jeanne Young
 Secretary Karen Slusser
 Assistant Secretary Janet Naugle
 Treasurer Kent Slusser
 Assistant Treasurer Carol Wall
 Financial Secretary Janet Naugle
 Membership Secretary Karen Slusser
 Lay Leader Karen Slusser
 Assistant Lay Leader Rhonda Slusser
 Lay Delegate to Annual Conference Karen Slusser
 Child Advocate Karen Slusser
 Historian Erma Jeanne Young
 Youth Representative Eli Slusser
 Trustee Chairperson To Be Elected By Committee

Church Trustees

Theodore Eckroth	Clyde Naugle	Joe O'Neil	Kent Slusser
Lois Futoma	Melonie Naugle	Doug Slusser	Robert Whitmire

Staff/Pastor/Parish Relations Committee

Karen Slusser (Lay Leader)	Janet Naugle	Kent Slusser
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Finance Committee

Church Treasurer Kent Slusser
 Assistant Church Treasurer Carol Wall
 Financial Secretary Janet Naugle
 Membership Secretary Karen Slusser
 Lay Leader Karen Slusser

Lay Leadership (Nominating Committee)

Chairperson - Pastor	Marie Eckroth	Amanda Slusser	Robert Whitmire
Assistant Chair - Lay Leader	Dianne Mordan	Rhonda Slusser	
Karen Slusser	Janet Naugle	Ray Starr	

Audit Committee

Dianne Mordan	Melonie Naugle	Robert Whitmire
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Scholarship Fund Committee

Marie Eckroth	Julie O'Neil	Gena Slusser
Mavis Heller	Janet Naugle	Robert Whitmire

Department of Christian Education

Sunday School Superintendent Kent Shelhamer, Jr.
 Assistant Sunday School Superintendent Robert Whitmire
 Sunday School Secretary Gena Slusser
 Assistant Sunday School Secretary Erma Jeanne Young
 Age Level Coordinators - Children Karen Slusser
 Assistant Children Rhonda Slusser
 Youth Kent Slusser
 Adult Lois Futoma

Charge Worship Committee

Karen Slusser (Lay Leader)	Kent Slusser	Carol Wall	Erma Jeanne Young
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Work Area Coordinators

Missions Carol Wall
 Worship/Communion Donzella Smith
 Assistant Worship/Communion Janet Naugle
 Visitation Secretary Gena Slusser
 Stewardship/Finance Kent Slusser
 Music Janet Naugle, Carol Wall, & Erma Jeanne Young

Parsonage Trustees

Kermit Heller	Doug Slusser	Russell Whitenight
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Ebenezer UMC 2007 Calendar

Administrative Board (2:00 PM) <i>Additional meetings may be called if necessary</i>	February 4	May 6	August 5	November 4		
Building Fund Sunday <i>Offerings from Worship and Sunday School will be used to support the Building Fund</i>	February 25	May 27	August 26	November 25		
Mission Sunday <i>Offerings from Worship will be given to Mission Speaker</i>	April 29	July 29	September 30	December 30		
Special Mission Envelopes <i>(1st Sunday of the Month)</i> <i>Benefits Kishbaughs & Starfish Foundation</i>	January 7 July 1	February 4 August 5	March 4 September 2	April 1 October 7	May 6 November 4	June 3 December 2
Food Bank Sunday <i>(2nd Sunday of the Month)</i>	January 14 July 8	February 11 August 12	March 11 September 9	April 8 October 14	May 13 November 11	June 10 December 9
Prayer Breakfasts (8:00 AM) <i>(2nd Saturday of the Month)</i>	January 13	February 10 August 11	March 10 September 8	April 14 October 13	May 12 November 10	June 9
Invite a Friend/Neighbor Sunday	February 25	November 25				
Orangeville Nursing & Rehabilitation Center (10:00 AM)			April 1	July 22	September 30	

Event	Date(s)	Time	Day(s)	Event Planners/Notes
Mission Night	February 17	6:00 PM	Saturday	Committee
Egg Hunt	April 7	10:00 AM	Saturday	Sunday School Department
Sunrise Service	April 8	6:00 AM	Sunday	Youth
Dinner & A Movie Night	April 28	6:00 PM	Saturday	Committee
North Centre Township Community Day	June ?		Saturday	Date and times TBA
VBS	June 25-June 29	6:00-8:30 PM	Monday-Friday	VBS Committee
Orangeville Carnival-Soup Stand	July 27	4:00-11:00 PM	Friday	Tentative
Sunday School Picnic-Knoebels	August 3	5:00 PM	Friday	Sunday School Department
Corn Hot Dog Roast	August 18	6:00 PM	Saturday	
Fall Fun Party Night	October 28	6:00 PM	Sunday	Sunday School Department
Thanksgiving Eve Service	November 21	7:00 PM	Wednesday	Meeting place TBA
Hunter's Breakfast/Lunch	November 26	4:00 AM-2:00 PM	Monday	Times to be finalized later
Christmas Dinner/Program	December 8	6:00 PM	Saturday	
Christmas Caroling	December 16	Afternoon	Sunday	Time and meeting place TBA
Christmas Eve Service	December 24	7:00 PM	Monday	Meeting place TBA

TBA = To Be Announced

**EACH SUNDAY
WORSHIP 8:30 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM**

Please remember volunteers are still needed to help clean the church on a monthly basis.
Sign-up sheet and list of duties on bulletin board. Thanks!!!

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH BY
ATTENDING AND VOLUNTEERING FOR AS MANY EVENTS AS POSSIBLE!!**

Missions Update

Mission Sunday

Abigail Thomas was our speaker for the October 29 Mission Sunday. She spoke to us about her work with the Inuit children in Alaska as well as her current mission work at Timothy Academy in Philadelphia working with inner city children in a Christian environment. Please keep Abigail in your prayers as she still faces health concerns and challenges in her mission work. An offering of **\$764** was received to help her with her expenses as she continues her ministry.

Operation Christmas Child

Forty-eight shoe boxes were collected for Operation Christmas Child this year. Thank you for once again supporting this very worthwhile mission outreach.

Hunter's Breakfast & Lunch Update

Thank you to everyone one who took part in and supported our 2nd Annual Hunter's Breakfast & Lunch. The profit of **\$308.56** was divided between the Salvation Army and Head Start.

Missions Giving Update for 2006

Your generosity thus far has raised a total of **\$5400.17** given through Missions for this current year.

- Bloomsburg Fair Outreach697.00
- Servant Outreach (Honduras)871.00
- Volunteers in Missions.....706.00
- Abigail Thomas764.00
- World Team 1200.00
- The Starfish Foundation.....400.00
- VBS Offering for Honduras453.61
- Hunter's Breakfast/Lunch.....308.56

In addition, **\$266** was collected in Special Offerings throughout the year. And we are not quite done yet for this year. Sunday, December 24 a special offering will be collected to help the Benevolent Homes. In addition, we once again will be collecting throughout Advent for the Brighter Christmas Fund.

New for 2007

In our Act 29 Plan we have added an additional Missions Project for 2007. On February 17, we will hold a Mission Night. The evening will begin at 6 PM with a covered dish meal. A missions speaker, yet to be determined, will receive a "Love Offering". If you have any suggestions for a speaker, please contact Carol Wall.

Can You Spare a Buck?

In recent years, donations during Advent for the Brighter Christmas Fund have been decreasing. The original idea was to have people save their loose change during Advent to deposit in the collection jar. The offering then was mailed after Christmas.

Instead of making this an Advent activity, it would be nice to extend this to a year-round activity. If interested individuals would set aside \$1 per week for 50 weeks, they would have \$50 to donate during the first Sunday in Advent. If 20 people do this, our church would be able to donate **\$1,000** to the Brighter Christmas Fund, a record donation for us. If you start your collection on Christmas Eve this year and end your collection on December 2, 2007, 50 Sundays will have passed. This will enable us to get our church's collection to the Brighter Christmas Fund in time for them to help someone for Christmas 2007. The question that you need to ask yourself is: "Can you spare \$1 a week to help those less fortunate?"

Pill Box Mission

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

Items to Collect for Honduras Mission Team

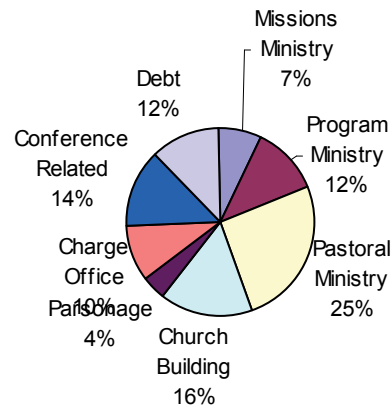
- Children's Vitamins (not gummy ones)
- Children's Tylenol
- Chewable Tylenol
- Ibuprofen (200 mg)
- Tylenol (500 mg)
- Aspirin (325 mg)
- Pre-Natal Vitamins
- Trial-Size Toothpaste (not full-size tubes)

A lot of people purchase large bottles at Sam's Club. Generic versions of the above 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.

Mission Night - Saturday, February 17 @ 6PM
If you have a Mission suggestion,
please contact Carol Wall

2007 Funding Ministry Plan

Missions Ministry	3,050
Program Ministry	4,950
Pastoral Ministry	10,176
Operating Ministry (Church Building)	6,419
Operating Ministry (Charge Parsonage)	1,756
Operating Ministry (Charge Office)	4,044
Conference Related	5,622
Principal/Interest Paid on Debt	5,067
TOTAL	\$41,084



Weekly Gifts Needed \$790

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

Offerings* & Ministry Expenses for September/October/November 2006

September	October	November
Offerings: \$3,473.00	Offerings: \$4,495.00	Offerings: \$4,375.00
Expenses: \$2,484.41	Expenses: \$3,529.29	Expenses: \$3,204.48

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

2007 United Methodist Special Offerings

Human Relations Day - **January 14**
 Native American Ministries - **April 22**
 Peace with Justice Sunday- **June 3**
 United Methodist Student Day- **November 25**
 Benevolent Homes - **Easter & Christmas**

Calendar of Events

All events at Ebenezer unless otherwise noted.

- Sunday, **December 3** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Saturday, **December 9 @ 6 PM** - Christmas Dinner
- Sunday, **December 17** Afternoon - Christmas Caroling
- Monday, **December 24 @ 6 PM** - Christmas Eve Service at Summerhill
- Sunday, **January 7** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Saturday, **January 13 @ 8 AM** - Prayer Breakfast
- Sunday, **January 14** - Food Bank Sunday
- Sunday, **February 4** - Special Missions Envelopes
- Sunday, **February 4 @ 2 PM** - Administrative Board
- Saturday, **February 10 @ 8 AM** - Prayer Breakfast
- Sunday, **February 11** - Food Bank Sunday
- Saturday, **February 17 @ 6 PM** - Mission Night
- Wednesday, **February 21 - @ 7 PM** - Ash Wednesday (Location to be announced)

- Sunday, **February 25** - Building Fund Sunday
- Sunday, **February 25** - Invite a Friend/Neighbor to Church Sunday

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

**Do you have items for the
 Spring Issue of "The Rock"
 DEADLINE: February 18, 2007**

Please submit to Ebenezer.UMC@verizon.net

Merry Christmas
and May God Bless
You in the New Year!

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

687 State Route 93
Berwick, PA 18603



Birthdays

12/3 Janet Naugle
12/8 David Williams
12/9 Stephen Stancker
12/23 Cindy Sides
12/27 Mary Cash
12/30 David Paul Eckroth
12/31 Arlene Shaffer
12/31 Zoe Whitenight
1/5 Marie Eckroth
1/6 Lois Futoma
1/8 Erica Yost
1/21 Bonnie Richards
1/25 Shane Yost
1/27 Beth Powlus
2/1 Mary Arner
2/2 Mark Powlus
2/4 Mallory Wynings

2/5 Clyde Naugle
2/8 William Slusser
2/13 Terri Ann Mazzitti
2/14 Kim Radulovich
2/15 Molly Shelhamer
2/15 Randy Whitenight
2/24 Wendy Slusser
2/26 Jenna Shelhamer
2/27 William Arner
2/28 Patricia Mensinger

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

Let Us Know!

Anniversaries

Jerry & Carol Wall 12/6/1986
Ted & Marie Eckroth 1/5/1957
Bob & Becky Knorr 1/25/1975
Joe & Julie O'Neil 2/14/1991

Prayer List

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