



Board of Elders Meeting January 9, 2012

Roll Call:

Hoy, Bickings, Culton, Sommons, Van Doren, Batten, Brimer, Capaldi (via phone)

Devotion – Articles of Faith:

Pastor Dick Bickings led the discussion on Article 14 on Regeneration.

Prayer:

The men shared in a time of thanksgiving and prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

- The men reviewed the draft minutes from the Congregational Budget Meeting minutes from December 11, 2011. A motion was made to approve the draft minutes, seconded and approved.
- After reviewing the draft minutes from the Board of Elders Meeting held on December 12, 2011, a motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded and approved.

Financial Report:

There was no financial report given due to ongoing year-end activities.

Discussion Items:

- 1) Annual Meeting – Agenda topics were discussed and finalized for the Annual Congregational Meeting for January 29, 2012.
- 2) BCS Preschool – There was a discussion regarding concerns about MOPS and other ministries being limited in their ability to expand pending the BCS Preschool space request. Dick will attend the BCS Liason Committee Meeting to represent the EBFC ministry perspective.
- 3) Visitor/Attendance Follow-Up – Currently, Donna D'Imperio looks over the list and emails Jason, and he confers with Dick and Mark to see if they have any information. Donna follows up with people. Jason indicated that he would like a report like Shawn Van Doren has provided for visitor follow-up. Donna will continue the attendance follow-up for the regular attendees and members at this time. Shawn Van Doren and Jason will continue with the visitor follow-up. A discussion regarding "exit" interviews led to the decision that we should implement these to the extent possible, and we also talked about ways to pursue people to become committed members.
- 4) Membership Rolls – The membership roll needs to be updated according to the recently updated By-Laws. Wayne will draft a letter for review by the board that will be sent to those who have not attended for a year.
- 5) Shepherd Lists – We continued the discussion of having shepherd lists and their purpose. This will help us be proactive in the pursuit of members and kinship group members, but we need to follow-up with people who aren't members. Some of the questions that were posed included: What are the expectations? What should the frequency of contact be? Should we expect kinship leaders who aren't elders to do the same for the people in their groups?

- 6) Visioneering – This discussion will begin during the second meeting in February. Prior to then, the men will continue to look at our current purpose and vision without trying to come up with something new. Look at how we currently implement these at EBFC.
- 7) Committee to Promote Pinebook – John Vandergriff is trying to build up Pinebrook's summer program, and he is looking for some people from EBFC with whom to communicate. Shawn Van Doren agreed to lead the interaction with Pinebrook, and head up a group who decides which week EBFC will attend this summer, and promotes the week. Suggested members for the group include John Romero, Dan Hutchinson, Rob Christensen. Shawn will contact them.
- 8) BFC Elder's Agreement – Declaration of Intent was reviewed and signed.
- 9) Election of Officers
 - Wayne Batten was nominated to serve as President of the Board. Motion was supported, and it passed unanimously.
 - Shawn Sommons was nominated to serve as Vice President. The motion was supported and it passed unanimously.
 - Mike Capaldi was nominated to serve as Secretary. The motion was supported and it passed unanimously.
- 10) Nominations for Elder and Deacon –
 - The Nominating Committee recommended Scott Holwick to be an Elder for a 3-year term, and Otis Powell to serve as a Deacon for a 2-year term.
 - A motion was made to accept both of these men to be voted upon at the congregational meeting on January 29, 2012. It was supported and it passed unanimously.

Committee Updates:

- 1) Pastoral Reports – See attachments #1, #2, #3.
- 2) Adult Electives – Potential Teachers for Adult Electives were discussed.
- 3) Pastoral Relations Committee – Jennie was granted a paid vacation for managing her responsibilities well through this past year. The employee vacation policy is going to be reviewed to see if it needs to be updated.
- 4) Worship – A side meeting was held to discuss some concerns.

Closing:

A hymn was sung and the meeting was adjourned in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Brimer,
Acting Secretary to the Board of Elders

INTERIM SR PASTOR REPORT

Elders Meeting – January 9, 2012

Our Vision: To introduce people to Jesus Christ and help them become devoted followers of him!

Goals accomplished last month and continuing into this month:

1. **Preaching and Teaching** - I praise God that our people seem to be feeling the weight of the seriousness of the Word of God along with delighting in his matchless grace! I praise God for Pastor Carl, Pastor Dick, and Pastor Mark for jumping in there in my absence. I praise God for the positive response to an evangelistic message at a recent funeral. FYI – We will take a break from our series on January 22nd to preach a message on the Sanctity of Human Life. Also, I will be doing a pulpit swap on March 18th with Pastor Tim Zuck from Saucon Valley BFC. Our kinship continues to enjoy studying Tim Keller's curriculum "The Reason for God."

*Item to note: I just signed up for a preaching course and practicum!

2. **Shepherding** – Devoted time to meet with people for counseling or mutual edification. Meeting with 2 couples for pre-marital counseling. Continue doing the weekly prayer sheet and attend prayer meeting as time allows. Contacting members and new visitors along with Shawn Van Doren.
3. **Overall Leadership** – Ongoing meetings and communication with the Board of Elders, Pastoral Staff, and Church Staff, sometimes meeting with members of each board or staff one on one as time allows. Praise God for the recent work of the Nominating Committee. The Lord has brought us 1 new deacon, and Lord willing 1 more deacon and 1 more elder this month. Attended the Lehigh Valley Pastor's gathering held at the Grace Brethren Church on Bridle Path Road. Lead our church in Christmas caroling over the holidays as well.

Goals for upcoming weeks:

- Proclaiming the Word of God faithfully, accurately, and passionately!
- Tweaking my personal vision for EBFC.
- Clean up membership rolls/Shepherding Lists since By-Laws have been approved.
- Thoroughly enjoy my seminary studies!

POD (Pastor of Discipleship) Cast – Dec 2011/Jan 2012

It's always an enormous reality check to look back at the past year and see the failures of incomplete goals, though my intentions for the most part were right, it was those unforeseen intangibles that got me every time. The reality of my humanness becomes more evident to me each year, but also, and this is a great thing, I am aware that I am in the hands of the sovereign God who is not encumbered by intangible things. His plan is always done, his goals are always complete, and nothing thwarts his activities. This amazing truth is a great comfort to me as I plan for this new year, since this means that he is doing a work in me and in his church that will not be thwarted, even by the gates of hell! So as I stand on the precipice of this new year, ...

"... I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil 1:6 ESV)

With that in mind, here is a quick summary of some of the ministry opportunities from December/January:

Kids Crossing

- **Cross Time Sunday School:** Praise the Lord, we continue to thank Him for providing us with an amazing staff of teachers and helpers. We will, however, be in need of lead teachers in both the odd and even months for 5th grade come September 2012 and are currently praying and recruiting towards that end.
- **Early Childhood (2&3 year-olds):** No change...we will continue to staff only the 8:45 service and 10:05 Sunday School hour, but split the 11:15 service class into 2 year-olds who go to the nursery, and 3 year-olds who go to children's church.
- **Children's Church:** Still running between 10-15 even with the 3 year-olds present.
- **Wednesday Evening Programs:** FaithWeaver Friends continues to go as well, however, we are investigating some of the deficiencies in the program, and will be addressing them with the publisher (Group), and will have a representative attend our next Kid's Crossing Leadership Team Meeting in February.
- **Winter Weekend Retreat (January 20-22) at Victory Valley Camp:** We are in full promotion for this year's "Winter Blast" weekend. There are currently 10 kids signed up with all chaperones and drivers designated.

Student Ministry

- See Pastor Mark's report.

Adult Ministry

- Adult Electives:
 - Completed our fall 2011 semester on December 18, and began our Spring 2012 semester on January 8.
 - The Adult Electives offered for spring 2012 semester, are Genesis, Part 2 – Rich Mastronardo, Church History – Dick Bickings, and New Testament Survey – Joe Maddock.
- Men's Ministry:
 - Men's Retreat: We are planning a Men's retreat (aka, "Man Camp") at Pinebrook Conference Center on March 23-25, which we expect to include all BFC churches, with the help of Pastor Brian Cooper and his church. More details to follow...
 - **Bethel Series:** We completed 8 weeks of study and have been inspired by the excitement and enthusiasm generated by these diligent students.
 - **BattleZone™:** We are currently preparing to begin a new season (Andy Brimer to comment).

- **Men's Bible Studies:**

- Wednesday evenings from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, The Bethel Series taught by Jason Lee.
- Saturday mornings from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM, The Bethel Series taught by myself.
- Thursday mornings from 6:15 AM – 7:30 AM, Dave VanWinkle facilitates along with several other men, a new study on David.

- **Women's Ministry:**

- Praise the Lord for the good feedback received by the women's bible study group who recently completed John and Stasi Eldredge's book **Captivating: Unveiling the Mystery of a Woman's Soul**.
- Laura Sommons continues to meet with a number of women in the church to get to know them better and hear their hearts concerning women's ministry.
- MOPS continues to be a blessing to women from all walks of life, including the unchurched and members of liberal churches.

Discipleship Support

- **Kinship:** Kinship Groups continue to function well and have been a great blessing to those who attend.
- **Membership Class & Interviews:** The next membership class will be held in the spring.

Other:

- Continue to meet with several individual men to counsel and encourage.
- Preached twice at the Christmas Eve Services.
- Finished teaching Adult Electives, "Standing In Christ", the study of Galatians, Ephesians, and Philippians.
- Continue to have the privilege of heading up the 1^{1/2} - 2^{1/2} year-olds MOPPETS class every other Thursday for MOPS. It is an honor to work alongside 3 gifted junior leaders
- Continued to work through my TNARS, BS410 - NT Theology course as time permits.

Goal Results for 2011:

- Continue to add to the momentum of the Men's Ministry through fellowship opportunities such as a Men's Retreat at Pinebrook in March 2011, and adding the 2-year Bethel Series Training beginning in September 2011. **100% Complete**
- Continue equipping the Kinship Shepherds for success through comprehensive training, and ongoing encouragement and resources so that each group may operate as a microcosm of our local church by September 2011. **70% Complete**
- Build on the current evangelism ministry using one day **Share Your Faith Workshops** twice a year, and the 7-week **EV2** evangelism-training program, also twice a year. Develop a greater awareness of what the *work of the ministry* is that we are *equipping the saints* for by synchronizing the evangelism training with visiting newcomers, shut-ins, or infrequent attendees by December 2011. **10% Complete**
- Implement and staff our Assimilation process with Andy Brimer to assure discipleship growth and participation in ministry of all who attend our local church, by September 2011. **5% Complete**
- Complete EBFC ministry evaluations and communicate findings to all ministry leaders so as to determine the necessity of all current ministries and if they are operating as a vital part of EBFC's ministry philosophy. The goal to accomplish this is by August 2011. **0% Complete**
- Complete 15 credits toward my MDiv from TNARS (The North American Reformed Seminary) by December 2011. **33% Complete**

Goals for 2012:

- Seek to develop a catalyst for the growth and passion for corporate prayer. This will be done through teaching, preaching, and significant prayer events. We will begin this by March 2012 and continue throughout the year.
- Continue equipping the Kinship Shepherds for success through comprehensive training, and ongoing encouragement and resources. The goal to accomplish this is by September 2012.
- Work with the current evangelism ministry team to encourage, support, and promote a passion for evangelism among our people. This will be done by using one day ***Share Your Faith Workshops*** and the 7-week ***EV2*** evangelism-training program, as often as deemed necessary. Along with equipping our people through training, events that represent real life *work of the ministry* application will be promoted such as, Candy Carnival, VBS, and visiting newcomers, shut-ins, or infrequent attendees. The goal to accomplish this is by December 2012.
- Implement and staff our Assimilation process with Andy Brimer to assure discipleship growth and participation in ministry of all who attend our local church, by September 2012.
- Upon the completion of the elder driven EBFC mission/vision development process, I will communicate these to all ministry leaders so as to provide a method to stay on task and evaluate their current ministries against EBFC's ministry philosophy. The goal to accomplish this is by August 2012.
- Complete 10 credits toward my MDiv from TNARS (The North American Reformed Seminary). The goal to accomplish this is by December 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dick Bickings,

Pastor of Discipleship

Student Ministries Report - December 2011

Philippians 4:7-8 ESV

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

I am between Sno Glo weekends today, and this is one of the verses that we are focusing on these weekends. As we talked about having a mind that honors Christ, the students were convicted to look at their life and see if this is true. One of the principles that stuck out to them was the following:

"What gets in your ear gets in your mind. What gets in your mind gets in your heart. What gets in your heart determines the course of your life."

This opened up some really good discussion about media and the type of things we spend our time on. Pray for our students that God will continue to use the book of Philippians in their life at Sno Glo and weeks to come.

Teaching

- **Middle School**
Decided to do another 4 weeks of evangelism lessons when I realized that is where we are in the curriculum. Apparently God wants us to camp here a bit longer.
- **High School**
Also going to focus on evangelism for the next 4 weeks again.
- **Sunday School**
Pray that God would provide another man to help with high school sunday school. I would enjoy at some point teaching an adult elective for parents.
- **Preaching**
Blessed to serve in this area.
- **Campus Ministry**

Had the privilege of teaching over at Nazareth High School again for the Fellowship of Christian Students. Talked with them about sharing their faith.

Shepherding

- Met with a woman who has such a burden for her grandson and wants to share Jesus with him.
- Met with Jennie and a congregant to discuss worship at Ebenezer.
- Still meeting weekly with a youth dad who is not a believer but God is really working in his heart. Pray that he receives Christ!

Staff

Trying to connect with staff on activities like Sno Glo just as much as the students.

Activities

- **HS Coffeehouse**

As usual this was a great night with a lot of students in attendance. Our primary goal however is to get unchurched students in the doors and make a first contact with them. We had at least 8 new students, almost all who are unchurched. Praise God! Now students are making another contact with them.

- **Movie Night**

Between Christmas and New Years we decided to have a combined movie night for high school and middle school. We had about 5 1st time visitors, and I believe we made them feel welcome. I hope to see them back again.

Other

- Attended our monthly LV Unite meeting with other youth pastors from the community
- Met with the other BFC youth pastors for breakfast; also at a denomination wide meeting to plan Sno Glo
- Attended and participated in men's breakfast
- Attended and participated in Budget Meeting
- Had another youth pastor and his family over for mutual encouragement.
- Continue to mentor another youth pastor in the area.
- Still have a few projects left with my Old Testament Introduction Class at Reformed Baptist Seminary, but in December I took a module class for New Testament Intro, and am considering a module this month with an Eschatology class.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Culton