

Elders Meeting January 13, 2014

Opening & Prayer-

Senior Pastor Tim Gibson opened the meeting in prayer.

Roll Call-

The following elders were present: Dick Bickings, Andy Brimer, Mark Culton, Tim Gibson, Scott Holwick, Shawn Sommons. Wayne Batten was excused absent.

Devotion & Prayer-

- Pastor Mark Culton led the men in a brief discussion focused on 1 Timothy 3:4-5 and the biblical requirement of discipling your children.
- The elders shared in a time of prayer and thanksgiving to God.

Approval of Minutes-

Motion was made to approve the minutes from both the December 8, 2013 Congregational Budget Meeting and the December 9, 2013 Board of Elders meeting, **seconded** and **passed**.

Financial Report-

- Treasurer Andy Brimer reviewed the financial report (Attachment 1) and a motion was made to approve it as submitted, seconded and passed.
- Andy shared how we were truly blessed by God this past year and all of our needs were met.

Missions & Evangelism Conference-

- Pastor Tim shared about the Missions and Evangelism Conference for March that he and the Missions Committee are planning.
- The first Sunday will have a missions emphasis and the 2nd weekend will have an evangelism emphasis.
- There will be an outreach on Lehigh University Campus with Mark Spence speaking on the Existence of Evil and the Existence of God.

Support Groups-

• After discussing the need for someone to oversee the support group ministry since Jason's departure, the elders asked Shawn Sommons to take this on and he agreed.

Counseling Oversight-

There was a decision on a more formal process for how counseling is conducted among the
pastors and the in-house counselors and how counseling assistance is approved and
administered.

Annual Meeting-

 There was a discussion in preparation for the Annual Meeting. Tim explained how we are going to present Ebenezer's vision during the meeting, with each of the pastors sharing.

Election of Delegates-

 Wayne Batten and Scott Holwick were recommended as delegates to annual conference, with Andy Brimer as the alternate delegate. A motion was made, seconded and passed, pending confirmation of Wayne Batten's availability.

Assignment of Officers-

A motion was made to elect the following:

- President Wayne Batten
- Vice-President Shawn Sommons
- Chairman Tim Gibson
- Secretary Mark Culton
- Treasurer Andy Brimer

This was seconded, and passed.

Child Evangelism Fellowship Ministry-

 Pastor Dick presented the opportunity to partner with Joe Favere (EBFC member) and CEF in reaching out to local schools. The elders indicated that they were in support of Joe pursuing this.

Shepherd's List-

 There was a discussion about the new "shepherd's list" which has been created. This is a webbased database that enables us to organize our care ministry among the pastors and elders, so that we keep track of the needs of our congregation and minister effectively.

G.R.O.W.

 Pastor Tim talked about the number of visitors from last year and our desire to follow up even better in 2014 through a new ministry called G.R.O.W. (God Rewards Our Work). We had 494 first-time visitors, and sent 80 visitor letters in 2013.

Networking:

Andy discussed planning a networking class in the near future.

Pastor of Congregational Care Replacement:

The elders revisited this discussion and have decided to attempt to distribute the responsibilities of congregational care among the existing pastors, elders, kinship leaders and the congregation. If the need for another staff member should become apparent, we will act accordingly.

Membership and Discipline:

The elders discussed a discipline issue in the church, and then prayed about it.

Pastoral Reports:

The pastors submitted their monthly reports and summarized them for the elders:

- Tim Gibson, Senior Pastor (Attachment 2)
- Dick Bickings, Pastor of Discipleship (Attachment 3)
- Mark Culton, Pastor of Youth (Attachment 4)

Adjournment & Prayer-

The meeting was closed in prayer and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Culton

Secretary to the Board of Elders

Attachment #1

January 13, 2014

To:

Board of Elders

From:

Andy Brimer, Treasurer

Subject:

Financial Report for January 2014

Attached you will find the following for the January 2014 Financial Report:

- December Financial Statement
- Annual 2013 Financial Statement
- Graphical representation of:
 - 1. Income compared to projected budget
 - 2. Expenses compared to projected budget
 - 3. Income trends in relation to expense trends
 - 4. Asset trends

In reviewing the financial statements I would like to make the following comments:

- Praise God for providing for all of our needs in 2013!
- Total income for December was 122% of the budgeted forecast while the YTD giving was at 99.8% of the annual forecast.
- Expenses for December were 189% of the budgeted forecast while the YTD expenses were at 102% of the annual forecast. A large contributor to the apparent overage in expenses is due to clearing the expenses from the Capital Improvement Fund (902) to the Deacon line for capital improvement expenditures per advice from the audit committee.

Other:

• The 2013 internal audit is going well, and the team - John Wiegand, Dale Tshudy, Gail Tshudy and Rachael Kuntz – hope to have a report to us by the congregational meeting. I wish to thank the group for taking on this important work and serving us in this manner.

EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - DECEMBER 2013 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BALANCE SHEET REPORT / COMPARISON

GENERAL FUND - BUDGET vs. ACTUAL

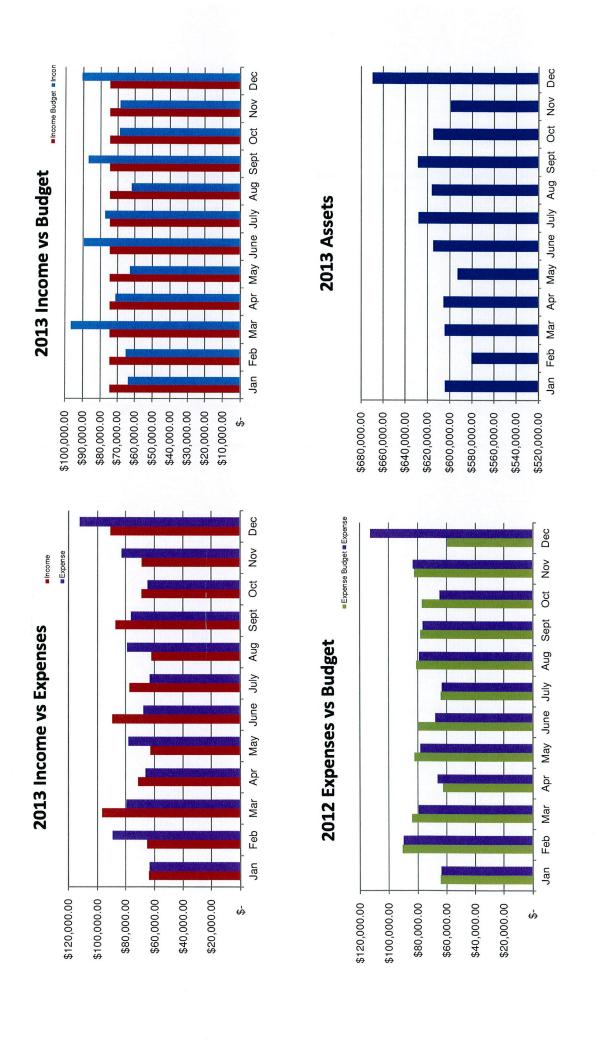
ASSETS	31-Dec-13	30-Nov-13	\$ Change		December	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Assets - Checking/Savings			•	Income)	•
18000 · Checking (KNBT)	506,289.49	435,849.26	70,440.23	1100 · Offerings / Gifts	89,665.23	74,583.34	15,081.89
18002 · CDs (KNBT)	67,134.49	67,134.49	00.0	1400 · Interest	40.63	100.00	-59.37
19000 Savings (M&T Bank)	90,679.83	90,672.13	7.70	1700 · Memorials	0.00	00.0	00.00
19001 Checking (M&T Bank)	5,375.67	5,375.67	00.0	1900 · BCS / Bidg Use	1,084.17	672.25	411.92
Total Checking/Savings	669,479.48	599,031.55	70,447.93	Total Income	90,790.03	75,355.59	15,434.44
TOTAL ASSETS	669,479.48	599,031.55	70,447.93	Expenses			
	•		`	2000 · General Finance	1,458.67	503.32	955.35
LIABILITIES				3000 · Discipleship Ministries	8,552.36	1,200.00	7,352.36
Current Liabilities				5000 · Evangelism Ministries	228.34	50.00	178.34
901 · Building Fund	82,096.19	31,253.19	50,843.00	6000 · Missions	18,365.00	135.00	18,230.00
902 · Capital Improvement Fund	0.00	-21,454.50	21,454.50	7000 · Deacon Ministries	31,273.62	6,066.66	25,206.96
903 · Transportation Fund	18.00	18.00	00.0	8000 · Worship	1,281.32	341.66	939.66
904 · Scholarships	1,717.50	2,744.50	-1,027.00	9000 Office Expenses	3,669.98	2,161.67	1,508.31
905 · Faith Promise	30,341.69	4,233.18	26,108.51	1000 · Congregational Care	80.00	165.00	-85.00
907 · Benevolence Fund	13,391.30	17,853.53	-4,462.23	11000 · Compensation	48,749.96	48,865.45	-115.49
908 · Music Fund	49.20	49.20	00.0	Total Expense	112,431.63	59,488.76	54,170.49
911 · Year End Accruals	8,480.16	8,480.16	00.0				
912 · Run For The Children	2,458.01	2,358.01	100.00	Net Ordinary Income	-21,641.60	15,866.83	-38,736.05
914 · HRA	00.0	1,259.86	-1,259.86	Net Fund Transfer between Accts.	00.00	00.0	00.00
915 · Youth Summer Missions	105.73	105.73	00.00	Net Income	-21,641.60	15,866.83	-38,736.05
100 · Payroll Liabilities	7,044.32	6,711.71	332.61				
Total Current Liabilities	145,702.10	53,612.57	92,089.53	DESIGNA.	DESIGNATED FUNDS		
Long Term Liabilities					Income	Expenses	Net Income
810 - Righting Mortagon	000	000	000	901 - Brilding Frind	50 843 00		50.843.00
Total I ong Term I iahilities		00.0	00.0	901 Dailaing and	00.07.00		00.0
Total Liabilities	145 702 10	53.612.57	92.089.53		258.00	1,285,00	-1.027.00
					28,208.51	2,100.00	26,108.51
EQUITY				907 · Benevolence Fund	2,165.00	6,627.23	-4,462.23
900 · Retained Earnings	959,280.04	959,280.04	00.0	908 · Music Fund	0.00	00.0	00.00
Net Income	-27,623.86	-5,982.26	-21,641.60				
1000 · Opening Bal Equity	-407,878.80	-407,878.80	0.00	OTHEF	OTHER FUNDS		
Total Equity	523,777.38	545,418.98	-21,641.60	902 · Capital Improvement Fund	21,454.50	00.0	21,454.50
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	669,479.48	599,031.55	70,447.93	911 · Year End Accruals	0.00	0.00	00.00
7				912. Run For The Children	100.00	00.0	100.00
			1:2/14	914 · HRA	1,259.86	0.00	1,259.86
Indien arimer		 	1110111	915 Youth Summer Missions	00.0	00.0	00.0
reasurer		_	Uate	lotal Other Current Liabilities	104,288.87	10,012.23	94,276.64

EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - 2013 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BALANCE SHEET REPORT / COMPARISON

GENERAL FUND - BUDGET vs. ACTUAL

ASSETS	31-Dec-13	31-Dec-12	\$ Change		Dec YTD	Budget	Variance	%BGT YTD
Assets - Checking/Savings				Income				
18000 · Checking (KNBT)	506,289.49	478,672.09	27,617.40	1100 · Offerings / Gifts	893,464.94	895,000.00	-1,535.06	89.8%
18002 · CDs (KNBT)	67,134.49	66,808.26	326.23	1400 · Interest	784.63	1,200.00	-415.37	%59
19000 Savings (M&T Bank)	90,679.83	90,589.19	90.64	1700 · Memorials	340.00	0.00	340.00	N/A
19001 · Checking (M&T Bank)	5,375.67	5,393.62	-17.95	1900 · BCS / Bldg Use	9,251.67	8,067.00	1,184.67	115%
Total Checking/Savings	669,479.48	641,463.16	28,016.32	Total Income	903,841.24	904,267.00	-425.76	100%
TOTAL ASSETS	669,479.48	641,463.16	28,016.32	Expenses				
				2000 General Finance	30,696.55	36,750.00	-6,053.45	84%
LIABILITIES				3000 · Discipleship	28,289.18	29,260.00	-970.82	%26
Current Liabilities				5000 · Evangelism	710.41	2,800.00	-2,089.59	25%
901 · Building Fund	82,096.19	14,881.99	67,214.20	6000 · Missions	141,827.75	141,642.00	185.75	100%
902 · Capital Improvements	0.00	00.00	0.00	7000 · Deacon	101,013.34	78,300.00	22,713.34	129%
903 · Transportation Fund	18.00	8.00	10.00	8000 · Worship	9,751.93	6,000.00	3,751.93	163%
904 · Scholarships	1,717.50	2,286.51	-569.01	9000 · Office/Admin	18,800.22	20,550.00	-1,749.78	91%
905 · Faith Promise	30,341.69	49,488.54	-19,146.85	10000 · Congregational Care	1,548.52	2,250.00	-701.48	%69
907 · Benevolence Fund	13,391.30	6,042.91	7,348.39	11000 · Compensation	590,804.82	586,675.34	4,129.48	101%
908 · Music Fund	49.20	28.20	21.00	Total Expense	922,215.10	904,227.34	19,215.38	102%
911 · Year End Accruals	8,480.16	5,990.99	2,489.17					
912 · Run For The Children	2,458.01	260.11	2,197.90	Net Ordinary Income	-18,373.86	39.66	-19,641.14	
914 · HRA	0.00	2,489.17	-2,489.17	Net Fund Transfer between Accts.	9,250.00	0.00	9,250.00	
915 · Youth Summer Missions	105.73	1,806.33	-1,700.60	Net Income	-27,623.86	39.66	-28,891.14	
100 · Payroll Liabilities	7,044.32	6,779.17	265.15					
Total Other Current Liabilities	145,702.10	90,061.92	55,640.18	DESIGNATED FUNDS	ED FUNDS			
Long Term Liabilities					Income	Expenses	Net	
810 · Building Mortgage	000	0		901 · Ruilding Eund	67 214 20		67 214 20	
Total Long Term Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	903 · Transportation Fund	10.00	00.0	10.00	
Total Liabilities	145,702.10	90.061.92	55,640.18	904 · Scholarships	1,868.99	2,438.00	-569.01	
		•		905 Faith Promise	59,142.49	78,289.34	-19,146.85	
EQUITY				907 · Benevolence Fund	29,617.21	22,268.82	7,348.39	
900 · Retained Earnings	959,280.04	923,839.75	35,440.29	908 · Music Fund	21.00	0.00	21.00	
Net Income	-27,623.86	35,440.29	-63,064.15					
1000 · Opening Bal Equity	-407,878.80	-407,878.80	00.00	OTHER	OTHER FUNDS			
Total Equity	523,777.38	551,401.24	-27,623.86	902 · Capital Improvements	21,454.50	21,454.50	00.0	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	669,479.48	641,463.16	28,016.32	911 · Year End Accruals	381.57	500.00	-118.43	
,				912. Run For The Children	4,230.00	2,032.10	2,197.90	
			1,701	914 · HRA	11,009.86	8,371.71	2,638.15	
Unspen J'Amer	1	ı	11/0/11	915 · Youth Summer Missions	1,690.00	3,390.60	-1,700.60	
Treasurer		_	Date	Total Other Current Liabilities	196,639.82	138,745.07	57,894.75	



Pastor Tim's Ministry Report January 13, 2014

Attachment #2

Studying & Preaching: I continue to enjoy studying and preaching through the book of Hebrews. It has been a rich study and I hope and pray that our flock here at Ebenezer is growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have recently moved into a section of scripture (6:4-12) which has traditionally been difficult to understand and has tripped up many throughout history. We are going slow and I believe are understanding it rightly through careful exegesis and explanation.

LEAD Men's Leadership Training: The class was canceled over the holiday just prior to Christmas and after Christmas due to an ice storm. However, the men are being faithful in their reading. We are about to enter a section on Church health which should be very informative for the men in helping them identify what it is that we are to be doing in order to please the Lord. Hopefully this will help the men develop a biblical ministry of philosophy.

Worship Ministries: (From Jennie Flicker)

Most of my time went into worship planning this past month. Christmas brought special services, more special music, extra rehearsals, and other minor tasks that add up. Things went smoothly, and now I'm focusing on two major things: 1) Continuing to involve more students in worship ministries and 2) Continuing to build up the skills and personnel for worship ministries. Mainly, my focus is on adding members to the choir and worship team as well as focusing on the skills needed from the sound crew. There is one new attendee training with Jim Hans as a soundboard tech. Praise God! I took two students with me to Fellowship Manor at the beginning of January. It was their first time serving, and they seemed to enjoy using their gifts in that way. The Pastor at Fellowship Manor shared his need of musicians to come for their Sunday morning services, too. Currently, they only have one resident who can assist.

Kinship Group: Our Kinship Group has been wonderful. We were able to financially help out a member of our group over the Christmas holiday. We have been going through John Piper's Desiring God and begin challenged each time. Overall we are having good success.

Wednesday Night Bible Study/Prayer Meeting: I am very disappointed in the participation of Wednesday night Bible study and prayer meeting. We were having almost 40 each week. Recently we have had less than 20. The holiday slump may be the cause. I am moving through the book of Matthew slowly. We are right in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount. It has been a rich study. I will continue to teach and exhort our people to come out to pray together.

Holiday Vacation: We had an incredible time going back home for the holiday seeing family and friends. We thank EBFC for allowing us to go. We were refreshed and also excited about reentering the Lehigh Valley to do ministry for our Lord. We are anticipating a great year in 2014.

It is such a blessing to serve our Lord at EBFC. My prayer is that 2014 will be a year that we will have an incredible impact for the Kingdom.

Serving Christ,

Pastor Tim Gibson

Attachment #3

POD (Pastor of Discipleship) Report – Dec 2013/Jan 2014

As I recently completed the New Testament and my personal bible study trek through the Scriptures. I now have the awesome privilege to began again in the Old Testament. Here in the book of Genesis, I am reminded once again through the Abrahamic covenant, how God had purposed to bless a covenant community of people, from every nation, redeemed from the sinful mass of humanity...

"Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."" (Genesis 12:1–3, ESV)

God, for reasons known only to Himself, chose to bring glory to Himself by calling a pagan like Abram from an idolatrous nation like Ur, to produce a unique, holy nation from which the Messiah would be born, live, and die for this covenant community of God people, thus demonstrating His eternal attributes of justice, holiness, wrath, love, mercy, and grace. It is because of this covenant that we should be motivated to serve Christ and allow Him to use us to build His covenant community, the Church!

With that in mind, here is a quick summary of some of the ministry opportunities from December 2013/January 2014:

Kids Crossing

- Cross Time Sunday School:
 - O Praise the Lord, the Lissy's have stepped up to teach 5th Grade for the **even** months, since Dee Sutton stepped down at the end of December 2013.
 - O Curriculum change: Praise the Lord for the Gospel Project material...this Bible/Christ centered curriculum has been well received by both teachers and students, though we have had some technical problems recently with the LifeWay site.
- Early Childhood (2&3 year-olds): Continuing to go well for both services and Sunday School.
- **Children's Church:** The Gospel Project curriculum worship segment is working well for Children's Church with an average increasing to 10 children attending.
- Wednesday Evening Programs: Our new Awana program is quickly approaching 100 kids in attendance, which means we do a have a real need of more volunteers. It is very exciting to see kids learning and reciting scripture and listening intently to the bible teaching done by our elders. For 2014, the elder's will be teaching a number of doctrinal topics. Please pray that the Lord would send us the necessary volunteers, and that the scriptures the children are learning may richly dwell in them!

Student Ministry

See Pastor Mark's report.

Adult Ministry

- Adult Electives: Our winter semester of Adult Electives is in full swing with three classes being offered as follows:
 - o The book of Acts (Part 2) Rich Mastronardo
 - o The book of John Mike Capaldi
 - The book of Joshua Pastor Dick Bickings.

Please pray that the Lord would send forth some new adult elective teachers so that we may offer a variety of subjects, and give the current teachers a break. We currently only have 5 adult teachers to begin 2014.

Men's Ministry:

- O Bethel Series: Praise the Lord, the program is going very well...between all three classes we have a total of 45 students! The classes are back in session as of the first week in January 2014.
- o Men's Bible Studies/Prayer:
 - Tuesday mornings from 6:15 AM 8:00 AM, Men's prayer time with 6-8 men attending.
 - Thursday mornings from 6:15 AM 7:30 AM, This early morning bible study group is currently studying 'What is Providence?' by Derek W. H. Thomas.
- Women's Ministry: Here is an update from Laura...
 - "Gideon "Your Weakness. God's Strength begins this evening and tomorrow morning.

MOPS- Gearing up for a new year with a resource fair. Tim will have a table, along with Rachel and myself. A lot of the women do not have a church, so we are hoping to do some promoting of EBFC on Thursday.

Feminine Appeal Class to start late March after Mission/Evangelism class."

Discipleship Support

 Kinship: We praise the Lord for the 14 groups with 173 adults and 89 kids involved, and a variety of bible study topics.

Evangelism/Outreach:

- Manna Ministry: We are now providing help for those who are truly needy and have volunteers available
 to meet Spiritual needs. We are hoping to look at a couple of possible facilities in the Pembroke area of
 Bethlehem in early 2014 where we can provide food and clothing for the needy and hold services for them
 to reach their spiritual needs.
- BattleZone at Northampton County Prison: We are working on an opportunity to go back in February 2014 and work in the maximum-security level of the prison. Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom concerning this possibility, and that other men who have been through this study would rise up and help.

Other:

- Continued to meet with several families to counsel and encourage
- Developed Shepherd List Database for Congregational Care Followup
- Helped in Awana as a T&T Leader
- Helped in MOPS as the I ^{1/2} 2^{1/2} year-old class leader
- Taught Bethel OT class on Saturday mornings
- Taught Joshua Class on Sunday mornings for Adult Electives
- Continuing in Greek 1, TNARS seminary course, which is a part of my BS501 Biblical Languages course, as time permits.

Respectfully Submitted, Dick Bickings, Pastor of Discipleship

Attachment # 4

Student Ministries Report - December 2013

"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

(Isaiah 1:18, ESV)

We missed several youth gatherings in December because of the snow. It seems like forever since we had a normal youth night. Even now I look out my office window and I am looking at 6-10 inches of beautiful snow. It reminds me of how amazing and perfect God's forgiveness has been in my life. I have let God down so many times, and yet He faithfully washes me white as snow because of the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Here are two take-aways for parents -

- 1. Let's teach our teens about God's perfect forgiveness both by sharing with them the Word of God, but also sharing personal stories about how we messed up and God washed us clean. Obviously we don't go into gory details with our kids, but they need to know that we humbly admit our need for a Savior, and they need to know what redemption looks like practically in a life.
- 2. One of the best ways we can teach our children forgiveness is by modeling it when they mess up. Teens are going to do a lot of stupid things, it is just part of the growing up process. May we extend the same grace we have received from our Faithful God.

Teaching

• Middle School

Using the Core Truth curriculum, in which we go through the core doctrines of the faith - The mini series we are finishing up right now is on *Jesus Christ* and we are calling it *Messiah*.

High School

We will be starting our James study the end of this month, after we take 2 weeks to focus on mentoring in youth group.

Sunday School

We are using the curriculum "The Gospel Project".

Had the tremendous privilege of preaching in AM service on December 29th.

Shepherding

 Had breakfast with a youth dad and sunday school teacher. I think I was more shepherded than him though. :-)

Staff

- We had our bi-monthly staff meeting at our house. It was a blessing.
- Had lunch with a male staff member. I was blessed.

Activities

Illuminite - December was a Christmas party, and we had a great turnout. We continue to discuss the best way to do Illuminite. We want to keep our goals in front of us at all times!

<u>Other</u>

- Participated in the Annual Budget Meeting.
- The ministry to the Lehigh wrestling team has been going well, with a short Bible study every Thursday and opportunities for counseling those days as well.
- Had our quarterly BOYYA (BFC Board of Youth and Young Adults) Meeting
- Participated in our elder gathering at the Gibsons. Enjoyed an edifying discussion with Pastor Tim about Santa.
- Met with the other BFC youth pastors for our monthly breakfast. Always a great time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Culton