

### Board of Elders Meeting May 11, 2015

### Roll Call & Prayer

- The following elders were present: Wayne Batten, Pat Barry, Dick Bickings, Andy Brimer, Mark Culton, Dennis Flannigan, Swannie Griffin, Tim Gibson, Kevin Hardy, Jeremy Harkins, Chris Jones, Byron Roth and Shawn Sommons.
- Scott Holwick was excused absent.
- Mark opened in prayer.

### **Devotional & Prayer**

Pastor Tim led the elders through a devotional time from Matthew 23:1-12.

- vs. 1-7) **Description of false teachers** 
  - o lack authority (false "propped up" authority)
  - o lack integrity
  - o lack sympathy
  - o lack spirituality
  - o lack humility
- vs. 8-12) True spiritual leaders
  - o men of integrity
  - o men of sympathy
  - o men of spirituality
  - o men of humility

The elders split into pairs and had an extended time of prayer for each other and for the needs of the congregation.

### **Our Purpose**

Pastor Tim wrote our purpose on the board and we referred to it during the meeting.

- To be a **Church...** where people are transformed by the truth of God's Word
- To be a **Community...** of believers unified in worship, prayer and service
- To be a **Fellowship...** of people who exercise the love of Christ for one another (caring, sharing, encouraging)
- To be **Reaching Arms** for the Gospel through evangelism, counseling, church planting, and missions

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** was made to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2015 Board of Elders meeting, **seconded** and **passed**.

### **Financial Report**

Andy reviewed the financial report (Attachment 1). Income was a bit higher than expected and spending was in a good place; yet we are still a bit under budget for the year. A **motion** was made to approve the financial report. This was **seconded** and **passed**.

### **Online Registration and Payments**

Andy shared how we are now using PayPal to handle the online payments for VBS. Online payments and registrations have been available for events through our website through our current online giving service, ServiceU. However, we may convert completely to PayPal for all online giving and use it with a robust customizable form for registrations.

### **Annual Conference Update**

- There were a few doctrinal items that were discussed:
  - Baptism The Q-Town church had proposed that there be a study committee to reevaluate whether our churches should allow those into membership who had been baptized as believers but not immersed (another mode of baptism - i.e. pouring)
  - o **Spousal Abuse as a reason for divorce** a study committee reported on whether there should be an allowance for divorce in the case of spousal abuse. The consensus of the committee and annual conference was that there is no Biblical allowance for this, although separation (with the intent of reconciliation) may often be needed.
  - Sexual Holiness Study Committee there was a new article that was voted on for 1st Reading - "Sexual Holiness" and the current article "Homosexuality" was replaced with a new article - "Sexual Immorality".
- There was also a discussion about Pinebrook and its health at annual conference. This
  included a frank discussion about the facilities and value of Pinebrook on the floor at
  conference and what its viability for the future is. There was no consensus, but the
  conversation was begun.
- Wayne brought up two concerns he had after reading the committee reports from annual conference First, Ebenezer's staff salaries and benefits are a greater percentage of our annual income than any other church and Wayne recommended that the finance committee take note of this and report to us any directions and observations they may have. Secondly, because of the mention in the BFCBOM report over the concern of giving to missions outside of the BFC and the fact that Ebenezer's giving to missions outside the BFC is substantial, Wayne will review the criteria for missions giving reported to annual conference with Andy Brimer and report back to the elders thereafter for their input and direction.
- There was also a discussion at conference about communication between a church's elder board and their pastor once the pastor reaches the age of 60. There should be a yearly conversation about the direction and plans looking towards retirement, which may not be for many years, but should be discussed regularly.
- The discussion about annual conference also led to a discussion with our elders about divorce and remarriage and real life situations.

### **Discussion Items**

### 1) Outdoor Service

- Pastor Jeremy led us through plans for an outdoor service. This involves an
  opportunity for all of us to meet at one time and enjoy the unity that would bring.
- We also would desire for our people to be able to enjoy the fellowship and worship and not be burdened with food prep.
- The general format for this would be a morning service and then a meal together all outside.
- There would be an online sign-up so that we can get an accurate head count and an opportunity for donations to defray some of the costs. There was a motion to continue to pursue an outdoor service not to exceed \$6,000. This **motion** was **seconded** and **approved**.
- 2) <u>Joint Elders/Deacons/Staff Meeting in June</u> This will include a training by the Finance/Audit committee so we can be as organized and clear as possible through our stewardship as it relates to clean processes and adequate documentation.

### 3) Bible Bee

- Andy Brimer talked with the Elders about the Bible Bee and some late-breaking developments. There has been a recent leadership change in the national organization along with other numerous changes. The National Bible Bee headquarters is not using the Sword Study curriculum. (Post-meeting note: The National Bible Bee chose not to use the Sword Study.) Additionally, there are also logistic changes including testing, dates, etc. that have caused concern regarding the integrity of the ministry, leading the local leadership team to withdraw as local hosts.
- The Ebenezer leadership team decided they will host a summer family discipleship ministry using the *Sword Study* material. All are welcome to order the materials and participate in Bible memory and study.
- 4) Welcoming Committee Chris Jones asked for some feedback about the welcoming in Room #2. The elders felt that while it is better attended some weeks than others, we should stick with it for a little while to see how effective it is. We also talked about ways to make Room #2 more easily discoverable. Chris also mentioned he has some people who are willing to write letters to newcomers, and they will begin to pursue this. Chris also mentioned that while there are people willing to host a welcome dessert, they may wait until fall to do this.
- 5) <u>Service Times</u> Swannie proposed we move the early service to 8:30am to allow for time for our leaders to interact with people and still get to Sunday school rooms in time to teach. This would also benefit the congregation, giving them more time to fellowship with and minister to each other. This conversation will continue.
- 6) <u>Ministry Assimilation</u> Kevin Hardy shared how assimilation is going and how they are working towards getting those who attend involved. Kevin shadowed Andy Brimer during the recent networking class and is looking towards future classes.
- 7) Evangelism Pat Barry shared how they are putting together some training for evangelism. This will include a monthly "refresher," as well as something that they are working on for the Vacation Bible School. The ministry team is adding members, which has been encouraging.

### 8) Membership and Discipline

- The elders reviewed the membership applications for Alan and Mary Baker. Both were **voted** on and **approved** for membership.
- We also discussed how to lovingly address those active members who do not give at all financially.

### **Pastoral Reports**

The pastors submitted their monthly reports:

- Tim Gibson, Senior Pastor (Attachment 2)
- Dick Bickings, Pastor of Discipleship (Attachment 3)
- Mark Culton, Youth Pastor (Attachment 4)
- Jeremy Harkins, Worship Pastor (Attachment 5)

### **Adjournment & Prayer**

Chris closed in prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Culton

Secretary to the Board of Elders

# EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - APRIL 2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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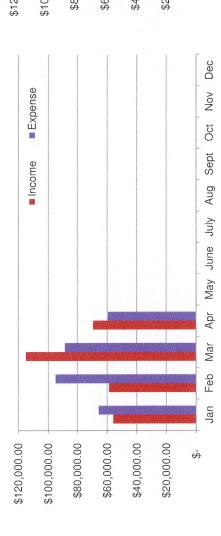
## GENERAL FUND - BUDGET vs. ACTUAL

ASSETS	30-Apr-15	31-Mar-15	\$ Change		April	Budget	Variance	
Assets - Checking/Savings				Income	99 949	00 777	99 700 9	
18000 · Checking (KNBT)	574,294.73	554,774.60	19,520.13	1100 Otterings / GITTS	00,040.00	01,444.00	0,904.00	
18002 · CDs (KNBT)	67,545.48	67,545.48	0.00	1400 interest	45.04	43.00	2.04	
19000 · Savings (M&T Bank)	90,800.40	90,792.94	7.46	1700 · Memorials	0.00	0.00	0.00	
19001 Checking (M&T Bank)	5,375.67	5,375.67	0.00	1900 · BCS / Bldg Use	1,093.00	1,093.00	00.00	
Total Checking/Savings	738,016.28	718,488.69	19,527.59	Total Income	69,486.70	62,580.00	6,906.70	
TOTAL ASSETS	738,016.28	718,488.69	19,527.59	Expenses				
		•		2000 · General Finance	1,145.94	1,166.25	-20.31	
IIABIIITIES				3000 · Discipleship	2,752.53	5,680.32	-2,927.79	
Current I jabilities				5000 · Evangelism	00.0	250.00	-250.00	
Q01 - Ruilding Fund	98 874 19	98,134,19	740.00	6000 Missions	00.00	0.00	00.00	
902 - Capital Improvements	00'0	00.0	00.0	7000 · Deacon	5,672.15	6,645.84	-973.69	
903 · Transportation Fund	148.00	148.00	00.00	8000 · Worship	1,206.50	300.00	906.50	
904 · Scholarship Fund	1.847.50	2,617.50	-770.00	9000 · Office & Admin	1,434.23	1,321.00	113.23	
905 · Faith Promise	14,167.32	13,115.32	1,052.00	10000 · Congregational Care	00.0	337.49	-337.49	
907 · Benevolence Fund	13,263.78	12,491.35	772.43	11000 · Compensation	47,434.72	46,879.10	555.62	
	144.20	144.20	00.00	Total Expense	59,646.07	62,580.00	-2,933.93	
911 · Year End Accruals	8,480.16	8,480.16	00.0					
912 · Run For The Children	409.29	409.29	00.00	Net Ordinary Income	9,840.63	0.00	9,840.63	
914 · HRA	4,412.40	4,487.40	-75.00	Net Fund Transfer between Accts.	0.00	00.00	0.00	
915 · Youth Summer Missions	16,121.47	7,489.47	8,632.00	Net Income	9,840.63	0.00	9,840.63	
100 · Payroll Liabilities	6,278.60	6,943.07	-664.47					
Total Current Liabilities	164,146.91	154,459.95	9,686.96	DESIGNATED FUNDS	D FUNDS			
Long Term Liabilities					Income	Expenses	Net	
802 - Mortande	00.0	00.00	00.00	901 · Building Fund	740.00	0.00	740.00	
Total I ong Term I jahilities	000	000	000	903 · Transportation Fund	0.00	00.00	00.00	
Total Liabilities	164 146 91	154.459.95	9.686.96	904 · Scholarship Fund	115.00	885.00	-770.00	
				905 · Faith Promise	1,412.00	360.00	1,052.00	
Equity				907 · Benevolence Fund	955.00	182.57	•	A
900 · Retained Earnings	991,473.20	991,473.20	0.00	908 · Music Fund	00.00	00.0	æ , 00 0	1+
Net Income	-9,725.03	-19,565.66	9,840.63				λu	ta
1000 · Opening Bal Equity	-407,878.80	-407,878.80	0.00	OTHER LIABILITY ACCOUNTS	Y ACCOUNT			.CA
Total Equity	573,869.37	564,028.74	9,840.63	902 · Capital Improvements	0.00	00.00		(m
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	738,016.28	718,488.69	19,527.59	911 · Year End Accruals	00.0	0.00		عرا
				912 · Run For The Children	00.0	0.00		n
			•	914 · HRA	00.0	75.00	-75.00	£
andrew Monnes		ı	5/11/15	915 · Youth Summer Missions	8,632.00	0.00	8,632.00	· 7
Treasurer			Date	Total Current Liabilities	11,854.00	1,502.57	10,351.43	#
								/

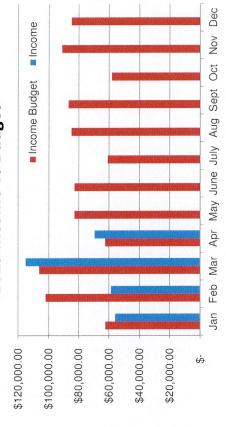
# EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - APRIL YTD 2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BALA	BALANCE SHEET			GENERAL FUND - BUDGET vs. ACTUAL	JDGET vs. A	CTUAL		
ASSETS	30-Apr-15	31-Dec-14	\$ Change	omoon	April YTD	Budget	Variance	% BGT YTD
Assets - Cnecking/savings 18000 · Checking (KNBT)	574,294.73	578,252.65	-3,957.92	1100 · Offerings / Gifts	294,459.04	328,411.10	-33,952.06	90%
18002 : CDS (KNBT) 19000 : Savings (M&T Bank)	67,343.48 90,800.40	90,770.55	0.00 29.85	1700 · Memorials	350.00	000	350.00	2 X
19001 · Checking (M&T Bank)	5,375.67	5,375.67	0.00	1900 · BCS / Bldg Use		4,372.00	0.00	100%
Total Checking/Savings	738,016.28	741,944.35	-3,928.07	Total Income	299,359.64	333,187.10	-33,827.46	%06
TOTAL ASSETS	738,016.28	741,944.35	-3,928.07	Expenses				į
				2000 · General Finance	19,200.60	17,668.75	1,531.85	109%
LIABILITIES				3000 · Discipleship	7,277.17	14,176.28	-6,899.11	51%
Current Liabilities				5000 · Evangelism	1,846.45	3,000.00	-1,153.55	%79 00%
901 · Building Fund	98,874.19	93,730.19	5,144.00	6000 · Missions	42,785.70	43,187.50	-401.80	36.8
902 · Capital Improvements	0.00	0.00	0.00	7000 · Deacon	37,295.74	56,013.36	-18,/1/.62	%/9
903 · Transportation Fund	148.00	118.00	30.00	8000 · Worship	2,309.20	1,060.00	1,249.20	218%
904 · Scholarship Fund	1,847.50	2,381.50	-534.00	9000 · Office & Admin	5,331.12	6,289.00	-957.88	85%
905 · Faith Promise	14,167.32	32,400.32	-18,233.00	10000 · Congregational Care		1,424.96	-1,294.15	%6
907 · Benevolence Fund	13,263.78	15,172.92	-1,909.14	11000 · Compensation		190,367.25	2,540.63	101%
908 · Music Fund	144.20	144.20	0.00	Total Expense	309,084.67	333,187.10	-24,102.43	93%
911 · Year End Accruals	8,480.16	7,488.33	991.83			,		
912 · Run For The Children	409.29	409.29	0.00	Net Ordinary Income	-9,725.03	0.00	-9,725.03	
914 · HRA	4,412.40	0.00	4,412.40	Net Fund Transfer between Accts.	0.00	00.00	0.00	
915 · Youth Summer Missions	16,121.47	(320.53)	16,442.00	Net Income	-9,725.03	0.00	-9,725.03	
100 · Payroll Líabilities	6,278.60	6,825.73	-547.13			ļ		
Total Current Liabilities	164,146.91	158,349.95	5,796.96	DESIGNATED FUNDS INCOME	UNDS INCOM	JE		
Lone 802 · Mortgage	00.0	0.00	00.0		Income	Expenses	Net	
Total Long Term Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	901 · Building Fund	5,144.00	00.00	5,144.00	
)	164,146.91	158,349.95	5,796.96	903 · Transportation Fund	30.00	00.00	30.00	
Total Liabilities					841.00	1,375.00	-534.00	
				905 · Faith Promise	9,077.00	27,310.00	-18,233.00	
EQUITY				907 · Benevolence Fund	7,101.53	9,010.6	41.808.1-	
900 · Retained Earnings	991,473.20 -9. <b>725.03</b>	931,656.18	59,817.02 -69,542.05	908 · Music Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1000 · Opening Bal Equity	-407,878.80	-407,878.80	00.0	OTHER LIABILITY ACCOUNTS	LY ACCOUNT	2		
Total Equity	573,869.37	583,594.40	-9,725.03	902 · Capital Improvements	00.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	738,016.28	741,944.35	-3,928.07	911 · Year End Accruals	991.83	00.0	991.83	
0.0					0.00	2 187 60	4 412 40	
Indies Mumis			5/11/15	914 THYS 915 · Youth Summer Missions	17,292.00	850.00	16,442.00	
Treasurer		•	Date	Total Current Liabilities	47,077.36	40,733.27	6,344.09	

### 2015 Income vs Expenses

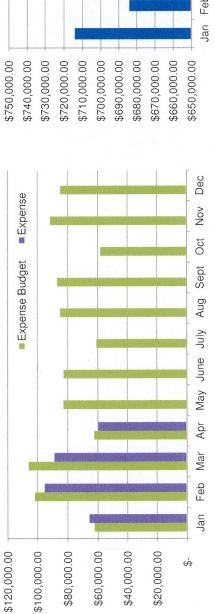


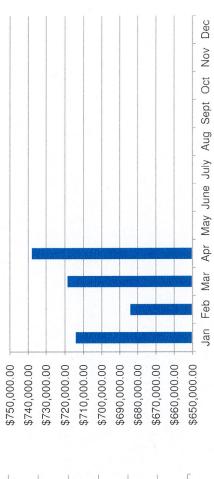
### 2015 Income vs Budget



2015 Assets

2015 Expenses vs Budget





### Attachment #Z

### Pastor Tim's Ministry Report May 11, 2015

The Lord is so good. I'm so thankful for the warm weather that has finally reached the Lehigh valley. I feel like the Lord is doing a great work in our church body. There have been so many new faces at our church. My prayer has been that the Lord would make us a body of believers who are *mature in the Word, faithful followers of our Savior*, and *loving with one another*. My prayer is that when visitors come into our services that we will be able to provide these three things to them. I am sensing that the Lord is working in our Church. Following are a few areas that I have focused on in the last month.

**Studying & Preaching:** I have finished the short series entitled "Answers for Life" from Genesis 1-11. I have begun preaching a new series from Genesis 12-25 I've entitled "A Journey of Faith." It is a joy to study each and every week and do my best to not only be faithful to the text of Scripture and allow it to speak, but also to provide effective application. I am working hard on allowing practical applications to come forth through the sermon from point to point. I have had several positive comments about how the Lord is working through this study through Genesis.

<u>Baptism/Membership Interviews</u>: Once again, I am doing baptism interviews preparing for May 17. We have several adults and children who are prepared to follow the Lord in baptism. We also are having many come into membership. It is a joy to interview these blessed brothers and sisters and hear their story and how the Lord is leading them to Ebenezer BFC.

**BFC Annual Conference**: Every year I attend BFC conference I am impressed with the spiritual depth of our denomination. The preaching was so encouraging from Dr. Mark Young, President of Denver Seminary (and former professor of mine from Dallas Seminary). His message along with Duane Moyer's message was very challenging on mission. The discussion of theological issues among the denomination was also quite encouraging. While there was a little discussion about procedures, the majority of time we spent engaged in discussing revisions to our Biblical Principles of Living (BPL). The discussion was also mixed with deep prayer, worship and Bible reading. I was very encouraged about the heart of our denomination!

<u>Transition Leadership Team (TLT) for Forks Church Plant</u>: I continue to meet with Tim Zuck as a part of his leadership team. The team simply provides encouragement and prayer support for Tim and the core team.

<u>Marriage Counseling</u>: Counseling has seemed to pick up a bit. I have spent more time over the last month doing marriage counseling, both in my office and over the phone. We have several couples in our church who are really struggling. I would like to think that my counseling is giving helpful but most importantly biblical advice.

**Counseling/Lunch/Mentoring/Visitation**: I continue to meet with several men for breakfast, and prayer on a regular basis. This last month I met with five men.

Men's Group/Accountability: I encouraged all the elders to find several men to meet with regularly (at least monthly). I have gathered about 6-7 men and we are going to begin going through the book of Romans together. We are going to have prayer time and accountability time simply encouraging each other to love our wives, to follow our Savior faithfully, and to lead our families in the Lord.

Summer Wednesday Night Worship/Bible Study/Prayer: The study on Wednesday night has been going good. On average we are having 15-20 people each night. Starting on May 20 through the summer, I am changing focus a little in hopes to encourage more of our people to come out for midweek worship and prayer. I'm going to preach a series I've entitled "Pleasing the Lord." We will look at different topics (still short exposition of passages) that pertain to this topic. Jeremy and the worship team are going to provide music for a short worship time each night (2-3 hymns &/or choruses).

It is a real joy to serve the Lord here at Ebenezer. I'm so thankful for our elders, deacons & staff! We truly have a great team here at EBFC.

Serving Christ,

**Pastor Tim Gibson** 

Attachment #3

### POD (Pastor of Discipleship) Report, Apr/May 2015

This morning as my wife and I prepared to drive back from a wonderful weekend in Delaware with our children and grandchildren, and praising the Lord for all he is doing in their lives, I read this portion of Scripture from 2 Chronicles...

"Behold, God is with us at our head, and his priests with their battle trumpets to sound the call to battle against you. O sons of Israel, do not fight against the Lord, the God of your fathers, for you cannot succeed."" (2 Chronicles 13:12, ESV)

This passage was an indictment spoken by Abijah, King of Judah, against Jeroboam, the King of Israel, who had come out against Judah in battle. When Judah and Israel split, Jeroboam took 10 tribes back north and set up his own worship center, equipped with gods and priests. Whereas, though Rehoboam, king over Judah after his father Solomon died, created the split and abandoned the Lord, his son Abijah took seriously the commands and polity of worship that his grandfather (Solomon) and great-grandfather (David) had established through the Word of the Lord.

The simple truth that I learned through this is that when we go our own way and work tirelessly at our own agenda, we are fighting against the Lord, not our co-workers, wives, children, or perceived enemies. There is no peace in those moments, nor is there success, whether spiritual or physical. Only in humble obedience can we ever wish to succeed in our spiritual journey, because *God is with us at our head*! "Oh Lord, please help me not to fight against you through my disobedience and self-confidence, Amen."

With that in mind, here is a quick summary of some of the ministry opportunities from April/May 2015:

### **Kids Crossing**

- Cross Time Sunday School: Praise the Lord for the full complement of teachers he has given us! We are currently studying how Jesus prepared His disciples for a life of ministry, and how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us until He returns.
- Early Childhood (2&3 year-olds): Continuing to go well for both services and Sunday School. Please pray that the Lord will provide volunteers for several openings that need to be filled in June.
- Children's Church: The Gospel Project curriculum worship segment continues to work well for Children's Church. We continue to see between 5-12 students each week.
- Wednesday Evening Programs: Our Awana program continues to be effective in teaching the scriptures to our kids through bible memorization, and doctrinal truths. The elders are teaching a series based on John Piper's book, "What Jesus Demands from the World". On May 6, we hosted the 2nd annual Awana Pinewood Derby with many attending watch their children compete. We will be concluding our Awana year on May 13 with our closing program and awards night. It has been a great year as we've heard and seen our children learn and recite God's Holy Word. Please pray for our 2015/2016 season as we need several leadership positions filled.
- New PA Background Check Requirements for Employees & Volunteers: We are continuing to process the new PA Background Check Requirements for volunteers with good cooperation from everyone; we are currently at the 50% level with 2 months to go. Please pray that we will be able to complete this process and work out a schedule to provide the Mandatory Reporting training required for each.
- VBS 2015, "Journey Off The Map", June 22-26, 2015: In this years theme, LifeWay's VBS takes our kids to uncharted territory where they will begin to understand that obedience to God can lead them beyond the expected.

Praise the Lord, we have all the key leadership positions full! Please pray that the Lord provides us with the volunteers needed, and participants to attend as our online registration went live on May I. Our hope and prayer is that the Lord would help us to complete all the preliminaries for this program so that kids from EBFC and around the neighboring communities might be touched with the truth of the Gospel, being wonderfully transformed by God's Word!

### **Student Ministry**

See Pastor Mark's report.

### **Adult Ministry**

• Adult Electives: We completed our Spring Semester in adult electives on May 3. Our plan for the summer is to hold one large class in the gym with 3 teachers team-teaching, the Feasts of the Old Testament (including the Sabbath and Year of Jubilee), and how they relate to us today.

As always, please continue to 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 teachers.

### Men's Ministry:

O **Bethel Series:** We have reached the close of this cycle of Bethel classes (OT & NT), the week of April 26. Praise the Lord, that between the 3 classes, we were able to graduate 28 students. These students were as follows:

Hannah Bernhardt, Lori Bernhardt, Stephanie Brimer, Ashley Calwonsen, Betsy Calwonsen, Susannah Cook, Steve Evans, Matt Flicker, Debbie Griffin, Swannie Griffin, John Halko, Kevin Hollshwandner, Kristen Hollshwandner, Patricia Horne, Robbin Hunsberger, Dave Laudenslager, Steve Magditch, Barry Miller, Sandy Miller, Nancy Murphy, Courtney Nagy, Robyn Paul, Tina Pulcini, Jill Rathmell, Nathan Rathmell, Meghann Wright, Arati Yukich, Joseph Yukich.

Please pray for a new cycle of Bethel Classes that should begin in October 2015. We will be advertising in August 2015 for registration.

### O Men's Bible Studies/Prayer:

- Tuesday mornings from 6:15 AM 8:00 AM, Men's prayer time with currently only 2 men attending.
- Thursday mornings from 6:15 AM 7:30 AM, This early morning bible study group is currently in a new study called "Fickle or Faithful".
- Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM 10:30 AM, This new Men's Bible Study is studying, "The Measure of a Man" by Gene Getz. There are currently 4-5 men involved with Bob Penchick as the facilitator.
- Women's Ministry: Here is an update from Laura...

"MOPS: We are so thankful that we have a MOPS coordinator for the 2015-2016 year; Courtney Nagy and Jill Rathmell will be working together on this. We are still in need of a moppets coordinator and a Finance Coordinator. Our last MOPS will be on the 21st.

Tis So Sweet Tuesdays: We had 7 ladies at our first bible study. It was encouraging to have a couple ladies from my neighborhood there. This might end up being an outreach event. We meet again on the 19th of May.

We had 6 ladies go to the Priscilla Shirer simulcast up at Hackman's on April 25th. We had some great teaching on putting on the full armor of God.

Bible study ended on April 19th. We had a great time studying the promises of God. We decided to not offer study over the Summer due to lack of attendance.

I continue to meet regularly with someone with marital issues.

We are excited about our WM luncheon and The WELL on the 23rd."

### **Discipleship Support**

• **Kinship:** We continue to add new people to our 14 Kinship Groups, thanks to the efforts of Bob & Lori Gill. Please pray that the Lord will raise up new leaders to start new Kinship Groups in the coming year.

### Other:

- Continue to meet with several couples to counsel and encourage
- Meet with one young men to counsel and disciple
- Continue to teach an 8 week men's discipleship series using our "BattleZone" curriculum in the Northampton County Prison on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-10:30
- Worked as an Awana leader
- Helped in the MOPPETS group during the MOPS program
- Completed a class on the Epistle of James
- Continued work on the new Church Database as time permitted
- Continue to fill the role of VBS 2015 Coordinator
- Attended the 132 BFC Annual Conference, April 27-29.
- Continuing in Greek I, 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 - April 2015**

"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching."

**Proverbs 1:8 ESV** 

God has given parents a unique and crucial ministry - to instruct and teach our children in the Word of God, and prepare them for life. We as a student ministry are simply here to come alongside parents and help in this sobering endeavor. Sometimes it is good to go back to this most basic of purposes, and challenge ourselves to make sure this is happening. We as a student ministry constantly filter things through our purpose statement which includes partnering with parents. Pray for our youth parents, that they might be empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the hard and rewarding work of discipling children for God's glory; and pray that we as a student ministry would be working in tandem with our parents, willing to adjust if that is what is necessary to accomplish what God has called us to be. To God be the glory!

### **Teaching**

Middle School

In our Core Truth curriculum, we continue to go through a series on "Suffering".

• High School

We are studying the book of Mark.

Sunday School

We are taking a break from the "Gospel Project" in HS SS to study the "Truth Project" and hopefully we will see these students become even more solid in what they believe and able to defend their faith against the attacks that will come their way. MS SS will continue to go through the "Gospel Project".

Preaching

Had the privilege of preaching the Good Friday service

### **Shepherding**

- Met with a student and encouraged him as he goes through difficulty
- met with a few students to talk about leadership
- Met with student leadership (Invert)
- Finished meeting with a dad and son for a religious class for boy scouts

### Staff

 We had our bi-monthly staff meeting which was a good time of fellowship, prayer and training

### **Activities**

### Dare 2 Share

This was a great trip - the conference was very equipping, and I believe our students grasped the basics of the gospel and how to share their faith. Applying it right away

with outdoor evangelism was a challenging and very fruitful time - I see growth in our students when we have done this. I was very encouraged by the trip.

### Family Night

We had our quarterly family night (parents and siblings are invited to youth group), but we decided to do it on a Friday night and include dinner. I believe it was a success. While I would have liked to have more attend, I believe it was an encouraging night for the families that did attend, and a practical way to partner with parents as we discussed family devotions and provided some resources for leading families spiritually.

### **Other**

- The Mexico missions team continues to meet and bond as a team, preparing for the trip
  in June/July. We had the opportunity to join the church in Reading (La Roca), which
  was an awesome time of being with brothers and sisters from another BFC church, and
  a good introduction to hispanic culture. Mexico will be different, but this was a good
  experience for our missions team.
- Had the opportunity to teach at Nazareth High School Bible Club.
- Attended the BFC youth pastor's breakfast.
- Participated in Annual Conference. It was a special year with my ordination service on 4.28. That was an encouraging night.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Culton

Attachment #5

### Worship / Young Adult Ministry Update May-June 2015

By Jeremy Harkins, Worship Pastor

### Praise Team discipleship

We have been evaluating, in our prayer for each other, not only praying over our afflictions but more importantly praying over the ways we have sinned against God and how we are working through those sin struggles as it says in Psalm 25:18: "Consider my afflictions and forgive my sins". This verse was originally shared from a devotional that Pastor Dick shared in a staff meeting. It was necessary to apply this truth to our worship team devotions/prayer time. It has been helpful when it comes to our spiritual witness in leading the congregation in singing, but also examining ourselves continually before the Lord. It has been an essential part of our preparation on Wednesday night and Sunday morning.

### Simulcast/Sound/Media

Jason Lee has sent out an e-mail to train those who have interest or would like to be involved in the video ministry through simulcast. The training is set for May 30<sup>th</sup>. We are aiming for an official Simulcast launch beginning to middle of June.

### Young Adult Ministry

It has been going wonderfully well cultivating relationships with those college age young adults who are a part of Ebenezer. Lindsay and I plan on having a relaxed get-together in our home middle of June, to spend time with and get to know those of the college age within our church family.