



Board of Elders Meeting September 12, 2016

Roll Call & Prayer

All elders were present: Tim Gibson, Pat Barry, Wayne Batten, Dick Bickings, Andy Brimer, Mark Culton, Dennis Flanagan, Swannie Griffin, Kevin Hardy, Jeremy Harkins, Scott Holwick, Chris Jones, Byron Roth and Shawn Sommons.

Pastor Tim opened up in prayer.

Pastor Tim shared a devotional from **Matthew 25**.

- This is a sobering reminder about being faithful until Jesus returns
- Certainly this applies to money but more than that to kingdom work!
- We are the servants that God is going to hold accountable - are we making gains in the kingdom?
- As the shepherds of Ebenezer we hope that Jesus will be pleased with our contributions to the kingdom, and we will hear "Well done, good and faithful servants."
- It is not an option for us to use our gifts! If we are not making gains for the kingdom, are we really His servant?

The elders split up into pairs and spent time in prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2016 elders meeting, **seconded** and **approved** unanimously.

Financial Report

- July Report – Andy reviewed the financial report (*Attachment 1*). Income for August was 75% of budgeted forecast, and our expenses were at 98%. We continue to lag behind in our giving and we need to regularly pray that God provides through the rest of the year in order for us to meet budget. There was a **motion** made that we receive the report. This was **seconded** and **approved**.
- Status Update – Andy mentioned that the finance committee met and talked about budget projections for 2017. Andy made us aware that there was a very slight adjustment to July's numbers.
- Estate Gift – Finally, Andy gave a short report on the status of the estate monies that will be contributed to Ebenezer. Wayne made a **motion** that we establish an ad-hoc committee to discuss where the estate monies could possibly go related to missions. The following names were suggested and approved - Mark, Swannie, Pat, Jeremy, Andy Brimer and John Romero. This was **seconded** and **approved**. Mark Culton was suggested and **approved** as chairman.

Discussion Items:

- 1) Beth Moore Conversation – The elders discussed again the teachings of Beth Moore and the concerns that we have had about her. The concerns have been:
 - Ecumenical associations, including those with “health and wealth” messages, and association with the Roman Catholic Church. Examples are Joyce Meyer.
 - Claiming direct revelation from God - this is dangerous and unbiblical.
 - Concerns about interpretation of Scripture.

The elders discussed discernment in general and how we guard our people and teach them to discern. In regards to Beth Moore, the concerns from last year are still concerns and so a **motion** was made that we continue to avoid using Beth Moore’s teaching as a resource at Ebenezer. The motion was **seconded** and **approved** with 10 yes votes and 4 no votes.

- 2) Membership and Discipline – The elders talked about an ongoing discipline situation where we continue to shepherd a family through marital difficulties. There was another report from the two elders who are seeking to meet with the husband regularly. One of the elders has also met with the wife recently. There does not seem to be true repentance on the side of either the husband or wife. A **motion** was made that the couple be removed from the membership of Ebenezer due to unbiblical divorce. The motion was **seconded** and **approved** unanimously.

- 3) Budget Preparations – The finance committee met and has recommended an 8% cut in the budget. The elders discussed what steps can be taken to accomplish this. The two largest budget items are compensation and missions. These are both sensitive issues, and much care is being given to address these. It is not possible to arrive at a budget cut at this time that would not drastically affect staffing and/or missions. The elders are not willing to do either of these at this time. There was a **motion** made to hold the budget neutral for 2017 plus account for incremental increases in insurance and taxes. This was **seconded** and **approved** with 6 yes votes, 3 no votes, and 4 abstentions.

- 4) Miracle Month – There was a **motion** made that we do Miracle Month again and designate the money to missions. This was **seconded** and **approved** unanimously.

Pastoral Reports

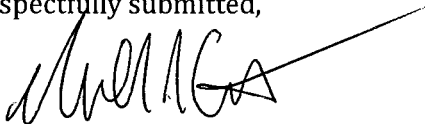
The pastors submitted their monthly reports:

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

Adjournment & Prayer

Pat closed in prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Culton
Secretary to the Board of Elders

September 12, 2016

To: Board of Elders
From: Andy Brimer, Treasurer
Subject: Financial Report for September 2016

Attached you will find the following reports for August 2016:

- Monthly Financial Statement
- YTD Financial Statement
- Graphical representation of Income and Expenses vs Budget, Income vs Expense trends, and Asset trends

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

- Total income for August was 75% of the budgeted forecast while the YTD income was 95% of the budgeted forecast.
- Expenses for August were 98% of the budgeted forecast while the YTD expenses were 96% of the YTD forecast.
- The income for August was below the projected monthly forecast, and the YTD giving continues to lag. The monthly expenses were slightly lower than projected, and the overall spending YTD is under budgeted expenses.

Other:

- The Finance Committee met in August to discuss a number of items including budget projection for 2017.
- I am still setting a meeting time with BB&T to review our accounts to ensure we have the correct combination of savings/checking/CDs to best steward the funds.

EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - AUGUST 2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BALANCE SHEET REPORT / COMPARISON

GENERAL FUND - BUDGET vs. ACTUAL

ASSETS	31-Aug-16	31-Jul-16	\$ Change	Income	August	Budget	Variance
Assets - Checking/Savings							
18000 · Checking (BB&T/KNBT)	498,638.66	523,104.66	-24,466.00	1100 · Offerings / Gifts	66,018.81	86,953.79	-20,934.98
18002 · CDs (BB&T/KNBT)	67,672.02	67,672.02	0.00	1400 · Interest	46.40	62.50	-16.10
19000 · Savings (M&T Bank)	90,922.13	90,914.41	7.72	1700 · Memorials	245.00	0.00	245.00
19001 · Checking (M&T Bank)	5,375.67	5,375.67	0.00	1900 · BCS / Bldg Use	0.00	1,313.25	-1,313.25
Total Checking/Savings	662,608.48	687,066.76	-24,458.28	Total Income	66,310.21	88,329.54	-22,019.33
TOTAL ASSETS	662,608.48	687,066.76	-24,458.28				
LIABILITIES							
Current Liabilities				Expenses			
901 · Building Fund	100,703.44	99,833.44	870.00	2000 · General Church Finance	9,225.21	9,922.75	-697.54
902 · Capital Improvement Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	3000 · Discipleship Ministries	1,936.57	605.84	1,330.73
903 · Transportation Fund	223.00	223.00	0.00	5000 · Evangelism Ministries	844.88	366.66	478.22
902 · Scholarship Fund	1,917.50	1,547.50	370.00	6000 · Missions	19,125.00	19,187.50	-62.50
905 · Faith Promise	13,294.97	14,624.97	-1,330.00	7000 · Deacon Ministries	4,507.71	4,999.98	-492.27
907 · Benevolence Fund	11,355.67	15,552.09	-4,196.42	8000 · Worship	19.06	2,750.00	-2,730.94
908 · Music Fund	224.20	224.20	0.00	9000 · Office Expenses	956.63	1,238.50	-281.87
911 · Year End Accruals	8,480.16	8,480.16	0.00	10000 · Congregational Care	351.87	246.66	105.21
912 · Run For The Children	1,865.84	2,281.87	-416.03	11000 · Compensation	49,286.41	49,011.65	274.76
914 · Health Care Account	2,989.03	3,131.08	-142.05	Total Expense	86,253.34	88,329.54	-2,076.20
915 · Youth Summer Missions	4,704.88	4,648.88	56.00				
100 · Payroll Liabilities	7,051.28	6,777.93	273.35	Net Ordinary Income	-19,943.13	0.00	-19,943.13
Total Current Liabilities	152,809.97	157,325.12	-4,515.15	Net Fund Transfer between Accts.	0.00	0.00	0.00
				Net Income	-19,943.13	0.00	-19,943.13
Long Term Liabilities							
810 · Building Mortgage	0.00	0.00	0.00	DESIGNATED FUNDS			
Total Long Term Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Total Liabilities	152,809.97	157,325.12	-4,515.15				
EQUITY				Income	Expenses	Net	
900 · Retained Earnings	921,501.55	921,501.55	0.00	901 · Building Fund	870.00	0.00	870.00
Net Income	-3,824.24	16,118.89	-19,943.13	903 · Transportation Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000 · Opening Bal Equity	-407,878.80	-407,878.80	0.00	904 · Scholarship Fund	370.00	0.00	370.00
Total Equity	509,798.51	529,741.64	-19,943.13	905 · Faith Promise	770.00	2,100.00	-1,330.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	662,608.48	687,066.76	-24,458.28	907 · Benevolence Fund	1,415.54	5,611.96	-4,196.42
				908 · Music Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
				OTHER LIABILITY ACCOUNTS			
				902 · Capital Improvement Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
				911 · Year End Accruals	0.00	0.00	0.00
				912 · Run For The Children	0.00	416.03	-416.03
				914 · HRA	0.00	142.05	-142.05
				915 · Youth Summer Missions	56.00	0.00	56.00
				Total Other Current Liabilities	3,481.54	8,270.04	-4,788.50

Andrew J. Bunker
Treasurer

9/12/16
Date

EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - AUGUST YTD 2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BALANCE SHEET REPORT / COMPARISON

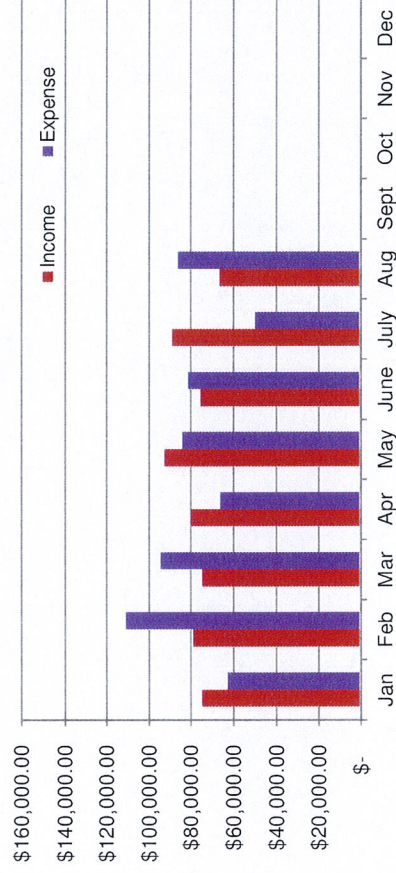
GENERAL FUND - BUDGET vs. ACTUAL

ASSETS	31-Aug-16	31-Dec-15	\$ Change	Income	August YTD	Budget	Variance	%BGT YTD
Assets - Checking/Savings								
18000 · Checking (BB&T/KNBT)	498,638.66	521,645.92	-23,007.26	1100 · Offerings / Gifts	618,706.42	653,822.57	-35,116.15	95%
18002 · CDs (BB&T/KNBT)	67,672.02	67,587.38	84.64	1400 · Interest	424.04	500.00	-75.96	85%
19000 · Savings (M&T Bank)	90,922.13	90,853.65	68.48	1700 · Memorials	1,905.00	0.00	1,905.00	N/A
19001 · Checking (M&T Bank)	5,375.67	5,375.67	0.00	1900 · BCS / Bldg Use	10,447.00	10,506.00	-59.00	99%
Total Checking/Savings	662,608.48	685,462.62	-22,854.14	Total Income	631,482.46	664,828.57	-33,346.11	95%
TOTAL ASSETS	662,608.48	685,462.62	-22,854.14					
LIABILITIES & EQUITY								
Current Liabilities				Expenses				
901 · Building Fund	100,703.44	93,189.44	7,514.00	2000 · General Church Finance	43,675.07	44,293.25	-618.18	99%
902 · Capital Improvement Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	3000 · Discipleship Ministries	12,061.44	16,154.72	-4,093.28	75%
903 · Transportation Fund	223.00	188.00	35.00	5000 · Evangelism Ministries	5,117.02	4,723.28	393.74	108%
904 · Scholarship Fund	1,917.50	817.50	1,100.00	6000 · Missions	102,638.32	104,100.00	-1,461.68	99%
905 · Faith Promise	13,294.97	38,263.97	-24,969.00	7000 · Deacon Ministries	66,155.92	78,749.84	-12,593.92	84%
907 · Benevolence Fund	11,355.67	16,257.26	-4,901.59	8000 · Worship	3,381.92	5,700.00	-2,318.08	59%
908 · Music Fund	224.20	174.20	50.00	9000 · Office Expenses	8,430.68	10,441.00	-2,010.32	81%
911 · Year End Accruals	8,480.16	8,480.16	0.00	10000 · Congregational Care	2,051.04	1,973.28	77.76	104%
912 · Run For The Children	1,865.84	2,481.19	-615.35	11000 · Compensation	393,208.91	398,693.20	-5,484.29	99%
914 · HRA	2,989.03	0.00	2,989.03	Total Expense	636,720.32	664,828.57	-28,108.25	96%
915 · Youth Summer Missions	4,704.88	4,533.88	171.00	Net Ordinary Income	-5,237.86	0.00	-5,237.86	
100 · Payroll Liabilities	7,051.28	7,454.27	-402.99	Net Fund Transfer between Accts.	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Current Liabilities	152,809.97	171,839.87	-19,029.90	Net Income	-3,821.04	0.00	-5,237.86	
Long Term Liabilities								
810 · Building Mortgage	0.00	0.00	0.00					
Total Long Term Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00					
Total Liabilities	152,809.97	171,839.87	-19,029.90					
Equity				Income				
900 · Retained Earnings	921,501.55	991,473.20	-69,971.65	901 · Building Fund	7,514.00	0.00	7,514.00	
Net Income	-3,824.24	-69,971.65	66,147.41	903 · Transportation Fund	35.00	0.00	35.00	
1000 · Opening Bal Equity	-407,878.80	-407,878.80	0.00	904 · Scholarship Fund	1,297.00	197.00	1,100.00	
Total Equity	509,798.51	513,622.75	-3,824.24	905 · Faith Promise	15,081.00	40,050.00	-24,969.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	662,608.48	685,462.62	-22,854.14	907 · Benevolence Fund	12,823.62	17,725.21	-4,901.59	
				908 · Music Fund	50.00	0.00	50.00	
				OTHER LIABILITY ACCOUNTS				
				902 · Capital Improvement Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	
				911 · Year End Accruals	0.00	0.00	0.00	
				912 · Run For The Children	0.00	615.35	-615.35	
				914 · HRA	6,600.00	3,610.97	2,989.03	
				915 · Youth Summer Missions	171.00	0.00	171.00	
				Total Other Current Liabilities	43,571.62	62,198.53	-18,626.91	

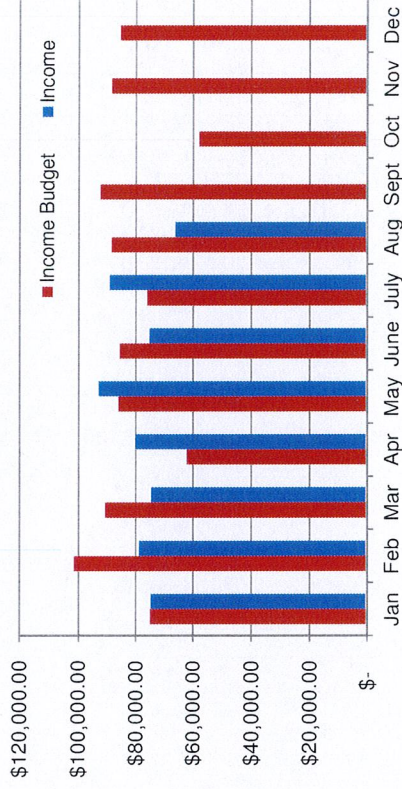
Andrew H. Brunner
Treasurer

9/12/16
Date

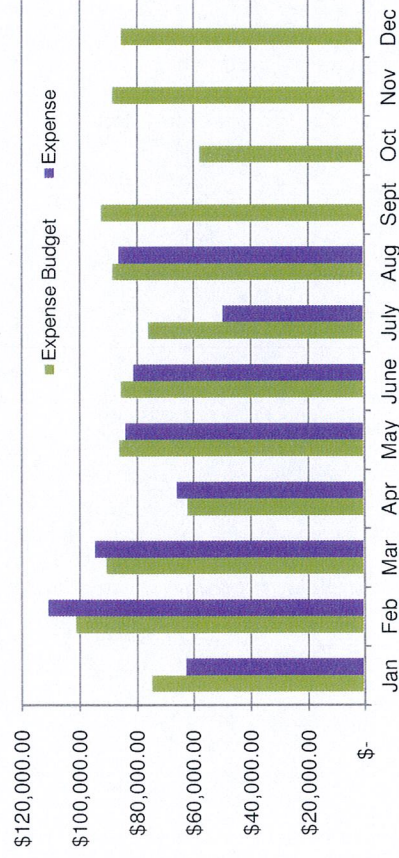
2016 Income vs Expenses



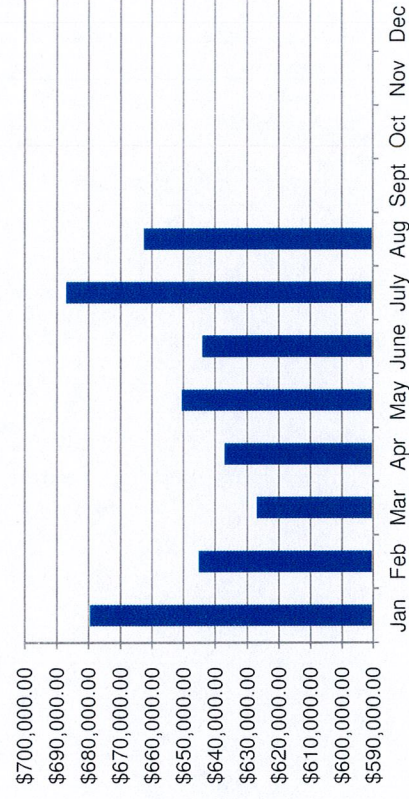
2016 Income vs Budget



2016 Expenses vs Budget



2016 Assets



Pastor Tim's Ministry Report
September 12, 2016

Attachment #2

Studying & Preaching:

- I am preaching a 2 part series about the 2nd return of Christ from the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 25. I am preaching the two parables, which Jesus gives as our response. We must be watchful & faithful until He returns.
- Wednesday night Bible study and prayer time is a wonderful time for fellowship and prayer, especially for those who cannot make it to Sunday morning worship. I am right in the middle of the passion narrative of Christ going to the cross in the book of Matthew. It is a wonderful study and prayer time is invaluable.
- I am planning on preaching through 2 Peter beginning in October – November, approximately 8-10 messages. I've entitled the series – "Growing in Grace" which comes right out of chapter 3:18.
- My plan is to move to the Old Testament once I am finished with 2 Peter. This new series will begin in January.
- I will also be preparing messages for Christmas during the month of December. I will be leading out in the Christmas Eve service this year.
- Prepared and preached a message from Revelation 3:7-13 – "A Church with a Big God" at our outdoor service and picnic. I tried to stay with the theme of the Church.

Shepherding/Ministry:

- 3 hospital visits
- 4 counseling sessions/meetings
- Continue to meet with a man for discipleship on a weekly basis.
- Met with one family who has concerns about our church direction and vision concerning race issues.
- 1 breakfast and 1 lunch with 2 separate men.
- Pastor Dick and I taught the new member class with approximately 11 new potential candidates. It is always an incredible time of discipleship and getting to know new members.

Leadership Development:

- I have been leading a Deacon leadership development class for 5 weeks. It has been a wonderful study through Strauch's book. At this point we are praying that the Lord would lead and guide us through the process of nomination. We have 4 very qualified men going through the class.
- I have also begun the process of organizing the nominating committee. We are going to interview 5 men (3 elders & 2 deacons) up for renewal. This will also include interviewing their wives. Furthermore, we will proceed with interviewing the 4 new candidates for Deacon. I am putting together all the logistics as well as providing vision for this process of evaluation.
- I also continue to mentor a pastoral intern. We meet once a week. We are going through Hendricks book on hermeneutics. It is a wonderful time of discussion and prayer with one another.

Other:

- Staff summer party and cookout. We had a get together at our house for the staff & their families with hamburgers and hotdogs. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and love for one another.
- BFC study group – divorce issue.
- TLT group for Naples, Fl church plant
- TLT group for Forks, Pa church plant
- Attended Pat Schlonicker's funeral in Newark, NJ.
- Church Extension Board Meeting
- Planning a short term mission trip to Naples, Fl in January 2017 along with 4-5 other EBFC adults to help Jason Filbert with his Church plant.

Praise the Lord: Julie and I are praising the Lord that He spared the life of our daughter Callie and 4 children from our church, during a horrible car accident. The Lord truly watched over all the children, while the vehicle was totaled. We give praise to the Lord!

It is a joy to serve the Lord here at Ebenezer. Every week I feel more and more insufficient for ministry, having to depend upon the Lord for His strength, wisdom and help. My prayer is that more and more Disciples of Christ will grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus, and that EBFC will be a faithful ministry.

Serving Christ,
Pastor Tim Gibson

Pastor of Discipleship Report, Aug/Sep 2016

As I continue my trek through the OT, I now am studying the book of Jeremiah. Here's what I read recently:

"for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water." (Jeremiah 2:13, ESV)

In the midst of the throws of the Babylonian captivity, Jeremiah reminds the people of why they are being sent into captivity. Essentially, they have forsaken God, and tried to replace him with their own ideas of what will satisfy, only to be left with empty, broken pots with unsatisfied longings still at large. Ultimately, an attempt to replace the all-sufficient infinite, eternal God with finite things will always leave us wanting.

With that in mind, here is a quick summary of some of the ministry opportunities from August/September 2016:

Kids Crossing

- **Cross Time Sunday School (10:05 AM):** Praise the Lord that he has provided a complete roster of teachers and helpers. We are still evaluating whether or not to combine 3-5 grade classes which will help with our lack of volunteers during several months throughout the year (especially summer).
- **Early Childhood (2&3 year-olds):** We continue to seek for a teacher and helper for the 8:45 AM service for the even months.
- **Children's Church:** The Gospel Project curriculum worship segment continues to work well for Children's Church. We continue to see between 8-10 students each week. Please pray that the Lord would lead a couple to fill the empty team (D) slot (there is a good lead pending). In the interim we are on a 3 team rotation to facilitate the need.
- **Database Security Check-in:** We are in the process of updating the new check-in system to provide a better interface that is web based. We will at that time be better equipped to utilize a variety of different devices for check-in and be able to install all safety policies and procedures on them for the teachers to reference quickly incase of an emergency.
- **Wednesday Evening Programs:** We are very excited to begin another year of Awana. We had a volunteer training event on Wednesday, September 7, where we trained some new volunteers, went over the schedule for the year, and introduced the new T&T curriculum. The new 2016/2017 Awana season, begins Wednesday, September 14. Please pray that the Lord would send the children to us to be discipled, and the He would raise up more volunteers, especially for the T&T groups.
- **Awana Ministry Conference:** We plan to attend and participate in this conference held on Saturday, September 24, from 8:15 AM -12:30 PM. There will be a number of workshops dealing with discipleship, children's ministries, and youth ministries. We also will receive more detailed training on the new T&T curriculum.

Adult Ministry

- **Adult Electives:** The new fall season will begin on Sunday, September 18, with the following line-up of classes:
 - o Apologetics - Rich Mastronardo
 - o Introduction to Isaiah - Phil Norris
 - o OT Survey - Joe Maddock

Continue to pray that the Lord raises up more adult teachers...we currently have 6.

- **Men's Ministry:**

- o **Bethel Series:** We are currently preparing for year 2 (NT) in this current cycle beginning early October. To do so, we will be holding an Inter-Testamental Period class on Saturday, September 17 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

- o **Men's Bible Studies/Prayer:**

- Thursday mornings from 6:15 AM – 7:30 AM, This early morning bible study group is currently studying the book, "Answering the call".
- Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, This Men's Bible Study is back in full swing, and studying the book by James MacDonald, "Act Like Men".
- Please continue to pray about starting a new Saturday morning men's bible study probably beginning sometime in October, possibly centered around discipleship training, and addressing various issues which plague all men.

- **Women's Ministry:** Here is an update from Laura...

"We are gearing up for a very exciting fall here in WM at EBFC.

Facilitator Training: Last week I hosted a facilitator training for 6 women who currently lead or have the potential to lead. Each woman was strongly encouraged to be in the word and to make it a top priority.

Bible Study: Studies begin this week and very thankful for the response to the Experiencing God study. I currently have 23 women signed up for that class for Tuesday mornings.

Hosea will start next week and that has about 25 ladies as well.

Mops: We are so thankful that all positions have been filled and are looking forward to a great year. We have had a wonderful response with Mentor Moms and looking forward to pouring into the lives of the moms that will be coming. Jill Rathmell and Courtney Nagy continue to do an amazing job leading this ministry

I am excited to begin meeting with a new lady for discipleship and prayer.

Welcome to the Well: Vicki is excited to be hosting this monthly gathering and Linda Visco will be assisting her at these events. The purpose for these monthly gatherings will be to encourage connection and fellowship.

Tis So Sweet: We will finish the study of Ruth by the year End."

Discipleship Support

- **Kinship:** Bob & Laurie Gill are hard at work placing 40 new people who want to join Kinships. Our 2016/2017 Kinship season officially begins Sunday, September 18. We are very excited for the great response to be involved in this core ministry of EBFC!

Other:

- Completed teaching the Pastoral Epistles for adult electives
- Continued to visit and provide physical & Spiritual care for several people in our church.
- Continued work on the new Church Database as time permitted (especially financial modules).

Respectfully Submitted, Dick Bickings, Pastor of Discipleship

Worship /College-Age Ministry Update August-September, 2016

Jeremy Harkins, Worship Pastor

**"Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity".**

In the third verse of the old hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" by Reginald Heber these words close the stanza. They speak of the Holiness of God being exclusive to Himself and the perfection of His power, love, and purity. One of the many ways the devil subverts the truth is by leading people to believe that holiness can be found in other places and not solely and supremely in Christ alone. We know that "He became sin who knew NO sin, so that we can be called righteous" (2 Cor. 5:21). These poetic words focus on the beauty of beholding God and how set-apart he is from our understanding. Thank God that only HE is truly holy only HE is truly perfect in all power, love, and purity! Praise be to God for the grace unmeasured and love untold!

Music

Within the month of August I have had the privilege of fostering new relationships with a couple of college age musicians and have integrated them into the vision and direction of the praise team. We also welcome a new family that are currently going through the new member class. He is gifted in playing the bass and acoustic guitar. We met at Panera about a month ago and it was refreshing hearing how God led him and his family to Ebenezer. It is truly a joy seeing what God is doing in our midst!

Sound & Media

Our August has been good we have had a young man in the youth group step in and start to help with the media on Sunday's. He is doing a great job, but what I love seeing is his demeanor as he sings during a worship service. He has so much joy in what he does and I love his heart of service!

Teaching & Shepherding

-I had a meeting with Dan and Candace Trafford and Adam and Jess Whitmer to establish our goals and objectives for this coming fall season and into next year for college-age ministry.

-I had the joy of meeting with 3 college age men for discipleship and prayer.

-I continue to meet regularly and pray with my catholic friend as we continue to discuss God's word and pray together.

-I continue to meet one on one on a regular basis with 3 of the worship team members for encouragement and discipleship.

-We continue to fellowship with the College-age 3 out of the 4 Sundays in August for a meal and bible study.

(TURN OVER)

Additional Areas

-I had the opportunity to participate in the Lynnfield outreach as Pastor Mark organized a trip tubing down the Delaware and a lunch to follow

-Doug Chen, Keith Marks (a college student), and myself went and helped with international student dinner at Lehigh University where we had an opportunity to build relationships with incoming international freshman students. I was able to have a wonderful conversation with a Muslim student from Saudi Arabia who had a lot of questions regarding what it means to follow Jesus which I was over-joyed in walking through the gospel message with him!

-Also we had a combined youth and college age swimming party at the Heric's house to bridge the 9-12th graders with the college age. We had a great turn-out with some great fellowship and sharing around the camp-fire.

Student Ministries Report - August 2016

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."

Luke 2:52 ESV

With a new school year beginning, our students are returning to the classroom to increase in academic wisdom. The majority of their day is consumed with stretching the mind and building on the foundational blocks they have already learned. In a similar way, we want to partner with parents so that the students in our ministry are always increasing in Biblical wisdom. As important as algebra and biology are (and they are important), learning how to walk in the fear of God is exponentially more important.

Teaching

- **Middle School**
We are working through a mini-series on prayer.
- **High School**
We are finishing up the book of 1 John.
- **Sunday School**
We just began a new Gospel Project Unit in our MS and HS class. We are going through "Prophets and Kings".

Shepherding

- Continue to mentor 2 young men in the youth group.
- Had our bi-monthly youth staff meeting at our house.
- Finished up pre-marital counseling with both couples. Have begun pre-marital counseling with another couple who will be married next summer.
- Met with a young adult to talk about helping him find a church in his new area and challenge him spiritually.
- Had breakfast with a youth staff member to get to know him better and build the relationship.
- Met with a student to talk about his desire to mentor a couple other students.

Activities

- **Lynfield Cookout and Fellowship**
We had a good day at Lynfield, and even though not many came (due to the heat), we were able to have good conversations with those who did come, and the gospel was very clearly preached.
- **MS Beach Day**
We took a handful of middle school students to the beach for the day, and had a great time with them.
- **Lynfield Day Trips**
We had our 3rd and final day trip - tubing down the Delaware.
- **HS and College Pool Party / Bonfire**

We had a relaxing time at the Heric's house building relationships between our high school students and college students. The intended purpose here is fellowship, as well as bridging these two ministries to allow for fluid transition.

- **Red Carpet Night**

We had a great time bringing in a large class of incoming 6th graders the last Tuesday in August. 9th graders also made the transition of joining the HS youth group. We are excited about this year of ministry!

Other

- Met with the BOYYA Leadership Committee to begin planning how we can best support the youth ministries in our denomination.
- Attended our quarterly BOYYA meeting.
- Still continue to lead a Bible Study at Lehigh University with about 12 wrestlers who are eager to grow in their faith.
- Met with 2 pastors from a church in S. Bethlehem to further develop the relationship and talk about addressing issues of race and Christian unity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Culton