



## **Board of Elders Meeting May 13, 2013**

### **Roll Call –**

Elders present: Tim Gibson, Mark Culton, Dick Bickings, Shawn Sommons, Jason Hoy, Andy Brimer, Mike Capaldi

Excused absent: Wayne Batten, Scott Holwick

### **Prayer and Devotions –**

Dick continued the Board's review of the Bible Fellowship Church Articles of Faith. This month we reviewed and discussed Article 26: The Judgments.

The men shared in a time of thanksgiving and prayer.

### **Approval of Minutes –**

Motion was made to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2013 Elders meeting, seconded and approved.

### **Financial Report –**

Treasurer Andy Brimer reviewed the financial report for April. Motion was made to approve the report, seconded and approved. (Attachment #1)

### **New Members –**

- New membership applications were reviewed and discussed for the following people: Michael Boyle, Pam Boyle, Doug Chen, James Purvis, Anne Ziegenfuss, Franklin Homme, Bethany Brewer and Joshua Thomas
- A motion was made to approve the applications, seconded, approved. In the cases of Michael, Bethany and Joshua, these were provisional approvals pending baptism or interviews.

### **Discussion Items –**

- 1) Prayer Week – The men discussed whether or not we would continue the practice of observing a week devoted to prayer on October 21-25, 2013 and whether or not we would maintain the practice of cancelling any ministry activities that are not prayer related. There was some debate about this practice and even if the timing of October, which is mid-semester for many ministries, is the best option. Different options were discussed and Dick Bickings was given the responsibility for organizing the Prayer Week and moving it to the first week in September (Sept. 1-7, 2013), with Pastor Tim preaching a sermon on prayer on Sept. 1 and having a special prayer service on Wed., Sept. 4. The thought behind this was that we would begin our new season of programs with an emphasis on prayer. The men agreed to continue this important discussion which broadens beyond that week and includes the elders' desire to encourage more corporate prayer at Ebenezer.
- 2) Wednesday Evening Children's Program – Pastor Dick Bickings provided an update on the transition of the current Wednesday evening program, Faithweaver Friends to the Awana program beginning this fall. Dave Lissi and Julie Gibson will be leading the program that requires 30 volunteers. The men agreed to pray about this need and to assist with recruitment, which is beginning now.

- 3) Additional Seating for Sunday Worship Services – The men discussed ideas for creating additional seating capacity as the services begin to get more crowded. Several options were discussed, including the possibility of purchasing some media equipment that would allow sermons to be simulcast into the fellowship hall as well as streamed on the web. No decisions were made, as this was a preliminary discussion.
- 4) Purpose Statement – The men spent some time discussing the proposed purpose statements that had been passed throughout the group. This is a component of a larger exercise to cast a clear vision for Ebenezer and ensure that we communicate the biblical basis for the work of the ministry. Two action items were agreed upon by the elders:
  - a) Each elder was asked to write down their “dreams” for Ebenezer, which could be used in the creation of our vision statement.
  - b) Mike Capaldi would send some sample values statements that could be used as a basis for formalizing our values at Ebenezer.
- 5) Forks Twp. Church Plant – Mike Capaldi provided an update on the preliminary planning of a church plant in Forks Township. He reported that the Church Planting Resource Team has been finalized and currently stands at 15 members from multiple BFC churches. Said group will meet for a planning session at Ebenezer on Sunday, June 23, 2013. In addition, Pastor Tim Zuck will preach at Ebenezer on June 30, 2013 and share some of the preliminary vision for the Forks plant.
- 6) National Bible Bee – Andy Brimer reminded the elders of the Bible Bee program hosted by Ebenezer and encouraged families to attend and support the event with prayer.
- 7) MOPS Training Conference – A request from the MOPS ministry was submitted for their leadership (Alyssa Nye + another leader to be named) to attend a conference. The men approved of the attendance and will support financially.

#### **Pastoral Reports –**

Due to time constraints, the Pastors did not review their reports with the elders. The men were asked to review the reports. The following reports were submitted and are attached:

- 1) Senior Pastor Report – Gibson (Attachment #2)
- 2) Pastor of Discipleship – Bickings (Attachment #3)
- 3) Pastor of Youth – Culton (Attachment #4)
- 4) Pastor of Congregational Care – Hoy (Attachment #5)

#### **Adjournment –**

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded and approved. The meeting was closed in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Capaldi  
Secretary to the Board of Elders

# EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - APRIL YTD 2013 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

*Attachment # 1*

## BALANCE SHEET

## GENERAL FUND - BUDGET vs. ACTUAL

	30-Apr-13	31-Dec-12	\$ Change		April YTD	Budget	Variance	% BGT YTD
<b>ASSETS</b>								
<i>Assets - Checking/Savings</i>								
18000 · Checking (KNBT)	442,322.05	478,672.09	-36,350.04	Income	294,063.42	298,333.33	-4,269.91	99%
18002 · CDs (KNBT)	67,134.49	66,808.26	326.23	1100 · Offerings / Gifts	475.87	400.00	75.87	119%
19000 · Savings (M&T Bank)	90,618.98	90,589.19	29.79	1400 · Interest	150.00	0.00	150.00	N/A
19001 · Checking (M&T Bank)	5,353.62	5,393.62	-40.00	1700 · Memorials	2,189.04	2,689.00	-499.96	81%
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>605,429.14</b>	<b>641,463.16</b>	<b>-36,034.02</b>	1900 · BCS / Bldg Use	<b>296,878.33</b>	<b>301,422.33</b>	<b>-4,544.00</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>605,429.14</b>	<b>641,463.16</b>	<b>-36,034.02</b>	<b>Total Income</b>				
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				<b>Expenses</b>				
<i>Current Liabilities</i>				2000 · General Finance	6,914.71	15,288.34	-8,373.63	45%
901 · Building Fund	19,888.99	14,881.99	5,007.00	3000 · Discipleship	4,298.72	11,857.50	-7,558.78	36%
902 · Capital Improvements	-1,144.50	0.00	-1,144.50	5000 · Evangelism	133.00	500.00	-367.00	27%
903 · Transportation Fund	8.00	8.00	0.00	6000 · Missions	37,137.17	36,580.50	556.67	102%
904 · Scholarship Fund	1,912.73	2,286.51	-373.78	7000 · Deacon	36,284.28	31,079.16	5,205.12	117%
905 · Faith Promise	8,121.54	49,488.54	-41,367.00	8000 · Worship	3,720.24	1,866.68	1,853.56	199%
907 · Benevolence Fund	12,646.42	6,042.91	6,603.51	9000 · Office & Admin	5,428.90	7,206.66	-1,777.76	75%
908 · Music Fund	28.20	28.20	0.00	10000 · Congregational Care	1,011.42	800.00	211.42	126%
911 · Year End Accruals	8,480.16	5,990.99	2,489.17	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>203,368.20</b>	<b>195,558.15</b>	<b>7,810.05</b>	<b>104%</b>
912 · Run For The Children	260.11	260.11	0.00	<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-10,668.31</b>	<b>685.34</b>	<b>-2,103.65</b>	
914 · HRA	6,030.15	2,489.17	3,540.98	<b>Net Fund Transfer between Accts.</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
915 · Youth Summer Missions	2,249.19	1,806.33	442.86	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-10,668.31</b>	<b>685.34</b>	<b>-2,103.65</b>	
100 · Payroll Liabilities	6,215.22	6,779.17	-563.95					
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>64,696.21</b>	<b>90,061.92</b>	<b>-25,365.71</b>					

## DESIGNATED FUNDS INCOME

	Income	Expenses	Net
Long 802 · Mortgage	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>64,696.21</b>	<b>90,061.92</b>	<b>-25,365.71</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
900 · Retained Earnings	959,280.04	923,839.75	35,440.29
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-10,668.31</b>	<b>35,440.29</b>	<b>-46,108.60</b>
1000 · Opening Bal Equity	-407,878.80	-407,878.80	0.00
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>540,732.93</b>	<b>551,401.24</b>	<b>-10,668.31</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>605,429.14</b>	<b>641,463.16</b>	<b>-36,034.02</b>
<i>Andrew Brumler</i>	5/13/13	Date	
Treasurer	<b>31,369.55</b>	<b>56,171.31</b>	<b>-24,801.76</b>

## OTHER LIABILITY ACCOUNTS

902 · Capital Improvements	0.00	1,144.50	-1,144.50
911 · Year End Accruals	381.57	500.00	-118.43
912 · Run For The Children	0.00	0.00	0.00
914 · HRA	9,750.00	3,601.42	6,148.58
915 · Youth Summer Missions	585.00	142.14	442.86
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>31,369.55</b>	<b>56,171.31</b>	<b>-24,801.76</b>

# EBENEZER BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - APRIL 2013 FINANCIAL STATEMENT


## BALANCE SHEET

## GENERAL FUND - BUDGET vs. ACTUAL

ASSETS	30-Apr-13	31-Mar-13	\$ Change
<b>Assets - Checking/Savings</b>			
18000 · Checking (KNBT)	442,322.05	441,334.00	988.05
18002 · CDs (KNBT)	67,134.49	67,134.49	0.00
19000 · Savings (M&T Bank)	90,618.98	90,611.53	7.45
19001 · Checking (M&T Bank)	5,353.62	5,373.62	-20.00
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>605,429.14</b>	<b>604,453.64</b>	<b>975.50</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>605,429.14</b>	<b>604,453.64</b>	<b>975.50</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
901 · Building Fund	19,888.99	19,138.99	750.00
902 · Capital Improvements	-1,144.50	0.00	-1,144.50
903 · Transportation Fund	8.00	8.00	0.00
904 · Scholarship Fund	1,912.73	1,912.73	0.00
905 · Faith Promise	8,121.54	8,087.54	34.00
907 · Benevolence Fund	12,646.42	11,283.42	1,363.00
908 · Music Fund	28.20	28.20	0.00
911 · Year End Accruals	8,480.16	8,480.16	0.00
912 · Run For The Children	260.11	260.11	0.00
914 · HRA	6,030.15	7,727.11	-1,696.96
915 · Youth Summer Missions	2,249.19	2,054.19	195.00
100 · Payroll Liabilities	6,215.22	10,000.45	-3,785.23
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>64,696.21</b>	<b>68,980.90</b>	<b>-4,284.69</b>

Income	April	Budget	Variance
1100 · Offerings / Gifts	70,724.85	74,583.33	-3,858.48
1400 · Interest	36.60	100.00	-63.40
1700 · Memorials	0.00	0.00	0.00
1900 · BCS / Bldg Use	547.26	672.25	-124.99
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>71,308.71</b>	<b>75,355.58</b>	<b>-4,046.87</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
2000 · General Finance	628.79	863.34	-234.55
3000 · Discipleship	1,517.15	2,858.75	-1,341.60
5000 · Evangelism	0.00	125.00	-125.00
6000 · Missions	117.42	140.00	-22.58
7000 · Deacon	8,757.62	7,341.66	1,415.96
8000 · Worship	3,018.38	541.68	2,476.70
9000 · Office & Admin	1,245.84	1,561.66	-315.82
10000 · Congregational Care	276.84	190.00	86.84
11000 · Compensation	50,486.48	48,964.54	1,521.94
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>66,048.52</b>	<b>62,586.63</b>	<b>3,461.89</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>5,260.19</b>	<b>12,768.95</b>	<b>-7,508.76</b>
<b>Net Fund Transfer between Accts.</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>5,260.19</b>	<b>12,768.95</b>	<b>-7,508.76</b>

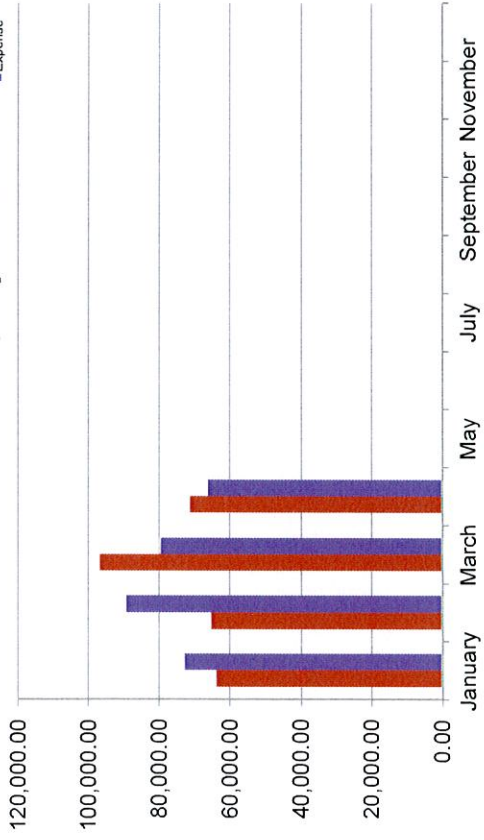
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>		Income	Expenses	Net
901 · Building Fund		750.00	0.00	750.00
903 · Transportation Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
904 · Scholarship Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
905 · Faith Promise		1,534.00	1,500.00	34.00
907 · Benevolence Fund		1,363.00	0.00	1,363.00
908 · Music Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>OTHER LIABILITY ACCOUNTS</b>				
902 · Capital Improvements		0.00	1,144.50	-1,144.50
911 · Year End Accruals		0.00	0.00	0.00
912 · Run For The Children		0.00	0.00	0.00
914 · HRA		0.00	1,696.96	-1,696.96
915 · Youth Summer Missions		195.00	0.00	195.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>3,842.00</b>	<b>4,341.46</b>	<b>-499.46</b>

  
 Andrew J. Brunner  
 Treasurer

5/13/13  
 Date

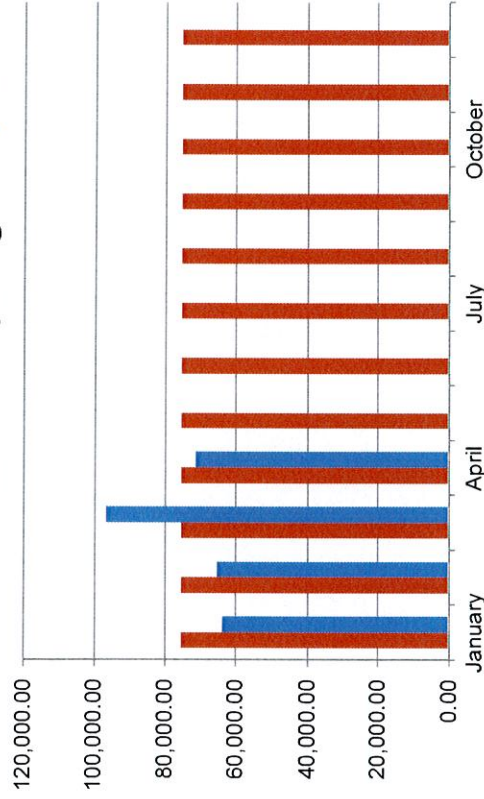
### 2013 Income/Expenses

Income Budget  
Income



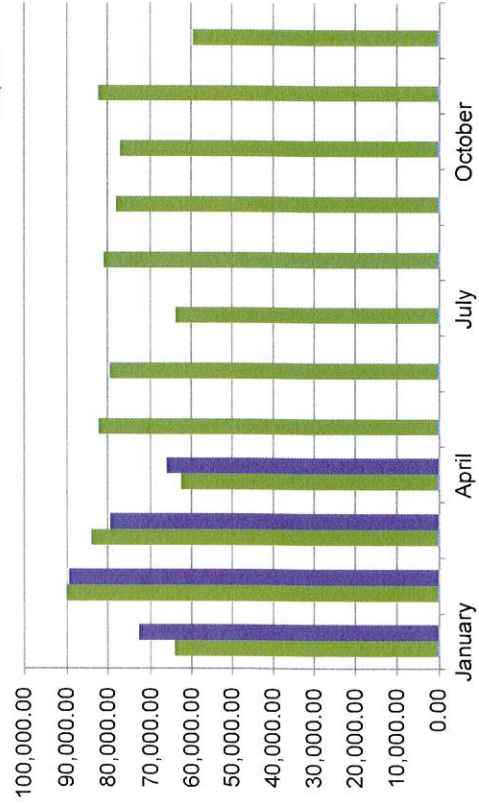
### 2013 Income/Budget

Income Budget  
Income

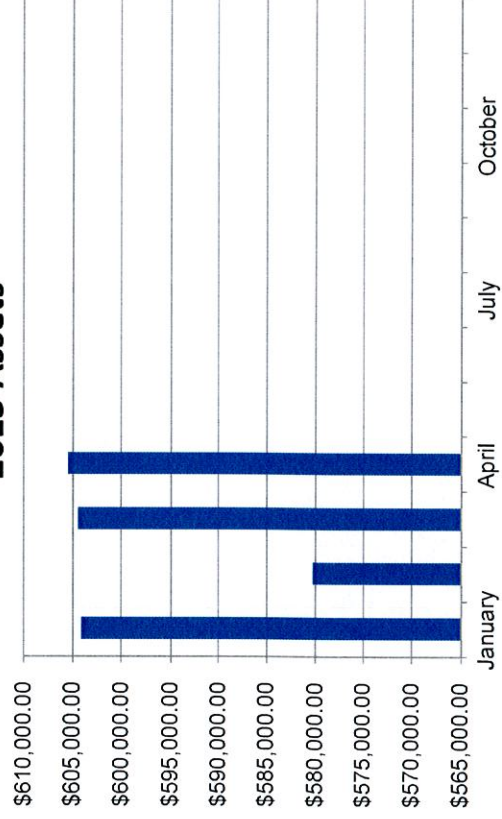


### 2013 Expenses/Budget

Expense Budget  
Expense



### 2013 Assets



**Pastor Tim's Ministry Report**  
**May 13, 2013**

*Attachment #2*

**Preaching/Resurrection Sunday:** I am so very thankful for the opportunity to preach God's Word each and every week. I'm continually reminded as I preach that while it is imperative for me to be faithful to God's Word, it is also imperative that I live out my preaching in my life. I more than anyone know of my own human weakness, and my desperate need for the power of the Holy Spirit to grow me in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have been overwhelmed with the response of our precious flock at Ebenezer and their input on how the book of Philippians has helped them in the journey of life. Most recently in chapter 4, Paul's instruction on how to stand firm has especially been helpful. Particularly knowing the character of God and allowing those lofty thoughts of Him direct our thinking, is the key foundational truth to standing firm. Furthermore, knowing how to be content because of who God is and what He has promised us has also equipped us all with tools to fight in this very discontented society. When Christ is everything to us, God is glorified and we are able to stand and fight in this life race. For all of this I praise the Lord.

I am still praying about what direction to go once this study through Philippians is over. Currently I have three sermons remaining in the book of Philippians. Two of them will be focused on faithful giving and our faithful God (4:14-20), and the last will be on the fellowship of the Saints. Once this is complete I will take the month of June and preach three individual sermons, one being Father's day on June 16. Tim Zuck is prepared to preach in my absence on June 30 about the church plant in Forks Township. A four part series will begin on July 7. I am strongly thinking about preaching about deadly sins: Adultery (Prov 5), Pride (2 Chronicles 26), Lying (Prov), & Division (?). Jason will be preaching for me on July 28<sup>th</sup>. I want to devote the month of August to Evangelism and help the congregation to be outwardly focused. With this in mind, I would like to preach two instructional messages on evangelism – the why & the how. The last two sermons would actually be evangelistic messages in hopes that the congregation would invite their neighbors and lost friends to come and hear the gospel. I am thinking calling this month, "We Really Care!"

With the coming of Fall in September, I am strongly considering preaching through the book of Hebrews. If so, the series will last at least a year.

**Christian Beliefs Class:** Again the class continues strong. Last week we discussed in detail the doctrine of election. It was overall well received. I am hoping that by discussing these deep truths of Scripture our people will have a right theology in which to test everything in their lives. I also believe that while theology "divides" it also "unites." I am hoping and praying that the simple study of God's Word will unite our people and deepen their understanding of God's Word.

**Worship Committee:** Once again the worship team under the guidance of Jennie Flicker is doing a great job. Each week they are prepared and lead with excellence. We have agreed that each week we are trying to have a couple of hymns along with contemporary choruses.

**Staff:** Overall, each staff member is doing a great job. I'm proud of the unity, love and commitment that each staff person has.

**Leadership:** LEAD – Leadership Elders & Deacons. I have laid out a leadership plan for the fall, which will attempt to train men as both Elders and Deacons. The program is a 34 week study covering the following topics: 1) Doctrines of Grace, 2) Soteriology – the Doctrine of Salvation, 3) Church Health, 4) Church Ministry philosophy, & 5) Church leadership. My goal is to specifically invite a select group of men (especially those who have attended my Christian Belief's class) as well as open it up to others. The class will be conducted on Sunday afternoons from 3-5 pm with one week off per month. My attempt will be to "discover" leaders from this study. I foresee other future leadership tracts, which would include a class on hermeneutics (Bible study methods).

**Counseling:** I continue to counsel as needed. I am averaging about 4-5 counselees per month. I also meet with one individual on a weekly basis for discipleship.

**Baptisms:** The Lord continues to move among us. We have at least four coming for baptism on May 19.

I love coming to work each and every day. I'm thankful for the pastors: Dick, Jason, & Mark and their diligent prayer and work in the ministry. I'm thankful that we are philosophically and theologically on the same page. I hope and pray that the Lord would use us in fulfilling His mission in the Lehigh Valley. We continue to pray that the Lord would give us vision for exactly what He wants us to accomplish through the work of Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church.

Serving Christ,  
**Pastor Tim Gibson**

## POD (Pastor of Discipleship) Report – Apr/May 2013

I began recently reading the book of Acts as a part of my trek through the New Testament and came upon this familiar passage...

*“But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.”* (Acts 5:17–21, ESV)

As I read this passage, I was struck with the purpose for which the angel of the Lord released the apostles...not for rest, comfort, or to even show their superiority over the jealous Jewish leadership, but to carry on their work of preaching! It then hit me...isn't that why the Lord gives us life, health, families, and breath every morning? It's not for our benefit, but for the furtherance of His Kingdom and the praise of His glory!

“Oh Lord, may I look at each day from this perspective...it's not about me and my comfort but about you and your glory, Amen.”

With that in mind, here is a quick summary of some of the ministry opportunities from April/May 2013:

### Kids Crossing

- **Cross Time Sunday School:**
  - Praise the Lord; Doris and Don Lynch will be taking over in the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>-grade class for the odd months, beginning in July. Please continue to pray now for the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>-grade even months class as Pam and Randle Reinholz will be stepping down from teaching this class after August.
  - **Curriculum change:** We will be hosting a Simulcast on May 17-18, 2013 here at the church to see the *Gospel Project* in action, and holding teacher training for this new curriculum in July.
- **Early Childhood (2&3 year-olds):** 2<sup>nd</sup> service update: still waiting for a main teacher, should be very soon...will be meeting with a potential teacher for this class either this Wednesday (5/15) or next Wednesday (5/22).
- **Children's Church:** The Gospel Project curriculum has a worship component that should work well for Children's Church. Also, please pray for our teams, which have been stable for a long time but will probably be losing one team soon. More about this later.
- **Wednesday Evening Programs:** We will be closing the FaithWeaver Friends program on May 15. Please pray as Dave Lissy and his team continues to put the finishing touches on the new Awana program set to begin in September 2013. Currently, Dave is working on setting up a volunteer promotion and training.
- **Parent Meeting (May 5):** We had a very well attended parent meeting that outlined the upcoming changes as mentioned above with a number of questions fielded.

### Student Ministry

- See Pastor Mark's report.

### Adult Ministry

- **Adult Electives:** Summer Session I Adult Elective classes will begin May 19 and are as follows,
  - Revelation (Part 3 of 3) – Scott Holwick
  - Micah – Mike Capaldi
  - Kinship Leadership Training – Pastor Jason Hoy & Rich Mastronardo
  - Romans (Part 3 of 3) – Pastor Dick Bickings



- **Men's Ministry:**
  - **Bethel Series:** We had our first Bethel graduation dinner on May 5, which was well attended and a blessing to hear the testimonies of how the study of God's word over 2 years changed the lives of so many. We are looking forward to a great new 2 year cycle with Jason Lee teaching on Tuesday evenings, Peggy Brimer (women only) teaching on Thursday evenings, and Dick Bickings teaching on Saturday mornings. We have already have 7 who have registered for this new cycle beginning October 2013.
  - **Men's Bible Studies:**
    - Thursday mornings from 6:15 AM – 7:30 AM, This early morning group is currently studying I Thessalonians.

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

"We had a wonderful Blessings and Breakfast on May 4<sup>th</sup> with about 97 ladies attending. This was an "unofficial" mother/daughter event. We had Jen Hoy, Lori Bernhardt, Vicki Cowely share and numerous mother/daughter doing special music. Flowers for Freedom supplied the centerpieces and the ladies were able to purchase them for themselves. We had some awesome men in the kitchen cooking and cleaning and serving and this made the event run quite smooth. I have had numerous comments on how much the women truly enjoyed this morning.

Missing Piece's Bible studies have ended and the response from that has been overwhelming. I have had some ladies express interest in facilitating in the future and I am so very excited about that and different women rising up to lead in this capacity. Summer study will begin on June 6<sup>th</sup>. This will be a dvd teaching series and Melissa Griffin and Vicky, Cowely will be helping me to facilitate small groups for that as well.

All women bible study leaders are meeting with me on July 24<sup>th</sup>. This will be so that we know what we are offering the ladies in the fall and so we are all on same page and can pray for one another. SHE LEADS: July 13; this is going to be a great day for women. We are having a special speaker just for pastor wives. Her session is called: " Soul Care, Family Care, Body Care (body of the church). I encourage the pastors to encourage their wives to come to this event.

Please pray for me as I am working on my breakout session for this event. "Connecting One on One and the change that brings to your ministry."

Summer will be low key for the most part, with a pool fellowship in August."

### **Discipleship Support**

- **Kinship:** Kinship Groups will be officially ending on May 19, however, and we have contacted all the kinship leaders and invited them to our Kinship Leader Training class set to begin May 19 during Adult Electives. The purpose of this class, which is also open to potential kinship leaders, is to gain an understanding of how to care, nurture, and work with others. It will teach how to develop lessons, select materials, deal with difficult questions, and teach from God's Word. Our hope is that this class would encourage and develop leadership and shepherding skills for each kinship group leader.

### **Other:**

- Continued to meet with three men to counsel and encourage.
- Headed up the 1<sup>1/2</sup>-2<sup>1/2</sup> year-olds' MOPPETS group on Thursday mornings, twice a month.
- Facilitated Wednesday evening Prayer Meetings.
- Continued teaching The Epistle of Romans
- Continued teaching the Bethel Series NT on Saturday mornings until Saturday, May 4.
- 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

Student Ministries Report - May 2013

*“Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.” (Ephesians 6:18-20, ESV)*

Ebenezer is preparing for a month of focusing on Evangelism. This ties in very nicely with the emphasis we have just had in our student ministry. We just finished up the 9-week series on evangelism called “Gospel Journey Maui”, and we were really challenged to start loving but bold conversations with those who don’t know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Our students are more confident in Jesus’ divinity now, and I believe they are encouraged to share their faith. In fact, I have heard of a few who indeed have been sharing Christ, and that excites me. Please join us in prayer that God would use our students in a mighty way as they go to class, hang out with friends, and work at their job. We are praying God would grow our student ministry through new converts!

**Teaching**

- **Middle School**  
We are gearing up to begin our brand new series on sin and forgiveness called “Turning from Sin.”
- **High School**  
We are beginning our new series on the book of Judges tonight!
- **Sunday School**  
We are still teaching through Faithweaver, and are currently going through a couple weeks in Judges and then on to Ruth and 1 Samuel. We will be beginning “The Gospel Project” in the Fall. My wife continues to teach the middle school girls, while Pat Barry and Shawn S. have the middle school boys. Tom Galloway and I are rotating on a monthly basis for the high school students.

**Shepherding**

- Finished up pre-marital counseling and married a couple. It was such a blessing!
- Regularly discipling a youth dad who is really growing in his faith.
- Met with a dad and his daughter. The daughter wants to be baptized.
- Meeting with a young adult regularly.
- Began the initial stages of pre-marital counseling with a couple.
- Had breakfast with a potential teacher for our student ministry.

**Staff**

- Met with a male staff member for breakfast for mutual edification.

**Activities**

**Other**

- Met with Lehigh's wrestling coach to discuss future ministry as a "character coach"
- Participated in the NDOP service.
- Had our third training for the LITP (Light in the Park) Missions Trip
- God was faithful to bring me through knee surgery and I am recovering nicely.
- Meeting with a group of students who are leading a new endeavor called "Illuminite". This is designed to be planned by students, run by students and a place where they can invite their unchurched friends to. We are planning on doing this the first Friday each month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Culton

# PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Elders Meeting – May 13, 2013

**Our Vision:** To Accomplish the 3 fold purpose of the Church: Worship God, Edify the Saints, and Evangelize the World!

## 1. Shepherding

- Visits to hospitals/homes and follow up with those struggling. Making rounds to give communion to shut-ins.
- Met with the Caregiver's group (Rob Christiansen, Kevin Gascho, John Elston) to implement some changes and establish structure to the group. We plan on meeting monthly.
- Helped Bob Penchick with the death of his mother.

## 2. Counseling

- Counseling load is manageable at this time. Praise God for our additional counselors. We are dealing with the following issues presently: anger, depression, financial situations, marriage/divorce, rebellious children, grief.
- *How People Change* Sunday School finished well. From the evaluations, people would have liked to spend more time delving into the curriculum. I plan on following this class with a course on how to counsel using the curriculum, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*.
- *Greifshare* and *DivorceCare* continues to be helpful to people.
- Kinship finished our study on the Holy Spirit.
- Met with local leader of a Christian Counseling agency in the area. We refer folks to him along with our own in-house counselors.

## 3. Other

- Continue to attend Wednesday afternoon prayer meeting.
- Trying to attend Primetimer functions.
- Completed my Eschatology course. Began another course on evangelism.
- Met with Tom Shorb, Pastor of Congregational Care at Coopersburg BFC, for mutual encouragement and edification.
- Lead a marriage conference with Pastor Brian Cooper in Lancaster, PA.
- Attended BFC Mission's Rally.
- Attended BFC Annual Conference.
- Attended BFC Regional Ministerium.
- Attended National Day of Prayer at EBFC.

## 4. Goals

- Stay on top of people needs.
- Help Rich Mastronardo teach a SS class on shepherding for our kinship leaders.
- Prepare for preaching and teaching at the Bridge, YACS, Hellertown, and Pinebrook.
- Almost half way through my current seminary course. After that, one more to go for a Masters in Theological Studies.