

Here we Raise our Ebenezer



In the great hymn of the faith, *Come Thy Fount of Every Blessing*, there is the refrain, "Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come". Ebenezer, in Hebrew, means rock of remembrance, or stone of help. When the Israelites passed through the Jordan into the promised-land, the head of each family was instructed to pick up a stone of remembrance from the river and place it in a pile on the edge of the Jordan in the promised-land as a monument to Lord who had delivered them. Samuel, in 1 Samuel chapter 7, instructs the Israelites to build a stone monument and he names it Ebenezer, saying "Thus far has the Lord helped us". Through God's grace and mercy you and I have made it to today. Our church has survived another year, and beyond simply surviving, we have been richly blessed by God. It is our job to praise God for getting us to this place, and for blessing us so richly, and to learn from this experience that our God is to be trusted to bring us through tomorrow, and as many tomorrows as He will give us, come tragedy or victory, adversity or prosperity. Our God is good and deserves our love, adoration, affection, and praise.

The building is finished! We are eagerly awaiting final inspections and our occupancy permit. Let me retrace for you how the Lord has blessed us to bring to this place. In 1998 Safe Harbor had its first worship service. In 1999 we purchased the land we now own, in 2000 we began our first building campaign, A Call to Build. In the summer of 2003 we moved into our current building, the first phase of a planned three phased facility. By the fall of 2004 we realized we were going to need more space. In the winter of 2004 we hired an architect who fleshed out phase two for us as we began our second building campaign, called the Spirit of Power in 2005. After collecting pledges we realized we would have to borrow quite a bit of money to build an addition on to our facility. So we decided to go slow and build only what we could afford to with the money on hand. We consecrated the plot (of land) and our plan to the Lord that spring and slowly began to build. In 2006

we had the building framed and under roof, in 2007 had the exterior finished. And then we waited, for the time when we could finish what we started. This time last year we had a revised estimate on the cost of completion and a strong sense the Lord was leading us to get this new building finished. We had another, (our third) building funds drive, this one called "The Faith to Finish" we issued bonds we called upon the congregation to give and with the giving, the bonds, the small construction loan and abundant blessings from the Lord, we finished it!

We have great plans for this building; it is our goal to offer expanded ministry opportunities to families and seniors in the coming year and the new building will give us more room to do this. We have ideas and plans for a regular family night, parenting classes, fitness classes, church wide socials, sports leagues and practices, senior events and activities, wedding receptions, and so much more. As most of you know Lighthouse Christian Academy has asked us for permission to use the new building as well. After hearing of their need and looking at our facilities and our strengths as a church it appears there is some great potential for partnership in ministry. We had some initial concerns about LCA, and he had some miscommunication and misunderstanding with some of our current ministries, but as of late, all of those issues seem to have been cleared up. The recommendation to have LCA move in will come before the congregation this Sunday during our congregational meeting.

God has been good to us. Let us pause and look back, so that as we move forward we will be doing so with trust and faith in our God and his promise of future grace.

Learning to walk by faith with you,

Pastor Todd

Annual Christmas Party
Saturday, December 3rd at 6pm

Join us for this festive time of fellowship. Safe Harbor will provide the main course and we ask that you bring a potato, macaroni and cheese, hot vegetable or cold salad to share. Dessert will be provided.

We will be entertained by the Kids4Christ, with a couple of songs we can all sing along too!

See you there.....



Join us for our Annual Children's Christmas Musical

" The Bethlehem Project "

Sunday, December 11th at 6:30pm

The storyline this year centers around 2 groups: the Bethlehem Kids and the Shepherd Kids and they do not get along! It would take a miracle for that to happen.....and that's what happens!

You will enjoy lots of familiar carols sung to upbeat and catchy tunes, along with some very funny characters!

A dessert reception will follow the performance, which is about 40 minutes long.



Cookie Exchange

Saturday, December 10th at 2pm

Take a break from the holiday rush and share some Christmas spirit with old and new friends. We look forward to seeing you and your cookies!

Please RSVP to Laura at 443-496-0874 or laurapyle@atlanticbb.net



PRESBYTERIAN
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The Presbyterian Church in America Foundation, Inc.

The PCA foundation is a ministry that provides charitable financial services to members and friends of the PCA. These services, which facilitate both current and deferred giving, help them to fulfill their stewardship responsibilities and carry out their charitable desires.

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As you address tax planning and charitable giving issues, please consider how the PCA Foundation might be resource for you.

Please call the PCA foundation at 1-800-700-3221 for further information, or visit their website at www.pcafoundation.com.

Mission Corner



SHPC Mission Support List

Abroad

Peru: Gerry and Ruthie Gutierrez

Romania: The Fryes

El Salvador

Turkey: Asia Minor Partnership

Zambia, Africa: The Hamelryck family

Our couple in SE Asia

Greece: Philip and Joy Kirkland

Local

Baltimore: Christian Community Center

West Virginia Missions

Maryland Eastern Shore:

Our Haven Shelter

Holiday food basket outreach/pantry

Young Life

Chris Garriott

RUF at the University of Maryland.

Hispanic Church



Food of the Month:
All the items on pantry list.

December Update

The Shelter opened up for the winter season on December 1st. We do need prayer warriors to continue praying for our shelter guest, staff, volunteers. The QACCA Our Haven Shelter staff held a Christmas Bazaar to help raise funds for the shelter. The Bazaar was a great success. We appreciate all the baked goods that were donated for the bake table. We were able to supply turkeys and boxes of food to 83 needy families for the Thanksgiving food outreach. Christmas is our next food outreach for needy families. We still need more turkey sign ups for this outreach so if you'd like to provide one, please stop by our table in the narthex after church. We are in need of everything on our original food list for Christmas too. Remember every can counts.

We'll be moving to our new space in the new building sometime in January, and having more space will make it possible to look into more ways of reaching out to those in need in our community this coming year. Our next meeting will be Monday December 13th at 6pm at Kent Island UMC. If you want to serve but are not sure where, come join us as we have a lot to choose from. Praise GOD for our caring church family and how beautifully he works through us all. If you need more information on anything mentioned above please call Sandi Wiscott: 410-643-3325 or 410-570-6547, Liz Bazzell: 410-353-0455.

...to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our LORD. Micah 6:8

Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve: Saturday, December 24th at
6:30pm & 11pm
Family and Candlelight service
Christmas Day: 11am service
New Year's Day: 11am Service



Mark your Calendars:

We will be having our annual congregational Meeting after the service on Sunday, December 4th. This is an important, once a year meeting, where we will vote in new officers as well as cover church business. One main topic will be the vote re: LCA.

Coffee and snacks will be provided, and Children's Sunday school will run as usual.



Nursery Needs

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The nursery is in need of some more helpers for the 9:30am service time. If you can help, once every couple of months, please contact Amy Getek at amygetek@yahoo.com.

Why We Should Workout

I am a firm believer in working out and staying fit for one big reason, glory. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." There are two implications from this verse that are massive for us in our daily living.

a) Because God tells us to do all to His glory, anything we do not to His glory is sinful.

b) Everything we do, from how we wake up, drink orange juice, talk to people, and lie down to sleep, ought to be done to the glory of God.

Therefore, if everything we do is to be done to the glory of God, this means that how we treat our bodies matters to God. This then means that we cannot use our bodies in any way we want to, as if we were the master of our own bodies; for doing so would show a lack of care and responsibility to God, who gave us these bodies and calls us to honor Him in using them.

Because of all this, it is my belief (and I think it should be yours as well) that working out and keeping some kind of regular exercise routine is not only honoring to God, but should be a normal part of every Christians life. I wonder if that last sentence went past you. I just said that if you never exercise and/or sit at home eating Twinkies and Ding Dongs all day, you're sinning. God cares about our bodies, what we use them for, what we put in them, what we put on them, and how we take care of them. Now, we can't stop here because we need to define what exactly this looks like. Here are two thoughts to help you:

10:31 and 4:8

Notice how I quoted 1 Corinthians 10:31 earlier saying that we must do everything to God's glory? Good, keep that in mind. When it comes to working out it is a fact that many people work out for the wrong reason; for their own glory and fame. This is sinful and Christians should be striving to get rid of this desire. Part of staying fit and working out as a Christian means the number one desire should be to honor God in our bodies, not our own physique.

So 1 Corinthians 10:31 provides the "why" and part of the "how" to working out: Why? - to honor God in our bodies. How? - to glorify God, not us. The other half of the "how" of working out comes to us in 1 Tim. 4:8, which says, "...for bodily fitness is of some value, but godliness is of greater value, because it has benefit for this life and the life to come." You see what Paul is saying? Staying fit is a good thing, but there is a greater thing, godliness. Why

is it greater, because it has an eternal benefit, implying that fitness only has benefit for this life. This means that we should be more eager to build holiness and godliness into our lives than we are about working out our muscles to stay fit.

Have "some" Kind of Routine

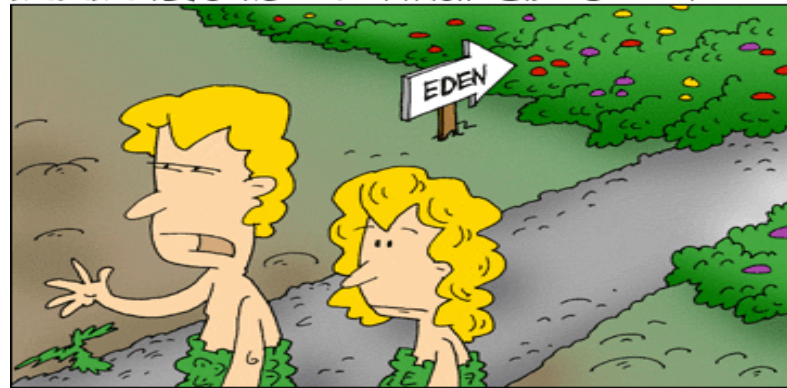
Earlier I said that we all, as Christians, should have some kind of regular exercise routine in our lives. I use the word "some" purposefully, because we're not all the same person, and because of that we ought to tweak our exercise regiment to our fitness level, fitness goals, and personalities. I personally enjoy an intense workout, so the exercise routine I've been doing for the past 3 years is P90X. This is an intense program and not fit for all people, but it does work for me, so I do it. How do you find a program fit for you? Think about how God calls you to care for the body He gave you, think about who you are, what your fitness goals are and need to be, find or make a routine that works for you, and do it. Did you know that every week day (Monday-Friday) I workout with a group of folks here at the church at 6 am? I'd love you to join us if you would like to, feel free, in fact, consider yourself invited to do P90X with us!

Don't Miss This.....

Don't miss the point here - God has graciously given us these bodies to use while we are here on earth, and it is these bodies that will be redeemed one day in the New Heavens and New Earth. Therefore, let's take care of what God has given us, seeking to be good stewards of His gifts, using them not for our own fame and glory, but for His.

~ Adam Powers

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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Genesis 3) 01-03-2005
**OUR RESOLUTION LAST YEAR COULD HAVE BEEN
"LESS FRUIT", BUT NO ... WE WENT WITH
"TRUST PEOPLE MORE"**

Update from the Hamelrycks:

Our transition to PEF is going as well as can be expected. (all the details are below my signature) We are losing a couple of supporters just because of the economy. Though they all want to stay on the prayer letter list. So that is a good sign. I am trying to reach out to everyone I know to add about 20 to 30 new supporters by the end of the year. We need to consider some changes to our budget that will cost us more money on a monthly basis. We would like to work on retirement and a better health care plan. So please pray for this.

The Dairy farm that I manage is going well. We are praying that the cows stay healthy and the machinery keeps working well. When something breaks here it is a nightmare to get anything fixed properly. Most repairmen well fix the problem then steal other parts off of your vehicle or the dairy machine. I literally have to watch them the whole time. And this is the majority of all people here. Sneaky type theft is an everyday problem and it wears on your nerves.

Grace Church Center where I preach is going very well. I am preaching through James right now. This Sunday is on faith and works. Pray for a reformation here. Zambia is a peaceful country but needs a spiritual awakening reformation style. Pentecostalism is so strong here it is almost like a cult hold on the society. I preach against it all the time and hold Bible studies that urge people to study the Bible as God's Holy Word and to stop with the separatism. Which teaches that being spirit filled and using the sign gifts make them a better Christian. It has divided the church in horrible ways.

Safe Haven for the Deaf is hard right now. The expense of the ministry is pushing our budgets to the max now. So pray that I will have enough resources to keep these 17 kids safe in our safe house. We have actually had 2 of the older youths move out to commercial farm to hold full time jobs and get real on the Job training. So this is one huge praise. And the other praise is the best man in my wedding (which was at EP) is coming over here to help me out next Summer for 2 years. He is a deaf expert in sign language and discipleship training. So as you can imagine this is a huge relief for me. And he is a PCA guy. For me to have a PCA guy to work with will be huge.

One of my long term goals in fundraising and prayer support raising is to work hard in my 3 home PCA churches to one day be fully supported by EP, BEP and Safe Harbor. If one day all my support can come from these 3 wonderful churches it will make my career in missions so much easier. It would mean that I don't have to travel all over the US to raise nickel and dimes. But I could keep deepening my relationship with these churches. Please consider any increases in the future for our support. But know this, God has met all of our needs to date and He is faithful every month to provide just what we need.

God bless and thanks for all the prayers and support!!!!

Paul D. Hamelryck

Blessed are the meek.

We have some very exciting news this month.

Over the next 2 months I will be working very hard to ask all of our donors to switch their giving from GMI to PEF. We will still be working and partnering a lot with GMI and their ministries here in Kabwe, Zambia. But our donations will start to be handled through PEF. Please pray with us that we will have a smooth transition with the whole of our donor base. This year I have assumed the roles of Bible teacher, dairy farmer and assistant leader of the Deaf ministry. None of this will change. All of our friends at GMI, Bright Hope World and Operation Mobilization will still be close partners with everything we do. On the ground here in Zambia nothing will change. The only change that is occurring is that Ann Rachel and I are asking that by the end of this calendar year all of our donations will be going through PEF. If you have any questions at all please ask and I will be happy to answer them. GMI has been kind enough to keep processing any donations that come for our ministry during this time of switching over to PEF. So please don't worry if you just sent a check in. And if you would like to donate to the deaf ministry only, just send it in to GMI and put on the check or in a note for "Zambian Deaf Project". And GMI will process it and I will handle it on this end for them. Kabwe is a wonderful and unique place because we are all working for the Kingdom together.

The Safe Harbor Women's Retreat Committee is excited to introduce Karen Hodge, pastor's wife and conference speaker from the Chicago area as our guest speaker for the weekend of March 9-10. Ladies, you do not want to miss this! The weekend is designed to draw us closer to the Lord and to each other as we seek to glorify God. Karen comes to us with a wealth of experience as a wife and mother, and we will be blessed by her ministry of the Word as she speaks on "Biblical Womanhood". This topic seeks to weave together (or maybe even unravel) the complexities that make us women in a way that reveals God's handiwork through them all.

Retreat Date: March 9-10

Venue: Safe Harbor Presbyterian Church

Cost: TBD

Committee Members: Cindy Williams, Marti Rothschild, Laura Pyle, Anne Martin, Ruth Koch, Marianne Graham, Sue Gladd, Brenda Cormeny, Becky Brobst.

If you would like to work on the Committee, the next meeting is December 6th, 7pm, at the church!

Mary Anne Barcellona-Collins in Concert featuring Safe Harbor & Epworth Choirs.....

Soprano, Mary Anne Barcellona-Collins will grace the community with a Christmas Concert to be held at Safe Harbor Presbyterian Church in Stevensville, MD, at 7:00pm on Saturday, December 17, and at Epworth United Methodist Church in Rehoboth Beach, DE at 4:00pm on Sunday, December 18, 2011. Ms. Barcellona-Collins has been a favorite soloist at Epworth for several solo concerts during the capital campaign drive for Epworth's new facility. She directs the choir at Safe Harbor and Judy Moore directs the choir at Epworth, and the combined choirs from the two churches will present a Cantata for Christmas entitled *Journey of Promises*, by Joseph M. Martin, featuring Mary Anne as soloist, and Ms. Moore as conductor. The concert will also include solos from Ms. Barcellona's Christmas repertoire and an opportunity for the audience to participate in a very special Carol Sing-along, led by Ms. Barcellona. The Christmas Concert will be open to all, followed by a reception, for a free-will offering.

