



Mountain-Valley News

September Happenings

As the weather becomes cooler and stores switch over to seasonal stock, the office buzzes with activity as we prepare for fall ministries. Preparing for fall ministries included hosting a training class for volunteers which grounded volunteers in the “Why” of what we do at CEF.

At the start of September, Shelley and I attended a CEF staff refresher where I got to reconnect with friends I had made at the CYIA training week. We had a blast catching up, playing games, and hearing some powerful messages from Dale Hudson. I found Dale’s messages extremely encouraging, God certainly used Dale’s time in ministry to equip him with powerful moments of witnessing God’s goodness and faithfulness. At one point during his message, Dale used a length of rope measuring 168 inches long to represent the 168 hours of a week. An inch long piece of blue tape in the middle of the rope represented the hour of Good News Club we spend with children. If all we get out of 168 hours is 1 hour with children, we had better make that hour count. To say I felt convicted would be an understatement – it is easy to cut corners and brush off certain aspects of teaching as non-critical, but the object lesson reframed how I thought about the teaching process from outlining, to

practice, to presentation. It all matters to make that one hour of club count!

That was the reasoning we brought to our volunteer training class. We simply don’t get to be a part of children’s lives for great lengths of time (unless, of course, we have children of our own). But even then, do we really stay focused enough to bring children to Jesus, especially when we may only get an hour with them? That was the challenge brought to our volunteers – the “Why” of CEF is that children are most receptive to the Gospel, this openness to hear the Good News of Jesus lessens with age. If we want to see more laborers for the harvest, we must consider ministering to children as an integral part of our walk with Christ. Whether that’s ministering to your own children, or children at church, or children in the neighborhood, I challenge you to find ways you can begin sharing the gospel with children before they get wrapped up in a lifetime of sin and separation from God.

In order to minister more effectively, I’ve begun training with two opportunities. First, is with ChristLink, a ministry oriented toward helping other ministries manage their online presence well, which is directed by Wes Gehman - you can find out more about ChristLink at christlink.org.

OCTOBER 2023

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Tom Tilden

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Gifts were given to CEF between August 21 to September 25 , 2023

In Memory of...



Joe Bittle

By: "The Nutty Buddies"

John and Maureen Seltzer

My brothers, Skip and Bud Snyder

By: Joan Mengel

In Honor of:

Staff and Volunteers

By: PatKuchinos



Weekly Time of Prayer

We have resumed our weekly prayer time starting September 6.

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Stay for the whole hour, come for 15 minutes, 30 minutes~ whatever fits in your schedule.

Let's join together in praying for the children in Schuylkill County.

According to Josh McDowell, "CEF has become one of the most critical organizations in America It used to be that if we didn't reach kids by high school it was too late. Then junior high and now elementary. If we don't reach these kids at 5, 6, 7, and 8 years old – we will lose an entire generation!"



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Budget Corner

2023 Budget
\$160,721.00
Monthly budget
\$13,393.

YTD
Income \$121,693..
Expenses \$125,914.
[-4,304.]

Online donations are accepted
through
Tithely.com

Boyers \$259.35
Redner's \$212.04
Community Aid
\$1,291.04

The Community Aid clothing
bin is located at Grace Bible
Church of Hawk Mountain
12 Molino Road
Orwigsburg PA 17961

Any clothing not given away
through the church's clothing
closet is donated to Communi-
ty Aid, who weighs the cloth-
ing and donates \$.11 per pound
to CEF. We are also given gift
cards to give to families in
need so that they are able to
shop at Community Aid Thrift
Shops.

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Through these trainings, I hope to learn how to tweak CEF's online presence to maximize how many children we can reach with the Gospel! Additionally, Teaching Children Effectively is being offered by CEF at Summit International School of Ministry in Grantville. Another amazing ministry, you can find out more about them at summit-pa.org. TCE looks to be another solid opportunity to hone my skills as a teacher as I learn how to share the Gospel, present Bible lessons, and teach verse memorization.

That's about it for September. I'm looking forward to continuing to apply teaching theory: to put into practice my training for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom by reaching children with the Gospel.

Your friend,
Dillon Wertman



Stats August 2023

- *Lessons graded: 64
- *New students: 14
- *Certificates earned: 3
- *Professions of faith: 0

**Pray for more children
to sign up
for the lessons.**

Please Keep the following needs in prayer.

Good News Clubs begin the week of October 1. We are in need of help at the following afterschool Good News Clubs:

Blue Mountain Elementary East~ *Thank you to the congregation at Kimmel's E. Free Church for saying "yes" when the need was expressed!*

Pine Grove ~ Thursdays 3:30-4:45

Schuylkill Haven ~ Tuesdays 3:00-4:15

Shenandoah ~ Tuesdays 3:00-4:30

West Penn ~ Mondays 3:15-4:30

We are unable to seek to start clubs in the following schools due to a lack of volunteers:


Mahanoy Area

Minersville Area

North Schuylkill

St. Clair Elementary School

A few thoughts from the Director

 recently attended the funeral services for Joe Bittle. Joe, along with several other godly men, were on the original committee that helped to establish the work of CEF® in Schuylkill County. During the time of sharing a gentleman mentioned that Joe always had a sign in his barber shop that read, **“You are next.”** He then said something like, “The sign should now be up there,” as he pointed to the coffin. My thoughts were that everyone of us could see that sign and ask the question, “Am I ready?” and what if that sign was before the children ... **“You are Next?”**

When I returned to the office, Dillon and I engaged in a conversation about the “age of accountability” for which there are no clear answers given in Scripture. I began to wonder if that is why people do not make time to reach the children with the Gospel: they assume that children will just go to heaven if there is a tragedy, their life gone much too quickly. Even if that is true, what about the lives they live now? Is it lived for Christ so that they can be spared from some of the snares of God’s enemy? Is it a life lived knowing they are loved and cared for by the

One who Created them? Is it a life lived knowing they are never alone? Is it a life lived with the hope of a better life to come?

Reaching children for Christ is more than the end~ Heaven. It’s about giving the children a knowledge of **Hope**

Joy

Comfort

Grace

Mercy

Peace

Value

... so that this life is lived to its fullest. So the child can live this life with a Hope for the future.

Something to think about.

Shelley Hikes



You are invited to: Fall Good News Party Club

When: Saturday, October 14, 2023
Where: Grace Bible Church of Hawk Mtn.
 12 Molino Road, Orwigsburg PA 17961
Time: 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Ages: Kindergarten - 5th grade (Older children are welcome)
Contact: Lynn Blatt 610-223-8215



*The event begins with a Bible Club which includes a biblical truth story, songs, Scripture memory, games.
 The evening will end with a bon fire and fellowship.*

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Christmas Party Club season is just around the corner and we are again asking for people to open their home or church for a Christmas Party Club. Last year we held a Christmas Party Club at the CEF office. We began at 10:00 a.m. with games, then held the "club" which included: the Christmas story, Scripture memory, songs, and a review game, after this the children decorated cookies (Jerusha, Ellie, and I baked earlier in the week), we served hot dogs, chips, and fruit for lunch, then we played a game, watched the Focus on the Family Christmas movie, and we ended our day with the kids eating the cookies they decorated and drinking hot chocolate~ the time flew by~ it was 2:00 p.m. and we sent home 16 very happy children.

Four of the children who attended the party club do not have a church home, but we were able to begin a relationship with them. This summer the three oldest children attended Good News Day Camp, and the 5-Day Club[®] held at the office. We are praying for an opportunity to help them find a church home. One of the moms mentioned that she used the free time to volunteer at another ministry!

Would you be interested in hosting and teaching a Christmas Party Club? We give you everything you need (except the food), including the lesson, handouts, and game ideas that are easy to play. Praying for you as you consider whether to join in the fray.



Contact CEF at
 570-544-8042
 Email:
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Materials for the party club will be given during the Volunteer Training Class or arrangements can be made for you to pick up the materials at your convenience.