

# Mountain-Valley News



CEF® office

JANUARY 2018

## A Note from Connie.

Let me tell you about some of the children in my Good News Clubs...

Sitting in the front row is a little girl, who wears a knitted cap, hair standing out all over the place. Those hands of hers need to reach out and touch everything in sight. Yet she knows the concepts of the lesson when I ask her questions.

A fourth grade boy enters the room. When I say hello, he starts to sing a *Good News Club*® song, with a big smile on his face.

A blonde-haired lad has a hard time keeping his energy under control. Sometimes his behavior doesn't seem to match his name! I sit with him on the bus, and we talk about his family. It's a complicated situation.

One of the girls I had last year was very restless. In fact, she even quit the club. This year she came back and seems very happy to be at club.

Those are just a few of the 78 children that I taught in my two clubs this fall. My time with them is so brief, I can't begin to get to know all of them. In my Pottsville club, which had 44 children enrolled, I couldn't even learn all their names. (In that *Good News Club*

we have one hour to transport the kids from the school to the church, teach the lesson, and travel back to school again!)

Although I don't remember their names, my Heavenly Father knows each one of these children to the very core of their beings. Jesus called for them to come to Him: "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14 (ESV) I pray that they will listen to the call of the Holy Spirit in their hearts and choose to believe in Jesus as Savior, growing in Him.

I must admit that there are times I leave *Good News Club* and wonder if the kids grasped anything I said! Other occasions I feel that the Bible lesson went really well and the children showed understanding. I am reminded that while I need to be thoroughly prepared to teach, while continually improving my skills, God is the one who brings these tender hearts to Himself. What a blessing to be a part of their journey toward His kingdom!

## Contact information

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(Child Evangelism Fellowship of Schuylkill County)

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Shelley Hikes

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# CEF

CHILD EVANGELISM  
FELLOWSHIP®

Since 1937

Reaching children worldwide™

**Gifts were given to Child Evangelism Fellowship  
of Schuylkill County between  
November 18 to December 18, 2017  
to the Glory of God**



**In Memory of:**

**Mr. and Mrs. Laurin Edmonds**  
*By: Atty. and Mrs. Martin Cerullo*

**Janet Griffin**  
*By: Alma Davis*

**David Guzick**  
*By: Betzy Guzick (Nana)*

**Richard and Gladys Kilmer**  
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**Maribeth Michelle Lantz**  
*By: Audrey A. Lantz*

**Thomas L. Parnell**  
*By: Patrick and Colleen Becker  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walton*

**Ronald Rhen**  
*By: Joan Rhen*

**Jim Tregoe**  
*By: Joan Tregoe*

**Israel "Izzy" Whalen**  
*By: Mr. and Mrs. John Seltzer, Jr.*



**In Honor of:**

**Kay Artz**  
*By: Patrick and Colleen Becker*

**Shelley Hikes, for her faithful service**  
*By: Joan Mengel*

**Judy Ketz**  
*By: Evelyn M. Jones*

**Our grandchildren**  
*By: Mr. and Mrs. Mark Masser*

**The children who trusted Jesus as  
Savior because of CEF**  
*By: Patricia Kuchinos*

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email, please send the request to [cefschpa@gmail.com](mailto:cefschpa@gmail.com).  
If you would like to be removed from the mailing list contact CEF with your name and address.

**Monthly Party Club Statistics**

Pottsville	Attendance	4	Enrollment	5	Decisions	0
Mahanoy City	Attendance	9	Enrollment	24	Decisions	0

**Holiday Clubs**

Gordon	Attendance	3	Decisions	1
Hegins	Attendance	8	Decisions	1

**Good News Club Statistics**

<u>Club</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Decisions</u>
2 Released Time	71	16
2 After-school (all year)	100	0
3 Regular Clubs	45	1
7 After-school (Fall semester)	174	19
TOTALS: 14 Clubs	390	36

**November 2017**

Lessons graded: 77  
Salvation decisions: 4



**2017 Budget Corner**

Yearly Budget: \$103,312.50  
YTD Income as of 12/15/17 \$88,542.  
YTD Expenses as of 12/15/17 \$110,328.  
Difference: (-\$21,785.) This includes the purchase of a new copier.  
Monthly Budget: 8,609.37

***Volunteer Training Classes***

***Volunteer training class is the recipe for success.***



Class ingredients include the following helps:

- ✓ Counseling
- ✓ Review game
- ✓ Memory verse
- ✓ And any other ideas you bring to add to the recipe!

The class is open for anyone who has a ministry to children: Good News Club volunteers, Sunday school workers, etc.

**Each class is the same. Just choose one.  
RSVP 570-682-9790  
by January 12, 2018**

Tuesday, January 16  
CEF Office  
711 Deep Creek Road, Hegins

Thursday, January 18  
Calvary Evan. UM Church  
824 Catawissa Road, Tamaqua  
(Lewistown Valley)

TIMES:  
9:30-11:30 a.m.  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

## ***Lamentations 3:51 (ESV) "...my eyes cause me grief at the fate of all the daughters of my city."***

Jill Briscoe shared this verse in her book *Faith Enough to Finish* as a challenge to her readers. I now pass that challenge on to you.

When you look around you, I mean really look at the people around you, is your heart affected, grieved by what you see? Could you adapt that verse to read, *My eyes cause my heart (sorrow, misery, sadness, anguish, pain, distress, heartache, heartbreak, agony, torment, affliction, suffering, woe, desolation, dejection, despair) at the fate of the children in my neighborhood?* Which verb describes what you feel when you look at the lost in your neighborhood? Do you feel anything? If not, then the question that needs to be asked is, "Do you even look?"

Those who volunteer with CEF look. We can't help it. Children have a way of forcing your eyes to see them. It could be because they are as cute as a button. But more often than not it is because they look at you. Children's hearts are so receptive. They love so freely. Lindell and I have been asked by two little sisters to pray with them for their daddy~ he doesn't know Jesus. And the girls love Jesus. We couldn't help but look at them. My eyes caused me to sorrow as these little girls know their daddy is lost and my eyes caused me to joy as these sweet children bow their heads in prayer asking God to move in their daddy's heart.

When we look we see smiling faces. Singing faces. Messy and dirty faces. Crying faces. We see lost people in need of a Savior. I pray that my eyes would continue to affect my heart ~ even though it makes me cry. One heart affected, grieved for the children of the city can move a mountain. Will you be that one?

Thank you to our prayer warriors. You look at the children in the neighborhood every time you bow your head (your heart) before the Throne of God.

Thank you to our donors. You look at the children through your financial support that enables another outreach ministry to happen.

With a heart that has been affected by my eyes,  
Shelley

## **Pottsville Released Time Good News Club needs you!**

A volunteer mechanic would be highly valued. CMTS (Christian Missionary Technical Services) loans CEF a retired school bus for use to transport the children to and from *Good News Club*® on Monday afternoons. There are times when the bus has problems and having a mechanic as a resource would be greatly appreciated. Someone who would give the bus a "physical" and let us know of any needed repairs or problems so that the club is not delayed or missed. (This would also relieve some stress from the volunteer driver, Pastor Mark Brooks, who by the way, we would be lost without!)

There were 71 second through fourth graders who attended club this past fall, we expect at least that many kindergarten and first graders for the spring semester. Volunteers are needed! Here are just a few ways you could help:

Bus supervisors, snack helpers, bathroom monitors, counselors, in-class aides, Bible Teacher, song leader, etc. Do you have a love of children? Could you come and pray with a child who has struggles at home or is the only believer in their home? Could you come and smile and say an encouraging word to a child? Could you give a child ONE hour of your time (you have 168 hours a week)?

**Call CEF 570-682-9790**

