



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
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A ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Schuylkill County

Mountain-Valley News

Endings and Beginnings

JANUARY 2024

We were excited as we decorated the office for our Christmas Party Club! Lights in the doorways, the Christmas tree in the corner, huge stockings stuffed with ornaments for a game, poinsettias, golden globes hanging from the ceiling, and the smell of freshly made popcorn, welcomed the children on the day of the club. The children caught the mood and enthusiastically participated in the games. Even a 12-year-old girl said she liked the games we chose. Then there was the craft, the songs and the Christmas lesson, cookie decorating, a movie with popcorn, and cookies and hot chocolate. This is the second year we chose to have a Christmas Party Club for 4 hours. The time flew by so quickly!

Now the calendar has turned, and another year begins. Believe it or not, now we start to plan for the summer. Although we still have the spring Good News Clubs, it is not too early to begin planning camp songs, crafts, and the extra special things that make camp exciting.

Life is a cycle of beginnings and endings. Beginnings and endings can be fun and exciting, or sad and remorseful. But in between the high emotions of the beginnings and endings is the mundane. Even in the

mundane, however, we know that God has made everything beautiful in its time (Ecc. 3:11). I am so thankful God has given us beginnings because I think they help us to re-focus, to re-commit, and to refresh. Then during the mundane we can agree with Solomon that there is nothing better than to be joyful and to do good as long as we live (Ecc. 3:12). And when the ending comes, may we be able to say with Paul, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing."* II Timothy 4:7-8.

Loving God, whether our experience in life is in a beginning, mundane period, or ending right now, help us to thank you, find the beauty in it, and finish well.

Linda

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Mr. Dillon Wertman**

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Erik Gottfried, Chairman
Vice-chair John Racilla
Linda Fetherolf, Secretary
Cathy Nagle, Treasurer
Members:
Gale Hurst
Tom Tilden**

Inside this issue:
*Memorial/Honor of
*Weekly Time of Prayer
*Tel-A-Story
*Mailbox Club
*Budget Corner
*Christmas Party
Club Stats
*GNC Stats
*Christmas Party Club
*Prayer Summit
*GNC Testimonies
*Good News Day Camp
*Note From the Director
*Prayer Calendar

Gifts were given to CEF between November 21 to December 19, 2023

In Memory of...



Holly Bloch

By: Rachel Koppenhaver

Laurin and Helen Edmonds

By: Atty. and Mrs. Martin Cerullo

Mary Grace and Clair Hindman

By: Gary and Michelle Kimmel

Bill Houtz

By: Mrs. LaVerne Houtz

Loved Ones

By: Patsy Krammes

Our parents, Roy and Anna Zerbe and Nate and Emily Kintzel

By: Ken and Kay Kintzel

Brady Koch

By: Donna Potts and Judy Reifsnyder

Our Son, Joey O'Neill, Jr.

By: Joseph and Diane Oneill

My brothers, Bud and Skip Snyder

By: Mrs. Joan Mengel

In Honor Of...

All CEF Workers

By: Eileen Meiser

Kay Artz

By: Jane Baudoin

Janet Kramer

By: Jane Baudoin

Sandy Kupres

By: Gary and Suzy Billman

Our grandchildren:

Mr. and Mrs. Lamont Masser

Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Masser

By: Mark and Arlene Masser

Helen Warmkessel

By: Stuart and Judy Schappell



Join us in praying for Schuylkill County.

Weekly Time of Prayer

Weekly prayer time.

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.

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email please send the request to office@cefschuylkill.com.
If you would like to be removed from the mailing list please contact CEF by email, or phone: 570-544-8042.



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Budget Corner

2024 Budget

\$169,687.80

Monthly budget

\$14,140.65

YTD (Dec. 19, 2023)

Income \$165,423.

Expenses \$165,641.

\$1,782.

Online donations are accepted through Tithely.com

Stats

November 2023

*Lessons graded: 67

*New students: 0

*Certificates earned: 1

*Professions of faith: 2

Pray for more children to sign up for the lessons.



Christmas Party Club Testimonies

Valley View: *“One Good News Club boy, 6th grader, hasn’t come to club or camp for a long time. (He) told his mom he missed us and wanted to come. (Later his mom sent a text to the club teacher and) he had such a good time and was glad he came to it.”* This boy told the club teacher that he talks to God about things going on in his life~ his family only goes to church occasionally.

Over the summer several children expressed that they had received Jesus as their Savior at last year’s Christmas Party Club held in Valley View!

Office: Linda shared our club testimony in “Endings and Beginnings”

Please prayerfully consider opening up your church to a Christmas Party Club this December. Mark it on your calendar and grab your volunteers! The biggest hurdle is setting the date. And then do what’s most important ~ PRAY! For the club, the children, your church~ that God would be glorified, the people would be committed to the time, and that God would send the children.



November 2023 Statistics

<u>Club</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Professions</u>
10 ASGNC®	189	10
2 Regular clubs	48	3
12 Good News Clubs	217	13

Christmas Party Clubs

Valley View	14	1
CEF office	19	0
Pine Grove	6	0
3 Christmas Clubs	39	1



Mark Your Calendar

CEF of Schuylkill County is again hosting a countywide time of prayer to be held on May 18, 2024 (10:00 a.m. to 12 noon).

This event is hosted by CEF but is not about or for CEF~ we are going before the Throne of Grace on behalf of our children, schools, those in positions of authority, our churches and pastors, all outreach ministries, etc.

We are looking for pastors to lead us in prayer during the summit. Please contact Shelley at 570-544-8042 if you interested in participating in this time of corporate prayer.

"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me." C.S. Lewis

may 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Good News Club Testimonies

Comment from child on the last day of Good News Club before Christmas break: *"I don't want Good News Club to be over. We get to sing songs, and hear about Jesus, and learn about bug wars! We don't get to do that at our church!"*

(Bug wars~ we have been sharing from a book series called "Who Would Win?" and the kids are loving it!)

While teaching the Gospel the club teacher was sharing that you need to believe in Jesus as savior~ that's the only way to have your sin forgiven. "Pastors are not saved because they are pastors, they need to believe in Jesus, that He died on the cross to take the punishment for their sin." A second grade boy asked, "What's a pastor?" The club teacher explained that a pastor shares God's Word with the people. The boy then asked, "If he tells them how to sin, is he still a pastor?" When the invitation was given, this boy went to be counseled for salvation. He told the man counseling him that his parents won't take him to church and what he really wants is a Bible so that, "I can know more about Jesus."

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

2024



June 24-28	Lewistown Valley Tabernacle, 614 Valley Road, Tamaqua
July 8-12	Valley View Park, 524 Gap St., Valley View
July 15-19	Manbeck's E. C. Church, 110 Wild Cherry Road, Schuylkill Haven
July 22-26	Christmas Pines Campground, 450 Red Church Road, Auburn
July 29-Aug. 2	Bethany E. C. Church, 15 N. 13th Street, Ashland
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	
Cost: \$35.00 (early registration fee discount of \$5. applies if fee paid 2 weeks prior to first day of camp.)	

Please note: Swimming will not be available at Auburn this year.

Craft items needed: scraps of heavy or corrugated cardboard from the backs of calendars, writing tablets, etc.

A note from the director...

Join Us In Praying for Committee Members

Currently the CEF of Schuylkill County committee consists of six members: Erik Gottfried, John Racilla, Linda Fetherolf, Cathy Nagle, Gale Hurst, and Tom Tilden. Each one has unique gifts they bring to the ministry: leadership skills, bookkeeping experience, secretarial abilities, maintenance knowledge, etc. In order for the committee to meet and vote to pass the treasurer's reports, previous minutes, and to make any decision that must be made five members need to be present at a meeting.

Will you prayerfully consider joining this local body of believers who seeks the spiritual welfare of our neighborhood children? Or maybe you know someone who would be a good fit to serve on the CEF local board?

The committee meets the 4th Thursday of each month (exception Thanksgiving and Christmas) at the CEF office, 101 High Road, Pottsville (just west of Minersville in Primrose) at 7:00 p.m. We are looking for people who have a desire for children to learn about Jesus~ a gift for teaching, your talent may be more of a hands-on type of guy~ helping to maintain the property, maybe your background is accounting/bookkeeping~ you would be a help in maintaining the treasurer's records, or you may have an understanding of the law~ you would be good at helping to fill out legal forms as needed (I recently had to go to Rocket Lawyer to fill out a form needed to complete a building usage application for a local school district.

As you can see, the committee is the Body of Christ working together for the glory of God.

For the children,

Shelley Hikes

