

EBENEZER BIBLE CHAPEL

ELVERSON, PA

CHURCH PROFILE



(c) 2002 Ebenezer Bible Chapel

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WWW.EBENEZERBIBLE.ORG

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Pastoral Profile

Ebenezer Bible Chapel is a small independent Bible Church situated in rural Southeastern Pennsylvania. We are currently searching for a full-time pastor, and are praying the Lord will send the man of His choosing to lead our church into the future.

Ebenezer Bible Chapel is looking for a pastor who is deeply rooted in Biblical principles and who lives these principles out daily.

- The candidate should be an individual who loves to study and teach the Word of God and present it boldly in a clear and understandable manner. He should help God's people apply His Word to their relationships and daily lives.
- The candidate should be a person who, loves and enjoys people, can relate well to a variety of different people in a sincere and humble way, be a servant-leader who leads by his own example, is able to discern the particular needs of individuals in the flock and provide them with the requisite pastoral care.
- The candidate should be gifted at teaching believers to be learners from and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ in their relationships and daily lives. This includes teaching them how to love and study God's word, to love one another, to pursue God's will, and to bear fruit for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The candidate should support children and youth ministries with a vision to developing Godly families by encouraging and equipping those in the church with a gift and heart for these ministries.
- The candidate should have a heart for missions and broader-scoped evangelism and outreach. He should encourage, exhort, motivate, and lead EBC in reaching out with the gospel of Jesus Christ to the local community and to the world.
- The candidate should be willing to visit individuals and families within the church and community and to encourage the congregation to demonstrate hospitality to one another and to those in the community.
- The candidate should be able to lead this church in its mission to its members and to the community. He should recognize leadership potential in others, helping them to develop their gifts, all to the greater glory of God.
- The candidate should be an individual who puts a high priority on his personal devotion to the Lord. He should be an individual who sees this as critical to the success of his preaching and other pastoral functions.

Pastoral Search Committee

E-mail Address: ebcpulpit@gmail.com

Jack Stewart – Chair

Cheryl Sutcliffe - Secretary

Roanna McMillan – Communications

Roger Shenk – Prayer Coordinator

John Swartzentruber

Sherry Kramer

Pastoral Search Committee

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Elverson, PA. 19520

www.ebenezerbible.org

History

In the 1770's, a log church was built on a beautiful hillside in Warwick Township, northern Chester County, Pennsylvania. The church was situated on a tract of land that three neighboring farmers graciously donated. In 1843, a one room stone building replaced the log church. It was called Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church. Over the years, Ebenezer served its rural congregation and the community. The church was vacated by the Methodist Conference in the late 1940's and the building remained vacant for nine years.

The ministry of the present congregation began in March of 1957 when Pastor Elmer Stoltzfus was called to the ministry. A group of believers asked him to lead them, and the church was organized as a Mennonite church. As a matter of Biblical conviction, Ebenezer voted for its independence in 1969, and the church was renamed Ebenezer Bible Chapel.



A new sanctuary adjoining the old structure was dedicated in 1967 to meet the needs of the growing congregation. The original church sanctuary was renovated in early 1972 into a two story educational building with classrooms and a large fellowship room. Helpful renovations have been completed in recent years to make the building accessible and comfortable.

Pastor Stoltzfus retired in 1978 after 21 years of faithful service. He was followed by Pastor Jonathan Ball who served for the next three years. Pastor Deane Boyd retired after 33 years of faithful service in 2015. Pastor Jim Carroll served the congregation for one year, 2016-2017. Visiting speakers brought God's Word through the remainder of 2017 and 2018 welcomed Interim Pastor Harry Fletcher through Interim Pastor Ministries as the church awaits the Lord's provision for a new pastor.

Activities include: Sunday School, Sunday Morning Worship, Sunday Morning Children's Ministry, Mid-week Prayer Meeting and Bible Study, Youth Group, Vacation Bible School and other opportunities in which to worship, serve, and grow in the Lord. Ebenezer Bible Chapel currently supports about 17 missionary outreaches around the globe.

The Church

Ebenezer Bible chapel meets in a 7500 square foot facility, located on 2.9 acres in the rolling hills of northern Chester County Pennsylvania. Chester County is considered to be a suburb of the city of Philadelphia (about 30 miles away).

The original stone church was built in 1843. In 1967, a new sanctuary was added to meet the growing needs of the congregation. In 1972, the original stone building was renovated into a two-story educational building with classrooms and a large fellowship hall. The building has seen several minor renovations since that time.



The current facility includes:

- A 150 seat sanctuary with pews, stage and sound system.
- 5 second floor classrooms for youth ministries
- A large fellowship hall for meals, activities and adult classes
- A large kitchen with pass through into the fellowship hall
- 1 main office with 2 additional offices
- Outside areas for activities and games
- 2 exterior storage buildings
- A current and historic cemetery



Church Life

Ebenezer is a warm family friendly place that has great opportunities for members, regular attendees and guests to grow in their knowledge of God and to support and hold one another accountable for living a Christ-like life.

Services

Sunday Mornings

Sunday mornings begin with age graded Sunday school classes at 9:30am. Classes range from age four (4) through adult. There is a 15-minute time of fellowship between Sunday school and the morning service, which begins at 10:30am. The morning service is traditional in nature. Traditional hymns are sung to the accompaniment of piano and organ, with occasional special music. During the service, there is an opportunity for children through grade 5 to participate in Children's Church.

Nursery is provided during both Sunday school and Sunday service.

Midweek

Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm there is an informal time of prayer, singing and bible study held at the church. There are occasional times of special events such as; missionary visitors, guest speakers and college care boxes.

Youth Ministry

C.O.R.E youth group, stands for Christ Our Rock Everlasting. This group is for youth ages 13 through the 12th grade. The group meets every Sunday through the school year at the church from 4:00 – 6:00pm. During these times, the group has a time of biblical study and reflection. There are often guest speakers and the group usually has one outing per month to such events as; go carting, bowling, rock climbing and an all-nighter.

Vacation Bible School is a well-attended opportunity for children and adults to gather evenings one week during the summer, typically the 3rd week of June.

Other

There are other opportunities to gather and fellowship throughout the year at events such as; special services (Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve), fellowship meals every other month, a sweetheart banquet, men's breakfasts, and women's gatherings.

Missions

Our current mission support includes relationships with local organizations and mission engagement around the world. We provide financial support to 12 missionary families located throughout the world and five (5) local ministries. Through our partnerships, we seek to engage our partners with financial support, prayer and volunteer teams.

Local

Lancaster Bible College is a local Bible College devoted to developing future servant leaders for the furtherance of God's kingdom. Ebenezer has supported LBC for many years and has many members who have graduated from or attended classes there.



Genesis Pregnancy Care Center is a local ministry devoted to helping pregnant women, and single mothers care for their children. They provide counseling to women in need as well as providing some necessities for childcare. Some of the women at Ebenezer participate in events with this ministry and volunteer their time there.



Child Evangelism Fellowship of Chester County is a faith ministry dedicated to serving the children of Chester County and their families. Its purpose is to reach boys and girls with the good news of Jesus and to encourage the believing child in a walk of faith through after school Good News Clubs, summer five-day clubs, and summer projects.

Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry are a worldwide Christian ministry communicating biblical truth about Israel and the Messiah, while fostering solidarity with the Jewish people. Additionally, FOI actively invests in the edification of Christians by teaching Scripture that exemplifies why loving the Jewish people and supporting Israel is integral to the Christian faith.



The FOLD Family Ministries provides a nurturing home environment for at-risk youth between the ages of 13 and 17 offering 24-hour support including individualized counseling, academic curriculum, and spiritual mentoring. The FOLD's services include education, mentoring, counseling, and life-skill support for the teens in our care as well as training and support for their parents.

Worldwide

Ebenezer has been blessed with the opportunity and resources to support 12 missionaries or missionary families in many locations though out the world, such as;

- Germany
- Spain
- South Africa
- Ecuador
- Japan
- Guam
- South Korea
- Guatemala
- Argentina
- The United States



And through various organizations, such as;



- Fellowship International Mission
- Arctic Barnabas Ministries
- Avant Ministries
- Biblical Ministries Worldwide
- Crossworld
- SEND International
- Camio Global
- Global Aid Network
- Trans World Radio
- Word of Life



Ebenezer has also been blessed with the opportunities and resources to send short-term missions teams to several countries to assist several of the missionaries we serve. The Board of Missions at Ebenezer is continually looking for ministries to support and partner with in order to fulfill the Great Commission and serve God both here and abroad.

Church Demographics

Average Attendance and offerings for a five (5) year period:

Data provided from Deacon and Secretary Records.

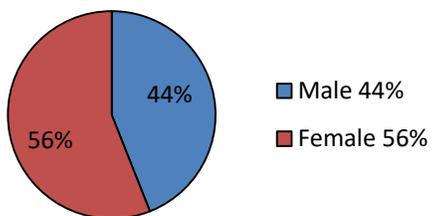
Weekly Attendance and Offerings Averages					
	Sunday School	AM Service	PM Service	Midweek	Offering
2013	38	90	12	4	\$2,538
2014	35	86	10	5	\$3,157
2015	32	81	11	6	\$2,557
2016	37	81	N/A	8	\$2,343
2017	33	69	N/A	10	\$2,164

Note: PM Service was cancelled beginning 1/1/2016

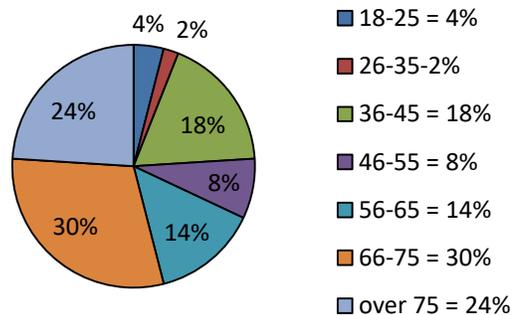
A Congregational Survey was distributed to 63 people, 50 surveys were returned revealing the following data.

Of the 50 respondents, there were **44 Members** and **6 Non-Members**

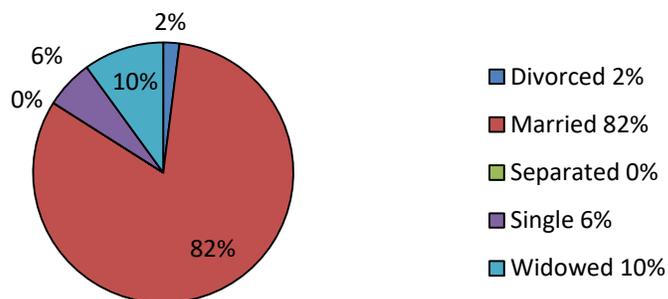
Gender:



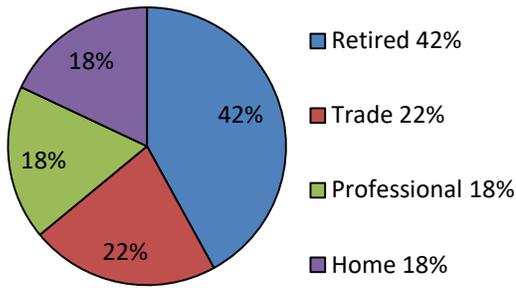
Age:



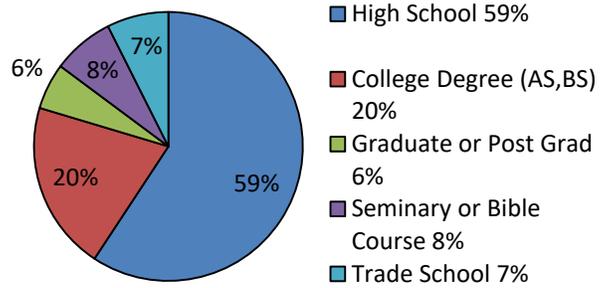
Marital Status:



Types of Occupations:



Educational Background



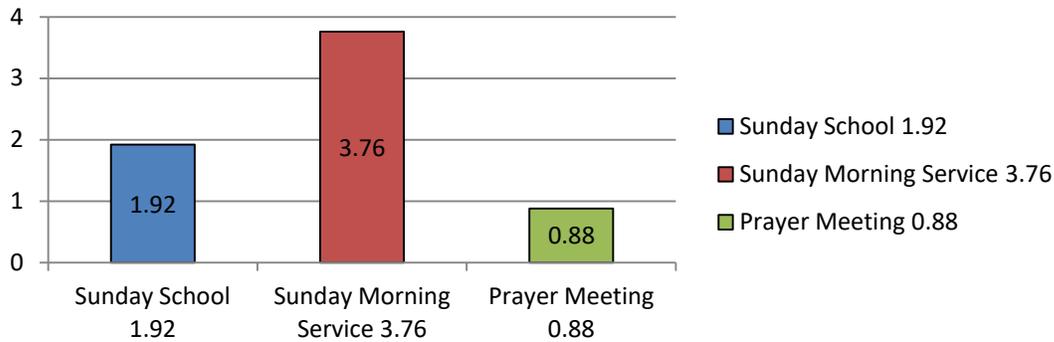
Length of time you have been a believer:

The average length of time a person attending Ebenezer Bible Chapel has been a believer, based on the returned survey data is: **41 Years.**

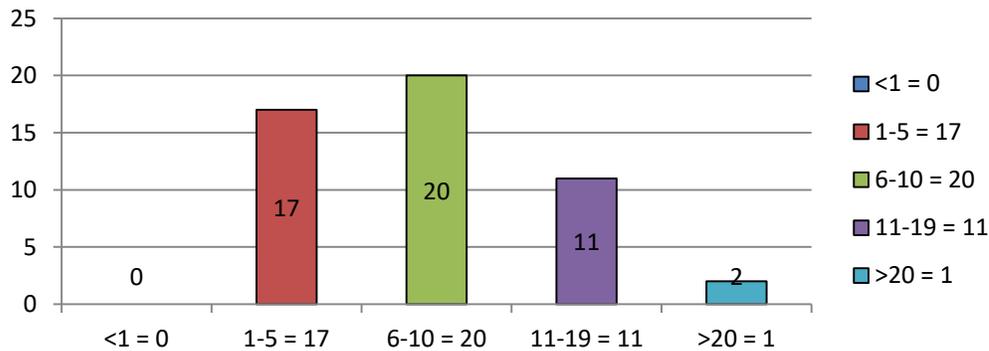
Length of time attending Ebenezer:

The average length of time a person has been attending Ebenezer Bible Chapel, based on returned survey data is: **30 Years**

Average times an individual attends a service in a typical four Sunday month:



Approximate distance an individual lives from Ebenezer (in miles):



Community Demographics

Ebenezer Bible Chapel is located in Elverson Pennsylvania situated in the rolling hills of Northern Chester County, approximately 30 miles west of Philadelphia. The area is strategically nestled among several cities, such as, Pottstown, Reading, Lancaster and Coatesville. Elverson, although primarily a rural area, is near to numerous options for business and commerce. There are many options for shopping, dining, and activities. The following information details the demographic makeup of the Elverson (19520) area based on 2016 census data.

Total Population:	5,534
Male:	2,718
Female:	2816
Median Age:	48.9
Race:	
White:	97.0%
Asian:	1.0%
Hispanic:	0.8%
African American:	0.6%
Other:	0.6%
Education (25 and Older)	
High School Diploma:	32.4%
Some College (no degree):	17.4%
Associate's Degree	9.0%
Bachelor's Degree	12.0%
Graduate/Professional Degree:	20.5%
Median Household Income:	\$70,114
Housing Units:	\$2,481 (94% occupied)
Median Value:	\$286,500
Median Monthly Owner Costs:	\$1,794
Median Rent:	\$859
Average Household Size:	2.51

Within the area there are several schools including, Twin Valley, Owen J Roberts and Downingtown Public Schools. There are a few Christian schools as well including, Berks Christian Academy, Twin Valley Bible Academy, Conestoga Christian, Windsor Christian Academy and High Point Christian Academy. There are also several Charter and Prep Schools including the Hill School, Malvern Prep and the Montgomery Academy.