

# East Balsam Beacon

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Thanks to Cheryl Volgren &  
Sarah Bowers for pictures

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

Let me start by saying thank you for allowing Connie and me to be part of what God is doing here at East Balsam Baptist Church. I'm a history kind of guy, and I've loved learning about the history of the church, seeing God's hand in its founding and in its continuance. It seems that there have been a few times over the years when circumstances seemed to say that perhaps it was time to close the doors, but each time faithful men and women of God looked beyond the circumstances and continued the mission that God set before them. Today there is a strong and vibrant congregation, and enthused and qualified leaders, because of the foundation laid by those who went before. As I've interacted with the Deacons, the Executive Council and the Search Committee I've been impressed by the sense of unity and common purpose that exists here. I'm sure there are areas that some disagree with others; that's actually healthy, but there is a unity of spirit and faith in God's provision that bodes well for the future. If you're fairly new to EBBC let me encourage you to pick up a copy of the church history and read it for yourself, and then spend a few moments in prayer, thanking God for His work here over the past 115 years.

As you're thanking Him for His past work, also ask God to continue to lead and guide those in leadership as they continue the search for a permanent pastor. I was able to share some of my pastoral experiences with the Search Committee a few days ago and talked about the need to see beyond the facts of resumes and cover letters to understand the heart and burden a true shepherd carries. I know that God has already selected His under shepherd for His flock here at EBBC, now the task is to listen to His voice and follow His leading in the process. James says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith, without doubting..." We all need God's wisdom in making life decisions, and perhaps there is no decision that is more important than the one you are engaged in making. So, as you're thanking God for the past, and praying for His leading and guidance, follow James' counsel and specifically ask for wisdom for each person in leadership, and for the congregation as a whole. That has been my prayer for you for the last weeks and will continue to be my prayer as we go forward together in the next few months.

Finally, as I close my little corner of the newsletter, let me mention a couple of other things. First, the weekend marriage conference the end of this month. If you're married or plan to be married, this will be well worth your time.

And then, I'm already looking forward to the Easter season. I know, we just took down the Christmas decorations, but now is the time to begin praying for relatives, friends, coworkers, neighbors and others who do not know Jesus as their savior. Easter is a time that many people are willing to be your guest at worship that might not be willing most times of the year. So, begin praying that God will soften hearts so they can 'hear' the Good News that God loves them, and that Jesus died so that they might have life.

Blessings to each of you,

Pastor Ken



Connie & Ken Mandley



Deacons (Adam Majeske, Roger Peterson, Larry Michaelson, Fred Hall) praying for Connie & Ken

Pastor Ken can be contacted by calling 715-541-2122, via email at [kmandley@centurytel.net](mailto:kmandley@centurytel.net) or at church on Thursday between 9:00-11:30 and 1:00-4:00. Call ahead to schedule an appointment.

## COMING UP

### CALLING ALL QUILTERS, PRESSERS, GENERAL HELPERS—

The quilters are going to be quilting at church on the third Thursday of each month from 10:00 a.m. until ?? Bring a bag lunch. They need to finish mission quilts and quilts for the graduates and would like to have more people involved. You don't need to be a quilter to help. For example, they need people to tie quilts. This is a good time to work and fellowship.

Bring your own scissors but other supplies will be provided. Contact Theresa Nelson at 715-483-3043 if you need more information.

### VALENTINE DINNER—

(Sponsored by Saints Alive)

**Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m., at Village Pizzeria, 101 Highway 35 South, Dresser, WI**

We will order off the menu but I do need to give Village Pizzeria the number of people who will attend. There is a sign-up sheet at church, or you may contact David or me at 715-405-4055 or [dgm@lakeland.ws](mailto:dgm@lakeland.ws)

David and LaVonne Richter will share their testimony of how God has worked in their lives. And, we look forward to some good food and great fellowship.

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

### NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED—

David & LaVonne Richter and Kim Fox were welcomed into membership. Two ladies who have also become members, were not in church that Sunday—Myrna Weik and Sue Rupp.



11/3/2019—Adam Majeske fixing projector

The projector didn't work that morning. After church Adam ventured up the step ladder....

Probably the only person in our congregation who would go that high on a step ladder.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC)—

OCC blesses children around the world with gift-filled shoeboxes that becomes an opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with these children. A child will only receive one box in their life time. This last year we sent 280 boxes off. It was very over whelming for me to see the gifts that came in, purchased or made and the number of boxes filled. We did multiple labels for tracking purposes. Some boxes were sent out on 12/2/19; these boxes went to Namibia. Namibia is located in Southern Africa bordering the Atlantic Ocean. People of Namibia consist of at least 11 ethnic groups. Some boxes went to undisclosed countries; these are countries where the gospel is not received well, but partners of Samaritan's Purse are there working with the people. A total of 10,569,405 boxes were collected in 2019.

The Packing Date for 2020 OCC Boxes is November 14, 2020!

I would like to thank Jen Jorgenson and Rhonda Miller for being my sounding board and push to make it a positive mission for EBBC. Thank you to all who donated both items and money and keeping OCC in your prayers. Thank you for all who came to pack boxes and help load them. Our van can hold 300.... let's strive for that in 2020!

Thank you.

Cheryl Volgren

OCC Packing Day—November 9, 2019

Everything ready to be put in boxes

Looking over the merchandise

Packing has begun



## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES—**

**Christmas Program**—The annual Christmas program was part of the Worship Service on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The title of the program was *Signs of Christmas*. Narrators told the Christmas story and the children put the scenes into action. Pastor Ken's message continued on about the Signs of Christmas.

**Christmas Eve Service**—was at 4:00 p.m. The format was to read a Scripture and sing a Christmas carol that fit with the Scripture. This was repeated several times and covered the Biblical Christmas story. Pastor Ken had a short devotional to end the service.

## **PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE—**

I would like to update everyone on what the pastor search committee has been doing. The majority of our time so far has been spent on gathering background information. We have looked at the community our church serves in to get an overview of it both for us and so that we can give a prospective pastor an idea of what it is like. We also did a survey of 30 people in the church in order to assess where the church is at spiritually and organizationally. Then we did a survey open to all of the congregation in order to see what people would like in our next pastor. Thanks to all that completed the surveys!

The search committee then moved on to posting information on our search. We have posted the church profile and pastor job description on our website. These documents are available for anyone to look at on our website at [eastbalsam.org](http://eastbalsam.org) under the pastor search section. I would encourage you to look at these to see what we have come up with for an assessment of our church. We also posted our need for a pastor on several seminary sites and set February 15 as the deadline for applications.

We have now moved into the next phase of our search. At our last meeting, we started to look at resumes for those that have applied so far. I think this is an exciting time as we finally get to see who might be the next pastor for our church. I ask that you would all pray for us and for the man that God has already chosen to serve here next. We want to be open to God's leading as we look at resumes.

Submitted by Larry Michaelson

## **HELPING HANDS—**

We offer help for physical, household, and transportation needs. Phil Foster has stepped down from being chairman and I, John Larson, took over. If there are any suggestions such as anyone wanting to volunteer or anyone in need of help please contact me at 715-529-0042 or email [jajolarson@gmail.com](mailto:jajolarson@gmail.com)

Submitted by John Larson

## **WEEKLY MEETINGS—**

The following are meetings held weekly. Watch the bulletin or web site for other activities.

We also have a prayer chain that can be activated by sending an email to [east.balsam.baptist.church@gmail.com](mailto:east.balsam.baptist.church@gmail.com) or calling Val Rowe at 715-268-7424 or Joan Michaelson at 715-405-4055.

**Women's Bible Study**—Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. fellowship and coffee. Bible study from 9:30 to 10:30. Contact Joan Michaelson for more information [dgm@lakeland.ws](mailto:dgm@lakeland.ws) or 715-405-4055.

**Life Group**—Meets each Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., at Don and Lisa Lundquist’s home, 611 South Second Street, Luck. Lisa’s cell phone is 651-347-7068. The study is a DVD and discussion group on “Slaying the Giants in Your Life” by David Jeremiah.

**Good News Club (GNC)**—3:00-5:00 p.m. at Unity School for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade children. The GNC at Unity is in desperate need of a coordinator. If you have 3-5 hours a week to bring the gospel to children in the public schools, contact Val Rowe (715-268-7424) or Velda Alen (715-857-5573).

**Youth**—They begin with a meal at 5:45, then go to a Bible study and other activities. Recently the Middle School and High School age youth had an “Ask the Pastor” night. The youth gave Pastor Ken questions and the following week he answered them. Pastor Ken praised the youth for the depth of the questions they asked and their attention as he answered them.

The Ignite Youth Group is looking for individuals/couples/families who would like to serve the youth by supplying and/or serving dinners at 5:45 on Wednesday evenings. There is a sign-up sheet by the kitchen counter. Contact Sarah Bowers at [sbowers@eastbalsam.org](mailto:sbowers@eastbalsam.org) or the church phone—715-857-5411 for more information. Her hours are Monday from 8:00 a.m. to Noon or Wednesday beginning at Noon through the youth meeting.

**Prayer Meeting**—is Wednesday evening at 7:00 at the David Michaelson home, 309 Warren Street, Balsam Lake. We are a small group and invite more of you to join us.

**Men’s Bible Study**—Several men meet at 7:00 a.m. every Saturday at church. Contact Craig Peters at 715-222-0564 if you want more information.



11/3/2019—Megan Juliot & Theresa Nelson

The Quilters present quilts to many people for different occasions. Megan received this quilt because she is dealing with Autoimmune Hepatitis.

# MISSIONS

## **Bruce & Candice Beatham**—Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico

I asked Bruce & Candice for an update. Candice answered that they have hit the ground running after spending some wonderful and needed time with ALL of their kids over Christmas break.

This past year they received their pins for 20 years of service with Wycliffe Bible Translators. “We want to thank you, our financial, prayer and encouragement team, for your faithfulness to God in supporting the ministry He has given to all of us – to bring God’s Word to the Mixtec people in their own language.”

The translation of God’s Word continues to move forward in two languages. They also teach literacy classes, read portions of the translation with people to see how well it communicates to them, and have discussions to agree on the best way to translate tricky terms. A young lady named Eli has joined their team by taking on the job of “back-translating” the Mixtec translation of the book of Mark into Spanish for a consultant to review.

They also have two Mixtec helpers, Valentin and Ernesto. Ernesto spends his Saturdays making trips back to his village to help teach children’s ministries that were started as a result of having Samaritan’s Purse outreaches there. These kids are hungry for God’s Word. Please pray for these children and the leaders so they accept God’s salvation.

## **John & Lori De Cleene**—Mobilization Associates, Converge

Lori and I just finished leading Launch (three-day orientation) for the first time since the Mobilization Director resigned last June. There’s another Launch in May!

This Launch just brought seven new Converge appointees into the system! Praise the Lord!

Next month a family, a couple and a single head out to Togo, Africa! Please pray for finances as the couple and single are at 90% as I write. Please pray for them all as they say goodbye to family, friends and churches. Please also pray for their family, friends and churches as they celebrate their departure, yet, very truly, work through the sadness of separation.

We’re praying for you at EBBC during this special and exciting time of ministry!

Serving together with you...John

## **Steve & Carol Jean Gallagher**—Wycliffe Bible Translators

This photo shows the Scripture items (printed, audio, and video) published in PNG languages during 2019. This represents 26 different languages and thousands of people who now have access to God’s precious word in their own language. Steve was a consultant for a portion of all five New Testaments in the top row and for the Gospel of Mark on one of the audio devices.



Steve and Carol Jean have returned to the U.S. and settled in Florida. They bought a house that was ready to move into—furniture, bedding, towels, dishes, and much more. They have found a church where they can serve the Lord, are getting to know people in the mobile park, and are about half an hour drive from Mark and Erin.

They are still working for Wycliffe, Steve as a consultant for translators and Carol Jean as an Administrative Assistant helping people who are going to the mission field with Wycliffe. One of their first tasks is to raise more support.

Erin and Mark welcomed a son, Wilder John Anderson, into their home on January 14<sup>th</sup>. At first three-year old Eowyn didn't like his loud crying but now she is happy to be the Big Sister.

### **Steve & Rhonda Schwarze—**

Steve and Rhonda were at EBBC on September 1<sup>st</sup> to say thank you for support over the last 35 years, and good-bye. Their last official day as missionaries was December 31, 2019. On December 30<sup>th</sup> they were driving home from their final speaking event as missionaries. Their comment, "It is with mixed emotions that we close out this chapter and begin a new adventure."

Prayers were answered for Rhonda as she has been hired 20 hours a week in an assisted living/memory care facility. She will be working days which is another praise because her night driving isn't great with the eye issues she has. In their last letter they said Steve had a job interview scheduled.

Over the years they have had several projects to help people in the Philippines. There are two that still need prayer and financial help. (1) Aileen Lampios still has one more semester of college. Her 8<sup>th</sup> grade daughter will also need help to go to college. (2) Three-year-old Kiel has medical problems. It costs about \$100 a month for the blood transfusions and tests needed to keep him alive.

If you want to contact Steve and Rhonda, their email address is [Rhonda.schwarze@gmail.com](mailto:Rhonda.schwarze@gmail.com); their mailing address is 1258 Draper Ave., Roseville, MN 55113.

### **Katherine Taylor—Teacher with CAMA**

Katherine continues to teach students of various ages. Some families really want their children to learn English to improve not only their future but for the family as well. She also works with some women at a drug rehab center. They are learning new skills that will help when they are discharged from the center. Pray they will make good decisions when they are on their own such as family, job, finances, etc.

### **Gil & Norene Zinke—Training Leaders International (TLI)**

Gil reports that they had a good Christmas in Tennessee where they spent time with both sons, their wives, and a grandson. He also reported that both of the wives are expecting in June. Their family has been well except Norene sprained her ankle. She didn't get good treatment in Minnesota, but their son got her to a doctor in Tennessee. She is now doing well.

This note from Gil & Norene arrived just before the newsletter was going to print.

"With God's enabling grace and your prayers and monthly offerings, Gil completed 13 trainings and preached 11 times in Ethiopia this past year. We deeply appreciate your faithful support of his ministry with TLI. We hope many of you have been (or will be) encouraged by the [Jesus in Athens](#) DVD we sent last summer. Praise God for the way He is working throughout the world!

"Gratefully, Gil & Norene Zinke"



East Balsam Baptist Church  
1816 – 108th Street  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Sunday Worship – 9:00 A.M.  
9:30 A.M. – Children's Church  
11:00 A.M. – Adult Sunday School class  
Tuesday – Women's Bible Study – 9:00 A.M.  
Wednesday – Good News Club – Unity School 3:00-5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday – Jr. High & Sr. High – 5:45 P.M.  
7:00 P.M.-Prayer Meeting at David Michaelson home  
Saturday, 7:00 A.M. – Men's Bible Study  
Other meetings and activities announced in the bulletin & web site

Send Prayer Chain requests to [east.balsam.baptist.church@gmail.com](mailto:east.balsam.baptist.church@gmail.com),  
or contact Val Rowe at 715-268-7424 or  
Joan Michaelson at 715-405-4055