



## **STAFF**

**Rev. Dick LaFountain**  
*Pastor*

Terry Smith  
*Secretary*

## **SESSION MEMBERS**

Paul Bengs  
Jo Coulter  
Cathy Donaldson  
Joyce Steele  
Jean Walter-Clerk

## **DEACONS**

Brenda Bengs  
Amanda Duncan-chair  
Charlene Root  
Mary Ryan  
Marcie Treese

## **TRUSTEES**

Kent Bicehouse-chair  
Phil Coulter  
Scott Duncan  
Noel Ryan  
Dave Steele

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## **Ebenezer Presbyterian Church**

2426 Scrubgrass Rd  
Grove City PA 16127

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October articles are due:  
September 19

## *The Age of Scurvy*

“Of all the horrors faced by sailors from 1500-1800 one of the greatest threats had nothing to do with pirates or wars or weather. It had to do with food.

Scurvy killed more than two million sailors between the time of Columbus’s transatlantic voyage and the rise of steam engines in the mid-19th century. The problem was so common that shipowners and governments assumed a 50% death rate from scurvy for their sailors on any major voyage. According to historian Stephen Bown scurvy was responsible for more deaths at sea than storms, shipwrecks, combat, and all other diseases combined. In fact, scurvy was so devastating that the search for a cure became what Bown describes as “a vital factor determining the destiny of nations.”

None of the potential fates awaiting sailors was pleasant, but scurvy exacted a particularly gruesome death. The earliest symptom—lethargy so intense that people once believed laziness was a cause of the disease—is debilitating. Your body feels weak. Your joints ache. Your arms and legs swell, and your skin bruises at the slightest touch. As the disease progresses, your gums become spongy and your breath fetid, your teeth loosen, and internal hemorrhaging makes splotches on your skin. Old wounds open; mucous membranes bleed. Left untreated, you will die, likely from a sudden hemorrhage near your heart or brain.

A survival story written by an unknown surgeon on a 16th-century English voyage reveals the horror of the disease:

*“It rotted all my gums, which gave out a black and putrid blood. My thighs and lower legs were black and gangrenous, and I was forced to use my knife each day to cut into the flesh in order to release this black and foul blood. I also used my knife on my gums, which were livid and growing over my teeth. . . . When I had cut away this dead flesh and caused much black blood to flow, I rinsed my mouth and teeth with my urine, rubbing them very hard. . . . And the unfortunate thing was that I could not eat, desiring more to swallow than to chew. . . . Many of our people died of it every day, and we saw bodies thrown into the sea constantly, three or four at a time.”*

<https://www.sciencehistory.org/distillations/the-age-of-scurvy>

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 In this age of COVID-19 scares and the danger of viral diseases God wants us to know there is a greater disease that afflicts the children of God in today’s world. It is the scurvy of spirit from of a lack of the Word of God.

God’s Word is manna, or our daily bread for our souls. How long can you go without food? Could you subsist on one meal a week on Sunday mornings? I think not. Yet many believers are suffering

spiritual malnourishment from a lack of exposure the Word.

The Word of God is the foundation of our faith and should be the foundation of our daily lives. It is the bread of heaven that nourishes and sustains our life in Christ. God’s Word, the Bible, should permeate our thoughts and actions. In Presbyterian lingo, “It is our only rule for faith and practice.”

**The great preacher and teacher  
 Derek Prince wrote:  
 “You Don't Love God More Than  
 You Love His Word.”**

God warns us through the prophet Amos in Amos 8:11-13: *“Look! The days are coming, declares the Lord God, “when I will send a*

*famine throughout the land —not a famine of food or a thirst for water—but rather a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. People will stagger from sea to sea, from north to east. They will run back and forth, searching for a message from the Lord, but they won’t find it.”*

The Apostle Paul urged us in Colossians 3:16: *“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*

And again he exhorted young Timothy: *“Study to show yourself approved unto God a workman that needs not to be*

## Joys and Concerns

**Shut-ins and those in Adult Care Homes:** Eleanor Sigut

**Prayer List:** Dick Bicehouse, Mary Ellen Coulter, Phil Coulter, Cathy Donaldson, Will Hoffman, Shirley Jenkins, Pastor Dick, Lonnie Ohler, Nancy Straub, Noel Ryan, Bob Somers,

Remember our shut-in: Eleanor Sigut

Our condolences and prayers for the family of Gay Griffin on the passing of her son, Randy, on August 23. Pastor Dick officiated a private family service held on Thursday, August 26, with a graveside committal service on Friday at the Woodland Cemetery.

**Brian and Connie Jewell will be participating in the 2021 Ride For Kids** on September 12, 2021. This Western PA Ride is one of 24

rides across the United States. It is the first ever Global Ride For Kids. This motorcycle ride raises funds for the Pediatric Brain

Tumor Foundation. Each day there are 13 children diagnosed with brain tumors. Last year we collected \$1800 from family and friends. We thank you for your past support and we hope you will again consider supporting this worthy cause.



*Be sure to check out the new photo on our website,  
a picture taken of the church one evening by Mary Ryan.  
(Hint: Look at the bottom of any page and you will see it.)*

Any photos you wish to submit, for example of fellowship meals or activities at the church, feel free to email them to the church address and they will be added to the **Events** tab on the top menu.

You can also find the **Building Request Form** under the Publications tab. Just print and mail it in or bring it to the church and place it in the Secretary's mailbox.

## Clerk's Corners—Session Reports from August 2021

### TREASURER'S REPORT JULY 2021

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$20,944.28
RECEIPTS	\$5176.75
BEGINNING BALANCE PLUS RECEIPTS	\$26,121.03
EXPENSES	\$5321.27
Balance 7-31-2021	\$20,799.76
TRUSTEE FUND	\$440.45
MISSION FUND	\$1825.73
GOOD NEWS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS	\$369.49
MISSIONS: DESIGNATED:	
LOCAL	\$225.00
HELPING HANDS	\$25.00
FOOD PANTRY	\$5.00
AVAILABLE FUND FOR GENERAL USE 7-31.2021	\$17,909.09

Joan Coulter, Treasurer

Session approved the following at the August 9th meeting:

- Charge account at County Market for Deacon's convenience.
- Deacon's meeting date be scheduled in the church bulletin so other meetings can be planned around that date.
- Fellowship Committee schedule for the remainder of this year. Up coming events to be announced.
- Special Session meeting for August 23.
- George Parker birthday dinner for October 10, after church.

(con't on page 4)

Noted: The cleaning of the Fellowship Room floor. Big thank you to Kent and Pat Bicehouse.

Discussed:

- Nominating Committee composition.
- Official job description of church officers.
- Updating Membership Roll.
- Recent meeting with Presbytery representatives on July 21.
- Updating phone system to allow messages to go to Pastor's phone.

TREASURER'S REPORT JUNE 2021 (corrected)	
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$23,894.87
RECEIPTS	\$6001.12
BEGINNING BALANCE PLUS RECEIPTS	\$29,895.99
EXPENSES	\$8,951.71
Balance 6-30-2021	\$20,944.28
TRUSTEE FUND	\$440.45
MISSION FUND	\$2825.73
GOOD NEWS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS	\$369.49
MISSIONS:	
DESIGNATED:	
LOCAL	\$130.00
HELPING HANDS	\$15.00
FOOD PANTRY	\$5.00
AVAILABLE FUND FOR GENERAL USE	\$17,163.85

Joan Coulter, Treasurer

ashamed rightly dividing the Word of Truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

There are a number of ways you can get more involved in the Word of God.

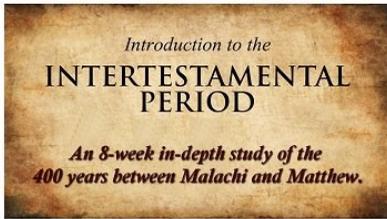
- You can read a **chapter a day**. Start with the Gospel of John.
- You can use a daily **devotional reading** such as *Our Daily Bread*, available on the back table at church.
- You can use a **Bible Reading app** on your phone or computer, such as the Blue Letter Bible app.
- You can join a **weekly home Bible Study** in your area.

Presently we do not have Sunday School classes, in-church Bible studies, but that will be changing in the near future as people express an interest.

In the meantime, **Pastor Dick is planning a Thursday evening home Bible Study beginning September 9**. The studies usually run for 8 consecutive weeks. Our September/October study will be on the Intertestamental Period (the 400+ years between Malachi and Matthew). After that

in November and December, we will be studying 8 weeks on the Birth and Childhood of Jesus. In January, we should be starting a study of the Book of Philippians. **If you are interested you can contact Pastor Dick** for more details or keep updated on Facebook and our church website.

One of the nice things about Pastor’s studies is that there are three ways to be involved.



Three are 3 ways to study with us...

1. Download the Lectures in print form for a self-guided study. Sent by email.
2. Watch the weekly video lectures and follow the links and readings.
3. Join us in-person home Bible Study for 30-minute lecture and discussions.

**Begins September 9, 2021**

- You can receive the study in print for each week by email.
- You can join online with YouTube video presentations and links to documents.
- You can join us in person in our home on Thursday evenings.

If there is enough people interested we could do a class at church on Sunday evenings.

For further reading on the effects of scurvy see: Columbus: The Four Voyages, 1492-1504, Laurence Bergreen, and Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe, Laurence Bergreen

# September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  <b>1pm: Fellowship Committee</b>	2	3  Pete Treese	4
5 <b>10am: Worship service</b>  Charlene Root	6	7	8 <b>10am: Deacons</b>  John Shawgo	9	10  Will & Nancy Hoffman	11  Phil Coulter
12 <b>11am: Worship service</b>	13 <b>1pm: Session</b>  Jo Coulter  Bob & Aletha Somers	14  Pastor Dick	15  Aletha Somers	16  <b>7pm: Trustees</b>	17	18  Patti Parker
19 <b>11am: Worship service</b>  <b>Newsletter Due</b>	20	21	22	23  Artie Minor	24	25  Marcie Treese
26 <b>11am: Worship service</b>  <b>Chicken Luncheon</b>  Katie McDowell	27	28	29	30  <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <i>Get ready for Fall</i> </div> 		

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**We support the Grove City Food Bank & Helping Hands Food Donations for September** (we alternate the recipient each month): Instant potatoes, spaghetti & sauce, peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, canned pasta, salt & pepper, vinegar, canned salmon/tuna, sandwich bags, bar soap, laundry soap

Sundays

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Rev. Dick LaFountain

CONTACT US

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Church Phone: 814-786-7411  
(will pick up voice messages on Thursdays)