



October - November 2019

Stonemaker

Newsletter of Ebenezer Church

Photos from a trip to Fengehun Village

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FOCUS 2025 - TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD

On October 20, Pastor Rob and Tina Deboeser, our Director of Missions and Outreach, and members of Helping Children Worldwide (HCW) will leave for Sierra Leone, Africa. The trip is an essential next step of our Focus 2025 goal of Transforming the World. Pastor Rob and Tina discuss the upcoming trip and give some insight to the potential impact of Ebenezer's commitment.

VISION: We see the ongoing development of the ministry in Bo, Sierra Leone through the Child Rescue Centre and Mercy Hospital.

STRATEGIC GOALS: We see the expansion of the Mercy Medical Outreach Program to five new villages in the region of Bo, creating life-saving care and furthering the development of community health projects such as wells and latrine systems.

WILL YOU EXPLAIN THE VISION FOR OUR WORK IN SIERRA LEONE?

Pastor Rob: The original vision for Sierra Leone in our engagement with HCW was to adopt five villages in the Bo District. We'd support these villages through the development of infrastructure and economic growth. The economic growth would materialize through granting 200 microloans to different families throughout the district. I've been asked, "Why only 200 microloans?" It wasn't because of funding, it was that 200 loans was the limit HCW could handle administratively.

Tina: There is a great deal of preparation for the loan recipient. There are classes they need, there's a mentor assigned to them, and a great deal of time invested to help the recipient succeed.

Pastor Rob: There was a God moment a few months ago in which Melody Curtiss, HCW's Executive Director, asked if we would consider bundling the microloans and

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upcoming SERMON SERIES

THE ROCK: FLAWED BUT FAITHFUL PETER

He is lovable, frustrating and fiercely effective. Peter is one of the most well-known characters in the Bible. Through this series we will talk about Peter's background, flaws, gifts, successes, and death to help us better understand the way God uses our successes and failures to draw us close to Christ and accomplish the vital mission in front of us.

GOOD TO GREAT IN GOD'S EYES

Sometimes we think greatness is incompatible with the humility of our faith. Humility is important. Jesus was tremendously humble. He was also exalted. To seek greatness in the Kingdom of God is a worthy endeavor provided we recognize that greatness is measured differently in the eyes of Christ. This series will look at ten practices faithful Christians have in common and help us move toward the kind of greatness God desires for our lives.



A NOTE FROM PASTOR MONICA

Hello, Ebenezer Family!

I don't know about you, but it seems to me there is greater and greater demand placed on our limited time and resources every day. Now, I fully recognize being a mother to five growing children certainly exasperates this reality. Even still, those with no children in the home often tell me they feel a powerful force pulling them and all of us in too many directions.

We often walk around exhausted, depleted, and scratching our heads trying to figure out how we can accomplish more every day.

Perhaps though, Jesus needs us to be accomplishing less. Less running from place to place, and less packing our schedules with nonessential events and tasks.

And perhaps with more open space in our minds, hearts, and calendars, Jesus will be able to do more. More restoring. More healing. More connecting. More of him speaking his truth into our hearts.

You see, I think one of the tools the enemy has readily at his disposal is our own collective willingness to burn ourselves out. And when we are burnt out, we are easy targets. We are too tired to even see the warning signs. While we may believe we have no power to hop off the hamster wheel, that isn't true. Every day, we have countless small choices to make about how we spend our time. This eventually adds up the bigger picture of our life.

What picture are you painting with your life? And how are you spending the most precious resource you have, your time?

It's ok to slow down. God loves you and so do I!

Blessings,
Pastor Monica

use them to support the communities we're already planning to adopt. Instead of helping a limited number of families, Ebenezer could help establish an economy for the entire the village.

HOW DID WE SELECT WHICH VILLAGES TO ADOPT?

Tina: The HCW, through the Child Rescue Center (CRC) and Mercy Hospital, has been mapping communities in Sierra Leone. These are communities they're currently working in and providing medical outreach and support and they are communities in which they have relationships with the village leaders.

Pastor Rob: When we talk about a village map, it's important to know we're referring to a map of the needs in the community. The development of these types of maps is a historical challenge in missional enterprises, particularly in foreign countries. Frankly, westerners, with very good intentions, tend to approach very different cultures and say, "Here's what you need." The great thing about these village maps is that Sierra Leoneans in the villages connected with Sierra Leoneans employed by HCW developed the list of needs.

CAN YOU GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF SOME OF THE NEEDS?

Pastor Rob: To get very specific, there are three great needs in Fengehun Village, the first village that we're adopting. They need a deep bore well. In the dryer seasons, the well runs dry and people have to travel as far as two miles to get to an adequate source of fresh water. Another problem is the bathroom is at the edge of the village which creates a huge number of health issues. The third issue is one of collective poverty in the community

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH ON THIS TRIP?

Pastor Rob: The chief function of the trip is to meet with people from the first two villages, Fengehun and Samie. Ultimately, the goal is for us to begin developing relationships with the leadership in these two communities. That is where a great deal of listening needs to take place on our behalf. We also need to develop a memorandum of understanding in which we clearly outline Ebenezer's responsibilities, HCW's responsibilities, and the responsibilities of the villagers as we move towards addressing some of the most significant challenges that they are facing.

WHAT IS EBENEZER'S COMMITMENT BOTH IN TIME AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

Pastor Rob: In terms of time, our goal had been to adopt five villages by 2025. I think that's a worthy goal, but I also think that if we do this really well for three villages over the next six years that -- is a Kingdom win. The financial costs will be between \$70,000 and \$90,000 per village. Fengehun Village has 1,300 residents. We can help provide clean water, adequate sewage, and help stand up a sustainable economy for 1,300 people; that's an astounding cost-to-benefit ratio.

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THIS PROJECT?

Tina: The opportunity to be in real partnership; to work together to identify needs and see how we can address them excites me. When I was in Sierra Leone, I saw a lot of derelict buildings that had great intention, buildings that were part of a project an outside group put together, but they are now defunct. Because we've been partners with HCW for so long and HCW is so well-respected in Sierra Leone, we have an opportunity to really look long-range and be there for a long time.

Pastor Rob: The tendency can be that we believe it's our job to go to Africa and be the donor, but the thing I'm excited about is the fact that the people of Fengehun Village have every bit as much to offer to Ebenezer Church as Ebenezer Church has to offer Fengehun Village in the form of stories and wisdom and insight. That gets unleashed in the context of relationship.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Tina mentioned there are many children in Fengehun Village who are enrolled in the CRC's Sponsor-A-Child Program. We are serving some kids who are already being supported by Ebenezer's congregation. Contact Tina Deboeser if you'd like more information on sponsorships.

Another way to help is to bathe this entire process and prayer. As Pastor Rob said, "If the Spirit is not in it, we should just stay home." There will be calls to help plan or to use your professional skills to accomplish the work. Your financial support is also important. Stay tuned as we unveil some funding initiatives for this program in 2020.

SCAMMERS TAKE AIM AT CHURCHGOERS

B.J. Priest, *Executive Director*

The scammers keep getting smarter! We've recently been advised of a new scam aimed at church members. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued a warning regarding messages sent to worshipers that appear to be from their pastor.

According to the FTC, the message contains an appeal from the pastor to support a needy cause by purchasing gift cards. Churchgoers then are asked to send their pastor the numbers and PINs on the backs of the cards—but then—in an instant, the funds on the cards are stolen and well-meaning congregants are cheated of funds that could have gone to a truly worthy cause.

Please know that Ebenezer Church would NEVER solicit donations of this type then ask that you share that information directly with one of our pastors.

Learn more about how to protect yourself from this type of behavior by attending the Empty Nest & UMW dinner and program, "Fraud Trends and How to Prevent Them" on Tuesday, October 8 from 6:30-8:30 PM.

The program is presented by AARP and you can register on our website at ebenezerumc.org/events



UPCOMING EMPTY NEST EVENTS - REGISTER AT EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS

October 24 -

Tour of the Marine Corps Museum

November 2 -

Registration deadline Riverside Christmas Spectacular (12/18)

December 7 -

A Grand Christmas

SUPPORT KAIROS COOKIES

BAKED COOKIES SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH BY OCTOBER 20. FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY PURPOSES, ALL COOKIES MUST MEET THESE GUIDELINES.

ACCEPTABLE COOKIE TYPES:

- Chocolate Chip
- Peanut butter
- Molasses
- Ginger
- Sugar
- Oatmeal

DO NOT USE:

- Any Fruit (including raisins)
- Candy (including M&M's)
- Icing, Sprinkles, or Nuts



SIZE & SHAPE:

- Round
- 2-2 1/2 inches in diameter
- 1/2 inch thick

ONCE COOLED:

- Bag cookies by the dozen (In quart size zip-lock freezer bags)
- Label the type of cookies
- Cookies can be frozen

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE DELIVERING AND RECEIVING COOKIES!

MISSION POSSIBLE

Every month, Ebenezer volunteers have two opportunities to cook for and serve a meal to people in our community. Because the programs are similar in nature, people often ask, "What's the Difference?"

Quite simply, the Brisben Shelter Meal serves the residents of the Thurman Brisben Shelter and 4th Saturday Meals feeds residents of Stafford and Fredericksburg who need companionship or a meal. Both programs regularly feed 80+ people, and both need volunteers to continue to thrive. No special skills are needed. Sign-up to help cook or serve at ebenezerumc.org/volunteer-in-the-community/



BRISBEN SHELTER MEAL

Cook and serve a home-style dinner to the residents of the Thurman Brisben Shelter. The shelter houses individuals and families for extended periods of time while they work to attain self-sufficiency. Volunteers work in two shifts to cook and serve the meal.

Ages: 12 and up

What to Bring: Dress comfortably.

Where: Brisben Center at 471 Central Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Park where you like, sign-in at the main desk, and then join us in the kitchen

Time Commitment: Prep and Cook Dinner 3:30 – 6:00 PM, Serve Dinner 5:45 – 7:00 PM

4TH SATURDAY MEALS

Prep, cook, serve and a healthy dinner for approximately 80 guests and clean-up afterwards. All supplies are brought by the program leaders.

Age: 10 and up

Where: Fredericksburg United Methodist Church

Time Commitment: Set-up, Prep, and Cook 1:00 - 3:00 PM, Serve and Clean-up 3:15 - 5:30 PM

ANGEL TREE

On November 24, Ebenezer Church kicks off one of our most popular outreach ministries. Because of your generosity, we continue to increase the number of families we serve each year.

The Angel Tree is one of Ebenezer Church's longest standing ministries, but did you know...

- The Angel Tree program as it exists today grew out of a successful United Methodist Women's ministry
- We are one of a few organizations that requests wish lists from Social Services for large families (five or more people)
- Angel Tree ministry provides gifts to children and senior citizens
- Each child on the list requests 4 gifts; two toys and two articles of clothing
- Each senior citizen requests 2 gifts
- Every family referred from Social Services and each senior on our Angel Tree list receives a box of food to feed their family for two weeks
- Small groups can adopt a family

This year Angel Tree gift and food tags will be available on November 24 and all gifts must be returned by December 15. The process is simple; 1. Grab a gift or food tag from a tree in the Lobby. 2. Shop and wrap (gifts only). 3. Return all items (gifts and food) to the church on or before December 9.

If you'd like to volunteer, we need folks who can help pack and load boxes of food. Interested? Email Tina at tdeboeser@ebenezerumc.org. Thanks for helping make this a special Christmas for some of our neighbors.

October EVENTS

EVENT REGISTRATION

To learn more about our upcoming events or to register to attend, please visit ebenezerumc.org/events

GROUPS & CLASSES

Share life together and grow in your faith.

- Small groups
- Short-term Classes
- Recreation Groups
- Support Groups
- Special Interest Group
- Kids & Student Groups

Free KidzCare is available for all groups who meet on campus.

Visit ebenezerumc.org/groups then click Groups/Classes to learn more.

FIND US ONLINE

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1

MILITARY WIVES CONNECT

8

UMW/EMPTY NESTER DINNER

12

GO FOR BO

15

LUNCH & LEARN - *EMPTY NESTERS*

19-20

TNT RETREAT

19

HORSEBACK RIDING - *YOUNG ADULTS*

20

NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS
KAIROS COOKIES DUE

24-26

KAIROS TEAM VISIT

24

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS TOUR
EMPTY NESTERS

27

TRUNK OR TREAT
VETERAN'S DAY ROLL CALL NAME SUBMISSIONS DUE
EMAIL_VETERANS@EBENEZERUMC.ORG

27, 28

AXIS MISSION TRIP MEETING

WEEKLY & MONTHLY RECURRING EVENTS

Basketball -

Women - Sundays, 3:00 PM

Men - Sundays, 7:00 PM

Exercise Classes -

Mondays - Friday, 9:15 AM

Indoor Hockey -

Mondays, 7:00 PM

Active Older Adult Exercise Group -

Tuesdays & Fridays, 10:30 AM

Family Yoga -

Fridays, 7:00 PM

November EVENTS

2 GLOW NIGHT - 4TH & 5TH GRADERS

7 GAME DAY - EMPTY NESTERS

9 MOPS EVENT

10, 17 EXPLORE EBENEZER

10 VETERANS RECOGNIZED DURING SERVICE

11 VETERANS DAY

16 FIRESIDE POTLUCK - YOUNG ADULTS
ICE CREAM SOCIAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

17, 18 TRICARE UPDATE

19 LUNCH & LEARN - EMPTY NESTERS

24 NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS
ANGEL TREE TAGS AVAILABLE

28 THANKSGIVING

29 I AM ART MISSION TRIP BEGINS

Community Meals -

October 5, November 2, 9:00 AM

4th Saturday Meals -

October 26, November 30
1:00 PM & 3:15 PM

Gaming Club -

October 19, November 16, 12:00 PM

Brisben Center Meals -

October 19, November 23, 3:30 & 5:45 PM

Nar Anon Meetings -

Wednesdays 7:00 PM

SERVICE TIMES

Traditional | 8:15 AM

Contemporary | 9:45 AM, 11:15 AM,
6:00 PM

Church Online | 9:45 & 11:15 AM

Watch at live.ebenezerumc.org

KIDZCARE

Available for infants and toddlers during Sunday Services and for infants, toddlers, and school age children during most events and studies.

Check-in at the KidzRock Kiosk.
Please note, during the week, KidzCare is closed when Stafford County Schools are closed.

KIDZROCK SUNDAY SCHOOL

Available during all Sunday Services for children age 3 through 5th Grade.

Check-in at the KidzRock Kiosk and classes in the Ministry Center.

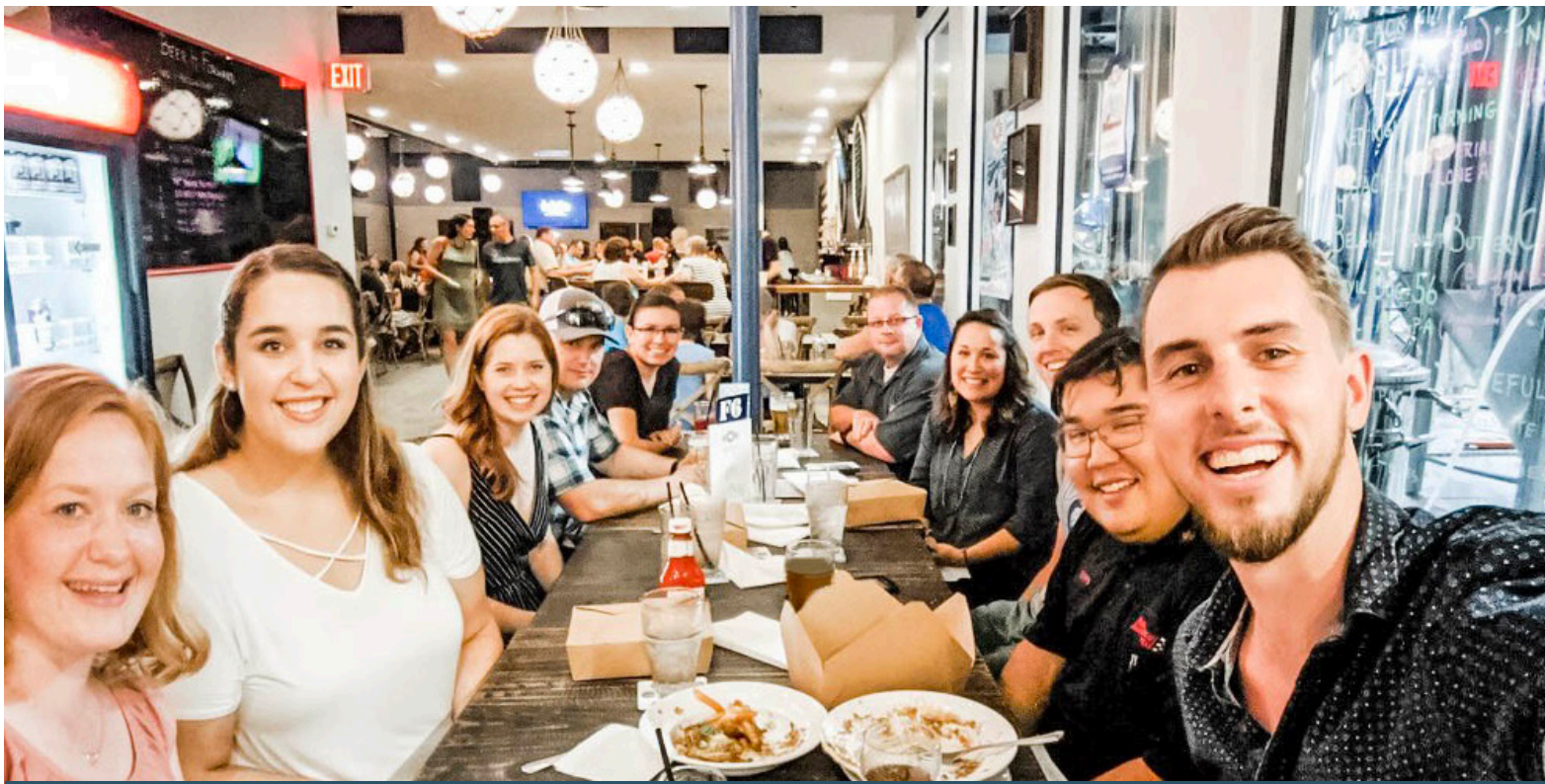
TNT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sundays | 9:45 -11:00 AM
Meet in Room B01

AXIS HIGH SCHOOL

Wednesday | 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Specific Studies
Sunday | 9:45 -11:00 AM
Meet in Room 216



Young adults live in a time of transition—starting or graduating college, beginning a career, relationships, getting married, starting a family. This stage in life is often characterized by change. Ebenezer Church is committed to bringing young adults together to support one another through life's significant changes. Adults, 18 to 30 something, are invited to join us as we pursue to follow Jesus fully in our lives.

More than a program, we focus on building genuine relationships through small group discipleship, monthly outings, and serving opportunities at church and in our community.

Join our Young Adult Facebook group
www.facebook.com/groups/ebenezer.young.adults/
or check out the Young Adult Webpage
www.ebenezerumc.org/young-adults to stay up to date.

- **Chrissy Leathers**
Director of Connections

JOIN A SMALL GROUP

YA College Ladies Group, *Fridays 6:30 PM*

YA Men's Group, *Sundays 7:00 PM*

Called to Create, *Thursdays 6:30 PM*

Holiday Women's Group, *Tuesdays 7:00 PM*

DISCIPLESHIP | OUTINGS | SERVICE

Young Adults

GET CONNECTED

[FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/EBENEZER.YOUNG.ADULTS](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ebenezer.young.adults/)

EBENEZERUMC.ORG/YOUNG-ADULTS

★ LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION ★ TRUNK OR TREAT



GAMES & ACTIVITIES INSPIRED BY
YOUR FAVORITE MOVIES

OCTOBER 27 | 3:30-5:30 PM

LEARN MORE AT EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Most. Candy. Ever. That's right, we plan to pass out thousands of pieces of candy and thousands of smiles at TRUNK or TREAT 2019 LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! Our movie themed event will be our second community-wide Trunk or Treat event. We're excited to invite all our neighbors to come and enjoy the fall weather on Sunday, October 27 from 3:30 – 5:30 at Embrey Mill Park on Field #4. Our theme brings the best of family friendly movies to life with costumes, games, decorations, crafts, and food! And the best part, IT'S FREE! We will have treats for all the kids, and special treats for those with food allergies as well.

We have an entire caravan of trunks and a field designated for games to burn off all that candy!

Ebenezer has always been a family friendly place to worship and gather. We want to extend that same welcome to our community and get to know our neighbors. Bringing this fun event to our community is an integral part of Ebenezer Church's vision to engage within our surrounding neighborhoods and show the love of Jesus Christ.

- Amy Miller
Volunteer Event Coordinator

WE NEED YOU!

- Volunteer to be a part of this outreach event! We need people to help with the food distribution, decorations, parking, games, crafts, check-in, and candy refills. There are lots of jobs that need to be filled for this event to be a success. Be a star and sign-up at www.ebenezerumc.org/events
- Decorate a trunk and watch the delight as you pass out candy to the kids. We have a huge goal of 75 trunks in order to accommodate all the families and keep the candy flowing. Prizes will be awarded to the best decorated trunks representing your favorite family friendly movie. Register your trunk online and read the guidelines for trunk participation at www.ebenezerumc.org/events (no scary trunks please).
- Donate Candy to treat the thousands of people attending. Imagine all the neighbors we'll meet. Please donate bags of candy for this event and drop them off in the Gym by October 26. There will be some friendly competition for collection – so BRING ON THE CANDY!



START PLANNING: 2020 AXIS HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

I spent a week in Alabama with these amazing people serving God. This week wasn't about me or the 80 other people in this picture, it was about the people we served and helping and loving on this community. Yes, some fun things happened with me and everyone else on the trip, but that is not what matters. What matters is that lives were touched. What mattered to me most was that the kids I was working with felt that they were loved and that they matter.

One little girl went from telling me that I ruined her life to holding onto me saying I wasn't allowed to leave. A few little boys who were trouble makers at the beginning of the week became loving by the end and talked to me about making the right choices. I feel as if we left a positive impact on this community. I am so blessed for all of these amazing people and the opportunity we got. We loved each other and loved Birmingham. God showed up in so many ways this week and I'm so lucky to have seen them. We are Birmingham and I love all of you my sweet homies!

– AXIS Mission Trip Student

This student's quote says it all—the mission trip, and the prep leading up to it are much more than a week and they make a big impact on your faith journey. We are getting ready for our 2020 summer mission trip and don't want any high school student (rising 9th graders included) to miss the opportunity.

Mark your calendars. If you plan to go on the Mission Trip this summer (or think you're interested), you and a parent need to attend one of Mission Trip Info Meetings. Registration is in November and parents and students must attend a meeting to access registration.

TWO MEETING TIMES -

Sunday, October 27 at 12:30 PM

-OR-

Monday, October 28 at 7:00 PM

Both meetings are in the Youth Room (B01).
Registration opens for the Mission Trip in November.

- Michelle Paquette
Director of Student Ministries

BEAUTY OUT OF CHAOS

Being a teenager can be a rollercoaster— from juggling school, work, sports, band, work, expectations, and relationships. It never seems to end. God doesn't call us to do life alone and He certainly doesn't expect your relationship with Him to kick in when you graduate. He has a purpose and plan and freedom for you NOW amid all the chaos. He is the master of making beautiful things out of chaos.

If you are caught up in the chaos, we invite you to take a breath and spend time with Him. Also, remember, it is never too late for you to come to youth group and get plugged in. We always have a spot for you! Keep an eye on special events too!

Middle School Students

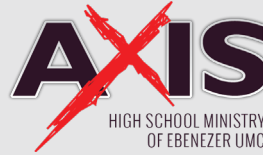
Don't miss your chance to attend the TNT Overnight Retreat. This weekend is fantastic for getting students connected and sparking their faith to help them walk with Jesus for a lifetime! Deadline to register is October 6!

Mark your calendars, the TNT Christmas Event is Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 PM!

- Michelle Paquette
Director of Student Ministries



Middle School Youth Group (TNT) meets Sunday mornings from 9:45 AM-11:00 AM in the Youth Room (B01)



High School Youth Group (Axis) meets Wednesday evenings from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. We start in the Gym and move to the Youth Room (B01)

High School Sunday Study meets Sunday mornings from 9:45 AM – 11:00 in Room 216

**STUDENTS CHALLENGE EACH OTHER AT LAST YEAR'S TNT OVERNIGHT RETREAT.
DON'T MISS THE FUN, REGISTER NOW AT EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS**





161 Embrey Mill Road
Stafford, Virginia 22554

Change of address service requested

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Permit #16

A graphic for the Go For Bo logo consisting of three green circles on a blue horizontal bar. The first circle contains a white running shoe icon, the second contains the number '4', and the third contains a white map of the African continent.

Go For Bo

5K • 1 Mile Fun Run • Tot Dash



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