

SHORT STOPS FALL 2013

First E.C., Palmyra, PA - The youth participated in an event that was planned by Lebanon County Christian Ministries and hosted at Faith Fellowship Church in Cleona. It was called "Box City" and was "A fun and meaningful event in which people camp for the night in a temporary dwelling to increase awareness of the many homeless families in our own community, AND raise money to support Lebanon County Christian Ministries' Emergency Shelter." Jeff Stansbury-Assistant Pastor [photos](#)

Trinity EC Church, Harrisburg, PA- A group of seventeen went to North Carolina for their summer mission trip. During this time we did a lot of yard work and helped in repairing a trailer. We were also privileged in working with a pastor from the area in clearing vines that had grown up around a house he owned. The Lord taught us so much through this trip and God bonded us in new ways. We are very excited to see where God will continue to lead us in the coming year!-Ryan Martin, youth pastor [photo](#)

Grace EC, Akron PA - Due to a date conflict we were unable to join with "The Ephrata Project," which is a group of Ephrata and Akron based churches that run a local work camp for students in the greater Ephrata Area. Instead we waited and picked up the jobs they could not get to. We called our eight days of ministry "Adventure Week" and began with a pool party on Sunday July 14. Over the next three days we did small repair and clean up jobs for four local residents as well as at Akron Grace.

We ended the week with a four day camping trip to Little Buffalo State Park to reward the students for their hard work and to focus in on building community. We of course picked the hottest week of the summer and so most of the weekend plans were scrapped in favor of the swimming pool! But, God certainly knew what he was doing, six hours of keep away in the pool provided the team building just as well if not better than any game or activity we may have planned.-Rev. Stephen L. Holubec [photo](#)

Trinity EC, Manheim, PA- sent a Mini-Mission Youth Work Team of six to Twin Pines on June 9-12. The team scrubbed and sanitized the kitchen, patched the pool with bonding cement, and cleared trails to help ready the camp for the summer camping ministry. This is the sixth consecutive year that a group has been sent from Trinity to work at Twin Pines. Our team included: Jordan McKey, Mason Eller, Kole Hollinger, Kyle Parks, Kayla Eller and Pastor Jeff. – Rev. Jeff Schell

Pequea E.C., PA -Mrs. Robert Dimick and a coworker spent 3 weeks in Recife, Brazil teaching spiritual warfare at two weekend conferences, spoke at three additional church services and ministered to 5 individuals at the BCM missions office. It was a time of incredible blessing as they had opportunities to hear some amazing testimonies to God's power and grace in the lives of many.

One visit that was a special blessing was to one of 7 camps established for drug rehab for men. The man who established them is himself a former drug lord over a very large area of Brazil. He is now a pastor. These camps are and self-supported as much as possible by the men who grow much of their own food, make brooms and raise songbirds to sell.

At the second church conference, the people stayed 2 hours after the stated time (and would have stayed longer if we could have) saying "please, we want to learn more." Another of the Bible Club teachers lives in one of the biggest slums and teaches 35 children out of her small but clean home. The whole trip was challenging as we see these people cheerfully doing a lot with the little they have - when in the USA there is so much more and we often complain about minor inconveniences. – Roberta Dimick

[photos](#)

People's EC, East Weissport PA - This year a group of eight teens and four adult leaders went to Newark, New York for a short term mission trip. The group worked at various locations, including nursing homes, private residences, a center for domestic violence victims, and a shelter for abused and neglected animals. After the trip the group presented their adventures to the congregation who had financially supported their efforts. In their presentations, each teen spoke about how they learned about life and about God by helping others. –Rev. Ken Ogden [photos](#)

Community Evangelical Church, Sinking Spring , PA - A team of 8 individuals traveled to Japan to minister to and with the EC Church of Japan. We traveled from July 17 thru July 30 and had many amazing experience as we stayed with, interacted with, ministered with, and fellowshiped with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Japan. The purpose of our trip was to conduct an English camp for children and also to minister to and encourage the church of Japan. We were the ones who received the greatest blessing as we saw 12 children and 1 adult come to faith in Christ. (read more about this team in this issue of Windows.)

A team of 20 teens and adults traveled to Puerto Rico to minister with 21 other teens and adults from First Presbyterian Church in Reading. While in Puerto Rico the group of 41 was able to participate in small home repair projects and lead four days of VBS at a local housing project. The trip was a wonderful success with teens and adults sharing the love of Christ through games, crafts, and practical needs based ministries; with the greatest joy coming in the form of 15 boys and girls accepting Christ as Savior.

Community Church had six of its members go with a medical team to El Salvador, June 1-9, 2013. Patty Gaul, Lois and Becca Wade, Lori Koons, Barb Matiatos and Dave Brock traveled with 44 others on a trip sponsored by the Christian Medical & Dental Associations to serve the communities of Chalchuapa and La Magdalena where 1450 patients were seen. The Lord's hand was at work as people responded to the love, preaching, evangelism and home visits.– Rev. Matt Hill, youth pastor [photos](#)

Reedsville Bethesda ECC supported a group of adults who worked with members of Grace Community ECC through the ministry efforts of Mennonite Disaster Relief (Storm Aid) in Staten Island. These teams worked together on several homes April 21-25.

2.) Bethesda Youth Ministries sponsored a group of teens and adult leaders through Christian Endeavor's Life Builder's Ministry. This team worked on two different homes in the Southport, NC, area from July 13-19. – Mark Brooks, Ass't pastor

Bethel E.C., Dixon, IL – *Anna Brady* -This summer I spent two months in California participating in a Cause for Life internship with Joni and Friends. During this multi-faceted internship, I attended lectures by Joni Tada, pastors, college professors, and others who work with people with disabilities. I also volunteered as a camp counselor at two different camps that are specifically designed to minister to people with disabilities and their families. I volunteered in several Californian churches to assist them in their outreach to people affected by disability. Additionally, I spent a week in Port au Prince, Haiti, where I joined with a local church to host a vacation Bible school every morning. During our afternoons in Haiti, our intern team partnered with a local orphanage for children with disabilities. Overall, this was a very fulfilling and insightful learning experience, and I thank God for the opportunity to serve Him this summer. [photo](#)

Steelstown St. John's EC -17-year-old Emilie Geib of Bellegrove, Lebanon County, graduated from high school in May, and already knew how she would spend her summer. The Lord led Emilie to sign up for Teen Missions this past summer. The team she was assigned to was originally designated to go to Southern Sudan, but because of unrest in their target area, the team was reassigned to travel to Uganda, Africa (west of Kenya and south of Southern Sudan).

Teen Missions Team 13016 spent their time in Jinja, the second largest city in Uganda on Lake Victoria and source of the Nile River gardens, and in Koboko in northern Uganda. They worked on building projects and in ministry to children through puppets and Bible stories. Sundays were set apart for worship in different locales, evangelizing through songs, testimonies, and the Word. Emilie was gone from June 20 through August 10. [photo](#)

Grace EC, Kutztown, PA - ALASKA PARTICIPANTS

Gary & Jane Jones and daughter Lauren, from Kutztown, Grace, traveled with a team from the EC Church to Camp LIWA in Alaska, July 20-August 3. They did physical labor as well as office work.

MEXICO TEAM-Grace Church sent nineteen people, from a few months old to many years of experience, to Mexico this summer. They traveled from August 1-8 to assist at Mission Mazahua, near Mexico City. Mission Mazahua is an outreach center run by the

parents of a member of Kutztown Grace. The heart of Mission Mazahua's goal is the proclamation of the Gospel as they love and serve the marginalized, not only with compassion but acts of mercy as they point people to Jesus. Our team was able to participate in the life of the mission in a variety of ways from encouraging the staff, to visiting microenterprises facilitated by the mission, to providing needs for local families. It was a huge blessing to be a small part of what God is doing at Mission Mazahua! Please continue to pray for the mission and their work for Christ and His Church!

KENTUCKY TEAM-On July 13, a team of 13 students and adults from Kutztown, Grace traveled to Canyon Falls EC Church in Beattyville, KY to serve in a fun and work-filled week leading Vacation Bible School and assisting in work projects around the church property. We praise God for a large VBS attendance and for several older children who made commitments to follow Jesus! This was Grace Church's second mission experience with Canyon Falls Church and Pastor Adam Roberts' fifth. We are already planning a return visit to Canyon Falls to lead VBS in summer 2014 and are looking forward to what God has planned! – *Pastor Adam Roberts* [photo](#)

Hope Community Church, Fogelsville, PA -The Rock Climbing Clones Youth Group served with Reach Workcamp in Newfane, NY from July 14- 20th. We were part of the largest group that the Reach Workcamp organization has ever hosted. There were over 600 students and we were able to serve many families in the area.

Top left in picture: Zack Bauer, Noah Heilman, Pastor Ken Kalisz, Ben Cramsey, Connor Ilgenfritz.

Lower left in picture: Janelle Roth, Mandy Bauer, Hailey Ilgenfritz, Denise Kalisz, Ben Fry, Noah Hamilton, Drew Parry, Mr. John Ilgenfritz. – *Pastor Ken Kalisz*