

APRIL 2021

Ridgeview Mennonite Church

BUDGET

Budget	\$106,600.00
YTD Received	105,453.00
Education	1,050.00



FOYER PLANNING

The plans for the foyer renovation were approved at the last congregational meeting. Branch Community is also excited about the plans and we are now working together with Branch Community to get quotes for a contractor to do the work. Also, we are working together with Branch to fund the work. Ridgeview currently has \$23,814 in the Building and Grounds Fund and welcomes additional contributions to enable this dream to become reality.

Thank you to the foyer committee and everyone who provided input into the plan. Some specific thanks to/for:

- The interest of the Community Life Commission that led foyer discernment
- The work and advice of the Foyer Planning Committee chaired by John Denlinger
- Discussion at two congregational meetings and the approval to the plan with increased size of the entrance to the new library location
- Random discussions and suggestions along the way
- Discernment of the Administration Commission
- Discernment and counsel of the Ministry Team
- The counsel and work of Dale Yoder and staff at Cornerstone Architects, Inc.
- Bob Heine and Dave Smucker of Branch Community for their work along the way and continuing work to get quotes, work at possible stages and lead in implementation of the plan.

Foyer Renovation Goals

- To upgrade the foyer with a welcoming feel that helps to build community
- To provide space for library books and reading
- To provide facilities to make coffee, tea and to prepare snacks
- To provide an area for eating and making connections
- To provide updated restrooms with baby changing tables

MENNONITE EDUCATION FUND

An additional \$750 is needed for the 2021-22 Mennonite Education Fund. Thank you for helping to make attendance at our church sponsored schools possible for our students who choose this Christian education option.

RIDGEVIEW FOUNDATION DOCUMENT

The Administration Commission has begun a review of the Ridgeview Foundational Document that guides the organization structure and decision making processes. At some future point this work will be shared in a congregational meeting for discernment/approval. Please keep this process in your prayers.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

This year's senior high youth class includes three groups of siblings representing four school districts: Conestoga Valley, Pequea Valley, Ephrata, and Lancaster Mennonite. These students are:

Daniel (10th) and Hannah (9th) Jacke, Ephrata
Jesse (12th, CV) and Ethan (10th, LM) Kanagy
Nolan (12th, Brownstown CTC), Alex (11th) and
Mariah (9th) Kauffman, PV
Aquila Stoltzfus (12th, CV)

We have met weekly throughout the pandemic, first by Zoom and more recently in person with outstanding attendance and participation.

This year's curriculum included finishing C. S. Lewis' "Screwtape Letters" and a short study of Jesus' parables that ended by meeting with Jeff Raught to discuss "The Good Samaritan." The resulting drama written by Jeff was then shared with the congregation. (More recently several of the youth again stretched their comfort zone by helping to lead Sunday morning worship music.)

Last spring the current events of our nation introduced our next topic, Racism and Equality. This became our summer study and we are proud of the youths' maturity and openness. We are grateful we had time to work through the events of last spring together.

Our latest challenge is reading together a book entitled, "Letters from a Skeptic" by pastor and apologetics professor Greg Boyd. The book consists of the author writing a series of letters to answer the faith questions of his seventy-year-old atheist father who becomes a believer.

Over the last year we have enjoyed many interesting and challenging conversations. The youth never shy away from any conversation or topic and are eager to share their thoughts and questions. We look forward to seeing where God leads our class discussions in our new book study. We recommend this book for your consideration and encourage you to engage the youth in discussion.

Another strong recommendation from our studies is the movie series on the life of Christ, "The Chosen." This in-depth study based on Matthew's gospel is scheduled for seven seasons of eight episodes (a depth never attempted before). We met twice a week for two months to enable us to watch and discuss the first season (led by Jesse). We are eagerly anticipating the launch of season two Easter Sunday evening and invite you to join us in watching, remembering and celebrating that we are indeed "God's Chosen."

Lastly, the youth have also been assisting in various ways with live-streaming the worship services on Sunday mornings.

Thank you for your generous financial support of Youth Ministry in the church budget and please remember us in your prayers.

Val Kauffman & Dan Dietzel

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

During the last year, many of us have missed being with together with our church family at our weekly services. Perhaps one of the things you missed most was the seeing our children. You may have wondered, "How are our children staying connected to the church during these Covid times? Are they having Sunday School? Are they watching the church service livestreams with their parents?" Well, no need to wonder any longer, they have been connecting with one another and the church family frequently.

During the pandemic the children have been having their own Sunday evening Zoom meetings. During the summer months and into the fall the children met monthly, but as the holidays approached the meetings were held weekly. The children are part of the generation referred to as "digital natives" because technology has been a part of their entire lives and in many ways they are more at ease communicating with technology than most of us adults. That said, the children are very comfortable talking, reading, praying and sometimes singing and doing movement activities together virtually. A typical Zoom gathering includes time for prayer, Bible memory practice, a Bible Story, a connected story, songs and additional activities. Some of the stories are told through videos and other stories are read with the Kindle on the computer or by the teacher sharing a book held up to the computer screen. At times the activities are done simultaneously by the children, such as a game they played with pennies to correlate with the Poor Widow's Gift (Mark 12:41-44). Other activities are done by the children prior to or after the weekly meeting.

I have been especially encouraged by the children's compassion and their ability to share prayer requests about friends, grandparents, relatives and even their pets! The children have also extended kindness and support to a small child, Kara, whom they have never met, who is very ill and a patient at CHOP. These activities have include making Valentine Cards, sending puzzles, creating an egg tree with plastic eggs, filling jumbo eggs with small gifts and surprises, contributing to a birthday card Animoto video for her 4th birthday and remembering Kara and her family in prayer. In the months ahead we will continue to find ways to support her in small ways. I was particularly struck by a gift in an egg given by Jade Siegrist. She placed a \$1 in her egg along with some other items. Melissa shared, "Jade got a \$1 in her Easter card and insisted in giving it to Kara ... there was no talking her out of it." The other children put a variety of items such as notes, pictures, treats and small gifts in their eggs for Kara. In the months ahead we will continue to find ways to support Kara in small ways.

We are not certain when the children will transition from Zoom meetings to meeting in person. But next time you wonder how the children are connecting to the church family during the pandemic, remember they have stayed connected through technology and they will be ready to see you in person when the time comes!

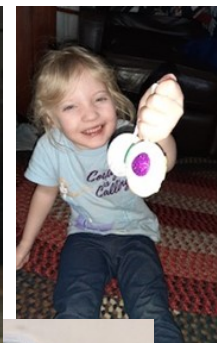
Debbie Denlinger

RIDGEVIEW DELEGATES

Atlantic Coast Conference, Spring Assembly, April 17
 Jill Heine & Julie Sommers
 MC USA Convention, July 6-10, 2021
 Nathan Horst & Audrey Kanagy

Children's Bible Memory from Psalm 86: 5-7

- ◆ You willingly forgive, and your love is always there for those who pray to you.
- ◆ Please listen, Lord! Answer my prayer for help.
- ◆ When I am in trouble, I pray, knowing you will listen.



SWING SET

A new swing set, where an old one was removed, is being installed by Branch Community. Thanks to Branch for this ground's improvement project.

HISPANIC EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES (HEM)

Through our mission's budget we support Hispanic Educational Ministries of the Mennonite Education Agency. The two programs of HEM have submitted the following prayer requests:

Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA): IBA is operating in sixteen study centers across the United States. Please pray for these centers and that the eight centers affected by COVID-19 will be reopened soon. Pray also for the students graduating this month from Iglesia Seguidores de Cristo in Sarasota, Florida.

Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH): SeBAH and Hesston College are together planning to offer a class this year: Jesus and the Gospels. The class will be in Spanish and English with students participating from the United States and four other countries. Prayers are requested for this pilot 3-credit course.

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Merv & Jan Stoltzfus
- 13 Bob & Judy Ebersole Martin
- 30 Amos & Jean Zook

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Valerie Kauffman
- 6 Elton Horst
- 18 Jeanmarie King
- 22 Evan Lapp
- 27 Mabel Glick
- 30 Becky Hershey

April 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Good Friday 7pm Virtual service	3
4 EASTER 10:15 Worship	5	6	7 9:00 Food Pac	8	9	10
11 10:15 Worship	12	13	14 9:00 Food Pac	15	16	17 8:30am Work days in Pollinator Garden ACC Spring Assembly 9am-2pm Rental—Memorial Service
18 10:15 Worship	19 7pm Administration Commission	20	21 9:00 Food Pac 6:30pm Ministry Team	22	23	24 10am-12noon Visitation with the family of Mary Stoltzfus
25 10:15 Worship	26	27	28 9:00 Food Pac	29	30	