

Note from Kathrin, Director



“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have what we asked of Him.” 1 John 5:14-15

The Lord has heard our prayers and is answering them in His wonderful abundant ways! This past fall in the Good News Club ministries across Eastern Maine, 156 children heard the gospel at our regular ongoing Good News Clubs and 69 children at Christmas Party Clubs! The Lord prepared the hearts of four of these precious children to respond to the Gospel message and receive Him as their personal Savior! Our Good News Club volunteers have faced many challenges, from school policies prohibiting the distribution of flyers to increased emotional needs of the children in attendance to decreased workers to help with the clubs. But God has proved faithful in the midst of these challenges, providing all that is needed in every situation. His Word is going forth and reaching the children who He has sent to the clubs! Our Christmas Party Club volunteers have shared how they witnessed God moving in the hearts of the children attending these parties and also how He is softening the hearts of the school staff where the parties were held. God also is burdening these volunteers to pray for regular ongoing clubs to start in some of these schools. The need for more workers to be able to start these new clubs is great-please continue to pray for God to supply the workers!

The Lord opened the doors to three new Good News Clubs starting in Hancock County in January, bringing together a new team of volunteers to lead one of these clubs! He also has stirred the hearts of a group of volunteers from three churches in Washington County to begin the training and preparation to start a Good News Club in their community! It is a privilege to be able to come alongside all these volunteers and support them as they answer God's calling to bring the Gospel to the children throughout Eastern Maine. We are so thankful for all of you who have lifted up the ministry of CEF of Eastern Maine in prayer and have supported all the work that the Lord is doing here! We know that this work could not be done if not for all of you! God indeed has heard the prayers of so many of you and has answered in His amazing ways.

Note from Gene, Children's Ministry Coordinator

We have some exciting news to share with you all!! As you know Good News Clubs are designed for the ages of 5-12 years old. However, there has not been an opportunity to offer the 13-14 year old middle schoolers a club to transition into-until now! The Lord has been preparing a way for us to put together something for these young people in our communities. CEF has designed a curriculum called Junior Youth Challenge (JYC) and we are working on plans to introduce this program full-time next year! The JYC curriculum targets the middle schoolers' need for concrete evidence to explain how Christianity can claim to be the only way to God, while still emphasizing a relationship with Jesus.

Lord willing, I am hoping to introduce the curriculum to a junior high group of students this spring in the Machias area. This will be a great opportunity to continue to provide discipleship to these young people who have been growing up in the Good News Clubs. Or offer a chance for non-believing youngsters to come to know their Savior and Lord! We are excited about the potential this program can offer the next generation of the Church. To give you an idea of what the program offers, here is what we will be looking at during our meetings: why and how we study the Bible, an in depth look at each of the 10 Commandments and who Jesus is (His deity, life, death and resurrection). Lastly, we will be discussing what it means to be “saved” and to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” I am really looking forward to this opportunity to build into the lives of this age group and see how the Lord will work!

So, if you know of anyone interested in starting up a JYC for the kids of their area, please pass along our contact information. I would be more than happy to talk with them and encourage them in discipling the future generation of the Church.

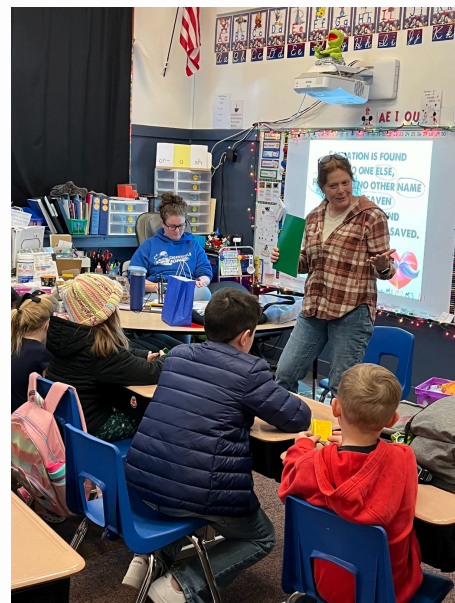


Good News Club Updates

Cherryfield GNC Testimony

We are a little more than half way through our second year of our Good News Club at Cherryfield Elementary School. We are excited to have 34 kids registered this year and have pretty much filled Nancy's classroom to capacity. God has really helped our team to figure out our strengths and how to run things smoothly. Tracy starts us out, Nancy swoops in with the verse, Lauren does all things technological and I do the Bible lesson-but I have to say that the best part of our club right now is the missionary story! Connie is teaching Corrie Ten Boom and Tracy and her granddaughter Aubrey use puppets representing each character which interact with Connie and the kids as the story is being told. The kids spend the entire time on the edge of their seat absorbing biblical truths about God's sovereignty, love and timing. Connie makes sure the children can apply these truths to their own lives. This has been a powerful evangelical tool and it has really made me appreciate how God uses each of us differently according to our strengths! It would be a disaster if I were to ever attempt a puppet show and I could never teach the verse with the exuberance that Nancy does. It is also well known that I am seriously technologically disadvantaged. I am so thankful for the team that God has put together at this club knowing exactly who and what we would need. This club has been an answer to prayer and we are all so excited to see what God will do in the future.

-Lisa McCarthy



Christmas Party Clubs

I had the opportunity to serve the children of Hancock county this Christmas season through 3 different Christmas party clubs; At Mountain View, Lamoine, and at Peninsula School. The kids were excited to have fun with games, songs, Scripture, a craft and the Bible story. During this time relationships were built and the Gospel was clearly presented and woven through the whole party! I was excited to get the opportunity to cast seeds, love on these children and share the true meaning of Christmas with them. What a gift, to be able to share God's love and truth in the public school setting. HE is so very good!

- Carrie Philbrook



Pastor Testimonies

“CEF has the greatest commission of them all: to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Jesus and to train them to serve Him. It doesn’t get any better than that. My advice to any and all is to check out this ministry and see where you can help, whether directly or indirectly, for the earthly joys will be sweet, the personal blessings will be encouraging and the heavenly rewards will be eternal.”

Barry Blackstone
Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist of Ellsworth

“This past summer Child Evangelism Fellowship provided help for us to have a Good News event in our building. The sanctuary was teeming with the sounds of the voices of children. CEF, through their excellence of presenting the Gospel, helped us to reach the children of our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is our hope that this event will not be a one-time thing, but with the encouragement of the CEF staff, the church will be encouraged into other areas of ministry to the children of the Eastbrook community.”

Curtis C. Miller
Pastor of Eastbrook Baptist



If you think CEF is something that can assist you in reaching the children of your area, we would love to come to your church and share about how the Lord is working in the lives of the children of Downeast Maine!

“I am also the principal of the Elm Street School in East Machias...I have seen first hand, the incredible impact a Good News Club can have in a public school. Children look forward to the GNC, they are bringing their Bibles to school, and sharing about the Lord with others. Multiple GNCs and CEF parties have been started in the last couple of years. CEF also offers VBS assistance and runs multiple summer programs. There have been few if any local Christian organizations that have had more impact for Christ in the lives of children than CEF...I have never been led to write a letter of support for a missionary. However, CEF has such a crucial role in our local areas, I am compelled to exhort as many churches as possible to support them and their mission.”

Tony Maker
Pastor of Larrabee Baptist Church in Machiasport.



**Preparations are underway
for Downeast Day Camp
2025-Dates will be
announced soon!!**



Prayers

- Pray for the 8 regular ongoing Good News Clubs
- Pray for strength and wisdom for all the volunteers serving in GNCs
- Pray for the children who come to GNC-that their hearts will be open to hearing and receiving the Gospel.
- Pray for the children who have placed their trust in Jesus, that they will grow in their relationship with Him
- Pray for the softening of hearts in various school departments across Eastern Maine that we are reaching out to for a Good News Club in those schools
- Pray for the Junior Youth Challenge program-for God's timing and locations to start this program for junior high age youth.
- Pray for the planning and preparation for our spring and summer ministries: GNC Rally, ECHO Burst, Downeast Day Camp, 3-Day Club, VBS support
- Pray for the new team of volunteers in Calais who are currently training and preparing to start an ongoing Good News Club there.
- Pray for the Lord to send laborers to serve in Good News Clubs and summer ministries in Eastern Maine
- Pray for our monthly financial needs to be met

Praises

- 156 children enrolled in Good News Clubs this past fall and four children received Christ as their Savior!
- Seven Christmas Party Clubs with 69 children hearing the true meaning of Christmas!
- 115 children heard the Gospel at Franklin Baptist Church's annual Penny Sale
- A wonderful time of sharing the ministry and fellowship at the CEF of Eastern Maine Pastor's Lunch at Larrabee Baptist Church in November
- Three new Good News Clubs started in Hancock County in January
- A DINO Valentine's Party in Washington County-praise and prayer request for the seeds that were planted in the hearts of the children who attended.
- The Lord provided several opportunities to share the ministry at local churches this past fall.
- The Lord is stirring the hearts of people across Eastern Maine to serve in Good News Clubs and to reach more schools with the Gospel!



As I have been reflecting over my first year of ministry with CEF, I can not help but be so very grateful for this opportunity to serve Him. As some of you know, I have desired for a very long time (over 20 years) to work in a full time ministry. It was not until this past year the Lord made it evident that now was the time to begin ministry as an occupation. So for me to have this opportunity, has literally been a dream come true. Therefore, it is with a great sense of appreciation that I thank those who have supported me this past year.



Currently, however, I am funded only for 28 hours a week, and am in need of more support. Would you prayerfully consider giving monthly to CEF so that I can devote more of my time to the work of ministering to and for the children of Maine? Mathew 9:37 states Jesus said to His disciples, "the harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." The word "pray" (# 1189 in Strong's Concordance/Lexicon) means to "express a deep, earnest request or plea, often directed towards God or another person. It conveys a sense of urgency and need, reflecting a humble and sincere appeal for help or intervention."

It is my prayer and hope that you would prayerfully consider being a monthly donor to CEF with any amount you can give. To give not necessarily to CEF, but through CEF that the Lord may continue His kingdom work in the next generation of the Church: the children of Maine.

Most gratefully,
Gene Philbrook

CEF of Eastern Maine Committee Members:

Carol Libby - Chairperson
Paula Maker - Vice Chairperson
Nancy Whitney - Secretary
Laurel Bartolomeo - Treasurer

CEF of Eastern Maine monthly prayer lunch on the second Tuesday of each month at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Ellsworth.

If you would like to support the work of CEF of Eastern Maine, please fill out the enclosed response card or donate online at cefofmaine.org/eastern-maine-support
Thank you! We could not do this work without all of you!



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