

# The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley  
Church of the Brethren

December 2015/January 2016  
Volume 31 No. 11



## WHAT'S COOKING???

The Men's Ministry will be holding their **Annual Kettle Cook** on **Saturday, November 28th**. Three delicious varieties of homemade soup will be available beginning at **11:00 am**. Those soup varieties include Chicken Corn Rivel, Ham & Bean and Beef Vegetable.

A donation is requested with all **proceeds benefiting** the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren's **medical relief fund**.

Men who would like to **assist with** the **preparation and sale** of the soup are encouraged to contact Jason Hoover at 570-713-8466.

Tony Shively for Men's Ministry

## Operation Christmas Child



The Mission Ministry Team wants to thank all of you who helped to make this year, 2015, our best year ever with your generous donations. **With your help, we filled 432 shoe boxes!** Think of that.....432 toothbrushes, 432 bars of soap, 432 washcloths, 432 tubes of toothpaste, 432 notebooks, and the list goes on! It is only through such excellent teamwork and Jesus-led giving that we are able to participate in this ministry. Every doll, every pencil, every box of crayons counts! **Your donation counts!**

Now that 2015 is 'boxed up', we are looking ahead to 2016. Already plans are being made to increase our goal from this year and fill even more boxes for 2016. So, you know the drill.....keep your eyes open for those bargains beginning NOW!

Brenda Eberhart

## Dominican Mission Team Now in Place



We have 14 people ready to go to the Dominican Republic on February 2<sup>nd</sup> through February 11<sup>th</sup>. The group will help construct bathrooms in two separate church buildings and participate in a youth camp as well. This trip will be our second trip in two years and will also help us to strengthen and build new relationships with our fellow believers in the Dominican.

Here are the names of the people who are going on the mission trip:

Jim Brubaker  
Jason & Nicole Hoover  
Kurt Ilgen  
Eric Kauffman  
Dale & Holly Lehman  
Elaina Miller  
Keith Nyman  
Anthony Phelps  
Ben Reamer  
Eric Reamer  
Andrew Richard  
Clarissa Styer

You may receive a letter from one or more of these people asking you to help support their trip prayerfully and financially. Please consider doing so. We also need to raise a total of \$15,000 for materials and camp costs and you'll have opportunities to give to help with this effort.

Please pray for these folks and for all of the trip details to fall into place.



God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



## Friday Fun Night Schedule

Programming is from 6:30 – 8 pm, with  
open gym/activity time from  
6 to 6:30 pm and 8 to 8:30 pm.

Friday Fun Night (FFN) is open to any kid  
currently in K through 5<sup>th</sup> grades.

Each night is divided between organized  
game/activity time and Bible learning, with a  
focus on understanding how the Bible fits  
together and is applied to our lives.

We will be covering the New Testament this  
year. Snacks are provided.

Kids are encouraged to bring their Bibles, bring  
their friends, and bring an attitude ready for  
**FUN!**

### December KidConnection Schedule

December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm

**Family KidConnection**  
**Gingerbread House Night**



11<sup>th</sup> – Bring A Buck Night

18<sup>th</sup> – Jesus's Birthday Party

25<sup>th</sup> - No FFN

### January KidConnection Schedule

1<sup>st</sup> – Pajama Night

8<sup>th</sup> – Bring A Buck Night

15<sup>th</sup> – Aloha Night

22<sup>nd</sup> - Superhero Night

29<sup>th</sup> – Glow in the Dark Night

Nicole Hoover for Childrens' Ministry Team

Throughout the remainder of the fall, your Stephen Ministry leaders, Alicia Showers and Tracy Ericson, will be completing the interview process with applicants desiring to be Stephen Ministers.



Training will start in January, and continue through mid-May, meeting on Wednesday evenings after the Family Connection meal, as well as a few Saturdays. During this time, prospective Stephen Ministers will complete 50 hours of training in everything from being good listeners to knowing when to refer for professional mental health services. They will additionally have homework to complete throughout the week. At the completion of the training, we will have a Commissioning Service during Sunday morning worship.

As you read this, we'd appreciate it if you'd pray for the following things:

1. That God will continue to give wisdom and discernment to us we complete our interviews.
2. That those attending the training will not miss any sessions and will grow in both knowledge and wisdom.
3. That God will give Alicia the strength and energy she needs to lead the training.
4. That we will be able to enlist Care Receivers to be matched with the newly trained Stephen Ministers starting in June.
5. That above all, God will be glorified in our efforts and through this ministry.

The beginning of a new year is a great time to launch this new ministry. Rejoice with us!

**A Child Is Born! A Son is Given!  
A Cure Giver has Come to Earth!**

Grace and peace,  
Tracy Ericson & Alicia Showers



## Westernport Fall Mission Trip

On Saturday, November 14, 24 people traveled to Westernport, MD Church of the Brethren to minister to the children of Westernport with a fun **Fall Festival**. Our team helped with games, food, face painting and more in an effort to reach children **Beyond Our Walls**. Thank you to all who helped to minister to the children of Westernport!

Our next Westernport mission opportunity will occur in Spring of 2016. Watch for details!

Brenda Eberhart



## Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve services will be held on December 24<sup>th</sup> (but you knew that already) at **5:30 pm and 7:00 pm**. Both services are identical. Each service will have lots of Christmas music, a special selection by the bell choir, a children's sermon, a short sermon and a candlelight song to close our time together.

Christmas Eve is a great time to bring family and friends. Plan to come early as both services will be pretty full.

Pastor Eric



Thank you to the *Golden Oldies* on their blanket donation to the auction at the Camp Eder Fall Festival!



*"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*

*Matthew 5:16*

*From Your Lead Pastor,*



### Really Worth Getting “Steamed” Over?

There was quite a controversy brewing this winter as Starbucks removed the Christmas or winter themed designs from their red holiday cups. One person made quite a name for himself and generated millions of views on a video he made claiming that Starbucks’ move was akin to them “hating Jesus”.

How should we respond? Should followers of Jesus boycott Starbucks because of their redesign of their holiday cup? Predictably, there were Christians on both sides of this issue. Is there any help from the Scripture on this one?

As you probably already know, there is no “coffee counsel” in the Bible; nor is the word “Starbucks” ever mentioned. However, if we look at the life and teachings of Jesus we see that Jesus never expected the culture around Him to conform to His teaching. He expected His followers to conform to the teaching but not the culture. The Roman culture during the first century was filled with sin and vice. Yet, we never read of Jesus boycotting the Romans; or even speaking very harshly against the political or social culture.

I think that Jesus’ words and actions are instructive for us. We should not expect companies or corporations or even individuals who do not follow Jesus to behave as if they do. Rather, we should share the message of the gospel and live in the power of the gospel and ask God to change the hearts and minds of those with which we come into contact.

When we act aggressively against those in our world who believe and act differently than we do, what message are we sending? We are telling people that we expect their behavior to conform to ours when their belief does not. This is not consistent with the teaching of Jesus or the other New Testament writers. I believe that if we do this we just come across as mean and un-loving. We don’t need to do this. We have the truth on our side and we can trust God to do His work...He doesn’t need us to “police” the world.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



Rejoice this Christmas

This Christmas may your heart rejoice  
in knowing you've received from Him  
the greatest gift of all!!

## PIT

Passionate for,  
Intimate with,  
Transformed by CHRIST



The Holiday season means many things: stress, gifts, celebrating Christ, family, travel – did I mention stress? Use family time this season to communicate a crucial message, and give your child what they really wish for.

Almost all children and youth want the same thing:

“They want to know they are important, to know they matter, to know they can impact the world, to know they are wanted and so on.

Of course, these desires are expressed in different ways, but children of both sexes gain, early on, a confidence that they are on the earth for a reason and not as a mistake.”

They learn this from YOU! Not by how much you spend or where you take them for Christmas, or even how good of a friend you are.

“They learn it from whether or not you get off the phone, make eye contact, get mad too quickly, love them enough to stay married, love them enough to protect them from danger, even from themselves.”

This message that they are valued, are part of a bigger story, is entrusted to you, to the way you look at them or celebrate them just for existing. If they learn this now, other sources will affirm it as they grow; if they don't, they will struggle to believe and accept the obvious love of God.

Love your sons. Love your daughters. Teach them what's already true; that they are delightful.

- Quotes taken from Donald Miller's blog:  
<http://storylineblog.com/2015/07/08/children-dont-learn-they-matter-from-the-bible-they-learn-it-from-you/>

### Youth Events:

11/22 – Thanksgiving meal with Parents  
11/29 - Advisor Hunt  
12/13 - Church Christmas party & Caroling!  
12/27 - “Live/Interactive Nativity”  
12/31-1/1 – New Years LOCK-IN

*Parents, we also send weekly emails and Facebook posts and monthly Newsletter about upcoming events – if you are not getting them, you may miss something – let the office know!*

Your Youth Pastor, Pastor K

## Affirmation of Called Leadership

The persons listed below were overwhelmingly affirmed to their calling by the congregation. Please keep these folks and all the congregational leaders in prayer.

Moderator:

Dale Lehman

Adult Ministry Team Leader:

Stephen White

Male Member of Gifts Discernment Team:

Jeffrey Bastian

Network Coordinator:

Carol Manbeck

Worship & Ministry Team Leader:

Nicole Walter

Annual Conference Delegate:

Joanne (Jodi) Wiand

District Conference Delegate:

Richard Miller

Deacons:

James Brubaker

Naomi Brubaker

Brian (Jim) Libby

Marsha Libby

Daniel Manbeck

Jamie Manbeck

Kelly Walter

Matthew Walter

Nicole Walter

Stephen Walter

Pastoral Advocates:

Troy Berkheiser for Pastor Eric Reamer

Holly Lehman for Pastor Donita Keister

Eli Mast for Pastor Eric Kauffman

If you feel like you would like to be more involved please let the Gifts Discernment Team know we would love to help.

Dale Lehman for Gifts Discernment Team

## A “Missionary Christmas”



Our sermon time during Christmas will still focus on the book of Acts. However, each week we will focus on what Christmas is like in another part of the world. How do followers of Jesus in Turkey, Palestine, Nigeria and other places celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ? As always, Christmas time is often a good time to invite friends and family. We have great services planned to challenge and encourage one another.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric

## More Than Just Dollars & Cents

Money and finances are not usually the top topics in church, yet they are important in the life of the church. The Fall Counsel Meeting is the time when the budget for the coming year is approved, and this year was no different.

There were however, a few new line items and changes in the budget for 2016. One of the new items is a possible summer intern in the Children's Ministry.

Another new item is the Safety Team. This team looks at a variety of issues to make our church a safer place for all of us in areas like ADA parking, first aid supplies and an AED. This team serves under the direction of the Finance Ministry Team.

Another line item in Finance is Debt Service. This item will be used to offset the interest cost on member loans. In the past all building fund payments were taken from the special designated building fund offerings and not the general budget. This change allows us to build some of the interest expense into the general budget.

The Stephen Ministries is a new item under the Spiritual Life Ministry Team. The Stephen Ministry is a new ministry directed toward helping persons experiencing difficult situations receive positive support from other lay-members of our congregation.

Most of the balance of the budget is similar to the previous year with the exception of a few changes in the way staff salaries are calculated due to IRS guideline changes. Just to note, the staff salaries are determined by using Church of the Brethren guidelines approved at Annual Conference every summer.

The ministry teams have done an excellent job of trying to keep costs under control, however with the new line items we are looking at an 8.75% increase which amounts to approximately \$687 additional needed each week to meet our budget.

Going forward, we still need considerable funds for the building fund to meet the current mortgage and to hopefully soon be able to start repaying member loans. If you are thinking of giving to our church from your estate in end of life giving, please contact one of the Finance Ministry Team members with any questions you may have.

I would like to thank every person for the strong giving that is happening here at Buffalo Valley. Your giving has helped the message of Jesus to go to many persons in our local community as well as in various parts of the world. Only eternity will reveal the many who have come to Jesus as a result of your sacrifice.

Jim Brubaker

## Bowling Adventure!

January 17<sup>th</sup> 1:45 - 4 pm

**BVCOB families**

**with kids in our KidConnection Ministry**

(birth - 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to  
our Bowling Afternoon!

*You can bring the older ones as well!*

***Come out for bowling, fellowship and fun!***



**Location: Lewisburg Lanes**

*Price: \$4.00/person*

*Bowling shoes included*

*Look for sign-ups at the Children's tables  
coming in December*

~Nicole Hoover for the Children's Ministry Team



## What better Gift?

For it is by grace you have been saved,  
through faith and this not from yourselves,  
it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8



## What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

Naomi Brubaker's **Stromboli** recipe is found on page 102 of ***Come to the Table*** cookbook.

- 1 - loaf frozen bread dough
- 2 - egg yolks
- 1 T. - Parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp. - Salt
- ½ tsp. - Garlic powder
- 2 T. - oil
- ½ tsp. - Oregano
- ¼ tsp. - Pepper
- 1 tsp. - Parsley

### Toppings

- 3 T. - onions chopped
- 2 C. - hamburger, browned pepperoni
- green peppers
- 6 oz. - mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 1 (4-oz.) - can mushrooms
- 1 C. - pizza sauce

Spread bread dough on greased cookie sheet. Mix together egg yolks, Parmesan cheese, salt, garlic powder, oil, oregano, pepper and parsley. Spread on bread dough. Use toppings, as desired, and layer on half of dough. Fold dough over and pinch seams shut with toothpicks. Bake at 350° F for 35 minutes.

I had never made Stromboli before trying this recipe! It is quite simple to make, looks good and tastes great.

Thaw your frozen bread dough in your fridge overnight. Grease the frozen loaf with shortening and store in a bread bag to thaw. After removing the bread dough from the bag, turn it inside out and grease your pan with the shortening from inside. Your bread dough won't stick to the bag, and you can repurpose it!

When you pinch the seams together with toothpicks make sure you capture the top and bottom of the crust, or you'll have sauce and cheese all over your pan. I was very glad I used a baking sheet with sides for the first try.

Also on page 102 is Dawn Benner's **Easy Stromboli** recipe. I may have to try that one too! These would make good recipes for your Christmas or New Year's gatherings.

And, remember, ***Come to the Table*** cookbooks are available at the Welcome Center. They cost \$10 each and make great gifts.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



The Mystery Chef



## Finance Ministry Team Perspective

The following thoughts were shared at the Church Council meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to be extremely blessed as we are meeting budgeted giving and paying off the building debt that we have. It is important however that we all understand the current financial commitments etc. that we have.

Currently, we still have about \$900,000 in building debt or about \$3,000 debt per Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren member. While that \$3,000 pales in comparison to the \$57,000 national debt owed by each US citizen, it is still a significant commitment. That \$900,000 in debt creates an interest expense of \$30,000 per year. That \$30,000 cost is more than we spend in children's, youth and adult programming combined.

The Finance Ministry Team is also concerned with the missed opportunity cost. As our church continues to grow, there may be a need for more space, additional building etc. which obviously cannot easily happen until the current debt is retired or significantly reduced.

The finance team has set a goal of paying all of the remaining bank mortgage by June 2017 when per the terms of our loan agreement we would anticipate the interest rate rising. Of course we want to be paying off member loans as well and so we encourage you to continue to support the building fund with your regular giving and maybe something extra at the end of the year.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of the ministry of the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren.

Steve Richard



## CHURCH CALENDAR

Please remember that the calendar in The Lamplighter is only a copy from the church events calendar. For the complete view of the current official calendar including facility in use items visit the church website, [www.bvcob.com](http://www.bvcob.com).

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46 Brethren Church Rd  
Mifflinburg PA 17844

Return Service Requested

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(570) 837-9393

Donita J. Keister, Associate Pastor  
for Children & Pastoral Care

Eric M. Kauffman, Associate Pastor  
for Youth & Young Adults

Editors – Jeff & Vicki Bastian  
Church Office/Kitchen (570) 966-1183  
churchoffice@bvcob.com

8:00 AM - Worship Service  
9:00 AM - Fellowship Time  
9:20 AM - Sunday school  
10:30 AM - Worship Service



The Children's Ministry Team and Youth Ministry Team will be hosting a **workshop** led by Ricki Boyle, a local educator, on the morning of **January 30<sup>th</sup>**. All volunteers who work with children/youth are encouraged to attend. Topical information is still being discussed. Save the date and watch for more information.

~Nicole Hoover