

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

February 2016
Volume 32 No. 1

Praise & Congratulations!

We praise the Lord for the following people who were baptized during our Sunday morning worship time on January 10: **Douglas Bechdel, Jacquelyn Shetterly and Samantha Whitmoyer.**

We also welcome **Vickie Bechdel** and **Daniel Creamer** who joined are congregation through affirmation of faith.

Please show your support with a warm welcome to these 5 new members of our congregation.

Camp Eder Corner



Yes, it is quite cold out these days so what better time than now to start thinking about **summer camping at Camp Eder?** Brochures will probably arrive in the next month, but feel free to register online. Make sure you check in with Fay to get the financial portion from the church. If you are a regular attender here at Buffalo Valley COB, a significant portion of your tuition will be paid!

Some great camps, including: *Barefoot, *Kids' Swim, Farm, Bakers, Dance, Explorers, *Jr. Culinary, Wilderness, Horse, Science, Fishing, Photography, Dance, Air and Space, *Jr. High, Outdoor Rock Climbing, *Sr. High, Caving. As well as other camps!

Any questions about Camp Eder, our church camp near Gettysburg, feel free to look **online www.campeder.org** or **contact Fay Richard, our church camp representative!**

Be in prayer as Camp Eder secures counselors and other staff!

Thank you!

Fay Richard (frichard@dejazzd.com)



Dominican Mission Trip!

On **February 2nd through February 11th** the following people will represent Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic: **Jim Brubaker, Jason Hoover, Nicole Hoover, Kurt Ilgen, Eric Kauffman, Dale Lehman, Holly Lehman, Elaina Miller, Keith Nyman, Anthony Phelps, Ben Reamer, Eric Reamer, Andrew Richard and Clarissa Styer.**

The group will help **construct bathrooms** in two separate church buildings and **participate in a youth camp** for 60 youth. Another purpose of the trip is to **strengthen and build new relationships** with our fellow believers in the Dominican.

We appreciate your prayers and thank you for your generous support of the trip.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



"A famous artist was asked to paint a picture of a dying church. It was expected he would paint a picture of a small and humble congregation in a dilapidated building. Instead, he painted a stately edifice with magnificent windows, and near the door an offering box marked "Missions" with the contribution slot blocked by cobwebs."

Chuck Swindoll



PLEASE PRAY for the following people who will be training as **Stephen Ministers**:

**Linda Dorman
Joan Hofmann
Carole Hoffmaster
Carol Manbeck
Dani Sommers
Susan Styer**

Pastor Eric Reamer will also be attending the training, although he will continue to serve our congregation as Lead Pastor, not as a Stephen Minister.

Pray as well as for those who have been previously trained and will begin service here in June: **Kelly Walter & Wendy Warren**.

The Spiritual Life Ministry Team, comprised of our deacons and pastors, were extended the invitation to attend selected training modules that are specifically focused on listening and caring skills.

The following deacons will be periodically joining us in training: **Jim Brubaker, Naomi Brubaker, Cheryl Ilgen, Kurt Ilgen, Holly Lehman, Marsha Libby, Carol Pursel, Craig Pursel, Fay Richard and Steve Walter**.

Pray for time management to complete their reading assignments, hearts full of grace and peace, and even though we don't know who they are, pray for those Care Receivers that will be assigned to these Ministers.

Praising God for raising up servants,
Tracy Ericson & Alicia Showers



Outside Our Walls



Chocolate Rolls are back (and Easter is early!): Orders are due by March 13th and **pick up is Sunday, March 20th**. This fundraiser helps support the many missions that are supported by the Mission Ministry Team. Please watch your church mailbox and email for order forms.

Mission Trip Opportunity: If you'd like a mission trip in your future, please see Vicki Bastian for an application to serve this summer, **July 23 - 29** at **Westernport Church of the Brethren** for a VBS/Day Camp experience. This is a great opportunity if you want to 'try out' a mission trip without a lot of expense or travel. Come to Westernport and spend a week with a fun team and some amazing children!



Community Aid: Please remember to "**feed the bin**" and **pass the word** to your friends!

Operation Christmas Child: Plans are in place to fill shoe boxes for 2016. The Mission Ministry Team has set a **new goal of 450 boxes**. We are confident that this goal will be reached and even surpassed. Your response to this mission is amazing and we're stepping out in faith to reach this higher goal. Please watch your email for future information.

Missionaries: **Please be in prayer** for our missionaries. Missionaries currently supported by the Mission Ministry Team are: Lester and Peggy Seiler; Dwayne and Susie Hess; Mitch and Charlotte Hildebrand; and Betsy and Brett Willet. You can read detailed information about these missionaries on the Mission Ministry Team bulletin board in the foyer.

Brenda Eberhart for the Mission Ministry Team

From Your Lead Pastor,



“Power-Ball” or “Power-ful”?

As I write this, the Powerball jackpot for tonight’s drawing is estimated to be about 1.5 billion dollars. If the winner takes a lump sum payment, after taxes he/she would have between \$380 and \$540 million depending on what state the winner lives in. People are lining up today all over the country to purchase one or many tickets to attempt to win the “Powerball”.

Personally, I don’t think God wants us to play the “Powerball” lottery, or any other lottery for that matter. 1 Timothy 6:9 says, *“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.”* It seems to me that playing the lottery is nothing more than a “desire to be rich”. We know that many lottery winners have suffered greatly in the loss of relationships and even financial hardship after winning the lottery; in fulfillment of the verse above. (Though if you win \$500 million it would seem difficult for anyone to mess that up! 😊)

The odds of winning the Powerball lottery are 1 in 292.2 million. If it took you 30 seconds to pick your numbers, and you filled out 292.2 million tickets, it would take about 288 years to get all the combinations and guarantee that you would win. But there is another way you can get “power” and that is through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus offers us **power to forgive, power to serve, power to be saved** and much, much more. And this power is guaranteed to last for eternity, which is even longer than it would take you to fill out 292.2 million Powerball tickets.

Don’t waste your time on the Powerball. Rather, invest time in your relationship with Jesus and **get real power, power that lasts forever!**

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



The Gift of Life

Many thanks to all who helped with the Red Cross blood drive on January 5th. The Red Cross collected **65 pints of blood** which will serve 195 patients. The soups, sandwiches and cookies you provided served both the Red Cross workers and the donors.

Thanks!
Pastor Eric



If every Christian would tithe, the church would begin to make an impact on the world that would change it.

R.T. Kendall

**VOLUNTEER
TRAINING**



The Children’s Ministry Team and Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team will be hosting a **workshop** led by Ricki Boyle, a local educator, on the morning of **January 30th**. 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

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2016!

March 5 – Church Auction
March 12 – Family Theme Night
March 24 – LOVE FEAST
March 26 – Easter Egg Fair
March 27 – EASTER



April 9 – Spring Fling in Westernport
April 10 – 12 – Spiritual Life Services

June 11 – Strawberry Festival

June 29 – July 3 – Annual Conference
July 23 – 29 – Westernport Mission Trip

August 8 – 12 – Musical Day Camp
August 13 & 14 – Children's Musical
August 21 – All Church Picnic

September 16 & 17 – District Conference

October 2 – LOVE FEAST
October 29 & 30 – All Church Retreat

December 11 – All Church Christmas Party

PIT

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



I suspect, like many people, I have a love-hate relationship with New Year's resolutions, but I read one recently that Sarah and I are trying to keep:

*"To totally strike from my lexicon, both verbally and inwardly, the phrase: **"I'm a bad parent."***

As Rachel Held Evans put it:

*"I'm a good parent who's having a bad day.
I'm a good parent who made a mistake.
I'm a good parent who lost his temper."*

The truth is, if you love your child unconditionally, and are committed to seeing him or her know Christ, you're at least paying attention to the most important part of parenting.

Sure, we could all benefit from becoming more selfless and wise, and "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation," (2 Corinthians. 7:10) but also realize that we have an enemy, Satan the Accuser, whose aim is "to convince the children of God that their sins, failures, and fears constitute their identity." This sorrow leads to death.

This year (and beyond) resist this lie. Submit to God's forgiveness and your new identity in Him. Resist the devil:

"Not today, Satan. I am a beloved child of God and there is nothing you can say or do to change that. You're a liar. Go away." Add to your 'good parent' repertoire modeling your true identity as a child of God.

- Quotes taken from Rachel Held Evan's blog:
<http://rachelheldevans.com/blog/one-resolution-new-mom/>

Youth Events:

Sunday Nights

Junior High (6 - 8 grade):	5 - 7 pm
Senior High (9 - 12 grade):	6 - 8 pm
DEEP:	8 - 8:30 pm

February Events

2/7	Super Bowl Party	5:30 pm - ?
2/14	Love, love, love (Activity: teamwork; <u>Meal</u>)	
2/20	Snow Tubing (weather permitting)	
2/21	Loving your parents (Sport; <u>Snack</u>)	
2/28	Loving your siblings (Group Game; <u>Meal</u>)	

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 & Young Adult Pastor,
Pastor K



READ IT - WATCH IT



The church library has been expanding our children and family reading and movie selections. Please "Check Out" some of the great books we have found for the younger members of our congregation.

Also, we have decided to find new homes for the VHS movie collection. All the VHS tapes will be on a table in the Main Entry. Please feel free to add them to your home collection. The remaining tapes will be donated.

Please look around at home for any books and movies that are ready to be returned.

Athena Berkheiser
Church Librarian



6th Annual Church Auction

This year's Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren Annual Church Auction is **March 5th** and we are busy collecting items for the sale. Please let me know as soon as you have an item for the sale so we can begin to advertise the hundreds of items that we will have. Items should be new or in good usable condition and can be dropped off at the church and labeled for the Church Auction.

If you would like to **donate a theme bag**, we have anniversary tote bags still available that we can give you. If you have a **cabin you want to donate for a weekend, kayaks to rent for a day, tickets to events, food items, dinner packages, antiques, tools, quilts, hand crafted items, furniture, etc.** We accept most anything of value (new or used) to be sold at our popular silent auction tables or at the live Auction. No live animals please, but sides of beef, etc are welcome.

The details for the auction are the same as last year. It will be **Saturday March 5th** and while we strongly prefer to know about the items ASAP, all items must be to the church by 9 am that morning. **Starting at 3:30 pm food will be available** and you can look through the sale bill and review the hundreds of items that are donated. The **live bidding starts at 4:30 pm** with Auctioneer Jeremy Waite.

Stay tuned for more announcements and updates on the items donated. **All proceeds are used to reduce the debt on our church building.**

Steve Richard



Special Spaces!!

Please save the 15 parking spaces in front of the main entry. **Please reserve these for our guests, single parents with small children and those who have trouble walking.**



How are your Fundamentals?

Fundamentals are basic skills that are important in accomplishing a task. Often people want to overlook the fundamentals and get to the flashy stuff. But the flashy stuff doesn't work all the time and yet the fundamentals are **what ensures success in most endeavors of life.**

In February we are going to have a four week series of sermons on "Family Fundamentals". Each week we will look at one word which is fundamental to the success of every family relationship whether the relationship is between spouses, children or siblings. What are the fundamentals we are going to look at? I'm so glad you asked. Here is the tentative schedule:

February 7th: Commitment
February 14th: Submission
February 21st: Forgiveness
February 28th: Legacy

Plan on coming to Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren during February to work on your fundamentals. You and your family will be glad that you did.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



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.



The Gift of Grace

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

Linda Buttorff's **Potato Soup** recipe makes a delicious meal!

When I prepared it I used red potatoes and followed the recipe exactly. What was really nice is that the onions and celery were cooked in chicken broth instead of sautéed in butter.

The recipe is found on page 25 of ***Come to the Table*** cookbook. For those of you that don't have the cookbook, here is the recipe:

- 3 ½ lbs. - potatoes
- 2 (14 oz.) cans - chicken broth
- 2 med. - onions, diced or 1 bag frozen onions
- 4 stalks - celery, diced
- 1 qt. - half & half
- 1 qt. - milk
- 1 ½ C. - flour
- 1 C. - water
- 1 to 1 ½ C - Cheeze Whiz
- 1 (4.25 oz.) can - green chilies
- ¼ C. - bottled ranch dressing
- ¼ C. - butter

Peel potatoes; dice into bite-size pieces and cook until tender. Drain; set aside. In a soup pot, cook broth, onion and celery until soft. Add the milks. In a small bowl, mix together the water and flour, stirring until smooth. When milk mixture is warm, stir flour mixture in to desired consistency. Add the cheese, chilies, ranch dressing and butter. Stir well. Add potatoes last.

Here's a tip: If you have celery in your refrigerator that you think you may not use before it goes bad, chop it and measure into ½ cup and 1 cup containers. When you have a recipe like this one that calls for celery, pull it from the freezer and you're ready to go. You can do the same with onions!

If you don't have a ***Come to the Table*** cookbook you can pick one up at the Welcome Center for just \$10. And you should check out Denise Hare's **Perfectly Easy Dinner Rolls** recipe on page 111. I made these for our Thanksgiving gathering and they were delicious!



The Mystery Chef

It Sounds Pretty Technical to Me!



It is a pleasure to introduce our newly formed **Technical Advisory Board**. This board is made up of Tracy Solomon (chair), Steve White, Jerry Boyer, Dan Manbeck and Steve Walter.

The vision for this team is to recommend back up strategy for electronic device data used by staff. They will **create a network** for connecting local or remote computers and potentially integrating systems such as sound control, media projection and smart building capability for security. They also will advise on best methods for the **organization and maintenance** of electronic documents, reports and minutes from team and staff functions. Examples would be contracts, job descriptions, team charters, and team minutes both current and historical.

With this board's assistance and advice, it is our hope that a computer suddenly going bad could be described as a slight fender bender rather than a crash and the search for the original contract goes from looking in multiple homes to a simple entry in a search bar.

The Advisory Board will be an **extension or sub team of the Building and Grounds Ministry Team** lead by Bill Baker, but will be consulted by all the teams before electronic type plans or purchases are made.

In the course of these projects others who have talents in specific areas may be sought, so if you have expertise you are willing to share don't hesitate to step forward and let them know you are willing.

The team has already been busy correcting some Wifi issues in our building and they currently are moving into networking proposals.

This is yet another example of the ways our congregation is blessed with so many people who are willing to serve. May the Lord multiply these efforts to build His Kingdom.

Dale Lehman

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Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
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Return Service Requested

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Lead Pastor – Rev. Eric S. Reamer
(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

