

Holy Week Observances & Activities

Thursday, March 24th

LOVE FEAST & COMMUNION



Saturday, March 26th

Children's Ministry Easter Egg Fair

Sunday, March 27th

EASTER! – He has risen!
He Has Risen Indeed!



Stepping Stones For Children

If they haven't already participated, please consider having your elementary age child take the Children's Stepping Stones Classes. In these classes the **plan of salvation**, the **meaning of baptism**, and the importance of **living a life to glorify God** is thoroughly explained.

Classes will be held this spring, with dates to be determined. Please contact Pastor Donita as soon as possible if your child has any interest in taking these Stepping Stones to Baptism.

Nicole Hoover, Children's Ministry Team

Do You Know Your Bible?

The Sunday School Team would like to share some exciting news! The Winter Sunday School quarter had **50 more people attending** a class than in the last several years. We are excited to see full classrooms with people studying God's Word and sharing with each other.

If you would like to get to know people better at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB), Sunday school is a great way to do that. Each quarter there are 6 - 8 classes to choose from to attend. These classes are chosen to include a New Testament book, an Old Testament book, one of the Gospels, BVCOB Bible College class, a class on Relationships, Stepping Stones, Spiritual Awareness, and a Teacher's Choice. We hope there is a class of interest for everyone.

Since we are having more people attend Sunday school it is appreciated that you sign up for a class prior to the quarter. This allows for the appropriate classroom to be chosen for the amount of attendees.

BVCOB has a unique Sunday school program since it has multigenerational classes. We hope you appreciate that as much as we do!

Please join us for the Spring Sunday School quarter starting on March 6th. Look for the **signup sheets in the Main Entry**.

The Sunday School Team- Brian Keister,
Kelly Walter, Jodi Wiand, & Amy Bastian

Stephen Ministry Update



We've now completed six modules in our **Stephen Ministry training**. Each week the trainees (and sometimes deacons) are learning, praying together, and role playing. They are using both example scenarios and the stories of their own lives to discuss caring skills and experiences.

It is an absolute joy to watch these people use their God given gifts to not only practice ministry, but actually minister to one another during the training sessions.

As training continues through May, we will begin presentations to the congregation about the other primary facet of Stephen Ministry: **Care Receivers**.

Our goal is to help you understand who could benefit from having a Stephen Minister, how you might refer someone to get a Stephen Minister, and under what circumstances you should consider obtaining a Stephen Minister for yourself.

For now, consider this:

Are you going through a difficult time—emotionally, spiritually, or relationally? Are you lonely, experiencing a crisis, or simply stressed by everyday life?

You don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are now training to be caregivers, ready to **listen**, **care for** and **encourage** you, **pray** with and for you, and provide **confidential one-to-one** Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing.

Contact our Stephen Leaders for more information.

Praying for those who need care,

Alicia Showers & Tracy Ericson
Stephen Leaders

Easter Egg Fair



Saturday,
March 26th

**All children
through
fifth grade
are welcome!**

10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Come and go!

**Activity stations! Prizes!
Easter Egg Hunt Station!
Inflatable amusements!**

A FREE hotdog lunch
will be served with chips and drink.



Volunteers will be needed for set up,
tear down and the event hours.



If you can volunteer or have any questions, please contact the Children's Pastor **Donita Keister** @ (570) 966-1183 (church) or email her at pastordonita@bvcob.com

**We will soon be requesting
candy donations.**

Watch your mailbox for upcoming details!

Nicole Hoover, Children's Ministry Team

Parent Newsletter

Parents of Youth: Be sure to pick up your copy of March's Youth Parent Newsletter in your mailbox or at the Main Entry Table.

Pastor K

REFLECTIONS ON SOUTH SUDAN

Sincere greetings with wide smiles and hardy handshakes punctuated all our meetings with the gracious people of South Sudan. The desire to engage in conversation about the urgent issues of conflict in their country as well as discussion of meaningful responses reflects the overwhelming desire for peace by all the people we met. I will always cherish the hours of heartfelt sharing sitting in circles under trees, in a hot tent at a displaced persons camp, and on the banks of the Nile in Juba.

The recourse and positive influence of the Brethren Peace Center was a pleasant surprise to me. While I believe much more development of the Peace Center is needed, the work that is being done there by the Church of the Brethren staff member Athanasus Ungang has a wide-ranging effect for development and peacemaking in that area of South Sudan. I see further support and development of this ministry being of the highest priority for the Church of the Brethren. Trauma healing services, food and pharmaceutical distribution as well as relationship building with churches and institutions are some of the priorities.

The statement from many church leaders that they were born in war, grew up in war and live in war will haunt me all of my days. Yet there is a strong sense of hope that God, with the advocacy of others that care about them, will bring peace. The idea that we as American Christians have a critical role to play to bring peace to South Sudan was both surprising and humbling. The call goes forth from the church leaders of South Sudan for fervent prayer for peace and vigorous advocacy for the leaders of the USA to use their influence to help bring about peace.

All along the practically impassable roads are villages of grass roofed dwellings filled with families searching for enough food for the day, longing for basic school buildings for their children, and displaying a strong desire for church buildings to keep them dry for worship during the rainy season. The need for trained schoolteachers and pastors is evident in the villages and towns we visited.

This visit created a strong bond with the brothers and sisters of Juba, Toric and the villages of Lafon, Pachidi, and Lohilla. They have become a part of my community of believers and I pray that I will never neglect nor forget them. My earnest desire for the Church of the Brethren is that we will not neglect the people of South Sudan and respond with open hearts and hands to their invitation to walk more closely with them.

Eli Mast



6th Annual Church Auction

Don't miss the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren Annual Church Auction on Saturday, **March 5th**.

Looking for a new quilt for on the bed, maybe a trail camera, maybe some art work for your home or office or maybe just an entertaining evening with friends? All these things and much more will be available at the church auction.

Maybe you're ready to get rid of the electronics or exercise equipment that is taking up badly needed space. We are busy **collecting items** for the sale. Please let me know as soon as you have an item for the sale as we have begun to advertise the hundreds of items that we will have for sale.

If you would like to **donate a theme bag**, we have anniversary tote bags still available at the Welcome Center. Pick a theme and fill the bag with related items.

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.

Bring a **friend and enjoy**.

Steve Richard

From Your Lead Pastor,



Dealing With Delay

As I write this letter I am with the Dominican Republic Mission trip group, flying from Miami to Charlotte as we return from the Dominican. We weren't supposed to fly to Charlotte; rather we were supposed to fly OVER Charlotte on our way to Philadelphia but that flight was cancelled. Instead of getting to Philadelphia at 4:45 p.m., we are going to arrive in Harrisburg at 11:54 p.m....so we had a delay.

How do you deal with delays? We all experience them don't we; sometimes in airports, sometimes in highways, sometimes in checkout lines and sometimes in hallways waiting for the bathroom. Sometimes there is a delay in hearing expected news or decisions. Delay is inevitable but can delay be profitable? That is up to you. In my situation the delay was profitable. I was able to play a card game with the Hoovers and Pastor K. and then Ben and I had a great dinner and conversation with Pastor K. Sure, none of us will get much sleep tonight but in my case the delay was worth it.

God is the author of all delays in a sovereign sense. I don't think God specifically caused a fuel leak in our plane so that Nic Hoover and I could beat Jason and Pastor K. in cards, but He could have stepped in supernaturally. There are many times when delays enter into our lives, even times when the delay causes a change in plans more serious than the loss of sleep. If you are in a "delay", look around at your people and situation to see if the delay has dealt you an opportunity for ministry and/or community. It could be that dealing with the delay was more beneficial than "arriving" on time.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

P.S. A huge "thank you" to Art Reamer, who left Mifflinburg around 1:30 p.m. Thursday thinking he was going to pick up our group in Philadelphia around 5:00 pm but who willingly turned around, drove to Harrisburg and waited until midnight to pick us up and drive us back to Mifflinburg.



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**.



Whatever is your greatest joy and treasure, that is your god.

Charles H. Spurgeon

Dominican Mission Trip!

Buenos Dias Amigos!

The Dominican Republic 2016 Mission team of 14 people thanks you for your support of this trip this year. Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren contributed almost \$30,000 in budgeted money and offerings for this trip. We believe it was a good investment.

Here are some highlights of what was accomplished:

In Magueyal we purchased the materials and worked for 2.5 days to add a bathroom and some additional space to a small Brethren church in town. The pastor, his wife and three children are currently living in a small room in the rear of the church building which is no bigger than a one car garage. This addition will greatly improve their living conditions and the ministry of the church.

In La Mayita we spent an afternoon and evening helping to set up a time of music, food and games for about 60 children. This little village is about as poor as there is and yet is rich in smiles and souls that need to hear about Jesus.

In Azua we purchased the materials and worked for 2 days to add a bathroom and living space to the church building, dug about 14' of a new septic system and repainted a portion of the exterior of the building.

In Los Torros (where we stayed) we built some great relationships with the church there and spent some quality time playing games, volleyball, sharing meals and having home visits with our Dominican brothers and sisters.

On all the job sites we worked side by side with Dominicans who will ensure that the projects are completed. We were told by the Dominicans and Brethren leadership in the US that our trips last year and this year have helped to repair some of the conflict that was present between parties and has given hope to a continued partnership with us and with other churches. None of this could happen without your support!

Muchas Gracias! Pastor Eric



Outside Our Walls



Chocolate Rolls are back! 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. Order forms can be found at the Mission Ministry Table.



Mission Trip Opportunity: If you think that 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**. Don't Wait! **Applications are due by Sunday, March 20th.**



Westernport Spring Fling: Please join us on **Saturday, April 16th** as we travel to Westernport COB to **serve the children** for our annual Spring Fling. This is a great way to check out Westernport, MD if you are considering the longer July mission trip! You can indicate your interest by contacting Vicki Bastian or Brenda Eberhart.



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



Operation Christmas Child: Plans are already in place for **filling even more shoeboxes**. Last year's response was amazing and we're depending on God to help us reach another new goal! Watch your email for future information.

Missionaries: As always, **please be in prayer** for our missionaries. You can see detailed information about these missionaries on the Mission Ministry Team bulletin board in the main entry.

Brenda Eberhart for the Mission Ministry Team

A Matter of Life and Death



We've all heard that phrase mentioned many times. When something is a "matter of life and death" it signifies that something is very important and requires great caution and/or consideration. You don't treat a matter of life and death in a flippant manner.

In the month of March we are going to look at four events from the last week in the earthly life of Jesus. There is much more written about the last week of Jesus' life than any other time frame of His earthly ministry. We will take two weeks to look at some events before Jesus was nailed to the cross, one week to think about the cross and the last week, Easter Sunday, we will focus on the resurrection of Jesus.

What you believe about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is truly a matter of life and death...and perhaps life again. What do I mean by that? Glad you asked! What I mean is that what you believe about Jesus Christ should matter to how you live your life. Following Jesus should shape every important decision that you make. Believing in Jesus should also shape our thoughts about death. The follower of Jesus should not fear death; nor see death as "final". Rather, death is simply and wonderfully the beginning of eternal life...that's the "live again part". The follower of Jesus sees His death as payment for his/her sin and His resurrection as a precursor to his/her own future resurrection.

Join us in March to be challenged to think about how Jesus' life and death is truly a matter of life and death for each one of us. Also, remember that Easter Sunday is a Sunday when your friends and family who don't normally attend church WILL come if you ask them.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Camp Eder Corner



Brochures probably won't arrive for another month, but feel free to register online. Make sure you check with Fay to get the financial portion from the church. Both Youth & Young Adult and Children's Ministry teams will generously support campers financially again this year.

Some great camps; don't miss out on the chance to spend a few days growing in your faith and have an awesome time making new friends in a beautiful setting! Camps are available for those finishing **Kindergarten through 12th grades!**

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! I have some applications if anyone is interested in being on summer staff! I know my son Doug really enjoyed his summers working there as a counselor/ staff.

Thank you,

Fay Richard, Camp Eder Rep for BVCOB



Working on the "PIT"

Hello everyone from the Building and Grounds Ministry Team. I thought I would give you a quick update on the "Pit" renovation. The South side is about finished. The tin, chair rail and painting have been done.

We will be working on the North side this coming week finishing drywall and sanding. We will also be doing some painting in the upstairs hallway. Feel free to stop by and check out the "Pit". Hopefully, the "Pit" will be back to normal in a few weeks. (The "PIT" is the lower level used by the youth.)

Thank You,

Bill Baker, Building & Grounds Ministry Team



What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

Kristy Heintzelman and Cheryl Ilgen share a **Bacon Wrapped Chicken** recipe on page 68 of **Come to the Table** cookbook.

I had to bake mine a bit longer than is suggested. It may have been because I didn't have the chicken breasts flattened enough.

If you don't have the recipe, here it is:

- 6 - skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- 1 - (8 oz.) tub cream cheese
with chives & onions
- Margarine or butter
- Salt to taste
- 6 - slices bacon

Using a meat tenderizer, flatten chicken to ½ inch thickness. Spread cream cheese over each. Dot with margarine and sprinkle with salt. Roll chicken up and wrap with bacon strip. Place seam side down in 13 x 9 - inch pan. Bake uncovered at 400° F for 35 - 40 minutes or until juices run clear. Broil for 5 minutes or until bacon is crisp.

A tip for you: to flatten your chicken breasts with the meat tenderizer, or meat mallet, tear a long piece of plastic wrap. Lay a chicken breast on the plastic wrap and fold the other half of plastic wrap across the top. This will prevent splatter while you flatten the chicken breasts. Another tip: don't use the toothed side of the tenderizer if you use plastic wrap. It will poke holes and leave little pieces of plastic on your chicken breasts!

Craig Pursel's **Oven Chipped Idaho Potatoes Bake** is a great side dish to serve with your Bacon Wrapped Chicken. That recipe is found on page 53 of **Come to the Table** cookbook.

If you don't have a **Come to the Table** cookbook, you can pick one up at the Welcome Center for \$10.



The Mystery Chef



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Preschool and K-5 will both be on Wednesdays

Preschool 9:30 am – 12 noon & K-5 9:30 am - 4 pm

Summer Day Camps

June 15th, 22th, 29th
July 6th, 13th, 20th

Musical Day Camp

CAMP: August 8th- August 12th
Performances: August 13th and 14th

Nicole Hoover, for Children's Ministry Team

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2016!

April 10 – 12 – Spiritual Life Services
April 16 – Spring Fling in Westernport



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



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 Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
46 Brethren Church Rd
Mifflinburg PA 17844

Return Service Requested

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Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
46 Brethren Church Road
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Eric M. Kauffman, Associate Pastor
for Youth & Young Adults

Editors – Jeff & Vicki Bastian
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8:00 AM - Worship Service
9:00 AM - Fellowship Time
9:20 AM - Sunday school
10:30 AM - Worship Service



Come and Hear!!

On Sunday, February 28, during the Sunday school Alleluia Hour there will be an opportunity to hear how our church is reaching others for the sake of the Gospel.

Eli Mast will share about his trip to the South Sudan and how it has impacted his life. Some members of the Dominican team will be sharing on what they were able to accomplish and the relationships that were made.

There is so much positive that comes from allowing ourselves to be used by God and yes, getting out of our comfort zones!

Come and hear what these people have experienced and want to share with their church family!

Vicki Bastian