

Shhhhhhhhhhh.....

I've got a secret...but it's a secret that needs to be shared. Buffalo Valley is hosting a Secret Church simulcast. What is "Secret Church"? you ask...I can tell you and I don't have to whisper.

Secret Church is a six hour time of **Bible study, songs, and stories of unreached people groups in our world.** It is modeled around the practice of people from countries that are closed or hostile to the gospel, gathering for extended periods of time to hear gospel truth. The material is taught by David Platt, author of Radical and Counter Culture.

This year's topic is "A Global Gospel in a World of Religions". We will explore the claims of Christ in the gospel and consider how these claims inform the way we understand religions in the world and impact the way we live when surrounded by varied believers with diverse belief systems.

Secret Church will be held **Friday April 29th** starting at 6:30 p.m. and end at 12:30 a.m. on **April 30th** lasting 6 hours. The cost is \$10/person which includes a 175 page Bible study guide. We plan on holding Secret Church in the PIT so space is limited.

Please sign up at the Secret Church display in the main entry or contact the church office. You can also invite friends to attend with you. For more information contact Pastor Eric or the church office. You can also visit the Secret Church website at www.radical.net/secret-church. The registration deadline is Sunday, April 10th.



Pastor Eric



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



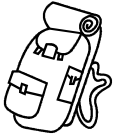
WHO IS GRADUATING?

Attention: if you or someone you know from our church family has graduated from college since last June ~ OR ~ will **graduate from high school or college** before the end of June 2016, please notify Fay Richard at frichard@dejazzd.com or 570-966-0182 **ASAP (before April 8)**. I will be writing an article for an upcoming Lamplighter and don't want to miss anyone.

Thank You!
Fay Richard



He is Risen!! He is Risen Indeed!!



Camp Eder Corner

So far, I know we have **seven campers** who are going to enjoy a week of their summer at Camp Eder! I know there are many more who hope to grow in their relationship with God and others by enjoying a wonderful time at camp! See me if you would like a brochure! Or register online. Make sure you check with Fay to get the financial portion from the church.

Some great camps, including:

*Barefoot

*Kids' Dance, Swim, Farm, Colorful Expressions, Little Bakers, Nature Explorers

*Jr. Mad Scientist, Explorers, Air and Space, Dance, Culinary Arts, Wilderness Explorers, Outback, Horse, Science, Photography

5th - 8th (completed) Horsin Around, Adventure Biking (C&O Towpath), Gone Fishing

7th - 10th (completed) Outdoor Rock Climbing, Wet and Wild, AT Trekkers

8th - 12th (completed) Wilderness Caving

9th - 12th (completed) Sr. High Camp

As well as other basic weeks of camp!

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!

Hope to hear from you soon!



Fay Richard



STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE

Our Stephen Ministers Are Almost Ready to Care for You!

We're mere weeks away from completing the Stephen Ministry training. ***Which means we are going to need Care Receivers for these trained Stephen Ministers.***

Because of how the program is set up, women only work with women, and men only work with men. ***Which means we can only accept female Care Receivers at this time.***

Each Stephen Minister only works with one Care Receiver at a time. ***Which means we can take on eight Care Receivers starting in May.***

Throughout April, our focus will be on identifying eight women who are in need of one to one, confidential Christian care. ***Which means if you or a loved one are interested, we encourage you to fill out a referral form.***

Referral applications can be obtained from the ***Stephen Ministry*** table in the Main Entry (next to the double doors leading to the hallway). Place the completed referral form in the silver box on the wall at the table.

We will be reviewing all referrals, and prayerfully matching potential Care Receivers with our eight female Stephen Ministers. ***Which means we need you to pray for wisdom for Alicia and Tracy as we do so.***

If you have questions about being a Care Receiver, or interest in attending our next training for Stephen Ministers (starting Fall, 2016), please talk with one of our Stephen Leaders: Alicia or Tracy.

Praying for God's wisdom and discernment,
Alicia Showers & Tracy Ericson,
Stephen Leaders



From Your Lead Pastor,



Together To Get Here

The other day I was playing around with something for a sermon I was working on and I realized something about the word “together” and the phrase “to get here”. I’d like to share that with you this month.

Lots of times we have goals and dreams and desires...we want to get to a certain place or position in life. In the church, we have goals and dreams as well. I know that I have visions and dreams for our congregation. But in order “to get here”; to get where we want to be, we need each other. No individual person or family can get the church to a place to fulfill those dreams and goals. We cannot do it alone.

If you take the word “together” and put some spaces in there (and add an “e” on the end) you change the word “together” into “to get here”. Folks, there is no way we are going to get to where God wants us to be if we are not doing it “together”. In order “to get here”, we have to do it “together”.

I am so excited to serve with you here at Buffalo Valley. We stand at a place and time where the church of Jesus Christ can make an incredible difference in our world. It won’t be easy. It will require sacrifice and suffering. However, together we can accomplish everything that God has for us at Buffalo Valley. “To get here”, where God wants us to be will require that we stay “together”.

I can think of no better people to serve with than you. “Together” we can get to all the goals and objectives that God has for us. Let’s keep pushing on and praying up and see what God does with us “together”.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Would God be proud to say He knows you??



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.**



Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned He stood; sealed my pardon with His blood. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Philip Paul Bliss

PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



Outside Our Walls

Thank you for your Chocolate Roll order! All proceeds go to off-set the costs of shipping for the OCC shoe boxes. Thank you for supporting this mission!



Operation Christmas Child 2016

It seems strange to think about Christmas in April, however, now is the time that the Mission Ministry Team begins their strategic planning on how to fill over 400 shoeboxes.

Last year, with your help, we completed 432 shoeboxes. Our 2016 Goal is 453 boxes.

The shoeboxes are filled with age and gender-appropriate items so not every shoebox contains the same things. However, all shoeboxes contain:

- soap
- wash cloth
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- t shirt
- comb
- toy

Think of it....453 bars of soap, 453 wash cloths, 453 toothbrushes, 453 tubes of toothpaste, 453 t-shirts, 453 combs and 453 toys. That's **3,171 items** not including school supplies (pencils, pens, paper, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, etc.).

There is no way this mission could be completed without the help of our entire church body. You have always been faithful to this mission and with your continued help we are stepping out in faith that this year we will fill even more boxes!

To keep track of how we're doing with collections and what is needed, you can check out the Christmas tree at the Mission table. Ornaments will be placed on the tree to indicate the items and amounts needed to fill the boxes. When the goal is reached, you will see a 'gold' ornament of celebration!

Thank you for helping to make this mission one that truly reaches beyond the walls of BVCOB!

Brenda Eberhart for Mission Ministry Team

Youth Events:

Sunday Nights:

Junior High (6 - 8 grade): 5 - 7 pm

Senior High (9 - 12 grade): 6 - 8:15 pm

Deep/Prayer: Wednesday - 6:30 pm

Upcoming:

April 24 - Nursing Home Visit - 2 – 4 pm

May 28 - Rock Climbing

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

Young Adults!

Rich Miller has joined our team and we are planning upcoming events!

April 9th - Mifflinburg Musical & Dessert!

April 30th – Questions about God
(at Parsonage); more dessert

Imagine a workshop for demons:

‘Professor Deception stalked to the front of the blazing hot conference room, through a chaotic throng of demons. He scratched his title across the blackboard: “How to deceive God’s humans in one easy step.” Deception turned to face his audience, a nasty sneer spreading across his face.

“I know why you’re here,” he roars above the din, “your humans are abandoning their evil ways for faith in our enemy. You need to know how to stop them...” The room grew less noisy as demons angrily turned to the front.

“Fools!” shouts Deception, “Dragging humans down into the pit is as simple as this: Take the humans’ eyes off ‘the One we do not name!’ (he shudders) Cloud the issue with nonessential things. Instead of letting them meet ...Him (shudders again), introduce them to church doctrines, show them the hypocrisy in his followers, or make them focus on good things to do to ‘earn’ His love.”

“You see, there is no luke-warmness in an encounter with the Enemy. Whenever they are attending to the Enemy Himself we are defeated, but there are ways of preventing them from doing so. The simplest is to turn their gaze away from Him towards themselves.” (story taken from “Get Real” & “The Screwtape Letters”)

Your Youth & Young Adult Pastor, Pastor K



Made for TV...BC

Do you **think the Bible is boring**? If you do, my guess is that you've never really read the Bible. The Bible is far from boring. It has all the elements of a modern TV series; sex, danger, deception, jealousy, greed, envy, tragedy and triumph, and all without the commercials!

In the month of April we are going to look at two prophets from the Old Testament, Elijah and Elisha. These men performed 18 miracles that are recorded for us in the Old Testament books of 1 and 2 Kings. In four weeks we are going to look at four miracles which include a miraculous **multiplication of food**, **fire from heaven**, a **miraculous cure** of a disease and an **angelic vision**. From these four miracles we will learn things about ourselves and how to use the Bible and apply it to everyday life.

What I'm excited about is that events which happened over 2,800 years ago can still teach us lessons about ourselves and about God. So, don't miss out on "Made for TV...BC" as we learn together from the miracles of Elijah and Elisha. Invite a friend and if they will come with you, make some popcorn for them and tell them it will be just like watching a TV show...ok, not just like watching a TV show, but you can still bring the popcorn!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

P.S. The other difference between the Bible and TV is that the stuff in the Bible is true. There really aren't zombies who are "walking dead" nor are there superheroes saving the world. Just thought I'd throw that in there.



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.



Free As a Bird

The freebird's have several events planned that are sure to be fun and hope to provide opportunities for relationship building this spring. The next event is **April 9th** which will be a **family feud event** (like the game show). This should be full of laughter. Join us at 6:30 pm in the Son Room.

Then on **May 15th** at 1 pm we will be **Kayaking**. If you don't have your own Kayak or canoe we do have a few that we can borrow so please sign up if you are interested. More information will be provided closer to this event.

Freebirds 2016 Events

April 9 – **Family Feud Game Night**

6:30 pm (bring a dessert)

May 15 – **Kayaking**

1 pm

June 12 – **Bike Scavenger Hunt**

2 pm

September 20 – **Halfway Dam Picnic**

12 pm (bring a dish to share)

October 15 – **Corn Maze & Dinner**

5 pm (Ard's Market)



Tracy Solomon

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2016!

May 1 – Church Council Meeting

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





What Is a “Leader Elect”?

The Ministry Coordinating Team is introducing a “leader elect” into our Team structure. The position of Team Leader Elect would be formed by moving our calling process to the beginning of the year rather than the fall. The additional time between the affirmation of the call and the assumption of full team leadership will allow the newly called person a more gradual seamless integration. It is during this period of time they would be known as Team Leader Elect.

The benefit of this process is to ensure that team leaders have some experience on a specific team prior to serving as team leader. This experience will allow Team Leaders to have had time to evaluate and plan for assuming leadership in a way that will create a smooth transition with the goal of seamless ministry.

A Leader Elect will be chosen by the congregation using the Calling process, to serve for about a year as the Leader Elect prior to assuming the leadership of the team to which he/she has been called.

The calling process would be in January of each year. In much the same way the calling is determined currently, the leader elect would be called under two circumstances:

1. A team leader has served for two years, is willing to serve the third year but has decided that he/she does NOT wish to be considered for a second three year term.
2. A team leader has completed the second year of his/her second three year term and is thus ineligible to serve for another term.

In the case of point 1., when a Team Leader is willing to serve their second term, the calling would be carried out the same as it is currently except that it happens in January rather than the fall. Currently the position is listed in the calling with the Team Leader being listed as eligible to serve another term.

There is no precedence where a Team Leader, noted as willing to serve another term, has not resulted in a congregational affirmation of that current leader.

In the very unlikely scenario that the current leader is willing to serve but is not called for a final term, the Gifts Discernment Team in consultation with the Executive Team will be tasked with determining the best way forward. Since the calling is close to a year early it could be that the current leader is willing to serve the final year in which case a Leader Elect would be chosen from the calling. It could also be that the current Leader

acknowledging the lack of congregational support would choose to step aside immediately leaving the position to filled from the calling.

The responsibilities of the Leader Elect during the year of service in this position would be determined by the specific team. The intent is that the Team Leader and the Leader Elect work together in a way that the Leader Elect becomes familiar and involved with the work and purpose of the Team. It is suggested that the Leader Elect attend at least the last two or three Ministry Coordinating Team (MCT) meetings prior to taking full leadership of the Team. The leader elect would be eligible, when designated by the team leader, to attend MCT meetings as a non-voting participant if the leader is going to be absent.

The following leadership positions to which this will apply are: Moderator, Church Clerk, Network Coordinator, Ministry Coordinating Team Leader, Finance Ministry Team Leader, Building & Grounds Ministry Team Leader, Hospitality & Communications Ministry Team Leader, Mission Ministry Team Leader, Worship & Music Ministry Team Leader, Children’s Ministry Team Leader, Youth Ministry Team Leader and Adult Ministry Team Leader.

This process will be explained and affirmed at the Spring Congregational Council Meeting.

Dale Lehman



Keeping Things Looking Good

The PIT is now finally back to normal. We have been doing some painting. The office hallway, stairwells, resource library and the kitchen have all been painted. Also some door trim has been done and there is more to do. We had a workday to remove candle wax, clean and sew upholstery and replace some worn feet on the chairs. We also had a workday to rake stones out of the grass. A **big thank you to anyone who helped with any of these projects.** It is very much appreciated.

Anyone interested in **helping with string trimming** around the church and cemetery this year please see me.

Faithfully yours,

Bill Baker, Building & Grounds Ministry Team



What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

Carole Hoffmaster shared her **Savory Skillet Pork Chops** recipe on page 66 of ***Come to the Table*** cookbook.

If you don't have a ***Come to the Table*** cookbook, here's the recipe. Give it a try! You may want to pick up a cookbook at the Welcome Center. They cost \$10 and the funds go to the Building Fund.

- 6 - pork chops
- 1 - med. onion, finely chopped
- ½ C. - Russian salad dressing
or other red salad dressing
- ½ C. - water
- 1 T. - lemon juice
- ½ tsp. - salt
- 1 T. - cornstarch
- ¼ C. - water

Brown chops in skillet; add remaining ingredients except cornstarch and ¼ cup water. Simmer, covered, 45 minutes. Blend in cornstarch mixed with ¼ cup water; cook, stirring constantly until sauce is thickened.

When I prepared this recipe I used boneless pork chops and a Catalina dressing instead of Russian dressing. The pork chops taste great and were very tender. This is an easy to prepare recipe.

You may want to pair this recipe with Sandy Baker's **Baked Pineapple** recipe that is found on page 48 of ***Come to the Table*** cookbook.

Be adventurous. Try a new recipe, or prepare an entire meal, from the ***Come to the Table*** cookbook!



The Mystery Chef



Don't forget to "Feed the Bin" when you clean out your closets this spring. Your unwanted and gently used clothing, linens, books, etc help support mission ministries.



Behind the Scenes

The Technical Advisory Board has been working on proposals and suggestions for ways to maintain and update our electronic equipment, data storage and backup. The Board has done research and returned with excellent options. The Ministries Coordinating Team will be reviewing these proposals and working toward implementation in the coming months.

It is unlikely that you will notice any of these updates when you walk into the building. You won't notice that our church building is **more secure**, that **no information was lost** when a computer failed, or that **important documents are readily available**.

I want to thank Tracy Solomon (chair), Steve White, Jerry Boyer, Dan Manbeck and Steve Walter, for what we won't notice.

Dale Lehman



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

The Lamplighter

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

Return Service Requested

The Lamplighter

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



Interested in serving in Children's Ministry. Look for our table in the main entry on Sunday mornings in April to find out more about ways that you can serve!