

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

May 2016
Volume 32 No. 4

POTLUCK & COUNCIL COMING



The **Spring Church Council Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, **May 1st** from **1 to 3 p.m.**

As has become our custom the meeting will be preceded at noon by a **potluck meal**. Bring a dish to share and enjoy good food and fellowship with your church family.

Agenda items at this point are:

- **Verbal reports by the pastors**
- **Treasurer's report**
- **"Park and Ride" Campaign presentation**
- **Money Market funds proposal**
- **Team Leader Elect position discussion and explanation**
- **Update from Next Door Outreach**

The finalized agenda will be available in the week prior to the meeting.

Your presence and participation in this time of fellowship and decision-making will benefit both you and the ministry of the church.

Thank You,
Dale Lehman, Moderator



We shall steer safely through every storm, so long as our heart is right, our intention fervent, our courage steadfast and our trust fixed on God.

St. Francis de Sales



STEPHEN MINISTER COMMISSIONING SERVICE

We invite you all to join us on **Sunday, May 29th** for the first ever Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren Stephen Minister Commissioning Service. This will take place during each worship service that Sunday.

The following ladies will be commissioned:

Carol Manbeck
Carole Hoffmaster
Dani Sommers
Joan Hofmann
Kelly Walter
Linda Dorman
Susan Styer
Wendy Warren

Following the Commissioning, each of these ladies will be assigned a care receiver and be able to begin meeting with them on a regular basis to provide distinctly Christian care in a confidential manner.

We continue to ask for your prayers as these ladies begin their ministry, and hope you are able to celebrate with us on May 29th. Refreshments will be provided during the fellowship time at 9 am.

Grace and peace,

Tracy Ericson & Alicia Showers
Stephen Leaders



“Material Gifts Month” for Buffalo Valley

The month of May is designated as **“Material Gifts Month for Children’s Aid Society.”** Congregations in the Southern Pennsylvania District are asked to help the different centers by contributing material gifts or money to purchase such items as baby food, fruits, juices, art supplies, cleaning supplies and toys.

This year, in addition to the monetary collections in the Adult Sunday School classes, we will add a special paper product drive to **FILL JANE’S VAN** with diapers, paper towels, napkins, tissues and toilet paper. (The estimated value of items collected last year was \$2000.) For additional information, please see the flyer in your mailbox.

May 8th and 15th are dates you can help support **Children’s Aid Society** through the **“Material Gifts” project** during the Sunday school hour. See a detailed flyer in your mailbox.

Thank you so much for your support in helping hurting children and their families through Children’s Aid Society.

Jane Mast, Contact Person



Operation Christmas Child

It’s so great to finally be enjoying the sunshine and warm temperatures. However, before you know it, shoe box time will be here! Remember to check out the church lobby display - it's exciting to see ornaments turn gold and to note what is needed. Let's try to finish up some that are nearly complete: Hand-size Balls (50 are needed) and Jump Ropes (21 are needed).



Community Aid

It's (finally) Spring! And you know what that means.....Spring Cleaning!! While you're tugging that reluctant child into last year's clothes to see what still fits, remember that the Community Aid bin is waiting for your donation. Proceeds from the bin go to support Operation Christmas Child shoebox shipping!



Westernport Ministry

On Saturday, April 16th a team of people traveled to Westernport, MD for the annual Spring Fling. While there, we assisted children in playing carnival-type games, face painting, crafts, planting a flower, an egg hunt and the biggest hit of the day: the Mystery Game with Bill Bastian! The Westernport team gives a HUGE thank-you to the committee of Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren’s annual Egg Fair for donating left-over plants and plastic eggs to Westernport! Thirty-two children and their families were greatly blessed by your generosity. Existing relationships were strengthened and new children and their families were shown the love of Jesus.

The Spring Fling is an exciting time because it sets the stage for our **annual summer mission trip**. The week of **July 23 - 30** a team of twenty people will travel to Westernport, MD to conduct a summer Bible school and day camp. We have returning team members and some new volunteers. Please be in prayer for this team as they serve the children of Westernport.



Missionaries

Please take a moment to check out the Mission Ministry's Board in the Main Entry. There you will see pictures and brief biographies of the missionaries we currently support.

Thank you for your continued support of all our mission ministries!

Brenda Eberhart for Mission Ministry Team



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

From Your Lead Pastor,



What Are Your "Stories"?

During our Spiritual Life services we heard four messages from Duke Hergatt from The Church at Newtown Road. Duke planted this church in 1978 and has been there ever since. I have heard many comments from you regarding how much you enjoyed Duke's preaching and the stories he told.

I too was amazed at how many stories Duke has about how God has come through in his life and the lives of other people. Though Duke is a very entertaining person and he is clearly a man after God's own heart, he would be the first to say that there is nothing special in his DNA or background that led to so much of God's activity in his life. Rather, Duke has seen God work in his life as he has placed himself in a position where it was either God coming through or Duke falling flat.

I hope that as time goes on and we forget the details of the stories that Duke shared with us; we will not forget that God is so engaged in his life. I hope we will not forget and we will learn that God wants us to have stories just like Duke has as we put ourselves in position to trust God and let Him do what He desires with each of us.

Perhaps the greatest impact of our Spiritual Life services will be for each of us to trust God enough to listen to His voice and do what He says, and then watch as He writes our own stories. I am "all in" on this idea....how about you?

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

P.S. I know that Duke would enjoy having you as a Facebook friend so if you have not already done that, I suggest you follow him. He has a lot of interesting and important things to say.



PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



Sunday Night Youth

Junior High (6 - 8 grade): 5 - 7 pm
Senior High (9 - 12 grade): 6 - 8:15 pm

May 1st Youth
May 8th Mother's Day, No youth
May 15th Game Night (everybody together)
May 22 Youth
May 29 Nerf Confrontation

Upcoming Youth Events

May 28 - Rock Climbing
June 12 – 17 - Teen Week
June 29 - July 3 – Creation

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!

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

May 21st - Ben & Jerry's & Jesus
7 pm @ parsonage

What Does it Take to Change a Life?

The answer is simple yet surprising: **time**, **care**, and **example**.

Youth are looking for lives to follow—a life that excites them and seems worth pursuing. Exemplary lives are hard to come by these days. Our culture certainly isn't producing many, and Jesus sometimes seems too surreal and untouchable. Adults willing to spend time with them, talking, answering questions without judgment, playing games, or just being there can make a huge difference.

There are many ways you can change lives: from sharing your testimony, to praying for youth, to leading a lesson or activity, to just attending an event and hanging out. We are not going to make you talk to strangers or play games that may adversely affect your health, or lead a Bible Study (if you're not comfortable with that). Talk to Pastor K today to start /continue your journey of transformation. The life transformed could be your own!

Your Youth & Young Adult Pastor, Pastor K



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



Christian Service

Strive to serve like Jesus: with meekness,
humility and love.

In Christian service, the branches that bear
the most fruit hang the lowest.

Anonymous



Free As a Bird

The FreeBirds are planning a trip to **Shady Maple and Sight & Sound** to see **Samson** on **Thursday, November 3rd**. If you are interested please contact Linda Buttorff. If we have enough interest we may get a bus. As of now the cost for Shady Maple and the show is approximately \$72. This is open to everyone.

Our next event is **kayaking and a picnic** to follow at Kline's cabin on **May 15th**. If you don't want to kayak. Meet us for supper at the cabin.

Freebirds 2016 Events

May 15 – **Kayaking**

1 pm



June 12 – **Bike/Scavenger Hunt**

2 pm

September 18 – **Halfway Dam Picnic**

12 pm (bring a dish to share)



October 15 – **Corn Maze & Dinner**

4 pm (Ard's Market)

November 3 – **Shady Maple & Sight & Sound**

Linda Buttorff



Camp Eder Corner

Reminder: **Sign up for summer camp** at Camp Eder! Make sure you check with Fay Richard to get the generous financial portion from the church.

So far, we have eight campers registered! Get excited for a great week of camping and growing closer to God!



Fay Richard, Your Camp Representative
frichard@dejazzd.com



Made for TV and Vision

The title of this article might imply that during the month of May we will be talking about how to better view your TV screen. But that would not be the case. For three weeks in May we will continue with our Made for TV; BC series and then we are going to end the month of May with a discussion of what "vision" means for a local church.

We are going to take the summer Sunday school quarter and look at the idea of vision and what refining or redefining of vision do we need to do at Buffalo Valley. Over the past few years there have been a lot of changes in our church family...a new building, new staff members, many new people...and some other changes. These changes require us to take a look at whether or not we are still in complete step with what God has for us at Buffalo Valley. So, for a few weeks we will look at this in our sermon time.

Let me close this letter by saying how much I enjoy the time I have to prepare and share a sermon with you almost every Sunday. It is one of the highlights of my week.



God Bless,
Pastor Eric

GOD'S SEMINARY

Whatever you are right now, God is giving you experiences that are training you for future service. It may be over a long period of time or only a few minutes, but He equips us with whatever we need to serve Him.

Think of your circumstances today as God's seminary.

Major Ian Thomas



What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

Denise Christ's **Stuffed Shells** recipe on page 97 of ***Come to the Table*** cookbook is very different than the stuffed shell recipe I usually use. And it's quite delicious! This is just one of four stuffed shells recipes in the cookbook.

- 4 C - mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 1 (15 oz.) carton - ricotta cheese
- 1 (10 oz.) pkg. - frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 1 (12 oz.) pkg. - jumbo pasta shells, cooked and drained
- 1 (28 oz.) jar spaghetti cause

Combine mozzarella cheese, ricotta cheeses and spinach; stuff into shells. Arrange in a greased 13 x 9-inch pan. Pour spaghetti sauce over shells. Cover and bake at 350° F for 30 minutes.

Preparation of these shells is easy and uses fewer ingredients than the recipe I'm familiar with. Typically, I put my filling in a large plastic bag (bread bag size), twisty tie it shut, cut one of the corners off and squeeze into my shells. This filling is very dense and, therefore, that method didn't work so well. You can use a spoon for that process.

If there is someone in your house that is averse to spinach, just remove some of the filling before adding the spinach and continue with the recipe. These are very "cheesy" shells! I used part-skim ricotta and mozzarella with very good results. Instead of greasing the pan, I put a thin layer of spaghetti sauce on the bottom of the pan.

Rhubarb season will be upon us soon. You may want to try Janice Shively's **Crispy Rhubarb Pie** recipe on page 142 of ***Come to the Table*** cookbook.

Each month we feature one recipe from ***Come to the Table*** cookbook in this column and make mention of others. You can find this recipe and many more tasty, home-cooking recipes in the church cookbook. They are

available at the Welcome Center for just \$10. The cookbooks are great bridal shower, house-warming and welcome to the neighborhood gifts!



The Mystery Chef

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2016!



- June 11 – Strawberry Festival
- June 12 – 17 - Teen Week
- June 29 – July 3 - Creation
- June 29 – July 3 – Annual Conference

- July 10 – Church Picnic/Baptism
- July 23 – 29 – Westernport Mission Trip

- August 8 – 12 – Musical Day Camp
- August 13 & 14 – Children's Musical

- September 16 & 17 – District Conference at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren

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

- November 6 – Fall Church Council Meeting

- 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.



I know that my Redeemer lives! What joy the blest assurance gives!

Samuel Medley

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Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
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Return Service Requested

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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 to find out more about ways that you can serve!