

## Park & Ride

Often we find ourselves in a position to do good but we don't know quite how to do it. Our Park & Ride campaign provides a way to "do good" for those in our area and those around the world. Park and Ride is an effort to raise \$30,000 for the **purchase of a Toyota Landcruiser** for a Church of the Brethren ministry in South Sudan, enabling the ministry there to meet basic needs in a war torn and impoverished country. This need was made known to use through a trip made by our own Eli Mast.

Coupled with the Landcruiser are much needed improvements to our parking lot recommended by our Safety Team. A portion of the lot will be paved to provide **additional handicapped parking and additional spaces for those with limited mobility**. The cost for this is also \$30,000 and the paving would be completed this summer.

At Buffalo Valley we are asking God to show us how we can make a difference around the block and around the world. What an opportunity to know that we can make a difference! Please be in prayer as to how God would lead you to support this campaign. Any contributions you decide to make should indicate "Park & Ride" on your check or offering envelope. Let's all pray that this campaign meets its goal to provide both "Parking and Riding" here and in the South Sudan.

Pastor Eric



## Stephen Ministers Ready to Serve

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, we commissioned (or will commission, depending on when you're reading this!), our 8 Stephen Ministers, and they are soon beginning their ministries with Care Receivers.

They will be starting their peer supervision groups as well, meeting twice a month to continue with supplemental training, receive encouragement, and support one another to excellence as Care Givers.

As Leaders, we now turn our attention to gearing up for another round of training in the fall. **We especially hope that men will hear God's call to serve in Stephen Ministry so that we can minister to men in our congregation who are in need.**

As always, we welcome women to apply as well. For both men and women, there is always a need to provide care!

If you or someone you know is interested in being a Stephen Minister, please contact either Alicia Showers or Tracy Ericson. We will be taking applications and conducting interviews over the summer months.

Continue to pray for our newly commissioned Stephen Ministers:

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Carol Manbeck</b> | <b>Carole Hoffmaster</b> |
| <b>Dani Sommers</b>  | <b>Joan Hofmann</b>      |
| <b>Kelly Walter</b>  | <b>Linda Dorman</b>      |
| <b>Susan Styer</b>   | <b>Wendy Warren</b>      |

Grace and peace,

Tracy Ericson & Alicia Showers  
Stephen Leaders

## Strawberry Festival/Hymn Sing

Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 7:30 pm  
(Here at Buffalo Valley)



Hymn sing and special music will be led and performed by Paul and Megan Maurer and family. **Bring a strawberry dessert to share!!!** Please sign up in the main entry. (Invite your friends and family.)

Thank you from Special Events.



Pam Kline



### Camp Eder Corner

Young People Headed for Fun and Growth at Camp Eder!

For those going to camp, get ready for an awesome time! If you are planning to go to camp and haven't yet received your camp physical forms or other confirmation papers, make sure you check with the camp. Remember this is a wonderful place to make some great Christian friends, maybe even establish some lifetime bonds!

If you have questions about possible camp openings, contact the Camp Eder office at 717-642-8256 or [www.campeder.org](http://www.campeder.org). Remember the church pays a large portion (\$225) of our campers' fees. If you are going for the first time and have questions that I might be able to answer, give me a call at 570-966-0182. Check the sheet in the main entry for who is going when or if you want to carpool. If you are going and aren't on that sheet, please sign up!!

Fay Richard, Camp Rep  
[frichard@dejazzd.com](mailto:frichard@dejazzd.com)



## Summer Day Camps

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>  
July 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

Preschoolers: 2 ½ to pre-K  
9:30 am – 12 pm

K5: those who have completed kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grades  
9:30 am — 4 pm

**REGISTER ONLINE – [kids.bvcob.com](http://kids.bvcob.com)**

**Friends** are ALWAYS welcome.

**Food:** Snack for preschoolers, lunch for K5

Special Notes for K5 camp: Weather permitting, we will go to the town pool at 1 pm (if not, we'll "STAY & PLAY" at the church).

Lunch will be served at noon. You may attend only the morning session or only the afternoon session or all day!

**2016 Theme:**

**K-5: Walk This Way**

**Preschool: Lil'K I can talk to God**



Nicole Hoover, for Children's Ministry Team



## FIVE MONTHS TO GO!

Believe it or not, it's only a mere 5 months until the shoe boxes need to be filled and delivered to the sorting center for **Operation Christmas Child**. Isn't it amazing how these 12 months seem to go by faster and faster each year? The exciting thing about time flying is that we have even more opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we minister to young children across the globe by providing a shoe box full of needs and wants.

Just like last year, you can keep an eye on the Christmas Tree at the Mission Ministry Team table. When you see an ornament turn gold, you'll know that item is completed!

Are you ready to shop but have forgotten what ornaments need to turn gold? You can use this handy table:

| Item                        | Amount Needed |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Baby Dolls/ Stuffed Animals | 99            |
| Bar Soap                    | 277           |
| Colored Pencils             | 101           |
| Coloring Books              | 333           |
| Construction Paper Pad      | 147           |
| Crayons                     | 189           |
| Glue Sticks                 | 117           |
| Hand Size Balls             | 50            |
| Jump Ropes                  | 15            |
| Matchbox Cars               | 163           |
| Pencils (2 per child)       | 701           |
| Pencil Sharpeners           | 347           |
| Pens                        | 245           |
| Plain Paper Pad             | 104           |
| Ruled Tablet/ Comp Book     | 171           |
| Washcloth                   | 423           |
| Toothpaste                  | 420           |

Do you need **some inspiration** to begin shopping? Maybe you aren't sure how your contributions are making a difference? Take a moment and check out the **Samaritan's Purse website**. They have videos and testimonies of children and their families that were blessed with a shoe box. Go to: **[www.operationchristmaschild.com](http://www.operationchristmaschild.com)**.

Thank you for your continued support of Operation Christmas Child!

Brenda Eberhart

## Here's What's Happening at MCT

- We are working at revising the calling process to improve the transition from an outgoing team leader to the newly called team leader by moving the calling process to the beginning of the year. This will allow a leader elect to work alongside the current leader for up to a year.
- We formed a Vision Team to help discern a new vision to focus and guide the Church into the future. Watch for more details on how you can be involved with this process.
- Park & Ride Campaign – This Campaign was proposed to help meet some needs in our parking lot here at Church identified by the Safety Team and to help with sharing His message and love in the South Sudan by purchasing a Landcruiser.
- Restructuring the current General Fund/ Building Fund
- Preparing for District Conference here at our Church in September

**FYI:** The MCT (Ministry Coordinating Team) meeting minutes are available in the library for anyone to review. Also, anyone can attend the MCT meetings normally held the second Monday of each month @ 7 pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call any of the team leaders on the MCT.

Brian Hurst



Thank You

Thank you **Fay Richard** for your work behind the scenes. She gathers the information for the graduate booklet each year. **Fay** spends a lot of effort in trying not to miss anyone. She is diligent in tracking people down to get their information.

Throughout the year **Fay** also submits all the person and family of the month articles. Here again it takes a lot of effort to get people's information. She has been doing this for quite a few years.

Jeff Bastian

*From Your Lead Pastor,*



### The Danger of Labels

This month I want to share with you an expanded thought on one of my daily devotional posts. If you've already read my internet post, it's ok by me if you skip this ☺. When I say the word "Doubting..." what is the first word that comes to your mind? For many of us the next word is "Thomas". We know that Thomas was one of Jesus' 12 disciples who originally expressed doubt that Jesus had actually risen from the dead and appeared to the other disciples. Thomas said that he needed to place his hand in the nail prints and in Jesus' side that had been pierced.

Jesus appears again to the disciples, this time with Thomas in the group, and Thomas declares his belief in Jesus as Lord. But over 2000 years later Thomas still has the label of doubter. What happened to Thomas after that day he saw Jesus? Church tradition tells us that he spent the next 40 years of his life travelling the world, preaching the gospel and planting churches in the Middle East and in Asia. Ultimately he died a martyr's death around 72 A.D. Thomas was an amazing servant of God who gave it all and yet...he is still "doubting Thomas".

This speaks to the power of labels and how difficult they are to shred. Sometimes first impressions or first actions form opinions that last much longer than they should. Are there people in your life that have failed you and have recovered from that but you still see them as a failure? I encourage you to look past that initial failure and see if the situation has changed in a way that the label no longer fits.

I'm quite confident that in heaven Thomas has shed the "doubting" label. Would you be willing to grant that same grace to someone in your life?

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



### 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.**

## Church Council Highlights

The Council meeting took place on May 1<sup>st</sup> after a pot luck meal. If you missed the meal you get no samples but if you missed the meeting here is an abbreviated version of the minutes. The full set of minutes can be found in the church library. We want everyone to be well informed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Jim Brubaker reported that of March 31, we owed about \$200,000 to Mifflinburg Bank for the mortgage; we have \$621,000 in member loans and have a \$24,000 loan to the building fund from the cemetery fund.

The average offerings up to March 31 were \$8,316.15. The amount needed per week to meet budget is \$8,541.87.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Park and Ride Campaign Proposal:**

Eli Mast presented the Park and Ride Campaign proposal. There was lively discussion around this opportunity and the final motion was voted on and approved. As Eli quoted "Give what you can and let God to the rest"

#### **Proposal to Initiate Team Leader Elect:**

We approved an initiative from the MCT that gives new team leaders opportunity to work with current team leader for a period of time to be better prepared before assuming leadership. This will be accomplished by moving the calling process from October to January. The incoming leader will serve the remainder of the year on the team with the current leader as the "Team Leader Elect".

#### **Proposal for Use of Money Market Funds:**

Jim Brubaker presented a proposal to use funds from a money market account to pay building dept. The interest gained on the account compared to interest accrued on the debt made it costly to keep the money on hand. The motion approved was; "*The money market funds would be loaned interest free to the building fund with an on demand pay back stipulation*".

### **STAFF REPORTS AND INITIATIVE UPDATES**

#### **Pastor Donita:**

The Children's Ministry Team will be welcoming a summer intern, Ruth will be with us for 10 weeks, leaving in mid-August. The Children's summer programming is in progress and many volunteers

are needed to make it a success. Thirty to sixty children attended the Friday Fun Nights.

The denominational needs our prayers as we are "in the throes of change". There is anxiety over a lack of funding, several key staff positions need to be filled and there are difficult issues to be dealt with at Annual Conference this year.

On May 14, Donita has an interview with the District Ministry Commission to be approved for ordination. If everything goes well, she will be ordained on July 17.

#### **Pastor Kauffman:**

Pastor K thanked the congregation for the fence around the parsonage. He then introduced us to "the man who loved porcupines". He talked about how many of us have pain in our lives, but we don't want to stop what we are doing to eliminate the pain. We are often unwilling to change and go through life dulled to the pain. Pastor K is working on forging relationships with the youth. He wants to create an atmosphere where youth feel welcome and come to feel comfortable with him so he can help them with their pain and needs and show them the answer is Jesus. Pastor K, along with the YMT, is taking steps to have the youth own their group and reach out to others.

Teen Week will be June 12 - 17. Jay Trainer will be the speaker and the theme for the week will be "Comfort the Challenged and Challenge the Comfortable".

#### **Pastor Eric:**

Pastor Eric shared that he is still excitedly uncertain about what is in store for BVCOB. He gave the illustration of our life as a rubber band. For it to be effective it has to be stretched. We tend to move toward comfort and routine, but we need to continually be stretched. Pastor Eric will be attending a church planting conference. He encouraged us to be willing to be stretched by God.

#### **District Conference:**

Eli Mast shared that Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren will be hosting District Conference this year on September 16 & 17. He is anticipating that there will be about around 200 people here from 43 different congregations.

Help will be needed including the moving of chairs and tables. If you are interested in helping with this, see Eli Mast for set up, Jake Myer for food service or Naomi Brubaker for hosting.

Dale Lehman



## CORRECTED VISION

Vision is truly an amazing thing. God has created the eyes and the brain and all the connections in between to enable us to see the world around us. We often think of vision in a personal way but we also need to think about vision in a corporate way. God wants us to “see” how He is working in our lives and in the area in which we live. Is the church family at Buffalo Valley **seeing all that we should see?**

For three weeks in May and early June we are going to take a three week look at vision and what that means for Buffalo Valley. We will look at why vision is so important for a church family and then we will look at the life of Nehemiah and apply the lessons from his life to our own lives. This will coincide with a Summer Sunday school quarter emphasis on vision.

Then in mid-June we will begin a summer series on the book of Colossians. This book in the New Testament has much that we can learn from. As always let me say how privileged I am to have the opportunity to share God’s word with you on a weekly basis. It is one of the highlights of my week!

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](http://www.bvcob.com).



## Musical Day Camp 2016

*For kids who have completed Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade*

**Monday, August 8**

through

**Friday, August 12**

from 9 am to 1 pm daily

*Performances Held*

**SATURDAY, August 13**

7:00 PM

**SUNDAY, August 14**

9:30 AM

Nicole Hoover, for Children’s Ministry Team





## What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

Jane Mast shares a wonderful **Feta Stuffed Chicken** recipe on page 74 of **Come to the Table** cookbook.

- 4 - skinless, boneless chicken breasts, pounded thin
- 1 pkg. - feta cheese, your choice of flavor
- 1 C. - bread crumbs
- 1 T. - Italian seasoning
- ¼ C. - grated Parmesan cheese

Lay chicken flat; top with cheese. Roll and hold together with toothpick. Dab chicken with water or egg whites. Mix together bread crumbs, Italian seasoning and Parmesan cheese; roll chicken in crumb mixture. Bake at 350° F at least 50 - 60 minutes or until done.

This is an easy, tasty recipe. I purchased "skinny" chicken breasts when they were on sale, and then sought a recipe that I could use them in. "Skinny" chicken breasts are skinless, boneless and very thin slices of chicken breasts. They are great for a recipe that requires chicken to be pounded thin.

The recipe didn't say how much feta to use, but I used a pretty liberal amount. I dabbed my chicken with water instead of egg whites, and used the jarred Parmesan cheese, as opposed to grating my own. It worked well in this recipe.

Picnic season is upon us. I haven't tried Lori Hunsberger's **Tiny Shortbread Tarts** recipe yet, but I am planning to prepare it for an upcoming picnic. It's found on page 124 of **Come to the Table** cookbook and sounds quite yummy.

If you would like to have this recipe, along with hundreds more, please stop at the Welcome Center and purchase a **Come to the Table** cookbook. The cost is just \$10 and the proceeds go toward reducing the building debt.



The Mystery Chef



## Westernport Summer Mission

The 2016 team is preparing for a week-long trip from **July 23 - 29** in Westernport, MD. Your prayer is appreciated for each one as they serve the children in this needy area. Serving will be Janice Shively, Pastor Eric, Jeff Bastian, Denise Mullany, Zach Showers, Brianna Reamer, Carole Hoffmaster, Carol Pursel, Athena Berkheiser, Kaye Hoover, Lynda Jarrett, Linda Miller, Dani Sommers, Susan Styer, Clarissa Styer, Dan Styer, Thomas Styer, Cindy Kelly, Brenda Eberhart and myself.

Please pray that we will be true servants of our Lord, Jesus Christ as we minister during this trip.

Serving Him  
Vicki Bastian



### SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF PIZZA PARTY!

Join us for a kickoff to the new Sunday school year on **Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>** **directly after 2<sup>nd</sup> service**. Children and parents will have the opportunity to chat with the Sunday school teachers, check out their classrooms, and join in other fun activities. Pizza will be provided!

Children will report to their "new" classroom if "moving up" on Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Nicole Hoover

## **The Lamplighter**

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

Return Service Requested

### ***The Lamplighter***

Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren  
46 Brethren Church Road  
Mifflinburg PA 17844  
www.bvcob.com

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

## **LOOKING AHEAD IN 2016!**

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 16 – Trap Shoot  
October 29 & 30 – All Church Retreat

November 3 – Sight & Sound  
November 6 – Fall Church Council Meeting  
November 24 – Kettle Cook  
December 11 – All Church Christmas Party