

# The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley  
Church of the Brethren

March 2017  
Volume 33 No. 2



## How Intentional Are You!

We are hosting our **Spiritual Life Services** on Sunday and Monday, **March 26 - 27**. Our guest speaker will be Boyd Carney, the supervising chaplain at Lewisburg Penitentiary. Boyd will be with us Sunday morning and Sunday and Monday evenings.

I was recently asked, "What is your personal discipleship plan?" How am I growing spiritually? Unfortunately it boils down to intentionality. Am I spending time in the Bible? Is prayer a priority in my life?

Pointed questions! I admit I am oftentimes failing with several of these important realities of living for Christ. I've also been told that if you're not growing, you're dying. So come and let's grow together!

The Spiritual Life Ministry Team along with the Worship & Music Ministry Team are gearing up for this year's Spiritual Life Services that will take place on Sunday morning and evening March 26<sup>th</sup> & Monday night the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Our guest speaker this year is not unfamiliar to those who work in the local penal system. Boyd Carney is the supervisory chaplain at the United States Penitentiary at Lewisburg and is excited to be sharing how God gives all of us many things. Whether or not we acknowledge his moving in our lives, Chaplain Carney will be encouraging us to accept God's Mission and to be "intentional" in our daily activities.

His sermon topics will focus on:

- 1 - "Removing the Impediments"  
Hebrews 12:16-17, with context from  
Genesis 25:27-34 and 27: 1-34
- 2 - "Seeing the Need" John 4:3-42
- 3 - "Whatever it Takes" Mark 2:1-2

Be encouraged – be challenged – be what God is calling you to!!!

Respectfully submitted: Kurt Ilgen



## Do You Believe in Miracles?

If you are a sports fan and over the age of 50 this sentence may take you back to one of the greatest Olympic moments in the history of the United States. In the 1980 Winter Olympics the U.S. hockey team was leading the highly favored Russian team in the final seconds when the broadcaster, Al Michaels, said, "Do You believe in Miracles....Yes"...as the final buzzer sounded. As I write this I can still hear his voice. Google it if you don't know what I'm talking about.

But the importance of this question goes way beyond ice hockey. In the gospel of John, we have seven recorded miracles of Jesus. John organizes his gospel around these miracles or "signs" and then writes this in John 20:30 - 31: **30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**

Let me ask the question again...Do you believe in miracles? If you don't then I don't see how you can believe in the Jesus who performed them! And what is it about each of these miracles that is important for our belief in Jesus?

In March and April we are going to look at these miracles in our sermon time and ask ourselves how each of these miracles impact us. If you don't believe in the miracles of Jesus, I pray that this sermon series will be a starting point for a belief that will change your life for now and for eternity.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



Going once! Going twice! Sold!

Bring your friends and join us **Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** for the **Annual Church Auction**. **Silent bidding and food** will be available **beginning at 3 pm** and we will commence with the **live bidding at 4 pm**. Thanks for supporting this great event. Last year we raised almost \$14,000 in funds to reduce our building debt.

Steve Richard



## Dominican Mission Trip 2017

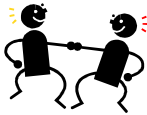
This year's mission trip to the Dominican Republic took place from February 4 - 13. The group consisted of Pastor Eric Reamer, Jeff Bastian, Gaylord Hoover, Greg Spinello, Melanie Yoder, Jo Hurst, Braden Hurst, Noah Stetler, Anthony Phelps, Ashley Wetzel, and Clarissa Styer. Jason, Nicole, Ethan and Miriam Hoover, and our translator/friend Angelica Mendieta also traveled with us.

The first part of our trip was spent in the village of San Jose, where we scraped and painted the interior and exterior of the church, poured new sidewalks and front entryway, and saw bathrooms built. Here we were able to visit and pray with people within the village and spend several nights worshipping with the congregation.

The second part of our trip was spent in the village of La Batata. Here we had three days to lay concrete and build the walls of what would be their new church building. The building was still in need of windows, doors and a roof when we left, but we were able to worship with them in their new space before we moved on.

We certainly experienced challenges along the way including very primitive living conditions, rain, and illness. However, we also experienced community, love, joy, and an amazing eagerness to worship! I think most of us would agree that our experience was more of a blessing to us than we could have possibly been to them. Thank you for all of your support and prayers!

Jo Hurst



## Outside Our Walls

### Chocolate Rolls are Back!



**Orders are due by April 2<sup>nd</sup>** and pick up is Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. This fundraiser helps support the many missions that are supported by the Mission Ministry Team. Watch your mailboxes for order forms coming soon!

### Mission Trip Opportunity!



If you think that a mission trip is in your future, please see Vicki Bastian or check the Mission Table for an application to serve this summer from **July 22 - 28** at **Westernport Church of the Brethren**. Completed applications can be placed in Vicki Bastian's church mailbox. Don't Wait! **Applications are due by Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

### Westernport Spring Fling



Please join us on **Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** 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 fill 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 foyer.

Brenda Eberhart for the Mission Ministry Team



Please continue to pray for the current Stephen Ministers and the Stephen Minister trainees.

Your prayers do much in the Kingdom of God in ministering to those of our faith community as well as provision of strength and wisdom for the Stephen Ministers providing this ministry.

The current Stephen Ministers:

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

The Stephen Minister trainees:

**Brian Sommers  
Craig Pursel  
Craig Spaid  
Steve Buttorff**



Please pray also as we identify those who will be receiving care at the completion of the training. If you have a need or know of someone who would benefit from Stephen Ministry, please contact us.

Alicia Showers & Tracy Ericson,  
Stephen Leaders



### CHURCH CALENDAR

Because of the volume of articles in the March Lamplighter a calendar could not be included. The calendar is printed on a separate page in your mailbox.

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**.

*From Your Lead Pastor,*



### The Importance of Community

As I write this I am sitting in the airport flying home from the Dominican Republic. One of the really impressive things about the church in the Dominican is the intensity of community that the church members have. In both places we served in, La Battata and San Jose (no, not that San Jose), we were impressed by the close knit community of the people. They all knew each other very well and had a closeness that was almost “felt”.

How do they get such intimate community? Is it the water? Is it the Latin air? No, the real answer is “time”. In both communities we visited, the lives of the people revolve around the church. Both places held church services at least five nights each week. They lived mostly in the same village. They knew each other in a way that hearkens back to the days of the early church in the book of Acts. The people in the villages really needed each other.

This is an aspect of church life that we are not going to completely duplicate in the United States. But I encourage you to be a part of a community that meets more than just once each week. I doubt any of us want to meet six nights per week. But I want you to understand that you are missing out on biblical community if you are not regularly meeting with one or more groups of believers in Jesus. As strongly as I can, I want to encourage you to engage in real community like we see in the Dominican and in the Bible. You won’t regret it. If I can help you get connected to the community here at Buffalo Valley, please contact me.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

Revelation 21:3

## PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for, Intimate with, Transformed by Christ

Have you made your way down the steps and into the PIT lately? Depending on how long ago that last trip was may mean a new experience for you. The Youth & Young Adult (YaYA) Ministry Team along with the Building & Grounds Ministry Team have been working hard to make the PIT a place that the Youth, Young Adults and others can use and enjoy. We are currently looking to add to our collection of gaming systems. Please contact Pastor K, Kristy Heintzelman or any member of the YaYA Ministry Team if you have a system you would like to donate to the Y & YA's we would be more than happy to take it off your hands. Come check out all that has been changed and while you are down there purchase a soda/drink to support Nelissa, our Child we support through Compassion Int.

**Youth**, do you have your calendars marked? We have some great events coming up and we don't want you to miss out on any of them!

**Winter Jam** is **March 24!** We will leave the church promptly at 4:30 pm. We need to know who is going so we know how many vans are needed. Cost to attend is \$10 at the door and any money needed to purchase your supper or merchandise wanted. Please sign up in the PIT or on the Youth table in the Main Gathering.

**Teen Week** is being planned for the week of **June 11<sup>th</sup>** with the return of the Drama Team. Plan to invite your friends to join us in a week full of fun, food, fellowship and of course learning more about God.

**Creation** is **June 27 - July 2**. If you haven't signed up yet let us know you're going.

We are heading out with the church for the **Westernport Mission Trip July 22 – 28** (with our own little twist). Are you looking to bless some kids who need some additional love and friendships? Our group will be helping with their day camp and then go a little further and fellowship with the youth that come afterwards. All who are interested will need to fill out an application form from the Mission Ministry Team and pay the initial fee. See Pastor K for additional info.

And last but not least is our **Summer Retreat**, being planned for the weekend of August 11 - 13 (or the end of July if the retreat cabin isn't available that weekend). We hope that you will also plan to join us for all the **Sunday night activities** that happen each week at the church. See you soon!

Kristy Heintzelman



## Buffalo Gals

Women's Ministry will continue to collect **pill bottle donations**. We ask that you remove labels from prescription or over the counter bottles, clean bottles and lids, let them completely dry and then return lid to top of bottle. Put them in a clean bag and deposit them in our bin at the Women's Ministry table. We will be accepting ongoing donations throughout the year. *Any questions, see Lynda Jarrett.*

Our **Basket Ministry** is in need of the following donations: size 1 & 2 disposable diapers, canvas totes/ reusable shopping bags, baskets, gently used books, CD's of uplifting music, lip/hand/body care, mints or gum, adult coloring books & colored pencils, notebook or journal, pens and small portioned snacks. We have also started including \$10 gift cards - to provide the means for a quick dinner for the receiver. If you would like to help sponsor the gift cards or any other part of the basket ministry, you can always earmark funds in the offering for "basket ministry" (we will then purchase the \$10 cards through the monthly Scrip orders). *Any questions, see Heather Reid.*

**Duffle bags** are needed for foster care children. We will be accepting new or gently used tote bags or back packs **during the month of March**. In addition, socks (sizes newborn thru adult x-large) and underwear (sizes toddler thru adult 2x) are needed. These may be dropped off at our ministry table in the tote provided.

Reminder... our next **LIFT brunch** will be held **March 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 - 11 am**. Be sure to sign up at the Women's Ministry bulletin board and plan to join us for a time of fellowship. *If you have questions, see Dani Sommers.*

Mark your calendars for **September 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>**. Our **Women's Annual Fall Beach Retreat** will be held in **Bethany Beach, DE**. Sign-ups will begin in May. Cost will be approximately \$175 per person. *Should you have additional questions, see Carol Pursel.*

As we approach spring, may we be reminded of God's mercy and grace. **Nehemiah 9:31** *But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.*

Tricia Dreese





## Speak Up and Be Heard

**Young Adults**, have you been to one of our Wing Nights, Movie nights or other fun events? Are you looking for something more? Something different? We want to hear from you! We are working on scheduling events that you want to attend and invite your peers to. If you have something you want to do please talk to or text Pastor K, Kristy Heintzelman or any member of the Youth & Young Adult (YaYA) Ministry Team.

Kristy Heintzelman

## Sharing with Your Church Family

In January Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren was host for the annual Red Cross Blood drive. Although they fell short of their goal 55 pints were donated. Thank you to all who came out to support this Life saving event and if you didn't donate this year keep it in mind for January 2018!!!

Thank you to Jodi Kurtz and Heather Reid for heading up Family Theme Night, "Winter Wonderland"!!!

Our annual Couples Banquet was a wonderful fun filled evening. 70 people attended the event. We enjoyed a delicious dinner, heard marital testimonies by Steve and Fay Richard and Dale and Holly Lehman and played some games that got pretty wild, at least at our table.....Meg!!! A huge "Thank you" to Linda Miller for organizing the event and for all her helpers.

## Upcoming All Church Special Events

Mark Your Calendars For:

### Strawberry Festival/ Hymn Sing

Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 7:30 pm



### All Church Picnic/Baptism

Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 3:30 pm



Blessings, Pam Kline

## Would You Like to Know Your Spiritual Gifts & How to Use Them?



Every follower of Jesus has been given spiritual gifts. These gifts are given to us by God to enable us to serve Him and others inside the church and in our world. These gifts are combined with our personal style and passions to help us to serve in ways that are helpful and in ways that energize us and bring us joy.

Here at Buffalo Valley we use a material called "**Network**" to walk you through finding your spiritual gifts and putting them to use. We are having a two session workshop to go through the material. The **first session** will be **Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>** from **1 - 4 p.m.** The **second session** will be **Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** from **1 - 4 p.m.** So, in six hours you will be equipped to know your gifts and explore possibilities of how to use them. You will also be offered the opportunity to meet one on one with someone at a later time to go over your results and questions on an individual basis.

If you'd like more information about Network and/or would like to sign up for the classes, please contact the church office.

Pastor Eric



## A Reason To Celebrate

- **Jesus**-

What a *wonderful* name...

What a perfect *Saviour*...

What a reason to *celebrate*!



## How Is Your Stewardship?

In Jesus's time the Steward was the manager of the household. The Steward was not the owner of the assets, but a responsible advisor of the owner's property. We are all stewards of some possessions and influence. We either take care of the earth or we pollute the earth. The question is: what kind of steward are we? A starting place is the recognition that God has invited us to be responsible for our lives and resources. We are not likely to manage well unless we acknowledge that we are managers. We are not likely to exercise good stewardship unless we recognize that we are stewards.

God expects us to be good stewards of the church. It has been noticed that after some events or group or family use, that the kitchens, especially, are being left cluttered for the next group using it. It is being assumed that someone else will wash up the dirty cups, dishes, or towels. It is the responsibility of those using the facility to be good stewards and leave it in good order for the next group using it. Let's all be good stewards of the building by leaving it neat and tidy.

Thank you,

Bill Baker, Building and Grounds



## Where We Have Come From

I would like to thank Eli Mast for donating a number of items to the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) Historical Cabinet. Those items include architectural drawings, photographs, and other material relative to the 1993 building project at the church. Other items donated by Eli include photographs from the 2000 District Conference held at Buffalo Valley and a brochure from the 2012 dedication of the newly expanded facility at BVCOB.

The historical cabinet, located in the Narthex, was handcrafted by Richard Zechman and items housed in the cabinet were collected by his wife, Hilda Zechman. My thanks to all who have contributed historical items.

Tony Shively

## Your Invitation

You are invited to "**Secret Church 2017**" here at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren. What could be better than a six hour bible study? Ok, some things are better but Secret Church is really good. We are going to simulcast David Platt (author of the books "Radical" and "Counter Culture") as he teaches from **6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> until 12:30 a.m. the next morning.**

The topic of the simulcast is "**Scripture and Authority in an Age of Skepticism**". David will cover topics like, "How did we get the Bible we have today? Who decided what would and wouldn't be included in it? How do we know it is true? Are there any errors in the Bible? Is the Bible necessary and authoritative in my life?"

If you'd like more information please contact Pastor Eric. You can also obtain more information by going to the website, [www.radical.net/secret-church](http://www.radical.net/secret-church).

Pastor Eric



## Free As a Bird

**March 24<sup>th</sup>**, join us at **Winter Jam**. We will have a sign-up sheet so we can possibly carpool and also see how many can go earlier. If we want to sit together we need to coordinate it and know who will be joining us. The cost is \$10.00 at the door.

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, **Bowling at Best Bowl** and fellowship at Pizza Hut. Time to be determined.

**May 21<sup>st</sup>**, **Rails to Trails** walk or ride. 1 pm, Purple Cow to follow.

**June 24<sup>th</sup>**, **Evening at the Buttorffs Campsite** at Airport Campground starting at 4 pm, Variety of Wings, bonfire and outdoor games. Possible Cornhole tournament??? Bring a covered dish.

**August 6<sup>th</sup>** for an **ice cream social** at the Kline cabin, Time TBD.

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**, **Half Way Dam picnic** starting at 12:30 pm, bring a side dish and dessert to share.

**October 8<sup>th</sup>**, **Tunnel Walk** at 1 pm then bonfire, games and food at Buttorff House. Mountain pies and hot dogs provided, bring a side dish to share.

**November 16<sup>th</sup>**, **American Music Theater and Shady Maple**, Time to be determined.

\*Events subject to change with weather. Any questions call Linda at (570) 713-5505.

Linda Buttorff



## Budget Revisions Needed

Due to unforeseen changes in health insurance coverages and pastoral contracts we have about \$13,000 in legally obligated expenses that were not known at the time the congregation passed the 2017 budget at the November Church Council meeting. These costs are necessary to be fully compliant with IRS regulations and our salary commitments to our staff. At the same time, due to other changing circumstances beyond our control, there are several budgeted expenditures that no longer are expected to occur in 2017. The bottom line is that we fully expect the \$13,000 can be absorbed into our budget by moving some money between line items and not increasing the overall budget amount.

Because the total budget amount will not change and no individual budget lines will be exceeded prior to May 7th, the congregation will be asked to approve a revised budget (without an increase) at the scheduled Church council meeting on May 7th. If you are interested in all the details prior to May, please see Steve Richard.

Steve Richard



## Creation 2017

Summer is coming fast! For youth this brings the promise of **Creation Festival**. Are you thinking about going? Have you been planning on going since last year? Have you never gone before and want to finally take the plunge? We would love to have you with us but we need to know ASAP. We are in the process of purchasing the tickets for the event and planning for a great week. The festival dates are **June 27 - July 2** and we ask that you contribute \$75 towards the cost which includes the ticket price and food for the week.

This year will be a little different than in the past years, since Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren will be on a site all our own. We are looking forward to this year and can't wait to hear that you are coming along. Adults or Young Adults interested in coming along, please talk to Pastor K or Kristy Heintzelman for more details.

Kristy Heintzelman

## Easter Egg Fair



Saturday,  
April 15<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am to 12 pm

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

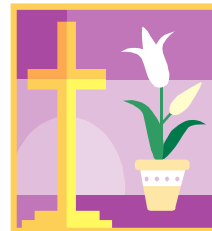
**Come and go!**

**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](mailto:pastordonita@bvcob.com)

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

Watch your mailbox for upcoming details!

Teresa Chambers, Children's Ministry Team





## What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

On page 99 of ***Come to the Table* cookbook** you will find Carol Manbeck's **Cabbage, Noodles & Kielbasa** recipe.

1 med - onion  
 ½ head - cabbage  
 cooking oil  
 8 oz. - egg noodles  
 1 lb. - Kielbasa

Slice cabbage and onion into ½-inch pieces. Set aside. Cover frying pan bottom with cooking oil. Heat to medium. Sauté onions until they turn a little translucent. Put cabbage in pan with onion and cook at low-medium heat until cabbage is soft. Boil noodles according to package directions in a separate pot. When done, drain and coat noodles with a little butter or put 1 tablespoon olive oil in water while boiling. Cut Kielbasa into 2 ½-inch sections and heat in a separate pan with 2 tablespoons water or cook with cabbage. Add drained noodles to cabbage. Turn up heat and stir continuously until browned. Two frying pans might be necessary when the noodles are added to the cabbage.

This is a great recipe. It's not complicated, and oh so tasty. And March is a great time to give it a try. Cabbage prices are reduced for St. Patrick's Day's famous dish, Corned Beef and Cabbage.

In the back of the ***Come to the Table* cookbook**, pages 171 - 177, is a section called **This & That**. It is a collection of recipes that include apple butter's, dry rubs, marinades, jerky's, granola's, canned produce, salad dressings and other "this and that" items.

If you haven't picked up a copy of ***Come to the Table* cookbook**, you can do so at the Welcome Center. The cost is just \$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 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>  
 July 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>

## Musical Day Camp

CAMP: July 31, August 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Performances: August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

Teresa Chambers, for Children's Ministry Team

## LOOKING AHEAD IN 2017!

April 13 – LOVE FEAST  
 April 15 – Easter Egg Fair  
 April 16 – EASTER



June 10 – Strawberry Festival  
 June 28 – July 2 – Annual Conference  
 June 28 – July 2 – Creation

July 16 – All Church Picnic/Baptism  
 July 22 – 28 – Westernport Mission Trip

July 31 – August 4 – Musical Day Camp  
 August 5 & 6 – Children's Musical

September 10 -14 – Women's Beach Retreat

October 1 – LOVE FEAST  
 October 8 - Guess Who's Coming to Dinner  
 October 27 – 28 – Kid's Retreat

November 5 – Church Council Meeting

## **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

## **January Offerings Summary**

General Fund	\$47,379.82
Needed YTD	\$50,934.45
Behind Budget	- 3,554.63

### **Other Deposits**

Children's SS	35.30
CMT	30.00
Scrip Cards	3840.00
Weis Cards	4645.00
Wenger Cards	2300.00
Dominican Missionary	1920.00
Dominican Mission	1065.00
Thailand Missionary	335.00
Westernport Missions	649.50
Youth	35.00
Roy Englehart Memorial	50.00
Family Connections	532.00
Ambit energy	61.50
Metal Recycling (OCC mailing)	69.31
Baby Bottle Campaign	20.00
Copier Donation	4.00
Couple's Banquet	26.00
Mission Donation	25.00