

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

May 2017
Volume 33 No. 4

POTLUCK & COUNCIL COMING

The **Spring Church Council Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, **May 7th** from **1 to 3 p.m.**

Don't be fooled into thinking all Church Council meetings are the same. This year not only is there a very active agenda, but Traci Rabenstein will be opening the meeting.

Traci is the Congregational Support Representative for the Church of the Brethren Donor Relations. Traci's presentation will explain the purpose of this role and the way ministries across the denomination can be enhanced. The agenda items include the standard business and pastor reports along with the following items in which you will want to be a part.

Many of you worked on the Vision process during last summer's Sunday school venue and in other ways. Out of that work, Brian Keister, one of our vision process facilitators, will present a Ministries Coordinating Team (MCT) recommendation for a shift in our **strategic focus**.

Every three years the **Congregation Polity** is up for review and this year Steve Richard, the MCT chair, will present those proposals.

Then, there are a set of four different affirmations and approvals to be presented by Jim Brubaker, the Finance Ministry Team leader. These all are **adjustments to our congregational finances** both past and future. These corrections and adjustments need to be transparent and are explained in other articles.

Please take time to review the different documents currently available. If you have any questions, get the answers before the meeting by contacting the presenters or other team leaders. Your presence and participation in this time of fellowship and decision-making will enhance the ministry of the church.

Dale Lehman, Moderator



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 14th, 21st, 28th
July 5th, 12th, 19th

Musical Day Camp

CAMP: July 31, August 1st – 4th
Performances: August 5th and 6th

Teresa Chambers, for Children's Ministry Team



Community Aid Bin

If you are starting your spring cleaning and that involves clearing out your closets, please consider depositing your old clothes in the Community Aid Bin in the church parking lot. Please make sure any donations are in **bags**, **no boxes please!!** Proceeds from the bin are used to help pay the shipping for our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoeboxes.

Jo Hurst for the Mission Ministry Team



“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.

The Children’s Sunday school is using **FILL JANE’S VAN** for their Spring Quarter Mission Project and are already bringing in their donations. Thanks, KIDS!

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. Cleaning supplies are also needed at each center. (The estimated value of items collected last year was \$2000.) For additional information, please see the flyer in your mailbox in May.

May 14th and 21st 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



STEPHEN MINISTER COMMISSIONING SERVICE

We invite you to join us on **Sunday, May 21st** for our Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren Stephen Minister Commissioning Service. This will take place during each worship service that Sunday.

The following men will be commissioned:

Brian Sommers
Craig Pursel
Craig Spaid
Steve T. Buttorff

During the next month, we will be identifying men who need 1:1 care on a regular basis. We will also be seeking out a few women who need care to match with some of our female Stephen Ministers who are bringing their existing caring relationships to a close.

If you need care or know of someone who does, please contact us as soon as possible.

We continue to ask for your prayers for every aspect of our Stephen Ministry program, including wisdom in matching Care Receivers with Stephen Ministers, strength and wisdom for the Stephen Ministers as they work with the Care Receivers, and the continued work of enlarging our Stephen Leader team and adding Stephen Ministers through another training, hopefully in the fall.

We hope you are able to celebrate with us on **May 21st**. Refreshments will be provided during the fellowship time at 9 am.

Grace and peace,
Tracy Ericson & Alicia Showers
Stephen Leaders

From Your Lead Pastor,



Cream Puffs and Chemical Weapons

This article appeared in early April in the blog I write each day. I wanted to reproduce it here for those who didn't see it.

If you follow me on Facebook you know I'm doing a silly thing that I've called "The once a day cream puff challenge" where I'm eating one cream puff from Gable House bakery each day for the month of April. I know it's not really a "challenge" at all, but I am doing it to be funny...and I really do like the cream puffs from the bakery. But in light of the recent horrific chemical weapons attack in Syria, I considered stopping writing about it because it seems so tone deaf to write about eating a cream puff when people are dying. How can any of us laugh about cream puffs, or anything else for that matter, when adults and children are being poisoned from the air? Does anyone else feel that way? Yet the truth is that a chemical attack in Syria happened just a few years ago and it was horrible and then all of us reading this "moved on". And the truth is that whatever the death toll in Syria was last week, that many children and more died due to rogue militants, natural disasters, fire or disease each and every day around the world, sometimes in single locations. The Boko Haram in Nigeria have killed more and they, and groups like them, continue to terrorize large numbers of people. Can we ever really feel free to eat a cream puff, or celebrate a birthday, go to the gym or buy a new car, when we could redirect all of those resources, if we wanted, to helping those in Syria, Africa, or Harlem? How do we "compartmentalize" our lives in such a way as to "move on" and yet still care...still do something...or should we "move on"?

I'll simply offer what I do in my life and suggest it as an option for you. I'm not saying that what I do is "right" for you; nor that my way of coping is the "best way". I'll state right up front that I have tremendous respect and admiration for those workers who are on the front lines in Syria and other places around the world but we all know that not all of us can be a relief worker. So what else can we do? First, pray. Pray for the victims and families of whatever horrible action has been taken against them. Pray for those who are the perpetrators of the actions. Pray for our government leaders and leaders closer to the tragedies to be guided by God in how to respond. Pray that the gospel of Jesus Christ can somehow be presented to those people so they can be

transformed. Second, give. Find organizations that you believe in, that are doing work in places where you cannot go and support them financially. Yes, you have enough money to do that in some measure. Third, get involved. Find a way that you personally can engage with organizations or even individual people who are suffering. Volunteer some time. Again, you probably can't go to Syria but perhaps you could be involved in resettling refugees. I've asked our church mission team to investigate how Buffalo Valley could get involved in resettling a refugee family...or two...or three in our area. Get involved in the life of someone in your town who is struggling with addiction or loss or anything that you can help with. You don't have to have all the answers; just a listening ear and a commitment to prayer...and then see the answers God reveals.

I've come to the conclusion that it's Ok today to eat a cream puff, and celebrate a birthday, and watch TV and buy stuff. I don't have to be paralyzed by the terror around the world but I do have to care and act. I think you do as well...and I salute those of you on the front lines of helping other people...it's not easy...it's emotionally, financially and often physically draining...but keep going. And if you let me know, I'll buy you a few cream puffs as a small, very small token of my appreciation for all you do.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Youth on a Mission

The Youth are looking for ways to earn money to help offset the cost of their mission trip to Westernport. Some possible ways: do some household chores and spring cleaning. If you have some items that you need help with please contact Pastor K with your need. They are also looking to host a Turkey Supper for the community. Keep your eyes out for more info on that meal in the future. You can also choose to support these youth with a financial donation to the Westernport trip. Just earmark your donation for "Westernport Mission".

Kristy Heintzelman

PIT – Youth Ministry

Passionate for, Intimate with, Transformed by Christ

Are you looking to upgrade?

The Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team (YaYA MT) are in search of 1 (or 2) 45" + flat screen TV(s) for the PIT. The TV(s) would be used in multiple ways. We currently only have 1 way to show any kind of video media in this area of the Church but we have 3 classrooms. If you, or someone you know, has a Flat Screen TV that they are looking to re-home, if you need an excuse to go buy that "bigger/better one", or if you feel God calling you to make a purchase for the Youth and Young Adults please let Pastor K or Kristy Heintzelman know of your great donation.

An opportunity is coming...

Adults, have you ever wanted to sponsor a child from another country but wanted to get to know them better than what the distance would allow? Or how about getting to see the young adult they grow up to be? Have you wanted to make a difference in a young person's life by praying for and encouraging that person? What about a youth that you get to see on a normal basis?

Youth, have you ever wanted an adult (other than your parents) who prayed for you on a regular basis, remembered you on your birthday, sent you little cards to encourage you through some hectic times in your life?

The YaYA MT is looking to see if there are both **adults** and **youth** who would be interested in taking part in a new Community and Discipleship building opportunity. Studies have shown that when there have been **adults** who have given some of their time and energy to give life to a young person, both the adult and youth grow into stronger and better adults. We live in a world where more and more families are split, torn apart, or single parent families and it plays a part in how our youth become adults, but it's not just those youth who need adults who want to breathe life into them. **Adults**, we hope that you will want to support our youth and **youth** we hope that you will see the opportunity for growth and support from an adult. Look for more information coming soon if you are interested in participating.



Kristy Heintzelman

Buffalo Gals



Many thanks to Naomi Brubaker for leading our canning class recently. We appreciate you sharing your talents and gifts!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

May 20th (NOTE DATE CHANGE) from 5 - 8 pm at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren join us for an **evening together**, as we **celebrate the fact that we are Sisters in Christ**. Please invite that special woman in your life to join you - may it be your mother, sister, daughter, cousin, aunt, grandmother or close friend. Meal consisting of chicken tenderloin, salad, potato and veggie will be provided. Cost for adults is \$10 per person, children ages 5 - 12 are \$5 each and children under 5 are free. Entertainment provided as well by Men's Ministry. Sign up at the women's ministry bulletin board. *New Deadline is May 14th.*

Our **Annual Garden Tea Party** will be held **June 24th** from 10 am - noon at **Meg and Keith Phelps garden** on Green Street in Mifflinburg. Plan to bring a dish to share! Sign-up sheet will be posted in May.

Our Basket Ministry is in need of the following donations: size 2 disposable diapers, puzzle books, and \$10 gift cards. 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.

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 women's ministry table. We will be accepting ongoing donations throughout the year. *Any questions, see Lynda Jarrett.*

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:30 - 31

Take time each day to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice, as we celebrate our risen Lord and Savior.
~ Tricia Dreese

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! More brochures are on the table in the Main Entry.

Camp Eder's Mission Statement:

"Camp Eder, Christian Camp and Retreat Center, supported by the Southern Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren, seeks to offer a place where persons can learn to know Jesus Christ through Bible based ministry in an outdoor environment."

Fay Richard, Camp Rep
frichard@dejazzd.com



Outside Our Walls

Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

Although the weather is finally turning warmer, shoebox season will be here before you know it. Please take a look at our Christmas tree in the main entry. If an item is still displayed on the tree then we are still in need of that item. Let's see what we can do to start removing some of those ornaments!

Jo Hurst for the Mission Ministry Team



Surprise Blessings

Have you ever been expecting to do something and as you're going through the motions been surprised and amazed at what God does instead? God's surprise blessings come at the times you didn't even think to ask for one.

This is what happened when Eric and I went to look for the carpet to cover the new PIT Stage. I had visited some local carpet places by myself and didn't "find" what I was looking for but on this Saturday I found more than I ever expected. We traveled to the Carpetman in Milton hoping to find a remnant that would be the right size and price for the stage and instead of only finding the carpet we were given said carpet! Yes, that's right! Jon and John **gave** it to us **Free of Charge**. When they found out that it was for a Church they asked if we had the means to transport it and told us to load it up.

This was such a blessing and I wanted to share it with you all. I'm a huge supporter of sharing how God blesses especially when He does it through others and in turn I try to return the favor. So, if you are ever in the need of carpet I highly recommend the Carpetman located at 670 South Front Street in Milton or if you just want to stop in to say thank you that would be great too!

Kristy Heintzelman

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2017!

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



Supporting Our Ministries

Thank you to everyone for your cooperation and support of the recent changes in the approved budget. Your continued support of the ministries of our church reaches many people in many and varied places around the world.

If you follow our patterns of giving, you will likely have noticed that we are running behind budget in our giving. Our budget is higher this year because of the inclusion of payments for debt retirement. At this time the bank has been paid off so the remaining debt is in the form of member loans. As a Finance Ministry Team, we would like to call attention to this shortfall in giving and remind you if it might be possible to increase your giving at this time.

Your support in the past has been very good and has allowed our church to be the "hands and feet of Jesus" in our world. Please pray and ask God what He might want you to do about this area of building His kingdom. Thanks for your support.

Jim Brubaker for the Finance Ministry Team



Free As a Bird

May 21st, Rails to Trails walk or ride. 1 pm, Purple Cow to follow.

June 24th, 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.

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

October 8th, 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 16th, 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



What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

If you are looking for a side dish recipe that is quick, easy and uses just a few ingredients, you should definitely try Denise Mullany's **Sautéed Green Beans** recipe found on page 44 of **Come to the Table** cookbook.

- 1 lb. - fresh or 16 oz. frozen green beans
- 2 T. - olive oil (may need more)
- 1 T. minced garlic, fresh or from jar
- cayenne pepper, as desired

Heat olive oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add green beans and sauté until soft or thawed; add garlic. Sauté until garlic is lightly browned. Remove from heat; sprinkle lightly with cayenne pepper. Serve.

This side dish pairs quite nicely with salmon or chicken. I've only made this recipe using fresh green beans. When I prepare the green beans, I like them to still have some crunch to them, not completely soft.

There are nine pages of side dish recipes in **Come to the Table** cookbook that include beans or vegetables. I've tried many of them! There are another ten pages of side dish recipes that include pasta or potatoes.

If you would like to pick up a cookbook for a new neighbor, bridal shower, graduate that will be going to housekeeping or a friend that you know likes to cook, they are available at the Welcome Center at a cost of \$10.



The Mystery Chef



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.

A Church Vision "Checkup"

Do you go to the eye doctor on a regular basis...even if there's nothing wrong? We are told to see the eye doctor at least once a year to have our vision checked. Sometimes our vision has deteriorated without our noticing it. Over time we don't notice the change but a checkup will reveal this to us and help us take the necessary action. In April, the Ministries Coordinating Team held a retreat to talk about vision and where we understood God was leading us. There weren't any particular problems; but this time was devoted to a checkup...and we had some exciting results that we wanted to share.

At the retreat we believe that God helped us to see a small shift in our focus; an area of emphasis that builds upon the work that was done last year in our Sunday school time where we focused on where we thought God was leading our church. Last summer the entire Sunday school was devoted to this process and then in the fall, a group of about thirty people distilled this work into five key words: Discipleship, Reconciliation, Being Ambassadors, Mission and Authenticity. At the recent retreat we had our focus sharpened to the importance of building communities around these five words. If you play around with the words a little bit, you come up with the acronym, DRAMA. I know that we often try to avoid "drama" in our lives but we believe that God wants us to embrace the DRAMA. We came up with a new strategic focus statement:

Together, we commit to build purposeful community through the **DRAMA** of the gospel of Jesus Christ **D**iscipleship | **R**econciliation | **A**mbassadorship | **M**ission | **A**uthenticity.

We are excited that God has continued to sharpen this focus around these key words, DRAMA, and has led us to emphasize the importance of building communities of people that experience and advance these words in our church family. You will be asked as a congregation to affirm this new strategic focus at the **May 7th Church Council Meeting**. We desire to hear your input and to have your help to accomplish what God desires. And by the way...go see your eye doctor if it's been too long!



From the Exec Team

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

March Offerings Summary

General Fund	\$39,509.11
YTD Offerings	\$122,341.76
Needed YTD	\$132,429.57
Behind Budget	- 10,087.81
Other Deposits	
Children's SS	33.13
CMT	30.00
Scrip/Weis/Wenger Cards	7325.00
Dominican Missionary	785.00
Dominican Mission	5000.00
Thailand Missionary	176.42
Westernport Mission	1340.00
Youth	30.00
Family Connections	397.00
Ambit energy	71.00
Catherman Memorial	50.00
Funeral Luncheon	250.00
Youth Compassion	150.00
Faith & Football Offering (Gessner)	561.00
Spiritual Life Service Offerings	368.00
Women's Retreat/Ministry/Basket	848.12
Mission Donation	40.00
Ins. Premium Refund	194.00
Facility Use	550.00
Auction	16,084.75
Cook Book sales	70.00
Community Aid	302.00
O.C.C.	100.00
SS/Med Tax Reimbursement	3,731.29