

# The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley  
Church of the Brethren

June 2017  
Volume 33 No. 5



## 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>

**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!

**2017 Theme:**

**K-5: Uniquely Wired...Wonderfully Made**  
**Preschool: SHOW & TELL about God's**  
**Creation**

Teresa Chambers, for Children's Ministry Team



## Beyond Our Walls

The Hoovers Return

On June 4, Jason and Nicole Hoover will be speaking during both services. We will have a potluck lunch after the second service so please come out and hear about their time thus far in the Dominican Republic.

Lester and Peggy Seiler

As of April 2017, the Seilers have been serving as missionaries in Zimbabwe for 46 years! In that time... "The biggest and best change we've seen is how the country as a whole has been impacted with the Gospel and now Zimbabwe is sending out missionaries. What a privilege for you and us to be a part of the harvest! Praise the Lord!

We are truly grateful that you partner with us in your prayers and support. There will never be enough words to thank you or enough ways to show our appreciation...But we do thank you and we ask God to abundantly bless you and yours with the prayers that you bring before him."

Look for more updates from other missionaries that we support in future Lamplighters.

Jo Hurst for the Mission Ministry Team



## "Feed the Bin"

Remember to place your gently used clothing, linens and books, if they are bagged, into the Community Aid Bin. Your donations help with Operation Christmas Child.



## Men's Quoit Pitch

On Saturday, **June 3<sup>rd</sup>** the men's ministry is sponsoring our **annual quoit pitch "tournament"** at Steve Richard's home on Buffalo Road near Mifflinburg. Things get started at **5 pm** with a meal. Hamburgers/hot dogs will be provided and you can bring a side dish/dessert to share. The word "tournament" is in quotation marks because you don't have to know how to pitch quoits to participate. Everyone is invited to attend.

Please sign up on the sheet in the main entry and come out to the quoit pitch on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

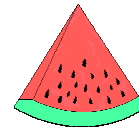
Pastor Eric



The 2017 team is preparing for a week-long trip from **July 22 - 28** in Westernport, MD. Your prayer is appreciated for each one as they serve the children in this needy area.

There are 30 people who have answered the call to serve, including seven youth and two advisors. We will be ministering to children and their families and working together to provide a Day Camp and serve healthy meals to children who are hungry for both the Word and food!

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



Serving Him,  
Vicki Bastian



## Updated Graduate List

Many individuals from our congregation have been graduated within the past year or will graduate soon from **high school** or **college** or **other higher education**. A more detailed "Graduation Booklet" will be published on the upcoming "**Graduation Sunday**". Please come to the fellowship time (approximately 9 am) on **Sunday, June 4**, when the following people will be recognized for their educational milestones:

### May 2017 - College Graduates

- Sarah King (Lock Haven University)
- Landon Kline (Susquehanna University)
- John Reamer (Thaddeus Stevens Institute of Tech.)
- Matthew Reamer (Johnson and Wales University)
- Doug Richard (Evangelical Seminary)
- Morgan Richard (Evangelical Seminary)
- Derek Stahl (Bloomsburg University)

### May 26 - SusQ Cyber Charter, Bloomsburg

Jessica Keefer

### June 2, 2017 - Mifflinburg Area High School

- Laura Dorman (SUN Area Tech on May 24)
- Katie Ericson
- Briahna Heintzelman
- Madison Machmer
- Sierra Martin
- Devin Moyer (SUN Area Tech on May 24)
- Benjamin Reamer (SUN Area Tech on May 24)
- Casey Snook
- Zyair Spaid (SUN Area Tech on May 24)
- Andrew Walter (SUN Area Tech on May 24)
- Gilbert Walter
- Ryheem Walter

### June 7, 2017 - Lewisburg High School

Tatiana Johnson (SUN Area Tech on May 24)

### June 2017 - Commonwealth Charter Academy

Randall Shultz, Jr.

If I have missed any graduates, I'm sorry. Please let me know right away so I can include their information in the next Lamplighter and in the Graduation Booklet!

Thank you,  
Fay Richard, (frichard@dejazzd.com)

Yum, Yum, Yum...It will soon be here!!!

## Strawberry Festival and Hymn Sing!!!



When: Saturday, **June 10** from **6 - 7:30 pm**

Where: Main gathering at the church

Come sing your favorite hymns and bring a strawberry dessert to share!!!

No sign-up sheet....just come and enjoy!

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Coming in July.....



## All Church Picnic and Baptism

When: Sunday **July 6<sup>th</sup>** from **12:30 - 4:30 pm**

Where: Brian and Donita Keister's farm

Once again, Harold Himes will be roasting a pig for the event. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish and a dessert to share. Paper products and beverages will be provided.

We will be looking for people to help set up tables and chairs and also life guard volunteers!!!

Look for sign-up sheet around the middle of June.

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## Guess Who's Coming to the Picnic

Sunday **October 8<sup>th</sup>** somewhere **between 5 - 6 pm** at "somewhere"!!!

This event we use to do years ago and we tried it again last year. It was a great success and everyone involved said they had a great time! Approximately 49 people attended the evening.

More details coming!!!

Blessings,

Pam Kline, Special Events Coordinator



From Your Lead Pastor,



### The Ephesians 4:31 "Challenge"

I'm trying a new challenge starting today, May 12, 2017. I'm fresh off the success of April's "a cream puff a day challenge" where I successfully ate a cream puff every day in April. My new challenge is far more important and not nearly as easy and I'm wondering if you'll come along with me...not only for the month of June but for the rest of your life.

Ephesians 4:31 reads: *"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice."* This sentence is in the context of other commands that Paul writes regarding anger, forgiveness, etc... This command has always been difficult for us human beings to follow but social media has made it even more difficult to follow. Many people, perhaps even you, find it very easy to speak "evil" of political figures, sports figures, entertainment figures or others; to write about how terrible they are or stupid they are or even evil they are. Just doing that, in my opinion, is against the teaching of Ephesians 4:31, even if you might be right in your opinion. But most of the time, especially in social media, people are simply parroting what they've heard or read in social media, with no real knowledge of the truth of what is being said.

Consider what social media would be like if people expressed their disagreements without taking personal snipes at people or groups of people? Disagreement will always be there and disagreement is often very healthy. But let's accept Paul's challenge to put away the bitterness, anger, clamor and evil speaking. We reflect the love and grace of Christ when we do that, and we might find out that we will have greater influence for the kingdom of God.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric





## Buffalo Gals

ALL Women at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) are invited to join us for the fellowship events scheduled below. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**



Our **annual Garden Tea Party** will be held **June 24<sup>th</sup>** from **10 am - noon** at **Meg and Keith Phelps garden** on Green Street in Mifflinburg. If you enjoy flowers, trees and plants, the Phelps' garden will not disappoint! Plan to bring a dish to share. A sign-up sheet is posted on Women's Ministry bulletin board.

**Secret Sister Reveal**, combined with our **next LIFT brunch**, is scheduled to be held **July 15<sup>th</sup>** @ BVCOB from **9 - 11 am**. If you participated in our Secret Sister ministry this session, plan to join us as we reveal each other's Secret Sister. Our LIFT brunch is open to ALL women who attend BVCOB, (regardless if you participate in our Secret Sister ministry). Bring a dish to share. A sign-up sheet will be posted early in June. *If you're interested to organize the next Secret Sister session, see Alicia Showers as she's looking for someone willing to coordinate this ministry.*



BVCOB women's **annual beach retreat** is scheduled for **Bethany Beach** from **September 10 - 14**. Sign up sheet is posted on Women's Ministry bulletin board.

Our **craft bazaar** is currently scheduled to be held at BVCOB on Saturday, **October 14<sup>th</sup>**. We have the time for the event reserved from 9 am – 3 pm. At this time, **we need someone to organize this event**. Otherwise, we'll have to cancel it and remove it from our church calendar of events. Right now we have the entire first floor of the church reserved. We would like to offer food from the kitchen in the main gathering area, and set up a small café in the gathering area with seating. Other than that, the rest of the details still need to be worked out. *If you're interested to organize the craft bazaar, please contact Tricia Dreese no later than June 11<sup>th</sup>. Her cell phone number is 570.768.2370 and email is [plynn@dejazzd.com](mailto:plynn@dejazzd.com)*

Our **Basket Ministry** is in need of \$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.*

**Discipleship Reconciliation Ambassadorship  
Mission Authenticity**

*Matthew 28:18-20* - Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

As women, how are we living out discipleship within our families, community and the world at large? How can we be more active and effective as disciples? Find a friend this month and discuss your responses with one another.

Many Blessings to every Sister in Christ!  
Tricia Dreese

## Embracing the DRAMA

In June we will conclude our sermon series titled "Embrace the DRAMA" as we wrap up emphasis on our new strategic focus:

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

We hope that you have begun to seriously consider how these words impact your individual lives and the ministry here at Buffalo Valley. We are excited about the possibility how our ministry will be enriched through the actions surrounding these words. Please try to be here for the last two weeks of this series on **June 11** and **June 18**.

God Bless,  
Pastor Eric



## Creation is Upon Us!

At the end of June, **June 28<sup>th</sup> – July 2<sup>nd</sup>**, there will be a mass amount of people converging on the Agape Farm in Mount Union Pa, and some of us BVCOB er's will be among them! We ask that you **keep us in your prayers** as we finalize our plans and while we are there. We will again have 2 waves of people traveling to the farm, the first to leave, in order to set-up camp, will be on Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> in the morning and the second wave on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> also in the morning. If you are one of those who are attending, and would like to help set up, please give your name to Pastor K or Kristy so we can make our plans. There are 2 planned days to do the prep work prior to leaving that you can get involved with, **Friday June 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>**, times yet to be determined. Some items that need to happen on those days are setting up the tents and the canopy and getting our tarps and other organizational items ready.

We ask that you please make sure you have given your \$75 to Pastor K or Kristy by **June 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will also have an informational meeting on **Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm** in the PIT for Attendees and their Parents. Are you interested in going but haven't told us yet? There still might be room for you to go! Just talk to Pastor K for more details on going, we'd love to have you join our Creation community.

For those who would like to help us out, as we always try to keep the price affordable, we will have a **Donation Sheet** located in the Main Entry of Food Items we will need for the week. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated! We are also looking for a **heavy duty wagon** to take along to help out in the carrying of water. If you have one that you could loan us for the week that would be amazing!

Again, thank you for all that you do for our Youth, the future of our Church!

Pastor K

## PIT – Youth Ministry

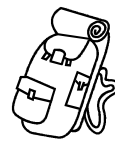
Passionate for, Intimate with, Transformed by Christ

### School Year Sunday Nights:

Games & Supper: 6 - 7:30 pm

Devo/Lesson: 7:30 - 8:30 pm

- May 28 Memorial Day — **No Youth**
- June 4 Kayak Penns Creek (time TBA)
- June 11 Teen Week Drama kick off (normal time)
- June 18 Father's Day — **No Youth**
- June 25 Worship & Small Groups
- July 2 Creation Return — **No Youth**
- July 9 Keister Pond—FUN
- July 16 Family Picnic / Baptism — Pond
- July 23 Westernport Mission trip – **No Youth**
- July 30 Worship & Small Groups



### Camp Eder Corner

(straight from Camp)

Summer Camp is just around the corner! It's not too late to sign up for one of the 25 Camps we are offering this summer over 5 different weeks! This summer our theme will be "*Branching Out*" based on John 15. Feel free to stop by our website **www.campeder.org** to see detailed descriptions of each of the camps and to register. If you have any questions feel free to shoot me an email!

Have a great day!

Mike Kovacs, *Program Director*

*(As you can see, they are preparing for Summer Camps! If you have any questions on how to get the tuition support from Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB), contact Fay Richard (frichard@dejazzd.com)! Hope to hear from you! ~ Fay Richard, Camp Rep. BVCOB)*

Genuine belief in Jesus will not translate to perfection, but will translate into action!



A Wise Man



## Church Council Highlights

The well attended meeting was opened by Tracy Rabenstein working in her role as Congregational Support Representative for Church of the Brethren Donor Relations. She explained some of the facets of our denomination and ways in which congregations can enhance the different ministries.

Jim Brubaker explained during the treasurer's report, that the offerings have been about \$1,000 less than the same period last year. The resulting budget deficit is about \$15,000.

Brian Keister presented the results of our vision statement review. Our vision statement was found to be relevant, but to give focus and direction to our ministries, a Strategic Focus was proposed and affirmed. "Together we commit to build purposeful community through the DRAMA of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Discipleship, Reconciliation, Ambassadorship, Mission, Authenticity**". There will be a series of sermons defining this statement and our summer Sunday School will be wrapped around this statement.

Steve Richard led us through the seven changes proposed as a result of the tri annual review of our Congregational Polity Document. These all were adopted and can be reviewed in the meeting documentation or the meeting minutes.

Jim Brubaker explained four different budgetary adjustments needing to be affirmed or adopted.

1. Correct a miscalculation for the 2016 and 2017 budgets for Pastor Donita's years of service.
2. Make insurance cost compensation more equitable across the Pastoral staff by increasing Pastor Donita's compensation.
3. Affirm monies to cover a correction to Pastor K's employment status for IRS. As a yet unlicensed Minister Pastor K is not allowed to file as clergy. Since both 2016 and 2017 budgets claimed clergy status for him, the numbers had to be corrected and adjusted. There was some discussion around this at the meeting as the numbers seemed to show a raise for Pastor K. The final analysis was that taxation on a non-clergy employee is higher, accounting for the increase in the budgeted total cost for the Pastor to the Youth and Young Adults.
4. The final business item was to adjust line items for changes in circumstances. A missionary support was no longer needed, two interns were not hired and energy costs were less than

expected. After all the adjustments, the budgeted total did not change.

The Pastors gave their reports starting with Pastor Donita who thanked the Children's Ministry Team Members who help make the ministry a success. She reported that there are about 95 families in some way involved in children's ministry along with other details of the Children's Ministry. She lamented that her time on the Denomination's Mission and Ministry Board is nearly over but added that there could be additional responsibility if she is chosen as the Moderator Elect at Annual Conference.

Pastor K is working on his licensing as a minister and is currently enjoying a course on Polity and Practice. He reported that there are between 60 to 70 youth in some way connected to youth ministry and about half of these attend events at some point. The Young Adults, with leadership from Andrew Richard and Elaina Miller, are working on more regular meetings. The whole team is working to build community around relationships. Pastor K shared his desire to leverage the electronic media in this process but recognizes that like the ring in Lord of the Rings, it's use should be with caution. Pastor K also noted that there is a need for more advisors.

Pastor Eric encouraged us to keep processing and watch for opportunities to apply the 5 words of our new Strategic Focus. He used the compassionate community he experienced recently at the veterinarian clinic when their pet Tipper suddenly feel fatally ill as an illustration of the community our congregation becomes as we live and care for each other. Pastor Eric also reported that the Church Development and Revitalization Committee on which he serves is working to strengthen a couple of churches in the Southern PA District.

The very well drafted and detailed minutes for this meeting, written by our Ministry Assistant Cheryl Ilgen can be obtain by request.

Your Moderator, Dale Lehman



Our strategic focus helps us to see what God wants us to see and then act on it.



## What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

In honor of Jason, Nicole, Ethan and Miriam Hoover and their visit from Dominican Republic this summer, I've chosen Nicole's **Taco Soup** recipe that is found on page 27 of **Come to the Table** cookbook.

- 1 lb. - hamburger
- 1 - green pepper
- 1 - onion
- 2 tsp. - garlic
- 1 (14.5-oz.) can - chopped tomatoes
- 1 (16-oz.) jar - medium salsa
- 1 tsp. - cumin
- 2 tsp. - chili powder
- 2 C. - beef broth
- ½ box - ditalini noodles

Sauté and drain hamburger, pepper, onion and garlic. Add tomatoes, salsa, cumin, chili powder and beef broth; simmer. Add ½ box of ditalini noodles. Simmer until noodles are soft. Serve with Mexican cheese or tortilla chips on top.

This is a yummy soup and is very easy to prepare. I didn't have ditalini on hand, so I used 1 cup of small shells.

The **Come to the Table** cookbook includes more than 30 soup recipes. I've tried many of them and each has been very tasty.

Did you know that instant potatoes help thicken soups and stews? That and many other tips are included in the helpful hints section of the cookbook too!

If you don't have a **Come to the Table** cookbook, but would like one, please visit the Welcome Center. Cookbooks are available at a cost of \$10 each.



The Mystery Chef



## Musical Day Camp 2017

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

**Monday, July 31**

through

**Friday, August 4**

from 9 am to 1 pm daily

### Performances Held

**SATURDAY, August 5**

7:00 PM

**SUNDAY, August 6**

9:30 AM

Please **register** for this camp by **June 16**.

If you do NOT have internet access, please call the church office at (570) 966-1183 and we will be glad to register your child(ren).

Teresa Chambers, for Children's Ministry Team



### 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).



**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

**April Offerings Summary**

YTD Offerings	\$167,742.93
Needed YTD	\$183,364.02
Behind Budget	- 15,621.09
<b>Other Deposits</b>	
Children's SS	37.24
CMT	25.00
Scrip/Weis/Wenger Cards	10,290.00
Dominican Missionary	1,125.00
Youth to Westernport	265.00
Thailand Missionary	100.00
Westernport Mission	210.00
Youth	20.00
Family Connections	463.00
Ambit energy	67.00
Musical Day Camp	40.00
Spiritual Life Service	50.00
Women's Retreat/Ministry/Basket	160.00
Cook Book sales	10.00
O.C.C.	20.00
Metal Recycling	125.75
Impact Reimbursement (youth)	50.00
Chocolate Rolls	630.00
Easter Flowers	140.00