

In the Heat of the Moment

In August we are going to finish up our "You Asked For It" series. The culmination of this series will see all three pastors on the stage answering 12 questions that you have submitted. We will each pick a question from a basket and have three minutes to answer the question and then the other pastors will have a minute to add their thoughts about the question or about the answer. We will do 6 different questions during each morning service.

Then we will transition to a four week series titled, "In the Heat of the Moment". All of us face "heat of the moment" moments in our lives. There are times when because of bad choices, good choices or just circumstances of life, we find ourselves in a place where the heat is turned up. We have to make a decision on how to act or what to say and we aren't sure how it is going to turn out. This is how this series will unfold:

August 20 - Our first "heat of the moment" moment is found in the life of Abraham as he is told by God to sacrifice his son, Isaac. What do you do when God is telling you to do something but you're really not sure you can do it or that you even should do it?

August 27 - "Heat of the moment" moment number 2 is from Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego as they faced the fiery furnace. What do we do when we face persecution for our Christian beliefs?

September 3 - Moment number 3 answers the question "How do you know if an opportunity or "open door" that arises in your life is from God?" We will look at an example from the life of David for this moment.

September 10 - Our last "heat of the moment" moment focuses on how to endure suffering. We will look at advice from the apostle Paul.

I hope you'll make it a priority to be with us each of these Sundays and also to interact with each topic through the week. It is a real joy to share the word of God with you each Sunday.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Musical Day Camp 2017

For kids who have completed Kindergarten through 6th 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

Register Online – kids.bvcob.com

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

We're There!



The Westernport Team left Saturday morning, July 22th and is getting ready for the children to arrive on Monday morning. **Please pray** for all of us that we can be God's hands and feet this week to children who need to see His love.

Vicki Bastian

Annual Conference 2017 Report

Thank you for calling me to be your delegate to Annual Conference 2017, held at the DeVos Convention Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Pastor Eric Reamer and I (delegates), along with Donita Keister (Mission and Ministry Board), Jason and Nicole Hoover (missionaries), Jake and Dixie Myer, and Eli Mast (attendees) represented Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) at the conference, the pinnacle of which was Donita's calling to be the Moderator-Elect for Annual Conference 2018 and Moderator for Annual Conference 2019.

Attending Annual Conference has given me insight into the current focuses and ongoing challenges facing many of our sibling churches. Delegates at my table shared that their churches are struggling. Their youth group has one or two kids, they do not have young families, and consequently no children. As their older members pass on, new members are not filling in. They're having to lay off their pastoral staff because attendance and offering amounts have dropped. They are frustrated because their community outreach is ineffective. As I shared about some of the successes we've had here at BVCOB, I felt a little guilty and that I was "bragging" on the things that we've been up to.

I will not wade deep into the waters of the official business that was conducted at the conference. As with previous years, the "big" business items were related to queries regarding homosexuality. If you are interested in details of any of the business items that were voted upon, please reach out to me or any of the persons listed above, or you can visit <http://www.brethren.org> for more information.

Despite our differences, the denomination remains strong. Please continue to pray for our church, at the local, district, and global level, as we discern a path forward through our current differences. A lot of patience, grace, love, and reconciliation will be required.

Respectfully Submitted
Steve White
Annual Conference 2017 Delegate



You may never know that Jesus is all you need, until Jesus is all you have!



Youth News

The Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team (YaYAMT) along with the youth attending the Westernport Mission Trip would like to thank everyone who came out to the Turkey Dinner. The money raised exceeded the needed funds and so now we can use the rest to bless the Westernport people even more.

Families with youth, please put Sunday **July 30th** on your calendars! We will be having a **Brunch** during the **10:30 pm** service in the PIT for all families of incoming 6th – 12th grade youth. Do you have questions about the youth department? Are you looking for a way to support your youth better? Please come and enjoy a delicious brunch and great time of fellowship and fun!

Youth, have you heard? We are having another **retreat!** Mark your calendars for **Friday August 4th through Sunday August 6th**! We will be spending time again this year at the John Kline Cabin in Penns Creek! The theme this year is “Extreme Religion vs. Radical Love”. Please see the sign-up sheet in the main entry to let us know you’re coming! Outgoing seniors are invited to attend this last big Youth event before officially becoming a full-fledged Young Adult!

Kristy Heintzelman



Operation Christmas Child

As hard as it might be to see so soon, back to school supplies are now available in stores. This is a great time to check out the OCC Christmas tree and see what items are still needed that you can easily find at many of these back to school displays!

Jo Hurst for the Mission Ministry Team



Work for the Lord

Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Paul, the Apostle



Sunday Brunch

Mark your calendar for **August 20th** and plan to join us again as we have a “Summer is over/Back-to-School” celebration Brunch. Below is the list of items that can be collected for the school kits we will be assembling. Bring any donations for the kits to the SonRoom on Sunday mornings.

SCHOOL KIT ITEMS:

- One pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip, only)
- Three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter / 12” ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener removed from the package
- One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers)
- Six new, un-sharpened pencils with erasers removed from the package
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Thanks to all who have participated in the Brunch event. The goal of this event is to build a sense of community among families while teaching kids the value of serving others. Please feel free to share any appropriate activity ideas with Pastor Donita or Teresa Chambers.

Teresa Chambers



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

From Your Lead Pastor,



Fussy and Grumpy at 30,000 Feet

I'm writing this letter as Angela and I return from our vacation in Florida. We are flying from Orlando to Harrisburg and across the aisle from us are a mom and dad, a grandma and a little boy about seven months old. I don't know if you've ever had the "joy" of flying in a metal tube at 30,000 feet with a small baby, not small enough to sleep in your arms kind of baby, but small enough not to have his/her own seat kind of baby. I have had that experience on more than one occasion. Let's just say it's not usually pleasant.

After takeoff the little guy started to get grumpy and fidgety. I played "peek a boo" with him from across the aisle which seemed to work but then he got bored with that. He keeps getting passed from dad to mom to grandma and back again. Every toy from the diaper bag has been pulled out. Every snack food has been offered and either eaten or rejected...and we still have an hour to go.

This little boy just can't seem to get content. And he has me thinking about you and me. Are we ever like this little boy? Hopefully not in a literal sense. I'd like to think that if you are on a long plane or even a car ride that your whining is non-existent. But what if this flight serves as a metaphor for real life. We are all on a journey and sometimes things are not going the way that we want. We are uncomfortable. We are in a strange "place" (as I type it appears like dad is looking to stow the little boy under the seat in front of him). We are not having our needs met. There are people in our lives that are trying to "pass us around" to get us to stop whining. But nothing seems to work.

I am reminded of the passage of the Bible in Philippians where Paul writes that he had learned to be content in whatever situation of life he was in, abundance, need, health, sickness, persecution. You name it. Paul had seen it. And yet, Paul was content. I believe this only happens when we are deeply connected with Jesus Christ, allowing Him to rule in our hearts and minds. That way we can allow His peace, love and joy to rule in our hearts. I'm thankful for this truth...and I'm thankful that this flight has less than an hour remaining!

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Buffalo Gals

Any woman wishing to sign up for the next session of **Secret Sister**, can find a **registration form** on the Women's Ministry Bulletin Board. **All women** at Buffalo Valley of the Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) are invited to participate in this ministry. Not familiar with Secret Sister??? *Contact Carol Pursel for all the pertinent details.* Completed forms are due in Carol's mailbox by **July 30th**.

All women at BVCOB are invited to join us for the fellowship events scheduled below. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**

Our **annual Garden Tea Party** has been **rescheduled for August 17th @ 6:30 pm** 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 **new sign-up sheet** is posted on Women's Ministry bulletin board. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, August 13th.

BVCOB women's **Annual Beach Retreat** is scheduled for Bethany Beach from **September 10 - 14**. If you haven't already signed up to attend, but are interested to attend, *see Carol Pursel as soon as possible!*

Our **craft bazaar** is currently scheduled to be held at BVCOB on **Saturday, October 14th from 9 am – 3 pm**. Gaye Stahl is organizing this event. We have an application available for potential vendors. Pick one up at the Women's Ministry bulletin board and return to Gaye as soon as possible. Vendor space is available on a first come basis. Partial proceeds from this bazaar will **benefit Next Door Neighborhood Outreach, as well as Expectations.**

November 10th & 11th we have an opportunity to attend a Lysa TerKeurst **women's conference** titled "**Women of Purpose**". This will be held in Hershey, PA. We're planning to stay overnight Friday evening in Hershey. A sign-up sheet is posted on Women's Ministry bulletin board. See *Carol Manbeck for more details.*

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 lids 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

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NIV) - *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

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

Many Blessings to every Sister in Christ!
Tricia Dreese

What's New in Our Building?

The past few months have been rather quiet for the Building and Grounds Ministry Team. Many of you may have noticed the used (like new) chairs in the Main Entry, Nursery, and Narthex. We were fortunate enough to get these 12 chairs at no cost to the church. A big "Thank You" to Jim Libby for going to Lancaster and bringing them back to us.

At the front entrance you will see a call button to the right of the double doors which has been installed with a monitor on the Secretary's desk. This has a full view of the front parking lot and front door and enables her to see who may be at the front door for the times that she is alone in the building.

That's all I have to report this time.

God Bless,
Bill Baker, Building & Grounds Ministry Team



What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

Marilyn Keister's **I-I-I Peanut Butter Cookies** recipe is found on page 154 of **Come to the Table** cookbook! This 3-ingredient recipe is easy, fast, inexpensive, gluten free and delicious!

- 1 C. – sugar
- 1 lg. – egg
- 1 C. – Jif only peanut butter, crunchy or smooth

Combine the sugar and egg. Stir until smooth. Add peanut butter and mix thoroughly. Roll into walnut-sized balls. Place on ungreased cookie sheet 2 inches apart. Flatten with tine of fork (dip tine of fork in sugar). Bake 13 – 14 minutes at 375° F. Let cool 1 minute before removing from cookie sheet. Makes approximately 3 dozen.

The **Come to the Table** cookbook has a Cookies & Candy section that includes more than 60 recipes! If you haven't purchased your **Come to the Table** cookbook, you can get a copy at the Welcome Center. The cookbooks are \$10 each.



The Mystery Chef

Together, we commit to build purposeful community through the DRAMA of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Discipleship/Reconciliation/
Ambassadorship/Mission/Authenticity**



The good thing about giving frequently and generously is that we don't have time to get attached to what is not ours.

David Jeremiah



Beyond Our Walls

Recently, Bret and Betsy Staudt Willet visited with the Mission Ministry Team to update us on their work with Inter Varsity. Wendy Sauers shares the following:

Betsy and Bret Staudt Willet have been ministering with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship for over 10 years. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship is an interdenominational, Evangelical student-led ministry dedicated to establishing witnessing communities on college and University campuses.

Betsy is currently an Associate Area Director which means she is involved in shaping and growing the staff that are on the front lines ministering to the students. As you can imagine the job is an important one as students are at a time in life when they begin to make serious choices about relationships, careers and lifestyle. And one of the many blessings that Betsy loves witnessing is watching students' lives grow in Christ as they grow into adults.

Bret leads a paid staff of 12, and an additional 30 volunteers in a national position with InterVarsity in the complex task of connecting with students where they spend a lot of time, which is online. Bret is tasked with learning what students are doing online, as well as going out into the technology industry and learning what drives people and how to minister to them online. His staff actually connects with students in the gaming world, on social media, and in online Bible studies. Bret is currently working on his PhD in Education, focusing on social media in professional development.

If you are interested in InterVarsity and want to learn more, or have any questions, feel free to contact Betsy at betsy.staudt.willet@gmail.com or Bret at bret.staudt.willet@gmail.com.

Please keep the Staudt Willets in your prayers as they minister to college students and as their roles in ministry take new shape and direction.

Jo Hurst for the Mission Ministry Team



Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it. Autograph your work with excellence.

Anonymous

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Return Service Requested

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8:00 AM - Worship Service
9:00 AM - Fellowship Time
9:20 AM - Sunday school
10:30 AM - Worship Service

June Offerings Summary

General Fund	\$34,440.58
YTD Offerings	\$240,351.52
Needed YTD	\$264,214.08
Behind Budget	- 23,862.56

Other Deposits

Children's SS	17.72
CMT	20.00
Scrip Cards	3,750.00
Weis Cards	5,125.00
Wenger Cards	2,675.00
Dominican Missionary	855.00
Thailand Missionary	100.00
Westernport Missions	1,670.00
Youth SS Offerings	36.80
Youth compassion	100.00
Ambit energy	55.00
Day Camp Offerings	101.00
Spiritual Life Service	50.00
Women's Retreat/Ministry/Basket	600.00
Cook Book sales	60.00
Sisters In Christ	10.00
OCC	60.00
AMEX Reimbursement	25.00
Family In Need	1,241.00
Copier Donations	15.20
Youth Events	1,195.00