

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

November 2017
Volume 33 No. 10

Vicki Bastian



New Prayer Ministry Beginning

A new prayer ministry is beginning here at Buffalo Valley on Sunday mornings. By the time you read this we will have begun a new time of prayer during our Sunday morning worship services. After the sermon as our closing songs begin, we are going to invite anyone who like to be prayed for to come forward. At the front, people will be waiting to pray with you and for you. We also have rooms available if you have a prayer need that requires more time and attention. You will also be given the opportunity to be contacted later if you would like further prayer and follow up.

Also, if you are a person who would like to be part of this prayer team, praying for others as they come forward, you can do that as well. Please contact the church office and we will share with you just a few brief instructions and then you will be ready to minister to others who desire prayer on Sunday morning. We hope that this prayer opportunity will be an additional way that our worship together can impact our lives. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Eric...the older one ☺

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Westernport Fall Festival



A team is traveling to **Westernport COB** on **Saturday, October 28th** for a **Children's Fall Festival**. If you've been curious about Westernport but have been unsure about committing to a week-long summer mission, this one day trip is a good starting point. Join the team as they visit Westernport and minister to the children with fun, games, and food!



Friday Fun Night Starts November 3rd

Programming is from 6:30 – 8 pm, with open gym/activity time from 6 to 6:30 pm and 8 to 8:30 pm.

Friday Fun Night (FFN) is open to any kid currently in K through 5th grades.

Each night is divided between organized game/activity time and Bible learning, with a focus on understanding how the Bible fits together and is applied to our lives.

Kids are encouraged to bring their Bibles, bring their friends, and bring an attitude ready for **FUN!**

Please check the Children's Ministry table for the upcoming special theme night schedule.

Teresa Chambers for Children's Ministry Team

Beca Scholarships

There is now a new opportunity to help **sponsor a student** in the Dominican Republic to attend University in a program that will benefit the student's church and community. Look for the yellow sheet on the Missionary table for details

Jo Hurst for Mission Ministry Team



Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

The **deadline** to drop off items for shoeboxes is **November 5**. We will be assembling shoeboxes Saturday November 18 starting at 10 am and all are invited to come and help!

The **shipping cost** for shoeboxes this year is over \$4000! Donations of **aluminum cans** and items for the **Community Aid bin** help with this cost, but you can also make a **cash/check donation** to help with this expense. Just mark it for OCC shipping and drop it in the offering plate.

Jo Hurst for Mission Ministry Team

Can You Spend Some Time In Prayer?

We have begun a weekly prayer time on **Wednesdays** from **12 to 1 p.m.** at **441 Chestnut Street in Mifflinburg**. This is the location of the Gable House bakery. The bakery isn't open for business on Wednesdays but the owners have opened the building to us during this time for prayer. It is the dream of the few of us who have begun this meeting to see people from all over Mifflinburg come together for a time of prayer. Right now it is only a handful of people and most of them from Buffalo Valley. But we hope that changes.

Could you give an hour or 30 minutes to come and pray for your community, for yourself, for someone you know who needs God's intervention? I hope you will join us when you can on Wednesdays from 12 to 1 p.m., even if you can only drop by for 15 minutes, I also hope you invite others to come and pray.

Pastor Eric



God is not looking at where we are,
but where we are going!!!



How Are We Doing?



If you have been following the numbers in our church bulletin, it is evident that giving is not keeping up to the budget. First, I would like to thank each one who has given faithfully to the mission of our church. However, I would like to explain where we are in terms of finances.

As you know our budget is approved at our Fall Council meeting. The budget is put together as each ministry team looks at their past year's spending and as well as the possible new needs or projects that may present themselves. All of the team budgets are put together and the total is presented to Ministry Coordinating Team (MCT) for approval before coming to the council meeting. Many times actual spending is not up to the amount approved in the budget. This year, due to careful spending of various teams the amount spent is not up to the amount that was actually approved in the budget. This year, while we are showing an approximately \$45,000 in budget shortfall, our actual spending is about the same as our income. The only expense that has been affected by the shortfall in giving is our Debt service for member loans. At this point in our fiscal year we are approximately \$6,000 behind in our targeted payback of member loans.

While at first glance that does not seem to be a huge problem, I would like to note that the current year to date giving to the combined General/ Building Fund as compared to last year's **giving** is **approximately \$17,000 less than last year** at the same time. This is a number that is concerning. In the budget that will be presented for discussion and approval at the Fall Council meeting, MCT is proposing about a \$10,000 reduction in spending.

Again, I want to thank you for your faithful giving, but if there is a way for each of us to increase our support of our church, now would be a time that is needed. Perhaps all of us could ask God what He would have us do in respect to this need. If you have questions please talk to Jake Myer, myself, or any of the MCT members.

Jim Brubaker, Finance Ministry Team Leader

Fall Children's Ministry Sunday School Offering



This quarter we are going to be collecting items to assemble **hygiene kits for Church World Service**. These kits may go directly to victims of Hurricane Harvey or be used to replenish the supply of kits that have already been sent.

Items needed for one hygiene kit:

- One gallon Ziploc bag
- One **hand towel** measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One **washcloth**
- One wide-tooth **comb** removed from the package
- One fingernail or toenail **clipper** removed from the package
- One bath-size bar of **soap** in the wrapper
- One **toothbrush** in the package
- Ten standard size **Band-Aids**

So how can you and your child help? The students can bring in completed kits. They can bring in specific items to fill kits (example a pack of washcloths which would then be divided). And as always students can bring in money which will be used towards the shipping.

We will be asking the church to help contribute items as well and by placing them in a bin for donations in the Main Entry. The students will then assemble the kits during Sunday School during the fall quarter.

Here is a link for more information on Church World Service.

<http://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/hygiene-kits/>

Teresa Chambers for Children's Ministry Team



PIT Passionate for,
Intimate with,
Transformed by CHRIST



Sunday Night Youth Schedule:

ALL YOUTH (6 - 12 grade): 6 - 8:30 pm
6 - 6:45 pm - Activity/Worship Time
6:45 - 7:30 pm - Meal
7:30 - 8:30 pm - Interactive Lesson/Small Groups

October Youth

October 22 Deep (Worship & Small Groups);
Topic: Love/Serve Your Family
October 29 "Wide:" Ragball;
"Using Money to Make Friends"

November Youth

November 5 Game Night: Video & Board Games
November 12 Visit Nursing Home (afternoon)
November 19 (YLT, 4-6)
"Deep": Worship & Small Groups
November 26 ADVISOR HUNT (12-6)

December Youth

December 3 "Deep": Worship & Small Groups
December 10 Christmas Caroling
December 17 Christmas Party
December 24 & 31 No Youth (Happy Holidays!)

Youth Retreat - November 3 - 5

We will be playing the old game, "Kick the Can," and discussing how that can relate to our life – we feel like we need to protect our dignity and spy out everyone who is trying to kick it. There is a better way – Come find out what it is!

Parents, we also send weekly emails, Face book posts and monthly Newsletter about upcoming events – if you are not getting them, you may miss something – let the office know!

We've been having fun in Sunday school as well, examining this Bible God has given us – the stories – the bizarre, and interesting stories recorded, protected, and preserved through history. The theme of a remarkable community of people with extreme/ferveant love that is so beautiful it is a light/example to the world, keeps coming up. That is the type of community we are trying for. I'm excited to see vestiges of it to nurture. Thank you parents!

Peace, Pastor K

From Your Lead Pastor,



Can We Really See Great Things Again?

The slogan “Make America Great Again” is a phrase that has become a part of our cultural lexicon, for good or bad. The phrase stirs up in people’s minds the idea of a past time of “better days”. I’m not interested in the discussion from an American cultural standpoint. Rather, I’m interested in talking about it from the standpoint of God’s activity in our world. When I read the pages of the book of Acts I am envious of the overt activity of God through His people. Recently while reading through the psalms, I read Psalm 44. Psalm 44 begins like this: *We have heard with our ears, O God, Our fathers have told us, The deeds You did in their days, In days of old* God’s people were lamenting that the stories they heard their fathers and grandfathers tell of God’s activity were just that, stories. Those kinds of things were not happening in their lives. They are asking God to do something, to do really great things again like He did in parting the Red Sea and providing manna from heaven.

Most of us don’t have fathers, grandfathers or even great grandfathers who could tell us of incredible movements of God where people were swept into the kingdom. Few if any of us have ever experienced a genuine revival or renewal in our churches. Why not? I don’t claim to have the definitive answer. However, I wonder if one of the reasons is that we just really don’t care enough. Are we even aware of the apparent lack of God’s activity? Why can’t we see multiple people coming to faith in Jesus Christ at Buffalo Valley every week? Why don’t we have the need to baptize two or three people each week? I’m not looking to put the blame on anyone but I think the reason is not because God isn’t interested in doing great things. I think it is because God’s people, including all of us at Buffalo Valley, just aren’t very interested in seeing God do great things and that translates to an unwillingness to sacrifice and obey to be a part of what God wants to do.

If you’ve made it this far, I thank you for indulging my ramblings. I hope you will join me in concerted prayer for God to do great things again. I’m hopeful we can actually see this in our church and community.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Your God is able! He is able to keep you, bless you, use you, and care for all you entrust to Him. The impact we make on the world doesn’t depend on our ability, but on His.

David Jeremiah



Buffalo Gals

Women's Ministry recently held a Craft and Vendor Bazaar. **Special thanks** to Gaye Stahl for organizing this bazaar, as well as Linda Miller and her crew for organizing and running the cafe. Proceeds will **benefit Expectations and Next Door Neighborhood Outreach**.

Our next session of **Secret Sister** is underway. Please be sure to **keep your secret sister in prayer**. In addition, periodically surprise her with a card or small token of your appreciation for her.

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

November 10th and 11th we have an opportunity to attend a **Lysa TerKeurst women's conference** titled "**Women of Purpose**". This will be held in Hershey, PA. If you're planning to attend, see *Carol Manbeck* right away for details.

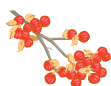
December 9th join us at BVCOB for Buffalo Gals' **Dressement Talent Show Extravaganza** from **6:30 pm – 9 pm**. You are invited to submit your art work and/or sign up to share a talent. Sign-ups will be available at the Women's Ministry Bulletin board. Become educated in regards to human trafficking and **Dressement's ministry** throughout the night. Requested donation upon entrance will be donated to **Dressement**. Desserts, coffee and tea will be served.

**Discipleship Reconciliation Ambassadorship
Mission Authenticity**

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
Romans 12:2 NIV

How are you renewing your mind? How can you be more intentional? Find a friend this month and discuss your responses with one another.

Many Blessings to every Sister in Christ!
Tricia Dreese



Family Kid Connection



GINGERBREAD HOUSE NIGHT

December 1 @ 6 PM

**Please Reserve Your House(s)
By Sunday, November 12**

(Everyone will receive the same size house.)

**Sign ups are ONLINE ONLY at
kids.bvcob.com**

Sign-up for decorating supplies will soon be available on the tables in the Main Entry or the Narthex, or feel free to bring any contribution to add to our decorating supplies.

All are welcome to participate, even those younger and older than our usual Friday night group. Adults without kids are welcome, too!

Preschoolers must be accompanied by their own personal teen or adult decorating assistant. School-age kids may attend with or without a parent.

~Please note~

The **November 13th deadline** will be the **absolute last date** for sign-ups.

After that date, we will only be able to put you on a cancellation list for any houses that may come available.

Teresa Chambers for Children's Ministry Team



Have You Read 1 Peter Yet?

I hope that you all answered “Yes” to the question in the title. In November we will continue our series on the book of 1 Peter as we look at how the suffering of Jesus impacts our everyday life. I’d like to take this article to talk about how important the suffering of Jesus is to the Christian faith. After the conclusion of the gospels, as we enter into the theology books of the New Testament, there is much more written about the suffering of Jesus than the miracles of Jesus. I think there is a two part reason for this. First, the theology of a suffering Messiah is critical to an understanding of the gospel message. Jesus is a suffering servant. Jesus is a sacrificial Lamb. Jesus suffered and died that we might have eternal life. The gospel of Jesus Christ, the life, death, burial and resurrection isn’t the gospel without suffering.

There is also a second reason. The church was never intended to replicate the miracle ministry of Jesus. Sure, there would be and I believe still are today, fairly isolated instances of God’s miraculous power working through men and women but this activity is sparse (modern “fake” faith healers excepted). But the suffering goes on....and on...and on...and on.

We don’t experience much, or for most, any of the suffering that someone like Peter writes about. However, most of the potential audience for the gospel and the life of Jesus Christ are outside of America. Followers of Jesus in most other parts of the world face suffering of New Testament proportions for speaking of Jesus, getting baptized or any outward expression of Christian faith. As they read the words of 1 Peter they are reminded that they have not and do not suffer alone or in vain. They read how men and women like them greatly suffered for the cause of Jesus.

I don’t know what you might be getting out of our time in 1 Peter. There has been discussion in the sermon group on Facebook about the nature of suffering and a lot of good questions have been asked. I don’t claim to have a lot of answers but I do think that the questions are ones we should be asking and struggling with from time to time. I also hope that thinking about suffering will move all of us to pray for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who do face persecution for their own faith. May our own security not be used to lull us to sleep.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Church Mortgage (member loans)

As of December 31, 2016 we were able to pay off the adjustable rate mortgage we had with the Mifflinburg bank. Along with the bank mortgage we also had member loans that we were paying 3 % interest. As of January 1, 2017 we had member loans totaling \$697,626.40 plus a loan from the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) Cemetery of \$24,470.64 for a total mortgage of \$722,097.04.

Also, beginning with the 2017 budget, we changed our loan payments coming from the Building fund and included a Debt Service line in our budget.

Through September we have total interest charges of \$14,987.39. We have total payments of \$71,673.38 broken down as:

Building Fund Auction	\$15,741.98
Interest Forgiven	\$800.00
Interest Correction	\$445.83
Debt Service Budget Line	\$54,676.27

Total member loans as of September 30, 2017 were \$640,940.41 plus BVCOB Cemetery loan of \$25,017.71 for a total outstanding loans of \$665,958.42.

Jake Myer, Treasurer



Letters to Missionaries

Check out the Missionary Board for a great opportunity to connect with the missionaries we support. There you will see photos and some basic information about the missionaries Outside Our Walls being supported by Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren. We've provided the note cards, all you have to do is write some words of encouragement. Drop it back in the basket and we'll even mail it for you!

Jo Hurst for Mission Ministry Team



What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

Naomi Brubaker's **Pumpkin Rolls** recipe is found on page 122 of ***Come to the Table* cookbook**.

- ½ C. – warm water
- 2 pkg. – dry yeast
- 1 ½ C. – milk, scalded
- ½ C. – shortening
- ½ C. – sugar
- 2 tsp. – salt
- 2 eggs – beaten
- ¾ C. – pumpkin, cooked
- 7 C. – flour

Sprinkle yeast into warm water and allow to dissolve. Add shortening, sugar, salt, beaten eggs and pumpkin to scalded milk. Add yeast mixture to scalded milk mixture after it has cooled to lukewarm. Add flour and knead until smooth. Let rise until doubled in size. Cut out or shape into rolls. Let rise. Bake at 350° F for 15 minutes.

This recipe makes delicious rolls that would go nicely with your Thanksgiving dinner. When I prepared the recipe, I allowed the dough to rise for 1 ½ hour. Then I rolled it to about ½" thick and cut 3" rounds with my biscuit cutter. I left them rise for 30 minutes and baked them for 25 minutes in stoneware that I sprayed with olive oil. The recipe yields 36 tasty rolls.

How about some Pumpkin Cake? Kerry Wagner and Gail Hanselman both have **Pumpkin Cake** recipes on page 132 of ***Come to the Table* cookbook**. There are over 75 dessert recipes in the cookbook!

If you haven't picked up your copy of ***Come to the Table* cookbook**, you should get one soon. There are less than 100 copies available. You can pick up your copy at the Welcome Center at a cost of just \$10. They make great gifts. And, Christmas will be here before you know it!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!



The Mystery Chef



Who Came to Dinner?

On Sunday October 8th 60 people participated in Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. Seven families opened their homes for a fun filled evening of amazing food, devotions, games and fellowship with others from our congregation.

Thank you to Jim and Naomi Brubaker, Craig and Rachel Gabel, Mike and Liz Griffin, Jon and Heidi Hagan, Dennis and Lori Hunsberger, Brian and Donita Keister and Jeff and Gaye Stahl for being hosts and to the other 46 of you who were guests!!! Without all of you this event wouldn't happen.

Also, a BIG Thank You to Karen Beiler and Fay Richard for organizing the event!!!

This event is on the church calendar for October 14, 2018. Mark it down and plan to join in on the "Suspense"!

Blessings,
Pam Kline, Special Events



Have You Purchased a WEIS CARD?

The Weis Gift card program has been a great success. You get to spend 100% of your money on groceries and the profits still go to the "Building for Ministry" fund.



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.

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

September Offerings Summary

General Fund	\$37,508.48
YTD Offerings	\$35,7025.88
Needed YTD	\$39,6321.12
Behind Budget	- 39,295.24

Other Deposits

Children's SS	16.77
CMT	30.00
Scrip Cards	1,700.00
Weis Cards	2,500.00
Wenger Cards	1,025.00
Dominican Missionary	515.00
Youth	30.00
Outreach Event	40.00
Ambit Energy	60.00
Rose Libby Memorial	100.00
Women's Beach Retreat	1,150.00
OCC	50.00
Facility In Use donations	25.00
Reimbursement Licensed Minister Course	92.00
Estate Donation to Building Fund	2,000.00