

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

February 2017
Volume 33 No. 1



Dominican Mission Trip

On February 4th, 11 people will leave for the Dominican Republic to help construct some church facilities and to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. This group will return on February 13th. This is our third trip to the Dominican Republic in the past three years, allowing us to establish a continuing and ongoing relationship with our Dominican brothers and sisters.

This year we have a chance to spend the time with our friends, Jason & Nicole Hoover, who have been serving as missionaries in the Dominican since November. This trip is a great opportunity to demonstrate our love and commitment to those in the Dominican. Our main entry has pictures of the buildings we will be working on and a list of people who are on the trip. Please pick up one of these lists and consider praying each day for the group as they serve in the Dominican Republic. Maybe God will use this time to call you to go on the trip next year? After all, central PA doesn't have temperatures in the 80s in February!

Pastor Eric



Save the Date!

We are hosting our Spiritual Life services on Sunday and Monday, **March 26-27, 2017**. 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.

Pastor Eric



Couples Banquet



February 11th from 6 to 8:30 pm

In the Son Room

Cost is \$26 per couple payable at the door.

Dinner to include:

Slow cooked roast beef

Chicken Alfredo

Hash brown potato casserole

Candied carrots

Corn

Tossed salad

Fruit cup

Cake

Ice cream

Come enjoy a delicious dinner followed by games and marriage testimonies from Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren couples.

Sign up is necessary and will be on the Adult Ministry Team bulletin board.

Any questions, contact Pam Kline or Linda Miller.

Pam Kline



Love is a choice, not a feeling!!



PLEASE PRAY for the following people who have started training as Stephen Ministers (they started January 18th):

Steve Buttorff
Craig Pursel
Brian Sommers
Craig Spaid

Pastor Eric Kauffman will also be attending the training, although he will continue to serve our congregation as Youth and Young Adult Pastor, not as a Stephen Minister.

We are beyond excited for these men who have been called into ministry through this program and pray God's blessing on them.

Please join us as we pray for time management to complete their reading assignments, hearts full of grace and peace, and even though we don't know who they are, pray for those Care Receivers that will be assigned to these Ministers.

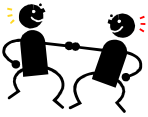
Pray also for Alicia as she conducts their training, the current Stephen Ministers undergoing continuing education and supervision, and the Care Receivers for whom we are privileged to minister.

Praising God for raising up servants!

Tracy Ericson & Alicia Showers
Stephen Leaders



Nothing you do will make Jesus love you less;
Nothing you can do
will make Jesus love you more!!



Outside Our Walls

Westernport Mission Trip Opportunity



If you see a mission trip in your future, please see Vicki Bastian or visit the Mission Ministry Table for an application to serve this summer (**July 22 -28, 2017**) at Westernport Church of the Brethren for a **VBS/Day Camp experience**. This is a great opportunity if you want to 'try out' a mission trip without a lot of expense or travel. Come to Westernport and spend a week with a fun team and some amazing children!



Spring Fling!

Saturday, **March 25, 2017** is the date for our next annual **Spring Fling at Westernport Church of the Brethren**. This full day trip gives the children of Westernport two hours filled with food, fun, games and fellowship. This is also a great recruiting tool for our annual summer trip. As always, we need your help to make this trip a success. Please consider donating your Saturday to this fun and important day!

Mission Trip?

Are you planning an independent Mission Trip? Don't forget that the Mission Ministry Team is here to support you and help you reach your financial goals. Please see Sarah Hockenbrocht or Kathy Diehl for more information!

Missionaries

Please be in prayer for our missionaries. Missionaries currently supported by the Mission Ministry Team are: Lester and Peggy Seiler; Betsy and Bret Willet and Jason and Nicole Hoover. Also, Austin Walter is serving with YWAM in Thailand for six months. You can read detailed information about these missionaries on the Mission Ministry Team bulletin board in the foyer.

Brenda Eberhart for the Mission Ministry Team

Mark Your Calendars Now!!!

Future All Church Special Events

Strawberry Festival/ Hymn Sing

Saturday, **June 10th**

from 6 – 7:30 pm in the Main Gathering!



All Church Picnic/Baptism

Sunday, **July 16th**

from 12:30 – 3:30 pm!



Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Sunday, **October 8th**!



Any questions, contact Pam Kline

Camp Eder Corner



Yes, it is quite cold out these days so what better time than now to start thinking about summer camping at Camp Eder? Brochures will probably arrive in the next month, but feel free to register online. Make sure you check in with Fay to get the financial portion from the church. If you are a regular attender here at Buffalo Valley COB, a significant portion of your tuition will be paid (up to \$225 per camper)!

Some great camps, including:

- *Barefoot
- *Kids' Swim, Farm, Colorful Creations, Dance, Explorers,
- *Jr. Culinary, Outback, Horse, Science, Fishing, Dance, new this year: Puddle Jumper and Hammock Camp (those finishing 4th - 6th grades)
- *Jr. High and Sr. High, Outdoor Rock Climbing, Wet and Wild, Appalachian Trail Trekkers

Any questions about Camp Eder, our church camp near Gettysburg, feel free to look online www.campeder.org or contact Fay Richard, our church camp representative!

Be in prayer as Camp Eder secures counselors and other staff!

Thank you!

Fay A. Richard, Camp Rep

frichard@dejazzd.com

From Your Lead Pastor,



Thoughts about the Benefit of a King

A few weeks ago I was having a conversation about the kingdom of God with the men's bible study group. As an American, I am sort of predisposed against the idea of having a king. Human history is full of kings and queens who have risen to power forcefully and peacefully. History is full of kings who have greatly abused their power for their own personal benefit and have intentionally or unintentionally hurt large numbers of people. So, if you're like me, you typically don't think that having a king is a good idea. But Jesus presents His reign as that of a king and His "rule" as that of a kingdom. Will Jesus be a good king? Is the reign of Jesus something that we should look forward to?

If you think about it, the best form of government would be a monarchy, so long as you have a good king. Democracy and a Republic form of government places the power in the hands of a lot of people; and obviously not all of those people are "good" people. The problem with "one man, one vote" is that not all men are good men and therefore will not cast a wise vote. The best situation would be to have a good king, one who truly and genuinely cares for his people and who has their short and long term interests at heart. But no person can fit that bill. But Jesus can. Jesus is the perfect King. He has all wisdom and all power and all love.

It will be a great eternal "day" to live under the authority of King Jesus. Until then, we struggle along with imperfect forms of government by very imperfect men. But one day, if you have received Jesus as your Savior, you will serve under the King of Kings and Lord of Lords...Jesus.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



Could we but for one moment get a glimpse into the mighty depths of His love, our hearts would spring out to meet His will and embrace it as our richest treasure.

Hannah Whitall Smith



Free As a Bird

March 24th, 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 2nd, **Bowling at Best Bowl** and fellowship at Pizza Hut. Time to be determined.

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.

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

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

Greetings from Building & Grounds

Not much has been happening on our team since the last update. Bumper Blocks were purchased and put down at the Handicapped stalls out from the Main Entry on the new paving. Also, five Bumper Blocks and signs for Limited Mobility parking were placed on the East end of the new paving.

We also purchased ten new, white 8' plastic tables to replace some of the older, heavier tables. The older tables will be moved to the garage out from the dumpster and also a few in the shed by where the van is parked. These tables will be available for people to borrow upon request to the church office. We are asking that the white plastic tables NOT be removed from church property. We would like to keep them looking nice. Building and Grounds thanks you for your co-operation in this.

From everyone on the Building & Grounds Ministry Team a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Bill Baker, Building & Grounds Team Leader



Friday Fun Night

Friday Fun Night (FFN) is for kids in K through 5th grades. FFN is held from 6:30 – 8 pm each Friday (November through April) with open gym from 6 to 6:30 pm and 8 to 8:30 pm.

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.

We will cover the beginning of the Bible this year. Snacks are provided.

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

Friday Fun Night February Themes

February 3rd - Bring a Buck - Bring a dollar or more for Westernport Kids

February 10th - Valentine Night
- Dress in hearts, red, pink or white

February 17th - Crazy Hair/Crazy Hat Night
- Do you really need an explanation?

February 24th - Family Friday Night
- Invite your family for pizza from 6:00 - 6:30 pm and have them stay they want!

We hope to see you there!

Teresa Chambers for Childrens' Ministry Team



Buffalo Gals

Our **2017 Women's Winter Retreat** is scheduled to be held **February 24 - 26 at Timberwind Log Cabin Lodge**. Our Theme this year is Sweet Life Café. Participants have the option to stay Friday evening - Sunday at noon for a cost of \$45 per person, or Saturday during the day for a cost of \$20 per person. Three meals will be provided Saturday as well as breakfast on Sunday. Women are encouraged to bring snacks to share. A sign-up sheet is posted at the Women's Ministry table. **Deadline to sign up is February 20th. Payments are also due by February 20th or can be brought to the retreat.**

Any questions can be directed to Tricia Dreese Jodi Kurtz.

We are in need of a coordinator for our **Pill Bottle Ministry**. As empty pill bottle donations come into Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren, we need someone to clean the bottles, remove labels, bag the bottles and mail them to the designated donation site. *Please see Tricia Dreese or Jodi Kurtz if you'd like to help organize this very worthwhile ministry.*

Mark your calendars for **March 11** our next **LIFT Women's Brunch** will be held at 9 am in the Son Room. *Any questions, please contact Dani Sommers or Alicia Showers.*

Our **Basket Ministry** is in need of packages of diapers, sizes newborn - 3 months. *Please see Heather Reid if you need any additional information.*

As we enter 2017, may we prayerfully consider and put into action, ways that we can be of service to others.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

May God Bless your talents and gifts,

Tricia Dreese



Have Some Fun for a Cause

Saturday, March 4th will be the **7th 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**. This is going to be a fast paced, lively, entertaining auction with plenty of fun to go around.

If you have **items or services to donate** you may begin bringing them to the church. Please let me (Steve Richard) know what you are donating so we can begin to make an auction list so all can see the treasures available for purchase.

If you wish to donate a **theme basket** we have some totes, baskets, and anniversary bags that are available. Please see Jake Myer or Eli Mast.

You can call me at home at (570) 966-0182 or leave me an email at sbrichard1@geisinger.edu. Thanks for supporting this great event. Last year we raised almost \$14,000 in funds to **reduce our building debt**.

Steve Richard



Do You Want to Be a King?

I've always said that being a king is a good "gig" if you can get it. But the problem with being king is that the crown sort of "goes to your head" in more ways than one.

In the month of February, we are still in our series titled, "King Me" as we are learning lessons from some of the kings of Judah and Israel. The bible is a wonderful tool to help us learn from the successes and failures of men and women who lived three thousand years ago. In February we are going to look at King Jehoshaphat, Ahab, Hezekiah and one more not yet determined.

I hope that you have enjoyed the series so far and will continue to learn from God's word.

Pastor Eric



Operation Christmas Child

Plans are in place to fill shoe boxes for 2017. The Mission Ministry Team has set a **new goal of 480 boxes**. We are confident that this goal will be reached and even surpassed. Your response to this mission is amazing and we're stepping out in faith to reach this higher goal. Please watch your email for future information.

You can help through **Can/Metal Recycling**. For 2016, our recycling program netted us a profit of \$1,564.00. These funds are also used to help off-set the cost of shipping Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Please keep putting your metal/can/aluminum in the containers outside under the pavilion. If you have larger items that can be recycled (appliances, car parts, etc.), please call the church office. Also, please help to spread the word! Each shoe box is currently \$7.00 to ship. For 2016, we needed a total of \$3,192.00 to ship the boxes.



You can also help through the **Community Aid bin**. The Mission Ministry Team received \$750.40 for the first three quarters of 2016 from Community Aid. This money, generated by your donations to the bin, is used to ship Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. The Community Aid truck driver commented that our Bin is the most active bin in the general area. Thank you for your continued support of The Bin and please continue to spread the word that our Bin has a Mission!

Thank you for continuing to fill the Bin and metal/can recycling!

Brenda Eberhart for the Mission Ministry Team



Is it not true that God has placed everything you have into your open hand??



What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

Denise Christ and Missy Myer submitted the **Chili Cheese Dip** recipe that is featured on page 9 of ***Come to the Table* cookbook**.

If you are planning to attend a Super Bowl party on February 5th, this dish is a great one to share with friends and family, or with rivals! From past experience, it doesn't take long to empty a pan of **Chili Cheese Dip**.

- 2 (8 oz.) pkgs. - cream cheese, softened
- 3 (15 oz.) cans - chili with or without beans
- 4 C. - cheddar cheese, shredded
- Tortilla chips

In a 13 x 9-inch baking dish, spread cream cheese. Spread chili over cream cheese. Sprinkle cheddar cheese over all and bake uncovered 25 minutes at 350° F or until cheese is all melted. Serve hot with tortilla chips.

That's only 4 ingredients! Preparing this recipe is as easy as it gets. And, it is yummy. When I make this dish I serve it with multigrain scoops tortilla chips. Really, this goes well at any gathering.

The first 16 pages of ***Come to the Table* cookbook** are filled with appetizer and beverage recipes. If you don't have a copy of the church cookbook, you can pick one up at the Welcome Center at the cost of \$10. There are less than 100 cookbooks left. Now is a great time to get your copy.



The Mystery Chef



The Gift of Life

Many thanks to all who helped with the Red Cross blood drive on January 3rd. The Red Cross collected pints of blood which will serve many patients. The soups, BBQ and cookies you provided served both the Red Cross workers and the donors.

Thanks!

2016 Year End Treasure's Report

The books have been closed for 2016. Total General Fund offerings for the year totaled \$413,240.62. This was \$31,000 behind our printed budget, but we did control our spending to have a net operating revenue of \$15,575.46. Along with the General fund offerings, there were also the Building Fund offerings totaling \$93,546.33 and Special Designated Fund offerings totaling \$98,669.64 for a total giving for the year of \$605,456.59.

In December we were able **pay off the bank loan** from the Mifflinburg Bank. Total member loans as of December were \$702,626.43. Along with the Cemetery Fund loan and the loan from General Fund, total loan outstanding is \$776,604.87.

Total **gift card sales** for the year were \$139,589.00. Total profit for the year was \$8,317.83. You can add to these profits by purchasing gift cards at the Welcome Center Sunday mornings between first service and Sunday school and between Sunday school and second service.

If you are interested in seeing the complete printed treasurer's report, copies are available at the Welcome Center in the Main Entry.

Jake Myer, Treasurer

Lori Hunsberger, Assistant Treasurer

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Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
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Mifflinburg PA 17844

Return Service Requested

The Lamplighter

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Editors – Jeff & Vicki Bastian
Church Office/Kitchen (570) 966-1183
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8:00 AM - Worship Service
9:00 AM - Fellowship Time
9:20 AM - Sunday school
10:30 AM - Worship Service

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

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