



The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

February 2018
Volume 34 No. 1



Ready, Set, Pray!

We have begun the Calling Process. This is the way our **church discerns our leadership** personnel. On January 7th Calling Sheets were placed in your church mail box. Along with the Calling Sheet was a Membership List. Please spend time in prayer asking God who would best serve our congregation. The **Calling Sheets** will be **due January 28th**. You may turn them in sooner by placing them in Dale Lehman's mailbox.

This calling will be for those leadership positions needing filled as of January 1, 2019. If the current leader is ineligible or unwilling to serve another term the person who accepts the call will spend the remainder of 2018 as Leader Elect. They will work with the current leader learning the duties and integrating into the team. The plan and hope is that this early calling procedure will make the transition smooth and will help the new leaders be ready to assume their duties in January 2019.

Marsha Libby for Gifts Discernment Team

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2018!

March 3 – Annual Church Auction
March 4 & 5 – Spiritual Life Services
March 16- 18 – Men's Retreat
March 29 – LOVE FEAST
March 31 – Easter Egg Fair



April 1 – EASTER

June 9 – Strawberry Festival
June 27 – July 1 – Creation

July 4 – 8 – Annual Conference
July 14 – 20 – Westernport Mission Trip
July 21 – National Youth Conference
July 29 – All Church Picnic/Baptism

September 9 - 12 – Women's Beach Retreat
September 14 & 15 – District Conference

Por favor, oren por el equipo de la misión de la República Dominicana

A group of eleven people are leaving to serve in the Dominican Republic from February 3 - 12. We will be involved in two construction projects and will be participating in worship services and times with children while we are there. Thanks for your financial contribution to this effort through the church budget and individual gifts. This is our fourth trip and we have been able to impact seven different churches in the Dominican Republic. We will also be working with Jason and Nicole Hoover, missionaries to the Dominican Republic from Buffalo Valley. We ask that you keep our group in prayer; that God's will and purpose will be accomplished. We would also like to thank Jake Myer for transporting us to and from the Philadelphia airport this year.

Here are the names of the group:

Marlin Yoder Ashley Wetzel Jeff Bastian
Braden Hurst Clarissa Styer Tom Styers
Donita Keister Ken Beiler Anthony Phelps
Darryl Fetterolf Eric Reamer

We are planning another trip next year, most likely in February, and it's not too late to plan to be a part of that trip...and if it's any small incentive, the high temperature during this time of year is about 86 degrees and the lows are in the high 60s!



God Bless,
Pastor Eric



You Did It!!



The results of our special Christmas Eve offering were overwhelming. We not only met but exceeded our goal. The money raised will be hand delivered by Marla Abe so that the church for the Batwa people in Rwanda can be purchased. Thank-you all for answering God's call.

Jo Hurst for Mission Ministry Team



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 2nd - Bring a Buck - Bring a dollar or more for Westernport Kids

February 9th - Valentine Night
- Dress in hearts, red, pink or white

February 16th - Crazy Hair/Crazy Hat Night
- Do you really need an explanation?

February 23th - 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 Children's Ministry Team



We can give thanks not because of what tomorrow holds, but because of Who holds tomorrow!



Have Some Fun for a Cause

This year's Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren **Annual Church Auction** is **March 3rd** and we are busy collecting items for the sale. Please let Jake Myer or Steve Richard (570-452-4854) know as soon as you have an item for the sale so we can begin to advertise the hundreds of items that we will have to sell. We accept most anything of value (new or used) to be sold at our popular **silent auction** tables or at the **live auction**. If you would like to donate a theme bag or a themed basket we have some baskets available for your use or you can provide your own.

The details for the auction are much the same as last year. It will be **Saturday March 3rd** and while we strongly prefer to know about the items ASAP, all items must be to the church by 8 am that morning. Starting at **3 pm food** will be available, **silent auction** tables will open and you can look through the order of sale and review the hundreds of items that are donated. The **live bidding starts at 4 pm** with Auctioneer Jeremy Waite. At 5:30 pm we will take a break in the main gathering and sell large furniture and other items in the main entry. **All proceeds** go directly to our **building debt retirement**.

Steve Richard

BECA Scholarship

We would like to introduce you to the student we will be sponsoring through the BECA Scholarship program in the Dominican Republic. Her name is Besaida Diny Encarnacion, and she is 23 years old. She is an active member of the Church of the Brethren in Magueyal where she serves as Vice President of the Youth. She wants to pursue a career in education because it is her passion to help children.

Although it has been a financial struggle for her, she has already completed 2 years at University. We hope to sponsor her for her final 2 years. Please keep Besaida in your prayers as she continues her education and works with the youth of her church.

Jo Hurst for Mission Ministry Team



Men after God's Heart

Hi men, it's been a while since an event but wait no longer because it is **Men's Retreat Time** on **MARCH 16 - 18, Friday night thru Sunday morning**.

It will be held at the **Timberwind Lodge** in Livonia, PA. Randy Reddinger will be the **guest speaker** and we are hoping to have live music too.

Cost will be \$50 for the weekend or \$25 for Saturday. Food & drink will be provided but we ask if you would bring a dish or snack to share. Bring your clothes, personal items, and sleeping bag. Please don't let the cost deter you as we want all men to attend.

This will be a Holy Spirit awaking time for all as we worship, pray, learn, laugh, and have fun together.

Other events are being planned for the following months so stay tuned!

We continue to hold a **Men's Bible Study** on the **first & third Thursday** of each month from **7 pm to 8 pm**. Every man is invited whether you attend another Bible Study or not.

It is important that the Men's Ministry provide more than just events, but to invite the Holy Spirit to lead us, grow in us, and nurture us into Men after GOD'S HEART every day of our lives, one day at a time, including through each time we meet.

If you have questions, contact Craig Gabel or Doug Diehl.

Doug Diehl for Men's Ministry



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', Junior, Senior High Youth, Junior High Youth

*Kids' Farm, Colorful Creations, Explorers,

*Jr. Culinary, Outback, Gone Fishin, Shining Stars, Rock Climbing, Wet N Wild, and more

* **NEW this year, Puddle Jumpers, Train Camp and Homestead Bootcamp**

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!

A quote from their site: "Above all, we, at Camp Eder, are about sharing the message of Jesus Christ and impacting communities everywhere with the hope we have in Him. We hope camp inspires you, encourages you, and uplifts you!"

Please consider camp for your child!

Fay A. Richard (frichard@dejazzd.com)



Operation Christmas Child Shipping

The **cost to ship** shoeboxes is a daunting cost each year. BUT...you can help us raise that money throughout the year.

Don't forget about the **Community Aid bin** in the parking lot. Your donations of clothing and soft home goods (curtains, bedding and linens, etc) help us to earn money from Community Aid that goes directly to OCC shipping costs.

Also, your **recycling** donations are a huge help, too. Did you know that we recycle **more than just aluminum cans**? You can donate appliances, aluminum siding, copper, brass and so much more! Have a large cleanup project and need someone to come pick up your metal to recycle? Call us and we can arrange a pick-up! Thank-you for your year round support of our efforts!!

Jo Hurst for Mission Ministry Team



Ladies the Date is Set

We finally have our date set for the **Annual Women's Winter Retreat** in Livonia! Mark your calendars and plan to join us Friday evening, **February 23rd through** Sunday noon time, **February 25th at Timberwind Lodge**. All adult women who attend Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren are invited to join us!

We **need several volunteers** in order for our Women's Retreat to be successful! If you're interested to assist with one of the following, please contact Tricia Dreese immediately: **co-organizing** our retreat, leading a **small group** study session, overseeing **music/worship** or arranging the **food/meals** for the weekend (We already have the materials for our retreat – it's just a matter of finding volunteers to utilize our resources).

Cost per person for the weekend is \$50. If you can only join us Saturday and don't plan to spend the night, that cost will be \$25 per person. Lodging and meals are included in the costs mentioned above.

A signup sheet is posted on the Women's Ministry Bulletin Board. The **deadline to signup** is Wednesday, **February 14**.

Any questions, contact Tricia Dreese.

Tricia Dreese for Women's Ministry



Serving Others in Westernport

Plans are underway for the **Summer Mission to Westernport, MD**. We will be serving the children and their families the week of **July 14 - 20**. If you would like to be part of a team that makes a difference in the lives of these precious children, please contact me for more information. Details and applications available shortly.

Vicki Bastian
Team Leader

From Your Lead Pastor,



What if Buffalo Valley Didn't Exist?

What would happen if our church disappeared? Would the community notice? Would it have a ripple effect in our community and in the Kingdom of God? As I think about this I realize that many of you who call Buffalo Valley your church would be active participants in another local church if Buffalo Valley didn't exist, but if we just look at how God uses us, what would happen if we didn't exist?

1. There would be no place for over 400 people to gather for Gingerbread house night, about 100 children to gather for summer day camp or 50 children to gather every Friday for Friday Fun.

2. There would be one less place for youth and young adults to gather for movie night or youth group.

3. There would be several places in the Dominican Republic, the Sudan and now in Rwanda without church buildings and other resources they need to further the gospel.

4. There would be less opportunities for teachers to use their gifts in Sunday school, both with children and adults.

5. There would be people who were not helped through short term financial difficulties through the Family in Need fund.

6. There would be 16 less people this past year who experienced the joy of baptism.

7. Our denomination would have less leadership on both the state and national levels.

8. People would not have developed the meaningful relationships they have which lead to laughter and tears, exhortation and encouragement.

In the interest of space, I'll stop now; though I know there are many more things which can be said. Buffalo Valley is far from a perfect church but we are a collection of people who are on a journey; a meaningful journey that makes a difference in the lives of people and communities here and around the world. Would you join me in praying that we continue to discern what God's plans are for us in the coming years...not resting on the accomplishments of yesterday?

God Bless,
Pastor Eric

Christian Service

Strive to serve like Jesus: with meekness,
humility and love.

In Christian service, the branches that bear
the most fruit hang the lowest.

Anonymous



Buffalo Gals

Thank you to all those who joined us January 19th at Barn Owl Art Studio. If you haven't done so already, **don't forget to share your creation with someone** who is in need of encouragement, support or inspiration. May God continue to bless your talents and gifts!

Check your mailboxes ladies, 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.

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

Our **Basket Ministry** is in need of the following items: **adult puzzle books, Christian books, newborn diapers - size 1, small snack items (single serving applesauce or jello, granola bars, peanut butter crackers, etc.), adult coloring books & colored pencils, small journals**. As always, if you would like to help sponsor the \$10 gift cards we include in each basket, just mark "basket ministry" in the memo of your check (we will then purchase the \$10 cards through the monthly Scrip orders). *Any questions, see Heather Reid.*

Discipleship Reconciliation Ambassadorship Mission Authenticity

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:22-24

Are you able to live each day, according to the fruit of the Spirit? In what areas do you struggle? How can your life be enriched as a result of being more mindful of your struggles? Find a friend this month and discuss your responses with one another.

Many Blessings to every Sister in Christ!

Tricia Dreese



Land Cruiser Delivered

After more than a year in delays because of concerns about the ongoing-armed conflict, permitting, and security the **Toyota Land Cruiser** was **delivered** to the Brethren Peace Center in Torit, **South Sudan** in December 2017.

The vehicle will be used by Athanasus Ungang, Global Mission and Service worker in the Torit area. The Church of the Brethren mission efforts in South Sudan are aimed at building up the **church presence** there, responding to **human needs**, and working for **peace and reconciliation**.

The Land Cruiser is equipped to travel on muddy, water hole filled roads that are practically impassable during the rainy season. This vehicle will be helpful to the ministry at the Peace Center as Athanasus travels and ministers among the people in the Torit area.

Thanks to the Southern Pennsylvania District, churches and individuals that contributed one half of the funds needed for the purchase of the vehicle. The **Park and Ride Campaign at Buffalo Valley** made a **sizable contribution**. Global Mission and Service contributed the remaining funds to make the purchase, delivery, and operation of the vehicle possible.

Perhaps as important as material assistance is the hope that our care and presence brings to our sisters and brothers in war torn South Sudan. During our visit in early 2016 the people expressed great appreciation that we traveled and visited them, **giving** them **hope** that they are not forgotten.

Eli Mast



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.



What Are Your “Roots”?

Roots (and I’m not referring to the hair kind) are important to provide food and water for the plant and they also hold the plant in place...providing a way for the plant to endure wind and rain and other things that would be a potential problem for the stability of the plant. Plants are not the only thing that need roots. People need roots. People need “things” to provide “nourishment” for the soul and stability in life.

From mid-January through mid-March we are going to look at some of the “**roots**” of our **faith** here at Buffalo Valley. We are going to look at some principles of Anabaptism, which along with Pietism, form the theological roots of the Church of the Brethren.

The sermon series, using “Anabaptist Essentials” by Palmer Becker, is based on three summary statements of Anabaptist theology:

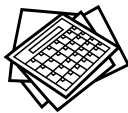
Jesus is the center of our faith

Community is the center of our life

Reconciliation is the center of our work

We will spend three weeks on each sentence. We will see how each of these sentences forms how we approach the ministry of Buffalo Valley. I hope that you will come and see how these important roots affect our growth both personally and corporately as a church.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



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.



God Cares, Do You?

“...the Bible contains 2,350 verses on how to handle your money and possessions. You might be surprised to learn that 15 percent of everything Jesus Christ said had to do with it. In fact, He talked more about money than almost any other subject. He knew money would be a challenge for all of us and He cared enough to show us how to handle it wisely.”

Howard Dayton

If how we handle money and possessions is this important to God, why do we get upset when people discuss money in church?



60 Years of Service

For six decades Eugene Hoffman of Mifflinburg, has been quietly and meticulously keeping record of everyone who attends Sunday school each week. While Eugene, a lifelong member, may be unfamiliar to many attendees, BVCOB is the only church family he has ever known. During his early childhood Eugene accompanied his paternal grandparents, Reno and Carrie (Galer) Hoffman to church each Sunday.

In September 1957, he began his duties as Sunday School Recording Secretary when Charlotte Styers entrusted him with that responsibility. Only 14 years of age, Eugene rapidly grew into his new role at the church. In 1959, Pastor Roger Forry, who served the congregation at BVCOB from 1959 through 1968, asked Eugene to take on additional volunteer duties. Those duties included typing and printing the bulletins that were distributed on Sunday morning. Rather than volunteering for the additional responsibilities Eugene stated that Rev. Forry “drafted” him for the position. Having gained experience using a typewriter while a student at Mifflinburg High School, 16-year-old Eugene Hoffman was well suited for the job. In addition to typing the contents into the bulletin, he was also asked to mimeograph 100 copies so they were available for distribution on Sunday morning. Eugene spent two decades, 1959 through 1979, preparing and printing the Sunday morning bulletins.

Each week the pastor brought handwritten notes to Eugene’s home with information he wanted included in the bulletin. That information included the order of the services, announcements, song list, prior week’s attendance and offering as well as other timely information. There were occasions when Eugene was preparing the bulletins on Saturday afternoons. The benefit to printing and folding the bulletins on Saturday afternoon was the opportunity he had to listen to Marilyn Keister practice her music selections for the service the following morning. Eugene sat in the sanctuary of the old white church folding the bulletins while listening to Marilyn play the organ. People who know Eugene are keenly aware of his passion for organ music.

While Eugene surrendered the responsibilities associated with the weekly bulletin in 1979, he continued his volunteer duties as Sunday School Recording Secretary. Part of his weekly responsibilities include gathering the attendance sheets from each classroom. Those who assist him with that duty include Gail Hanselman, Jane Mast, Carol Manbeck, Donita Keister and Joan Hofmann. Those sheets include the

name of the teacher as well as a record of attendees for that particular Sunday. Additionally, Eugene records offering and attendance information from the previous week on the wooden Register of Attendance and Offering board located inside the front door in the Narthex.

Eugene enjoys the responsibility of keeping track of the 150 to 160 weekly Sunday school attendees, which includes adults, children and those in the nursery. He is thankful for the assistance he currently receives each week from a small group of volunteers. Eugene is also mindful of the help and guidance he received from his predecessors, Charlotte Styers, Ann Goss and Hilda Zechman, as well as people like Emory Styers who filled in during his absence.

While he has witnessed many changes in the six decades he has been volunteering, this humble Sunday School Recording Secretary meticulously performs his weekly duties with no desire for recognition. However, if you know Eugene, perhaps you can thank him for his 60 years of service to BVCOB. At the same time, you can also wish him a happy birthday, as he will be celebrating birthday number 75 on February 2nd.

Tony Shively



Couples Banquet



When: **February 17th at 6 pm**

Where: **BVCOB Son Room**

Cost: **\$26.00 per couple**

Sign-up deadline: **February 4th!**

Menu:

Onion Glazed Chicken, Slow Roasted Beef, Hash Brown Casserole, Green Beans, Corn, Tossed Salad, Rolls/Butter, Fruit Salad and Cake

Join in for a night of amazing food, couples testimonies, fellowship and games!!!

Sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board near the Main Entry doors.

Payment can be put in offering plate earmarked “Couples Banquet” or pay the night of the event.

Any questions, contact Linda Miller or Pam Kline

Pam Kline

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Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
46 Brethren Church Rd
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Return Service Requested

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Donita J. Keister, Associate Pastor
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Eric M. Kauffman, Associate Pastor
for Youth & Young Adults

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