



Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren

This month's birthdays

- 2 Joe LaPrade
- 4 Golden Brunk
- 5 Kasey Cyzick
- 5 Sam Evans
- 7 Laura (Grove) Wall
- 14 Ava Wampler
- 15 Theresa Eckard
- 23 Emma Eckard
- 23 Michael LaPrade
- 25 Jody Cyzick
- 26 Anna Suter
- 26 Scotty Evans
- 28 Cole Wheelbarger
- 29 Greg Evans
- 31 Stuart Wood

If your birthday is this month and you don't see your name, contact the church office at the number above.

January 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 7—Mixed Bible Study, 10 am
- 7—Women's Fellowship, 7pm
- 16—Leadership Team Meeting, 7 pm
- 21—Mixed Bible Study, 10 am

By the looks of the events calendar, we have moved from the busyness of the Holidays to the quietness of January. Take time to rest and to nurture relationships that are calling to you. Please consider how you might contribute to this newsletter in the coming months. Email all submissions to newsletter@beavercreekchurchva.org.

WHATEVER IS *true*
 WHATEVER IS *honorable*
 WHATEVER IS *just*
 WHATEVER IS *pure*...
 IF THERE IS ANYTHING
worthy of praise
 THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.
 PHILIPPIANS 4:8. NRSV



5651 Beaver Creek Rd., Bridgewater, VA 22812 * Glenn Bollinger, Pastor

Sunday School 9:45 * Worship Service 11:00

Church Office 540-828-2767

E-mail: secretary@beavercreekchurchva.org

Church Office hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Website: <http://beavercreekchurchva.org>

Send newsletter items to Regina Harlow at newsletter@beavercreekchurchva.org

Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren and *Beaver Creek COB Youth* on

www.twitter.com/beavercreekers on

Pastor Glenn's "Until April" message for us

As I sit at my desk, we are on the home-stretch to Christmas day. One week to go. My head is twirling with many images, and it's not visions of sugar plums! No, I'm focused on finishing up work on worship services, a wedding, end of year reports, Christmas parties, family gatherings, and getting ready to begin Sabbath Rest/Sabbatical.

There is a mental picture that has surfaced for me a number of times in the past few days. It is a picture of a lumberjack cutting down trees as fast as he can. He is so intent on his task, and trying to cut as many trees as possible, that he fails to take time to sharpen his saw. The result is that he works harder and harder and still falls further behind.

The past 3 years have included many significant life changes in our family, and for me it is time to "sharpen my saw." January through

March will provide me an opportunity to visit the Holy Lands, spend a week at a Monastery in silent retreat, travel to Haiti to be involved in mission work, and time to spend with my parents in Florida. Pastors across denominational lines are encouraged to be intentional in setting aside time and space for sabbaticals (Sabbath Rest) due to the non-stop nature of pastoral ministry. I have not been the best at this, and my hope and prayer is that this time will provide renewed energy, for me as a pastor, and for Beaver Creek as a congregation. I covet your prayers during my absence, as I will be stretching myself both professionally and personally during this time. Know also, that I will be in intentional prayer for you as well. Blessings to you all, and see you in April!

Pastor Glenn

And here is a brief introduction from Robert Alley. Linda and I have enjoyed worshipping with you at Beaver Creek several times during the past couple months, learning to know more of you, and sharing in your delicious oyster supper! We look forward to continuing to worship and associate with you during January, February, and March as I serve as your "Pinch Pastor" during Glenn's sabbatical. You are indeed a vibrant, serving congregation! Please be in contact with me whenever I can provide pastoral ministry during these months at the beginning of 2014.

Leadership Team at Work

Here are some of the items covered at the Leadership Team meeting in October.

- * Sunday school social time will continue as long as there is interest. Hanging of the Greens – Dec 1, Bread and Cup Communion – Jan 5.
- * The worship team confirmed that as of now the pulpit is filled for all Sunday's during Glenn's Sabbath Rest. They have a planning meeting with Robert Alley in December. The Outreach team reported that Beaver Creek is partnering with Montezuma to help the Open Doors Week to serve the area's homeless. The backpack program is up and running for the current school year.
- * Pastor Glenn reported that everything is set for him to go to Israel, to Haiti, and to attend a silent retreat during his Sabbath Rest and that Debbie will be traveling with him to Israel and Haiti.
- * The final draft of the budget and an agenda was approved for the congregational business meeting.
- * A motion was made to keep the ad in the Disaster Relief Auction Booklet with the discussion of possibly re-working it.

Remember: The complete minutes of all Leadership Team meetings are available at <http://www.beavercreekchurchva.org/> after the minutes have been approved.

To Give or Not to Give

A three-part series on my encounter with a homeless man. Part two.

By *Tim Grove*

The day that James came to help me mulch was going to be a long one - I knew that from the start. The forecast wasn't terrible for late June, but the task before us was more than a day's work and I needed as much help as I could get. Besides that, I wanted to give James a full day of employment to make it worth his while. I had mulled the economics of begging versus working, and I was going to make sure that he didn't regret leaving his post at the interstate to sweat for some cash.

I had arranged to meet him in Weyers Cave around 9:00. He used the local bus system to get around town, and had spent the night near the gas station on Route 11 - one of his usual spots. When I arrived at the station, I found him inside sitting at a table with his camouflage coat and a small plastic bag. We said hello and he gathered his belongings. He had been messing with his cell phone and pulled the charging cord from the outlet on the wall beside the booth. He grabbed his cardboard sign and we headed to the car.

As we buckled in and began the 20 minute commute to the house, I figured that we'd soon find out if this had been a good decision. The inside of a car is much more intimate than a guardrail in the open air. We made small talk as if we were two strangers on a first date, but we were destined to grow closer together in the hours ahead. Shared labor will do that.

I wanted to work side by side with James for several reasons. First, he was my helper - not my employee. I wanted him to feel valued and to know that he hadn't just been hired to do work I was unwilling to do. Second, I wanted to talk with him. The conversation at the interstate ramp had left me yearning to find out more about his experience on the street and about his faith. Finally, and I hope least of all, I needed to satisfy my type-A personality and make sure the job was done right.

We arrived at the house, grabbed our tools and began to work. Very early in the process, we agreed that by day's end we would be well past tired, having taxed muscle groups that neither of us used regularly. All day long we worked together. I let him make trips to the mulch pile on the lawnmower while I did the spreading. He commented that I was doing the harder job, but we were both soaked in sweat. The job was only made better by each other's company and the slow visible progress we saw from our efforts.

James let me ask as many questions as I wanted, and he answered them all with complete honesty. I wanted to know about his life as a homeless man - the nights, the weather, the money and the pain. He talked about sleeping on the ground and under bridges, and about how to cook without a kitchen. He talked about sleeping lightly and

being subject to theft from other homeless people, and even having his sleeve lit on fire by pranksters. In comparison, the raccoons that occasionally showed interest in his food were mild. In comparison, the "shelter" provided by institutions like the Mission was inferior.

I found out that he had been without work for over two years, and that poor decisions as a young adult left him without a driver's license. I learned that he graduated from Lee High School and wrestled - an experience that we shared. He was an ex-Marine, having been readied for deployment to Desert Storm only to have the war end just before departure. He rode bulls in his twenties and permanently injured his back. He had children and ex-wives, and a string of jobs. He had heart. And humor. And perspective. All gained by experience.

I asked James about the legitimacy of the people on the street and he agreed that many were honestly homeless though some were in fact just there for the easy money. Given enough time, a person with a sign could earn more than minimum wage at an interchange, though weather conditions could ruin a day quicker than anything. Some days you made it, some days you didn't. He mentioned several people that he knew were regulars, and he identified them as being legitimate or not. I asked him about some of the individuals I had seen, but it was a little hard to know for sure if we were talking about the same people since the descriptions were fairly common to all of them. Everyone except Marvin.

I had picked Marvin up in my work truck from the Fishersville exit a year or so ago and bought him breakfast at the McDonalds there. We sat in the truck for twenty minutes and ate our drive-through biscuits while he told me his work circumstances and gave me his phone number. I had given him a twenty dollar bill and directions to a nearby church that I thought might be able to provide financial or housing assistance. I dropped him back off at the corner, wished him well, and we parted.

As I described to James my meeting with Marvin, he stopped shoveling and looked at me with a somber face. He knew the man, and told me that he was a pretty good guy, though he battled a drug addiction. James then told me that Marvin had died only a few months earlier, gunned down in front of the motel where he stayed. My heart sank as I tried to replay the breakfast and conversation we had shared. James interrupted my thoughts by going on to talk about the reality of life on the street. He talked about how the danger of self was the greatest danger of all. A great many homeless suffer from depression and suicide rates are comparatively high. Marvin wasn't the only person James knew who had died on the street.

The more he talked, the more I

realized that the plight of the homeless isn't just financial. It's also social. Being homeless means being marginalized, placed on the fringe of society and being segregated from others by the glass of a driver's door window. It's about being an outcast in plain view. Being judged for being poor. Even the people who care enough to help get turned off at the sight of a cell phone or laptop as if those who can't afford housing should also be deprived of communication with the outside world. How are they supposed to keep in touch with family or job prospects without a phone? Is a \$10 per month Netflix subscription considered to be wasteful if it's used to watch movies under a bridge on a rainy day? Homelessness is about loss of friends, loss of support and loss of hope.

James was an exception. He had plans and he had hope. He had the desire to work, to earn his money and to earn his place back in society. He didn't complain about being homeless, but he was ready to move on. He had paid his dues and wanted to get his life back.

James really got my attention when he said, "Sometimes I think God made me homeless so that I could minister to homeless people."

We had been talking about faith throughout the afternoon, and I could tell that he had spent much time in the Bible albeit by himself. I thought he could use some conversation in a group setting to help gain more insight into the scripture, but I had admired his child-like faith all day long. That's honest faith that isn't clouded by a worldly mind, the kind of faith that Jesus requires. James knew that his experience on the street gave him access to and credibility with many individuals that people like me would never connect with. And his honest faith was driving his heart towards them, even as he still lived on the street himself.

By 7:30 that evening, we were cooked. Lori grilled steaks and made a strawberry-spinach salad that James still talks about to this day. We ate in the cool breeze on our front porch as a light rain settled in, continuing our conversation about heaven, hell and everything in between. Lori was a champ from the beginning. She hadn't hesitated when I asked to bring James to the house, and she was a gracious host the entire day, making our home his home.

After dinner, we said goodbye to her and headed to Staunton. I had initially planned to let James shower at our house, but after a day like that he would need a good bed as well. I checked him in to the Econo-Lodge and paid him for his work.

Again he said, "God bless you," and this time I did as well. I drove off feeling that James had done much more than work in my yard that day. He had worked on my heart.

He had become my friend.

Personality Profile #1

This person was born and raised in Lancaster County, PA. When they were 5 years old, their family went swimming at a lake and this person wandered off from the family. They were gone for a long enough time that everyone was pulled out of the water and they were getting ready to drag the water. Someone from outside of the swimming area found them and brought them back. They have always felt the Lord in their life from a very young age and believe that God has protected them. This person went to business school after high school and took a medical course. They have worked in doctors office, as a waitress, and one summer went to Wyoming and worked on a ranch. They moved to Virginia in 1993. They enjoy reading and crafts and love to travel and would love to go on a mission trip to another country. Their favorite thing about Beaver Creek is someone had told them about Beaver Creek about great kids program. Glenn was waiting for them at the door. Remembers walking into the sanctuary and so many people came to welcome them. There was no doubt in their mind that they “came home.”

Personality Profile #2

This person is in second grade at North River Elementary School. Their favorite things is to play football and baseball and their favorite team is the Redskins! Their favorite subject in school is math. If they could be any superhero in the world they would be Batman, because that is the only superhero show they watch. If they could travel anywhere in the world they would go to Hawaii. Their favorite thing about Beaver Creek is that Sunday school is fun!

Update from Steele and Alice in Ukraine

Greetings!

We hope you all are enjoying the holiday season and receiving fresh revelation from God concerning the wonder of the Incarnation! In Ukraine, Christmas is celebrated on January 7th.

First, we want to thank you all so much for your prayers and financial support! Our fundraiser was a great success. We raised just over \$1200 dollars in one-time donations, and several people have shown interest in becoming monthly supporters. We are particularly excited that these monthly commitments will bring us much closer to being able to rent a ministry center for youth gatherings, bible studies, and prayer meetings! If you weren't able to be at the event, but you are interested in helping to make that possible please let us know!

In our last update, we shared some information about some massive protests here in Ukraine. As protests continue, many of you have likely heard some things about the situation here on the news. When the government attacked peaceful protesters at the beginning of this month, Alice and I prayed together for the nation. We both felt strongly that we should travel to Kyiv in order to support those seeking justice, pray for the protesters and the nation in general, and preach the gospel in an effort to turn people's attention to God as the source of justice and freedom.

For a week, we stood every day in the cold on Independence Square, where protesters have barricaded themselves in, and prayed for the nation. There were many opportunities for us to pray together with Ukrainians, and to tell the people that God is

not indifferent to the situation in the nation, but that He desires righteousness in Ukraine even more earnestly than they do.

After a few days, a prayer tent was set up on the square, where believers pray and offer hot tea and sandwiches around the clock. Even from the stage, leaders are calling on Ukrainians to pray, to seek God daily, and to live righteously. The primary motivation of these people on the square is not political, but it is a motivation to leave behind the remains of soviet-style corruption and live in an honest, fair nation. We are immensely grateful that God gave us a role in what is currently happening, regardless of the outcome.

Upon arriving back in Rakhiv, we were extremely exhausted and a little bit sick

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Cooking with Beaver Creek

I brought this Gingerbread Cake with Lemon Sauce and Whipped Cream to the Beaver Creek caroling event and several people asked for the recipe. Here's a story to accompany the request. When I started first grade at Hickory Hollow Christian School in 1984, there were 13 students in the entire school (grades 1-8,) and 5 of them were from my own family. The teachers baked each student a cake for their birthday, student's choice. Since I had a summer birthday and school didn't start until after Labor Day, it was well into September when they started baking and I was one of the first ones on the list to choose. I always requested Gingerbread Cake with Lemon Sauce and Whipped Cream. To this day, when fall is in the air and throughout the cold winter months, this is one of my favorite dessert. I have tried various recipes and this one is my favorite. Fortunately, my husband is not as fond of this confection as I am so I don't make it often and when I do I take it places like caroling with Beaver Creekers so I can share. Hope you enjoy!

Gingerbread Cake

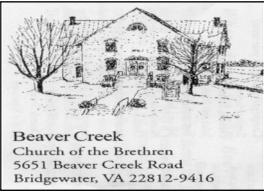
1/2 cup **butter**, 1/2 cup **sugar**, 1 **egg**, beaten, 1 cup **sorghum molasses**, 2 1/2 cups **flour**, 1 1/2 teaspoon **baking soda**, 1 teaspoon **cinnamon**, 1 teaspoon **ginger**, 1/2 teaspoon **cloves**, 1/2 teaspoon **salt**, 1 cup **boiling water**.

Method: Cream butter and sugar. Add beaten egg and molasses. Sift together dry ingredients and add to mixture. Add boiling water last. Beat until smooth. Pour into greased 9X9 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Serve warm with lemon sauce and whipped cream.

Lemon Sauce

1/2 cup **sugar**, 2 Tablespoons **cornstarch**, 1 1/2 cups **water**, 1/8 teaspoon **salt**, zest and juice of **one large lemon**, 2 Tablespoons **butter**.

Method: Cook together sugar, cornstarch, water, and salt until clear, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in lemon zest, juice, and butter. Serve warm over gingerbread cake. Use heavy whipping cream with a tad of sugar and splash of vanilla for topping.



January 2014

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Ukraine update continued...

from our time in Kyiv; now, we are rested and healthy and ready to get back to our normal schedule. As snow begins to accumulate, life slows down a bit in our small mountain town. Throughout the winter, we will be continuing to spend time with local youth, sharing the gospel with them, as well as volunteering in the local school and supporting the local church. We will continue to update you guys on all our progress. Please continue to pray for us. Once again, we appreciate all that you do! Grace and peace,

Steele & Alice

CROP Bulletin/Newsletter Announcement

The 2013 Bridgewater College CROP Meal on October 24 and Bridgewater/Dayton Area CROP Hunger Walk on October 27 raised a total of \$8,600 for Church World Service's hunger relief, education, and development programs in 80 countries around the world, with 25% of that amount coming back to fight hunger in our own community through the Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Pantry. A heartfelt thanks to all the churches and individuals who helped make our CROP events such a success and blessing for God's children across the street and around the world.

Studies Beginning in January

The Path to the Cross by Ran Vander Laan

5 week Study (January 5, 12, 19, 26 February 2). Time TBA on Sunday evenings at Joe & Faye Wampler's home. Facilitated by Joe & Faye Wampler. This Bible Study uses 30 minute DVD lessons followed by discussion. Ray Vander Laan will take us to the Holy Land to walk where Jesus walked. Beginning in Deuteronomy, getting grounded in the Old Testament, we move with the Hebrews and their expectation of the Messiah. We meet John the Baptist, go with Christ into the desert to be tempted, sit with Him at the Passover and culminate with His ultimate sacrifice. We will discover things from Ray Vander Laan that bring the story alive in ways we had not thought before. **Contact Faye Wampler.**

Bible Study led by Jane Wood

Details TBA. **10:00 a.m. - 11:30** at Beaver Creek COB library. **Contact Jane Wood.**

Jesus the One & Only by Beth Moore

11 week Women's Bible Study (Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 17, 24, 21, April 7 at **9:30 a.m.** at Debbie Bollinger's home. Materials need to be ordered. **Contact Debbie Bollinger.**

Roger, Joe, Glenn, and Josh wrangled the Crismon tree for the sanctuary.

Photo by Debbie Bollinger.



Above left: Youth (and older youth) prepare fruit baskets for shut-ins. Left: Children present a Christmas play. Above: Beaver Creek carolers. Above right: Charles Wright and Carole Grove provide special music for worship. Photos by Doug Wood and Bill Wood.