



- 1 Angie Rhodes
- 1 Maggie Newman
- 1 Jessie Hess
- 4 Ruth Smith
- 5 Faye Wampler
- 5 Deanne Dastoli
- 5 Pat Shiflet
- 5 Tommy Simmons
- 5 Cheyanna Healy
- 9 Ian Suter
- 10 David Simmons
- 13 Madelynn Jordan
- 14 Trent Cornwell
- 15 Chandler Jordan
- 15 Bob Hess
- 16 Kate Corder
- 17 Janet Showalter
- 18 Jim Grove
- 18 Deb Hoover
- 20 Douglas Woos
- 20 Jane Wood
- 22 Elizabeth Evans
- 23 Ty Cyzick
- 23 Phyllis Simmons
- 24 Roger Simmons
- 27 Denise Shiflet
- 28 Tina Healy

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

February 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	

- 2—Congregational business meeting and free-will offering luncheon
- 4—Mixed Bible Study, 10 am
- 4—Women's Fellowship, 7pm
- 12—Women's Fellowship, 9:30 am
- 18—Mixed Bible Study, 10 am

I recently read that that the religious beliefs a person develops by the age of 13 are generally the ones they maintain until they die. Wow! What is your church doing to nurture children and help them develop a relationship with God? What more can you do to ensure that the children in your church and neighborhood have a solid foundation for life?

Sharon Poff

Mountain View Fellowship  
Church of the Brethren

# Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren

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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@beavercreekchurchva.org)

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

[www.twitter.com/beavercreekers](http://www.twitter.com/beavercreekers) on

## Beaver Creek youth helps pack shoeboxes in NC

On December 11, 2013, I (Madelynn Jordan) and my Aunt Jodi Cyzick and cousin, Kirsten, traveled to Charlotte, NC to pack shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child program.

We sorted through the boxes to check for any inappropriate items such as liquids, war related toys, glass, mirrors, food or candy. Some kids who donated boxes traced their hands inside the lid of the box. They wrote a note that said, "Place your hand on mine and we can pray together." I thought that was really sweet because some kids might not have any love in their lives and this was a way for them to feel connected.

After the boxes were sorted, they were taped shut and placed in a shipping box. Packers and crew members prayed over the boxes before they were put on the truck.

One man from Rwanda was there and told about the box he received. The three things that were the most important to him was a hair-

brush, a plastic mirror, and a pair of socks.

We watched a video and saw pictures of children who receive the shoeboxes. Even the smallest gifts made a world of difference. It made me think about how fortunate we are and made me very thankful that we don't have to go through what those kids go through.

I enjoyed the trip because I felt like I was touching people's lives.



### Bible Studies Beginning in February

#### Lifechange Bible Study on Philippians

Eight-week Bible Study (February 8, 22, March 1, 15, 29, April 5, 12, 26) 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. fellowship, study at 6:00 p.m.- Saturday's at Lee & Regina's home. Facilitated by Lee & Regina Harlow. In-depth look at the cultural and historical background of book of Philippians using the Lifechange Bible study guide as a primary resource to relate this letter from Paul to our lives today. Materials need to be ordered. **Contact Regina Harlow.**

## Worship Schedule for February and March

February 2: Bridgewater College Worship Travel Team

February 9: Robert Alley

February 16: Tim Grove

February 23: Robert Alley

March 2: Greg Evans

March 9: Robert Alley

March 16: Regina Harlow

March 23: Robert Alley

March 30: Special Music Service

## Thank You!

We appreciate very much the fellowship meal which you provided in our honor on January 12. It was enjoyable to sample more of your cooking and baking and to become better acquainted with more of you during the fellowship. We enjoy being part of your congregation during these weeks. ~ Robert & Linda Alley

## Prayer Concern

(From Louise Dunn) Pray for the situation in Ukraine. As you know, Steele and Alice Dunn are missionaries in Rakhiv in Ukraine -- some distance away from the unrest (and recent fatal shootings of protesters) in Kiev -- but the entire country is at a crossroads. Let us pray for a peaceful and just resolution, and specifically for the safety and the mission of Steele and Alice.

## January Personality Profile Reveals

### #1 Brenda Cline



### #2 Kasey Cyzick



*When the editor needs an editor: My apologies to Brenda Cline for publishing an unedited version of her personality profile! I could chalk it up to a number of excuses, but plain and simple, I overlooked it. I apologize for the sentence fragments and incomplete thoughts I meant to fill out before printing. This month we are sharing profiles of Robert and Linda Alley. If you would be willing to share a little something fun and interesting about you for a future newsletter, please let me know.*

## Personality Profile #1 ~ Robert Alley

Robert Earl Alley was reared in Augusta County in the Laurel Hill community east of Verona. He was the oldest and youngest in his family. His father was a painting contractor with 6-8 to 20-22 men depending on the season of the year. His mother was a homemaker. They attended the Barren Ridge Church of the Brethren, though Robert also had formative Christian experiences at the Laurel Hill Baptist Church in their home community. Robert was baptized in Meadow Run near Barren Ridge in August 1958 on the 250th anniversary of the Church of the Brethren. He graduated from Fort Defiance High School, Bridgewater College, and Eastern Mennonite Seminary. One year of his seminary studies occurred at Bethany Theological Seminary. During seminary, he served as summer pastor in Peace Valley, Missouri and at First Church of the Brethren in Harrisonburg. In 1971, he participated in a tour to the Holy Lands and Europe. He was licensed in 1965 and ordained in 1972. During seminary, he began his pastoral ministry at Fellowship Church of the Brethren near Martinsburg, WV, a new church plant where he served for 11 years. That was followed by an 8-year pastorate at the Everett (PA) Church of the Brethren. In 1989, he accepted the call to pastor the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren where he served for 20 years, retiring in 2009. Since retirement from full-time pastoral ministry, he has served as moderator of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, chaired the planning team for the Brethren World Assembly in 2013, preached on occasion, participates in the Shenandoah Valley Biblical Storytellers Guild, and devotes time to genealogical research and writing as well as gardening and family.

## Personality Profile #2 ~ Linda Alley

Linda grew up on a dairy farm in Lancaster County, PA, and expected to marry a farmer when she grew up. Instead she met Robert in the lunch line at Eastern Mennonite College and married someone who tended souls instead of fields and cattle. She has always enjoyed listening more than talking, and discovered that being a spiritual director/companion to others makes use of that gift. She was ordained to the ministry by Shenandoah District in October 2010 and now has about 14 "directees" who meet with her regularly with questions or for support in their spiritual journeys. She also leads retreats and occasionally does other presentations. One of her joys is flower gardening, and she is always happy to try a new plant. Another delight is tea parties. Linda works full time at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, coordinating special training events and directing the resource library (Open to the public!). She expects to retire sometime within the next four or five years. In October 1974, Robert and Linda were married in Fairview Church of the Brethren near Manheim, Pennsylvania by her Mennonite bishop. They have 3 children, all married, and 5 grandchildren (ages 1-10) with the 6th expected in late May. From our visits to Beaver Creek, we have found a vibrant congregation with significant community and denominational CoB ministries. The people of Beaver Creek are warm and welcoming, and they foster a comfortable atmosphere in worship and other events. It is exciting to share with this congregation during Glenn's sabbatical.

---

## Announcements about announcements from the Worship Team

Over the last few years the Worship Focus Team, formerly known as Music & Worship Committee, has heard concerns about the way announcements are handled during the church service. As we continue to wrestle with how to include them without detracting from the focus of worship, we ask that you make use of our various forms of church communications such as inclusion in the bulletin, Sunday morning slide presentation, and monthly newsletter.

For a trial period we will not pass the hand-held mic for announcements from the floor. The slides with details of upcoming events will run between Sunday School & Worship, and again at the close of service.

Be sure to give them your attention. All information given to Tess will be included in the bulletin and slides. The pastor will call attention to information pertinent to the congregation as a whole at some point during the service.

Please be diligent in having your announcements to Tess in the church office no later than Thursday mornings. Email is the preferred method of delivery, but you may call her with your information if internet is not available to you. We realize that things needing attention can arise later in the week. In that case, please notify the church office and it will be taken care of.

Regina is happy to receive inclusions for

the newsletter. She needs all material to her by the third Sunday of each month.

Your Worship Focus Team is composed of Candy Hulvey, Amy Jordan, and Ann Healy. Please remember that we welcome your comments and ideas in the following weeks as we run this trial. We know that a sense of community is extremely important for the church as a whole; and we want to see that you continue to thrive in our church family here at Beaver Creek.

Let us serve you to make our Sunday morning worship a meaningful experience.

To God be the Glory!

# To Give or Not to Give

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

*By Tim Grove*

It took 15 minutes along the road to establish trust, and one day of working together to begin a friendship with James. That was in June. In the months since then, James and I have had the opportunity to spend a lot of time together, and the relationship has only deepened.

In mid-July, he connected with a childhood friend who had a modest apartment in Staunton. For a while, they shared the space, though medical circumstances required the friend to eventually move out. With sole responsibility for the rent, James was uncertain of his future there until he connected with another friend that helped him get a job at a service station in town. Near-minimum wage is a far cry from financial independence, but it has made the difference between life under a roof and life under the stars for James.

Even as he began to get re-established in society, James continued to have a heart for those still on the street. When we were together he would speak of his dream to become an advocate for the homeless. Trying to think of how I could help him find an audience for his message, I invited him to join the Koinonia class one Sunday to speak about his experience. Our group had debated the "To Give or Not to Give" question several times, and I thought the experience would be good for the class and for James. He accepted the invitation.

James came to church with me the last Sunday in September, and he shared openly with our class. The more he talked, the more I could see a softening from everyone in the room. He understood the natural fear that people held when approached by strangers on the street, and he explained that mistrust was an emotion shared by both sides. He told us that it took quite some time to feel comfortable taking prepared food from people who passed by in cars, concerned about being poisoned by an evil-minded person. He also shared the apprehension from his point of view as a man parked his truck and walked out to meet him on the interstate ramp those many months ago. He made us laugh, he made us feel, and he made us think. He made me think.

I still think. I wonder how I would have ended up had I walked through life in his shoes. I wonder how I would perceive the generosity or the scorn of strangers as I sat wholly at their mercy, were I in that situation. I wonder about how we are so quick to assume that the homeless are getting what they deserve - the circumstances created by a series of poor choices. Why should we help those who won't help themselves, right? And then I think about the woman in John 8 who is about to be stoned by the Pharisees. Which of us are qualified to cast the first stone? Which of us has not made poor choices in life? So, if the question is "to give or not to give," the answer is a resounding "yes, give."

**Give time.** Take a few minutes to talk to the person on the street and ask them who they are. Don't focus on how they got there or what they don't have, but rather start with what they can do. Ask them how you can help them with a hand-up, perhaps in addition to a hand-out. Lunch is a great way to get to know someone. A guardrail will do in a pinch.

**Give opportunity.** If you can't create full-time employment for a homeless person, perhaps you could pay them for odd jobs around the house every now and then. Seek employers that hire unskilled labor and help connect the two ends. James was hired by a man in just that position - one who had compassion and who was willing to give the unlikely candidate a chance. It has been great for both of them.

**Give voice.** Share with your friends any positive experience you have. Yes - we're called to do our good works in secret, but this voice is about calming the fears that separate those who can help from those who need it. I believe that testimony is a powerful way to encourage others to think and to act outside of their comfort zone. Come on in - the water is fine!

I have no doubt that the experience I have had with James will probably be unique. Not all whom I encounter will be as honest, or motivated, or grateful, or faithful as he has been. Yet, each time the test will be mine and not theirs. If Jesus instructed us to forgive each other our sins, I believe that means we should persevere in our ministry and in our aid to others- even when we get burned. We cannot let a bad experience with one person keep us from reaching out to someone else. I have been fortunate in my first experience, and I pray that you will as well.

Be a light unto the world.

Love them all.

Give.

*No more the tasks and daily grind*

*And bills that steal my piece of mind*

*No longer the dread of the daily post*

*I am not here, I'm just a ghost*

*I'm homeless you see*

*No longer the castle that was my home*

*No boundaries set, I'm all alone*

*No worries about where my next meal is from*

*Lets face it—I'm just a bum*

*I'm homeless you see*

*No more feelings of despair*

*My kids are gone, taken into care*

*No more jobs so I've been told*

*Can't have welfare, no fixed abode*

*I'm homeless you see*

*"No insurance," that was the trick*

*My employers used when my kid got sick*

*"Well you should have known," was the stock reply*

*When I ran out of money, they left me to die*

*I'm homeless you see*

*"No point complaining," I hear you say*

*Hope tomorrow but gone today*

*I sold everything so that she could live*

*Apart from love I have no more to give*

*I'm homeless you see*

*No worries now, the cupboard is bare*

*But ponder this when you stop and stare*

*I used to be where you came from*

*You could be one paycheck*

*From my world*

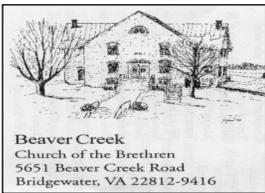
*I'm not a ghost*

*I'm not a bum*

*I'm just homeless you see*

*Or do you?*

- James Humphries, 2013



February 2014

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
Permit No. 50

## More on Stewardship . . . What else do we need?

By Carole Grove

As we begin a new year in the church and have just completed our fall stewardship emphasis, it occurs to me that in a way, God was very intentional in His personal stewardship of the earth he created for us. What we have just celebrated is the birth and gift of His only - not oldest, not best, not most talented - but his only son to teach us how to care for each other, to care for the earth, to care for ourselves. Is that not stewardship in its most primary form? Taking care of business; entrusting us to manage all that He has provided for us and make it lasting for those yet to come. The generations that preceded us in worshipping in our church building did just that. They took great care in keeping it in order as they prepared to pass it on. They also took great care of each other in nurturing the church family that continues to reside here. So it was in God's perfect wisdom that he decided to send the very best to us as a model of stewardship.

Whereas we know only so much about Jesus as a small lad, or a child in the house-

hold, we do know about some pretty remarkable things he did as a youth when he visited the temple. Have you noticed the youth in our own church family and how they also make some fairly significant contributions to the community, in a stewardship way. They participate in worship services, offer special music, work to help others near and far on mission work, and live their lives in exemplary ways as witness to other youth in the community. Part of our stewardship is to ensure that our church stands strong for them as they grow, like Jesus, in their wisdom and stature.

In those three short years of Jesus's active ministry, he taught us so much about how to live, how to take care of each other, particularly those less fortunate than we. We do a pretty good job of this in our church. We help those who need housing, whether in a storm-torn community or nation, or simply a few overnights from the cold in a church basement. We minister to the shut-ins through our visits, and those infirmed or grieving from illness and loss. Yes, we do a pretty good job with all of this. We are good

stewards. But what else do we need to do? As we mentioned in the "Stewardship Minutes" in the services in November, it isn't just about money. In a way, that is the easy part. It isn't about the amount of the budget. Again, this is the easy part. It is about a feeling, an attitude, a perspective, a calling, a personal ministry to a neighbor, a stranger, someone in need, someone who might appear to have it all. Jesus took care of them all and as God's very well-conceived gift to us, showed us how to be good stewards of God' creation, His creatures, and His children - all of His children. While Glenn is away on a well-deserved Sabbath Rest, and while he renews himself to return as the spiritual leader of the Beaver Creek family, perhaps it is even more important for us to re-think our roles as stewards. There is much for us to care for here, and there are so many ways we can do it. Everyone is a steward, every day. Find the silence to consider how this may apply to you and rather than writing it on a commitment card, write it on your heart for you and for God. That is our gift to Him.

We celebrate that Jessica Houff, has been accepted into Brethren Volunteer Service. Jessica is planning to go into the Winter Orientation, Unit #304, which is taking place January 26th through February 14th, 2014. This unit will take place at Camp Ithiel in Gotha, Florida. Volunteers will be challenged to live the "cutting edge" of the gospel by working at service projects, living in community with other volunteers, participating in seminars on peace, justice and cross-cultural understanding, and learning about Church of the Brethren history and our deep heritage of service. At orientation, the focus is on identifying with the marginalized people of our society, as Jesus did. During the second week of orientation, Jessica will be assigned to a mutually agreed-upon project placement that matches their skills and gifts. I'm sure Jessie would love to get letters from her church family! Mail can be sent to: c/o Camp Ithiel P.O. Box 165 Gotha FL 34734 For Packages: c/o Camp Ithiel 2037 Hempel Ave Gotha FL 34734



Photos by Doug Wood of the welcome luncheon for Robert and Linda Alley.

