



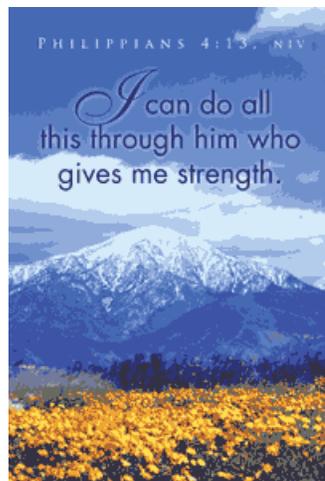
This month's birthdays

- 2 Corey Jarvis
- 3 Jane Cyzick
- 4 Terry Houff
- 5 Will Eckard
- 6 Ann Healy
- 9 Lisa Houff
- 15 Dana Suter
- 17 Craig Eckard
- 18 Linda Rhodes
- 18 Shylee Hoover
- 19 Phil Liskey
- 20 Blake Suter
- 20 Jacob Liskey
- 22 Micah Berry
- 22 Winnie Wilfong
- 24 Evelyn Wall
- 25 Mike Suter
- 28 Bill Eckard
- 28 Tom Wilfong

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

April 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			

- 1—Mixed Bible Study, 10 am
- 1—Women's Fellowship, 7pm
- 9—Women's Fellowship, 9:30 am
- 13—Love Feast, 7 pm
- 15—Mixed Bible Study, 10 am
- 17—Leadership Team, 7 pm
- 18—Cross Walk, 12 pm
- 19—Easter Egg Hunt, 10 am
- 20—Sunrise Service, 7 am
- 20—Newsletter items due
- 29—Mixed Bible Study, 10 am



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

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

Announcements

A second weekend of Candlelight Dinners at the John Kline Homestead will be held 6 p.m. April 25 and 26. You may make your reservations now by calling 540-896-5001 or emailing proth@eagles.bridgewater.edu. The cost is \$40 per person, and groups are welcome. Seating is limited to 32.

Annual Conference Quilting Bee. Congregations are invited to create a block for the 2014 conference quilts. All quilt blocks must be postmarked by May 15th. Auction proceeds of Conference Quilts benefit projects to alleviate hunger. See detailed instructions in the narthex of the church.

The Brethren Woods Spring Festival is Saturday, April 26. The planning committee asks that your congregation find multiple ways to be involved. You can donate items for the auction, baked goods or good yard sale items. You can nominate a hiker, a dunkard or a cow-kisser from your congregation. And musicians are encouraged to sign up to provide 30-45 minutes of entertainment/inspiration during the day. Contact Brethren Woods at 540-269-2741 or Mary Anna Cline, festival chairperson, at 540-433-1871 with your questions or to sign up to provide music.

Volunteers needed: The Outdoor School program at Brethren Woods is designed to host elementary school groups from the surrounding counties where students receive a hands-on experience with the natural world while also learning concepts needed for their studies in school. In order for the field trips to be a success, we rely on the help of volunteers to lead an activity with the students. The students rotate by class through a variety of activities with other volunteers. These activities are planned in advance, materials are organized and ready upon the volunteer's arrival, and detailed instructions are sent prior to arrival so that the volunteer can feel adequately prepared. The outdoor school dates for volunteers to choose from are weekdays, from March 25-May 30, with the program lasting for approximately 4 hours, within the hours of 9am – 2:30pm. *Contact Amanda Zepp at 540-269-2741, ext. 104 or adventure@brethrenwoods.org to volunteer.*

Fix-It-Yourself manuals and basic instructions before leaving earth

I wrote this for a newsletter reflection for Dayton Church of the Brethren and thought I would include in the Beaver Creek newsletter as well.

Regina Cyzick Harlow

“You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.” Deuteronomy 11: 18-21 NRSV

I grew up in a household with a single mother and six siblings. As with any household, we experienced faulty appliances and all manner of things that needed repair. When that happened, mom would pull out her worn copy of “Reader’s Digest Fix-It-Yourself Manual” that promised the reader instructions on, “How to repair, clean, and maintain anything and everything in and around your home.”

Once when our washing machine broke, we found mom in the laundry room surrounded by her collection of tools and trusty Fix-It-Yourself Manual. With what seemed like little effort to us as children, and great difficulty now as adults, mom tore that machine

apart and put it back together to make it run like new. There were occasions where she called on kindly neighbors like Jim Shull, Willie Eberly, the Rhodes Family and a number of others, but for the most part, that manual was all she needed to get the job done.

We have a manual like that for our Christian walk. The Bible has been referred to the B.I.B.L.E., Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. In it we find instructions on how to “repair, clean, and maintain anything and everything” in our lives, our communities and our world. There will be times when we need to call on those around us for support and encouragement, and that is good, but this manual is always a safe place to start.

For all life’s ups and downs, for faulty situations and all manner of circumstances in our lives, this manual is filled with power to bring newness and life to us wherever we are. While the Bible can be interesting enough as an ancient text, it is powerful and adventurous as a relevant living Word for us today. I pray that as we look into this manual together, we will heed the instructions and that we will be strengthened and renewed by the transforming Word.

Let us put God’s words in our hearts and souls, bind them as a sign on our hands, and fix them as an emblem on our foreheads. Let’s teach them to our children and talk about them when we are at home and when we are away, when we lie down and when we rise. Let’s write them on the doorposts of our house and on our gates, that the children of God might be multiplied in the land.

Thoughts on stewardship

Submitted by Mike Suter on behalf of the Finance Team

If you find yourself feeling unhappy, try making someone else happy and see what happens. If you are feeling empty and unfulfilled, try doing some meaningful and worthwhile work and see how you feel. The catch is that you must do this work with passion and enthusiasm. If you are not passionate, it is hard to produce good work. You are less likely to feel fulfilled and happy or to believe your work is meaningful. In the end, you will lose energy for the work, leaving you with poor results.

There is a story of an elderly carpenter who was ready to retire. The carpenter told

his employer of his plans to leave the house-building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife, enjoying his extended family. The employer was sorry to see his employee go and asked if he would build just one more house as a personal favor to him. The carpenter reluctantly agreed. He did sloppy work and he used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end a dedicated career.

When the carpenter finished his work, the employer came to inspect the house. Then he handed the front-door key to the carpenter. “This is your house,” he said. “it is my retirement gift to you.”

The carpenter was shocked. If he had only known he was building his own house, he

would have done it all so differently. So it is with all people.

Every person builds his or her own house, his or her own life, a step at a time, often half-heartedly. Then with a shock they realize they have to live in the house they have built. If they could do it over, they’d do it differently. But they cannot go back. You are the carpenter; your life is your building project. When you treat others in the way you wish to be treated, you are building with love and care. Always do your best because the choices you make today build your future.

Excerpted from "The Power of Giving", by Azim Jamal and Harvey McKinnon. published by Tarcher, 2008.

Call for newsletter items: Thanks to everyone who submitted newsletter items. It is your articles, photos, and announcements that make this newsletter a true reflection of Beaver Creek COB. Please continue to send items to newsletter@beavercreekchurchva.org so that we can all enjoy what’s happening in our congregation.

If we are going to plant a garden in our back yard, we must till the soil so that whatever we plant will grow. Hardened soil will never reap a harvest. As we plant the seeds of Jesus in the lives of the people around us, there are those whose hearts aren't ready to receive this Good News. To help prepare the soil of their hearts, we could develop a friendship with them. We could share with them what Christ means to us. We could live out our Christian faith in front of them. These things can help till the soil of people's hearts so that they will become more willing to open their hearts to Jesus Christ.
~ Galen Combs Pastor, Barren Ridge Church of the Brethren



Jesse Houff is commissioned by Pastor Robert Alley for her Brethren Volunteer Service assignment. New BVS address: Jessie Houff % Jillian Rahm P. O. Box 167 Jeffersonville, NY 12748. To follow along with Jessie's BVS adventures, keep up with her blog at <http://jessiehouff.blog.com>. Learn more about Jessie's BVS project at <http://ruralmigrantministry.org/youtheconomicgroup.html>.

Photo by Doug Wood.

Our place in poverty

By Greg Evans

Do a quick internet search on world poverty and you will quickly be overwhelmed by the need in the world around us. Reports and statistics that are so hard to comprehend that we stop trying.

2.5 billion people live on \$2.00 or less every day.

1 billion of those live on less than \$1.00 each day.

We see images of slums and living conditions that are hard to believe. We read more staggering reports and we are horrified. Reports like 21,000 people die every day because of hunger, dirty water and related causes. These are mostly children under 5 years old – one in every 4 seconds – dying from hunger, diarrhea from water borne sicknesses or other treatable & preventable conditions.

With these images and these overwhelming statistics we are easily paralyzed. We feel like the situations are hopeless and that our little bit won't make a difference. We can look at those third world countries and think – “What can we do with the different languages, different cultures, different economies? How can we possibly help?” It's

at this point that we are likely to make the statement, “There is plenty of need in our own country, our own community. We need to take care of it first.”

So what is our place in poverty? What does scripture say? Can we really help? Can we make a difference?

This is the first of several articles our study group will write where we will wrestle with these and other questions about the “least of these.” Drawing first on the Word of God and then pulling from several books addressing the subject and also from several local, national & international agencies serving the poor, we will make the case that we are called to serve both the local poor and the poor across the globe. We will attempt to provide practical steps that we can take to make a difference. We will look at ways that offer a hand up not just a hand out. We will also look at some of the causes of poverty and see how we contribute, sometimes unknowingly, to the problems. Here is a list of some of the influential books we have collectively read over the past several months:

[Radical](#), by David Platt

[Let the Nations Be Glad](#) by John Piper

[Same Kind of Different as Me](#) by Ron Hall and Denver Moore

[All In](#) by Mark Batterson

[UnPoverty](#) by Mark Lutz

- [Rich Christians in the Age of Hunger](#) by Ronald Sider

- [Rich Church, Poor Church](#) by J. Clif Christopher

- [The Hole in Our Gospel](#) by Rich Stearns

- [Unfinished](#) by Rich Stearns

- [When Helping Hurts](#) by Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett.

Throughout this series we welcome your comments, your questions and your conversation. We would love to hear from you. Ultimately, we would love for you to join us in our pursuit to serve Jesus by serving the poor.

Greg & Elizabeth Evans

Brad & Theresa Eckard

Tim & Lori Grove

Kenny & Misti Wheelbarger

Julie & Jeff Ritchie

Maggie & Taylor Rhodes

Encouragement and insight from the book of Philippians

By Regina Cyzick Harlow

The following is an excerpt from a sermon I preached last summer on the call to memorize and study the book of Philippians.

What I have found by reading and re-reading, listening to and meditating on the words in this letter, is that so many often-quoted verses in the Christian circles come from this book.

Here are some that are often well-recognized.

- Philippians 1:6 “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”
- 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.
- 2:9-11 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- 2:14-16a Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.
- 3:13-14 But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has

called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

- 4:4-8 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.
- 4:11 for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.
- 4:13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
- 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

According to Matthew Henry's commentary, Paul seems to have had a very particular kindness for the church at Philippi, which he himself had been instrumental in planting. Although he had the care of many churches, he had a particular fatherly tender care of this.

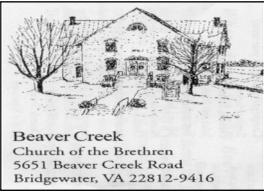
The LifeChange Bible study guide I have been reading on Philippians, states that while Paul was awaiting trial, he was allowed to rent private rooms, but he was chained 24 hours a day to a soldier. As each soldier took his turn chained to Paul, he was a captive audience hearing Paul pray, read Scripture, dictate letters and receive visitors. Paul may

have preached directly to the guards and taken personal interest in them. A prisoner who cared about his guards and who had such strange beliefs as Paul would have aroused interest among the soldiers. Paul spent two years under house arrest in Rome.

One of the passages that I had read multiple times, but has really jumped out to me as I studied recently is chapter 1:12-18. Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard (as we referred to earlier about Paul being chained to the soldiers) and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Matthew Henry says Paul was so far from envying those who had liberty to preach the gospel while he was under confinement that he rejoiced in the preaching of it even by those who do it in pretense, and not in truth. How much more then should we rejoice in

See [Philippians](#), page 4



April 2014

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

Philippians study continued...

the preaching of the gospel by those who do it in truth, yea, though it should be with much weakness and some mistake! Two things made the apostle rejoice in the preaching of the gospel: Because it tended to the salvation of the souls of men and Because it would turn to the glory of Christ.

We see in Philippians 4:2-3 that Paul urged for unity among the believers, pleading with them to be of the same mind in the Lord. We know that Jesus prayed that his followers would be one as He and his Father are one. We know that Jesus summed up the commandments by saying that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

In Philippians 3:17-4:1, Paul boldly invites the Philippians to imitate his behavior. Is my life such a witness that I could audaciously say “follow me as I follow Christ?”

As another Bible study guide points out, When Paul says “we are citizens of heaven,” we naturally suppose he means “and so we’re waiting until we can go and live in heaven where we belong. But that’s not what he says, and it’s certainly not what he means. If someone in Philippi said, we are citizens of Rome, they would not mean so we’re looking forward to going to live there. Being a colony works the other way around. The task of the Roman citizen in a place like Philippi was to bring Roman culture and rule to northern Greece, to expand the Roman influence there. The church is at present a colony of heaven, with the responsibility (as we say it in the Lord’s prayer) for bringing the life and rule of heaven to bear on earth. We are not very good at it. But our hope is that the true Savior, the true Lord, King Jesus himself, will come from heaven and change all that.



Left and Below: Louise Dunn sewed 14 dresses for Glenn and Debbie to take to Haiti. These pictures show the girls wearing some of the dresses and holding a “thank-you” sign for Louise.

Photos by Glenn



“What would it mean for our church fellowships to live as a colony of heaven with the responsibility for bringing the life and rule of heaven to dwell on earth?”