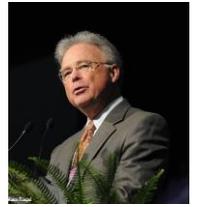




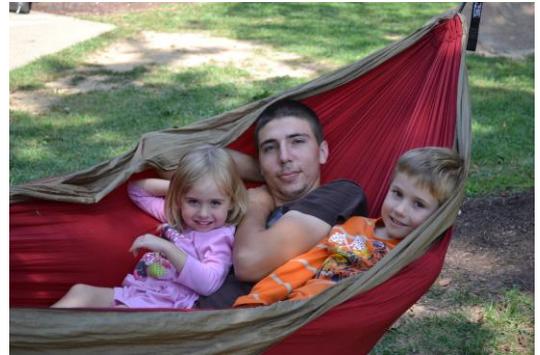
Homecoming scheduled for Sept. 14

Beaver Creek's Homecoming Sunday is set for September 14, with worship to start at 10:30 a.m. Our Homecoming speaker is Robert Alley, who served us as "pinch pastor" during Pastor Glenn's sabbatical leave earlier this year. Robert has served the denomination in many roles, including 2010 Annual Conference moderator. Following the service there will be a carry-in and informal fellowship. If you know someone who formerly attended Beaver Creek or grew up in the church, please extend an invitation!



Robert Alley
(Glenn Riegel photo)

Retreat theme is 'mercy'



The retreat combined spiritual growth, fellowship and recreation.



Beaver Creek's Annual Church Retreat August 15-17 included vespers around the campfire, Sunday morning worship at the lake, and lots of relaxation time. District Executive Minister John Jantzi spoke on "Mercy" at vespers, and Pastor Glenn's Sunday message reminded us of how a Canaanite woman was granted mercy for her daughter after persistently seeking help from Jesus (Matthew 15).

(Photos by Bill and Douglas Wood)

Denominational Religion: Reginal Harlow essay

To some, denominations are divisive, unnecessary, and controversial. To others, denominational affiliation can be the catalyst of their faith and practice. Who is right? Could the answer be both?

I was raised in the Mennonite Denomination. Within that denomination there is such diversity of culture and biblical interpretation that those on opposite extremes wonder how the other one can still carry the Mennonite name. I have attended services in Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, Church of God, Church of Christ, Brethren, United Brethren in Christ, Church of the Brethren, and Presbyterian denominations and Roman Catholic Mass. I was heavily involved in a non-denominational church for several years and learned that even non-denominational churches are a denomination unto themselves. (Shhh, don't tell them!)

The downside of denominations is that we can place our faith in our "name" rather than in Christ. We can become so narrow-minded that we see our denomination as the only way instead of pointing each other to Jesus – the true only way. We allow the structure of our worship services, rituals, theologies, and faith practices to "do" our religion for us instead of living our faith. We stand toe-to-toe along arbitrary denominationally-imposed lines touting how we've got it right and others have it wrong.

In this way, denominations can be divisive, unnecessary, and controversial, serving only to divide brothers and sisters in Christ and weaken our witness to a tired and jaded world. In Pogo's words, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

The good news, though, is that denominations also provide a spiritual home for the way we individually understand and practice our faith. Denominations provide accountability for individual congregations and support for pastoral leadership. Denominational ministries have a global impact unattainable by most individual congregations and provide ministry opportunities for many within their larger body. Within every denomination, as the Mennonites mentioned above, one can find a pendulum of theology and understanding and application of faith within their individual congregations.

(Continued on page 3)

*The good news:
Denominations
provide a
spiritual home
for the way we
individually
understand and
practice our faith*

**Come
join
us!**

Worship starts at 10:30 a.m. ♦ Sunday School 9:15 a.m. (30 minutes later beginning September 21). ♦ Church office 540 828-2767, email secretary@beavercreekchurchva.org, office hours 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday ♦ <http://beavercreekchurchva.org> ♦ Twitter: @beavercreekers ♦ Facebook: **Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren** and **Beaver Creek COB Youth**

**Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren
September Calendar**

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| <p style="margin: 0;">SEPTEMBER 2014</p> <table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">M</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">T</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">T</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">F</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | | | | | | | 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 | | | | | <p>Scheduled church events in September: September 2, 7 p.m., Women’s Fellowship Sunset Group September 3, 9:30 a.m., Women’s Fellowship Sunrise Group September 7, 12:15 p.m., Deacon Board after carry-in lunch September 9, 3:30 p.m., Ministry focus team September 14, 10:30 a.m., Homecoming worship service September 17, 9:30 a.m., Women’s Fellowship extra sewing September 18, 7 p.m., Leadership team September 21, October newsletter deadline</p> |
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| <p>Birthdays in September:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>1 Louise Shirkey 2 Cheyenne Cline, Chase Cornwell 3 Sandy Bennington 4 Malena Hoover 5 Joe Wampler 7 Jesse Hoover, Eli David Harlow 8 John Bennington 9 Dick Miller 11 Shirley Miller, Abby Wampler 13 Liz Rhodes 14 Sean Newman</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>16 Michelle Galindez 17 Sean Dunn, Ryan Evans, Burkely Wampler 18 Evy Kaye Sandin 20 Bill Wood 21 Alma Long 25 Hannah Hensley, Nicky Southerly 26 Tamara Bennington 27 Ann Simmons 29 Bob Healy 30 Janet Stepp</p> </td> </tr> </table> | | | | | | | <p>1 Louise Shirkey 2 Cheyenne Cline, Chase Cornwell 3 Sandy Bennington 4 Malena Hoover 5 Joe Wampler 7 Jesse Hoover, Eli David Harlow 8 John Bennington 9 Dick Miller 11 Shirley Miller, Abby Wampler 13 Liz Rhodes 14 Sean Newman</p> | <p>16 Michelle Galindez 17 Sean Dunn, Ryan Evans, Burkely Wampler 18 Evy Kaye Sandin 20 Bill Wood 21 Alma Long 25 Hannah Hensley, Nicky Southerly 26 Tamara Bennington 27 Ann Simmons 29 Bob Healy 30 Janet Stepp</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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**Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren
Leadership Team Meeting
July 17, 2014**

Present: Jeanette Hess, Candy Hulvey, Donna Miller, Evy Kaye Sandin, Denise Shiflet, Bill Wood. Absent: Marlin Simmons, Kenny Wheelbarger, Charles Wright. Ex-Officio: Glenn Bollinger – Pastor, Darlene LaPrade – Church Clerk.

Donna Miller called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
 Darlene LaPrade opened with devotions.
 The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with corrections.
 The Treasurer’s report was distributed and approved.

Focus Team Reports:

Ministry: Bill Wood reported that the team will meet in August.
Deacons: Bill Wood reported that the Deacons will be making communion bread on October 1. Love Feast will be held on October 4.
Congregational Care: Bill Wood reported that the team wished to thank Sean Dunn for loaning the church his sound board. A new sound board has been ordered and received. The newsletter is being done by Bill Wood until Regina Harlow returns from serving as interim Pastor.
Worship: Candy Hulvey reported that our Homecoming speaker will be Rev. Robert Alley.
Christian Education: Jeanette Hess reported that the team continues to work on obtaining Sunday School teachers for the fall.
Fellowship: Denise Shiflet reported that the waffle bar went well and was well attended. The team is planning more special themed breakfasts on July 27 and August 31. The team will meet on Tuesday to plan for the Church Retreat. They are also working on new activities for the fall. Apple Butter Boil will be held on October 3-4.
Facilities: No report.
Outreach: No report.
Finance: No report.
Pastor’s Report: Glenn reported that Annual Conference attendees (John Jordan and Ann Healy) will have a time for sharing during the Sunday School hour; date to be announced. The participants to National Youth Conference are ready to go. The group met last Sunday with some other youth from the area that will be going with them. NYC Sunday will be held on August 10 or 24. Glenn has had someone inquire about baptism.

Membership classes need to be held prior to baptisms. Possible dates for baptism are September 21 or 28. The Springs of Living Water Initiative team met and will host an event in September or October. A concern was raised about Vacation Bible School being held at a time when Glenn was absent. Future dates for VBS should be approved by the Church Office and the Christian Education Team.

Old Business:

[There was a discussion of nominees for church jobs.] We are still in need of 2 more deacon units. We can have up to 4 more units according to the polity. [Additional names were suggested. Full minutes, including names, are available from the Church Clerk.] Donna reported that the 6 month team reports have been received in the Church Office. One report needs some follow-up.

An e-mail was sent to Steele and Alice Dunn explaining the need for an expense log from them. They requested a skype meeting with Donna and Glenn to ask questions and clarify the log. Steele is sending Glenn some information from other missionaries comparing how they report their expenses. Steele's first expense report will be due in October.

Donna passed around some evaluation forms she received from John Jantzi to conduct a Pastoral Review. After some discussion, it was decided that we proceed as we have in the past.

New Business:

Carole Grove sent out an e-mail to each team asking for budgets. The deadline is August 1. The Finance Team will meet on August 6. Evy Kaye Sandin will send the giving report to Carole.

Other Business: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Denominational Religion: Essay by Regina Harlow, continued from front page

Within my own journey, I was exhausted with denominational affiliation. All I saw from the lens of my own experience was the downside. When I found myself at Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren, it had nothing to do with the Church of the Brethren denomination and everything to do with the fact that my family had started attending there. "Beaver Creekers" had a way of making me feel comfortable and loved as I eased my way back into church after being deeply wounded elsewhere.

For nearly ten years after I started attending Beaver Creek COB I would tell people, "I am not Church of the Brethren, I am a member at Beaver Creek because that is where I feel at home." In 2013, as part of my ministry training, I took a class called "Brethren Life and Thought," taught by former Shenandoah District Executive Jim Miller.

In that class I learned that the eight people baptized in the Eder River in Schwarzenau, Germany in 1708 vowed never to tell the name of the first person baptized so that they would not be called after someone's name. I learned that instead of recited creeds and formal prayers, their only creed would be the New Testament with an emphasis on the Sermon on the Mount. I learned that, they too, were disenfranchised with the organized church and so met in people's homes for as long as possible until their congregations became larger than what homes could accommodate. Even then, instead of calling their places of worship "churches," the early brethren referred to them as meeting houses.

I also learned of the Brethren's witness as the hands and feet of Christ, believing that this witness is most authentically expressed through service to others. I learned of their stance on peace-building and non-violence, of their expression of faith through the ordinance of Love Feast. I learned of their emphasis on intentional living, nonconformity to worldly ideals, simplicity, and care of our earthly home, believing that all these exemplify Christ and invite others to know him. I learned that Brethren were expected to be known, "By the manner of their living." The more I learned in this class, the more I realized I was "Church of the Brethren" through and through. I had found my faith home.

I understand the Church of the Brethren is not perfect, nor do I expect everyone to practice their faith in "Church of the Brethren" fashion. But for me, it is the denomination that most closely interprets my personal understanding of Scripture. In that sense, the Church of the Brethren denomination became the catalyst of my faith and practice. In John 12:32, Jesus says, "And I, when I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all people unto myself." We must be careful to lift Jesus higher than our denominational preferences, but we must also respect that denominations can be a way of lifting Jesus up. I encourage you, brothers and sisters, do not allow denominational religion to be a stumbling block, but rather a stepping stone. United around Christ, expressing our faith through denominations (or non-denominations,) let's exalt him as Savior and Lord so that through our witness he will draw all people unto himself. "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" Rev. 5:13



Youth and advisers from Beaver Creek joined to serve the homeless in Roanoke during a work camp in July. The trip included work, service, fellowship and service projects. Participating from Beaver Creek were Junior Highs Scotty Evans, Malena Hoover and Will Eckard, along with youth advisers Greg and Elizabeth Evans.

Beaver Creek
Church of the Brethren
5651 Beaver Creek Rd.
Bridgewater, VA 22812-3378

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Glenn Bollinger, Pastor
Donna Miller,
Leadership Team Chair

Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren is a loving, caring and authentic fellowship of believers empowered by the Holy Spirit and called to be God's church: to worship, humbly serve others and proclaim Jesus Christ.

CROP Meal set for October 30, Walk for November 2

This year the Bridgewater College CROP Meal will be held on Thursday, October 30 and the Bridgewater/Dayton Area CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, November 2. Last year these events raised \$8,600 for Church World Service's hunger education, development, and relief programs in 80 countries around the world and 25 percent of that total came back to fight hunger in our local communities through the Bridgewater Area Interchurch Food Pantry.

Request for prayer and sharing

This note was submitted by Golden Brunk:

I've been praying a long time about our building needs, and think God wants us to take care of them. The building needs and the needs of the body of God – we the people. Pray with me and talk and share your thoughts.

Love and care,
Golden

Note of thanks

Thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards, visits, calls, messages, food, and gifts, while I was in the hospital, and since I've come home. It was very much appreciated.

Ruth Smith

Beaver Creek bits

We resume regular Sunday hours on September 21: Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., worship at 11 a.m. ♦ Jessie Houff reports from her Brethren Volunteer Service assignment that there's a job opening there for a youth economic education coordinator; details at <http://www.beavercreekchurchva.org/jessie/>.

♦ Beaver Creek movie night September 5 features "Frozen"; vespers September 21 will include a campfire – stay tuned for details on both.

Special music has been provided by a variety of Beaver Creekers and guests this summer – thanks to all! The Adult Choir returns for fall, with practices set to start in September.



Beaver Butter set for October 3-4

Beaver Creek's annual Apple Butter boil is set for Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4. We'll begin by going for apples and cider on Friday morning. Cutting of apples (snitting) is set for Friday afternoon. Youth and advisers will be camping out overnight; all youth under 6th grade must be accompanied by a parent. The action starts before daybreak on Saturday with cider boiling, followed by addition of snits and all-day stirring until the apple butter is ready for the canning crew. All proceeds benefit the National Youth Conference 2018 fund.