

The Pastor's Searchlight—May, 2019:



"The McCauley girl never backed down to anyone." Robert Petterson shares her story in his book, *The One Year Book of Amazing Stories*. Maybe she got her grit from her grandfather. She watched him stand tall in front of his farmhouse, with shotgun cocked, while members of the KKK marched through their black neighborhood. No cowards hiding behind white sheets were going to intimidate him. That willingness to stand up to bullies rubbed off on her. She even chose her husband partially based on the fact that he refused to be intimidated by whites either! In 1955, they organized and agitated for civil rights. So on that chilly December evening, after a long day of hard work, she plopped herself down into the "colored" section of the bus, in an open seat at the front of that section, towards the back of the bus. At that time, if the "whites only" section filled up, the first few rows of the "colored" section were to open up to white passengers...which meant that "colored" passengers there had to get up and move farther back to open seats. So Rosa, on that day, had been pushed as far as she would be pushed by injustice, and refused to move. Rosa Parks was arrested that day, and a series of amazing individual stories exploded into action, causing the Montgomery bus boycott that lasted 381 days and broke the back of an unjust societal institution. Martin Luther King was thrust into prominence in the fight against segregation which transformed a nation, as a result of **one mom's courage**. Jesus confronted the bullies at the Temple in Jerusalem. A shepherd boy stood up to a Philistine bully named Goliath. **To sit passively in the face of evil is to be its silent accomplice!** Maybe your mother touched you in profound ways that shaped the person you've become, or maybe she simply and consistently always provided a sense of home (of warmth, stability, safety, caring, and cherishing) by the ways she kept your home, made meals for your family, cleaned your clothing, cared for all your scrapes, and encouraged you when you needed a lift! Or maybe your mother set an example of single-parent leadership and courage in doing everything she could to care for her family; or possibly she moved boldly through new frontiers of courage and achievement by breaking down barriers erected by a male-dominant culture in order to follow her own giftedness and dreams. And maybe your mother was all of the above! Happy Mothers' Day to all moms who've stood up to the "bullies" of injustice in our midst—both human and cultural!!

In Christ, Pastor Dave (reve87@verizon.net)

P.S. Communion moved to May 12 this month due to Pastor Dave's vacation on the 5th.

P.S.S. The Deacons have special gold envelopes in the pew racks for those who wish to donate to their caring & assistance ministries on communion Sunday each month. **Please remember** that we have **children's activity bags** for any children who aren't interested in using the nursery or children's church programs during worship. These bags include crayons, coloring pages, story books, & snacks. These bags should be returned after worship for continued use, but the snack and coloring pages can be kept by each child.

Worship

May 5 (Birthday & Mothers' Day Coffee Hour): Kristin Woodring preaching

May 12 (Communion; Mothers' Day): More Lies We Believe About God: God Is Not Good

May 19 (Deacons' Mtg.; Sunday Funday): More Lies We Believe About God: The Cross Was God's Idea

May 26 (Penny Sunday; Memorial Day Observance): More Lies We Believe About God: You Will Never Find God in a Box

Confirmation: May Class schedule: May 7 (Tues.) 6-8pm, May 14 (Tues.) 6-8pm, May 19 (Sun.) 3-5pm, May 28 (Tues.) 6-8pm.

Praying for: (Please contact us with any changes to or removals from this list) Dennis Melquist, Melody Lewis's husband's family (*Her husband's sister passed*), Cathy Stumpo, Proud Family, John Poeta, Ranelle (Dixie Hartless' daughter-in-law), Harry Krahnke, Rebecca Fields, Jack Donovan, Nora Jane Caporali, Clark Leasure, Erin McElhenny, Joyce Miller, Gabriel Baer, Jack Weir, John Beveridge, Austin Draculich (& family), Ashley Nicholson, Stephanie Garcia, Joe Cauley, Joy Kirk, Kristin Smit, Dave Phillips, Genny Cosco, Barb Voystante, Tori Gido, Mary Lou Joyce, Julia Zukowski, Allan Jimerson, Tyson Copeland, Harold Peterson, Jason Walsh, Samantha Sayers & Family, Rick Hess, Aimee Gross, Jimmy Bojarski, John Marzka, Evangeline Boga, Tony Ester, Teresa Brewer, Rich Hoover, Stephanie Warren, Bennett Testa, Jackie Roddy, Aubrey Macs, James Demtsy, James & Mark Schaas, Ellie Poulson, Jim Glass, Mary Ann Lasko, Adam Muse, Kathy Fiedler, Bev Hopkins, Jeremiah Murosky; the victims of cyclone and flooding in Zimbabwe; the victims of senseless shootings in the US & New Zealand; Erie's growing epidemic of opioid addictions; Isis terrorism tragedies around the world—especially recently in Sri Lanka; current military services personnel (*especially Jared Marzka, John Mark Hoffman*); the Ghana mission partnership (*We pray especially for the Chereponi District: 11 churches, 528 members, and District Pastor M. L. Agbovi*); Josh Heikkila (*our PCUSA W. Africa Liaison*); Ruth Brown (*new missionary to the Upper Northern Presbytery*); the Wapuli Health Clinic; the Bindati Family, Rev. Seth Agidi (back surgery recovery); **Presbytery prayers:** Revs. Rick Cepris, Jim Moelk, Rachel Johns, Jim Haas, Jim McCormack, and Jeff Fowler.

Upcoming Events: Sunday Worship—11am (Summer schedule begins June 16, 10:30am)

*Recycling: drop-offs anytime (newspaper in west property trailer/aluminum cans) *Communion, 1st Sun. *Penny Sunday, Last Sun.

*Deacons, 5/19 *BV AA group, Tuesdays, 10am *Session, 5/13, 6:30pm *May Birthday/Mothers' Day Coffee Hour, 5/5

*Daniel Study Group, 5/7, 10:30am @ Harborcreek Perkins (5/14, 21, 28 @ 10am @ BVPC Office) *Sunday Funday, 5/19, 12:15pm

*Pub Theology, 5/20, 7pm @ Coach's Sports Bar (W. 38th & Elmwood) *Confirmation: 5/7 6-8pm, 5/14 6-8pm, 5/19 3-5pm, 5/28 6-8pm

*Women's Dinner Fellowship, 5/30, The Beechwood Inn (Rt. 8)—meet 5:30pm @ BVPC for ride, or 6pm @ restaurant

Any Church Family Needs... sickness, hospitalization, funeral reception after the loss of a loved one, financial need, etc. Please contact the Deacons thru **Bonnie Renaud (315-415-0843)** (*Bonnie is the 2019 Deacon Moderator*)—confidentiality is maintained! **Are you or anyone you know in any kind of emotional crisis or grief over loss** (loved one, employment, mobility, independence, etc.)? We have access to trained Stephen Ministers: gifted listeners, free, and confidential. Call Pastor Dave (397-1861).



Please Minister to Members Challenged by Chronic Health Issues (cards, calls, visits, and prayer):

Bill Bullock: Elmwood Gardens, 2628 Elmwood Ave., #E-6, 16508; **Janet Crain:** 3662 Dog Leg Trail, Erie, 16510 (520-6176);

Jean Moorhead: 1023 Raspberry St., 16502 (459-9077); **Harold Keefe:** 4322 Pine Ave., 16504 (315-9594); **MaryAnn Stein:**

919 E. 8th St., Erie 16503 (520-5082); **Doris Feeney:** St. Mary's-East, 607 E. 26th St., #114, 16504 (528-0108); **Dan & Diane**

Horton: 1121 E. 2nd St., Oil City, PA, (860-9173, 282-9944); **Rick Hess:** temporarily at Walnut Creek Nursing Facility (4850

Zuck Rd.; Area 3, rm. #304); **Fred Marshall:** Grandview Manor, 4210 Davison Ave., Apt. #529, 16504 (384-4931); **Harry Krahnke:** Grandview Manor, 4210 Davison Ave., Apt. #504, 16504 (315-8359).

Financial Secretary Notes: 1) Anyone that wants tithing envelopes for 2018, let Gwen Ebert know (825-2989 or 860-4477). 2) Anyone (member or non-member) that wants/needs a printed record of their giving to the church must have a number in order for their giving to be recorded. If you do not have a number and would like one, also contact Gwen Ebert.

Food Collections: Please keep up all the GREAT work of your ongoing support of canned goods and staples for the Mt. Carmel food pantry. There is always a need for basic food staples: peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, pasta, canned tuna & chicken, etc. Receptacles are in the foyer. Thank you all for your generosity!! We are continually amazed that the food collection containers fill up at least every 2 weeks!! The organizers of the Mt. Carmel Food Pantry have continually been showing their appreciation for our support of their pantry ministry! **Sunshine Group Support:** There is a foyer collection bin for recycling empty tissue boxes for this volunteer organization that prepares gift packages all year for kids, the homeless, veterans, nursing home residents, etc.



Belle Valley's Recycling Ministry Needs YOU! Unloading the newspaper trailer onto a delivery truck will take place (check w/ Rick Leasure first: 881-1269). Thanks to our volunteers in April: Clay Woodring, Stephen Jewell, Doug Ebert, Andy Estok, 1 **New recycling criteria** please take note: **only aluminum cans**, newspaper (*and old phone books*). **We also recycle printer ink cartridges** from your own personal computer systems—the collection bin is in the foyer (**we receive funds for this recycling!**). **We also recycle cell phones!!** We are asking you to donate any old cell phones, and those of family/friends. The collection bin is in the foyer.



We NEED Your Help with the BVPC Nursery Care* and Custodial Teams? If you're able to serve BVPC by participating in a rotation of volunteers who help serve the needs of younger families at worship, or to keep the facility clean from week to week, then contact Chris Tombaugh (882-8932). We have a custodial volunteer who recently had a cancer diagnosis and will need to take an indefinite break from her responsibilities while she undergoes treatments. Would you be willing to pair up with an existing volunteer to do the custodial work in rotation about once every 6 weeks or so? We will provide the training and answer any questions you have. **You need to have your PA clearances (but those can be obtained free of charge via the internet, and we can help you do that).* **We Are Asking Your Help!** Some very special family members of our church have offered to help keep the facility clean on a weekly basis. We have a few volunteers that are retiring or taking a leave due to health/surgery issues. So that leaves only a handful that can continue to clean. This is where YOU can help. Whenever you use the facility, please plan to clean up after yourselves (this includes all hospitality teams, nursery volunteers, study groups, leadership gatherings, and groups hosting fundraising dinners/events, fellowship events, etc.). If you can clean up after yourselves in the fellowship hall (including sweeping carpeting, mopping tile floors, wiping off tables, washing/drying any dishes used, and cleaning the stove surfaces), then the custodial volunteers' role is more manageable as they do the usual cleaning of the facility each week. Thank you!!



Adult Study Group: We join in fellowship and study opportunities each week. Our first week (1st Tuesday of month, **10:30am—5/7**) we meet at Harborcreek Perkins Restaurant, and then we gather each week afterwards on **Tuesdays at 10am at the church office (5/14, 21, 28)**. We always have coffee and donuts, a time of prayer and then a discussion of a recent Christian fiction book or book of the Bible. We are studying the Old Testament book of Daniel. Come explore this fascinating story and its implications for our faith!

Interested in Exploring Membership? What exactly does it mean to become a member of Belle Valley Presbyterian Church? Why would I want to take that step of commitment? What do I need to know about this congregation (its history, design, and vision) to help me decide? If you'd be interested in further discussion (no strings attached!), or if you know someone who is currently unchurched and would be interested in the conversation, please contact Pastor Dave to get more info (397-1861). I hear he likes to treat folk to coffee at Panera's, his home away from home!

2019 Slate of officers:

Elders: Chris Tombaugh, Don Wienczkowski, Debi Johnson, Becky Nottingham, Andy Estok, Stacey Simons, Carla Leasure; **Clerk:** Mike Campbell

Deacons: Betty Filley, Anne Campbell, Bonnie Renaud, Mary Ann Rice, Becky Cousins, Darlene Leasure (*fulfilling Bonnie Zimmerman's term*)

Audit Committee: Jason Nottingham, Carla Leasure, Debbie Szpara

Memorial Committee: Bonnie Marshall, Rita Postlewaite, Kathy Simons

At-Large Nominating Committee: Sandy McConahy, Doug Ebert, Andy Estok, Mary Ann Rice



Presbyterian Youth Triennium: Get ready for the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium—a gathering held every three years for high school age students in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Youth from all churches (across the sponsoring denominations) come together for this life changing, life giving, and faith growing gathering! Five days that helps grow a younger generation of active Presbyterians. Five days that shape the leadership gifts and deepen the discipleship awareness for a generation who are already achieving a strong presence in this church and this world! Find out more at

www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org or contact your local registrar Britney Knight at 814-456-4243 x 112 or Britney.knight@firstcovenanterie.org

Community Events

****The National Association of Letter Carriers' One-Day Food Collection, 5/11**—simply place your donated nonperishables in a plastic grocery bag and hang it on your mailbox and your mail carrier will p/u when they drop off your mail. The 2nd Harvest Food Bank counts on this largest food drive of the year to stock their supplies through the lean summer months. Last year, this food drive collected over 112,000 lbs. of food from the NW PA area. Please help if you can!

****"Living Room Reset" 5/19, 6pm @ 1st Alliance Church**—An evening with Kirk Cameron. The ultimate date night: an intentional time to get away with your spouse for 3 hrs. for a marriage & parenting event...a time of teaching, prayer, worship, and laughter. Worship under the direction of Matt Hammitt and Harborside Music. Tickets start at \$20 and can be ordered online by emailing tickets@transparentproductions.com or calling (714) 545-8900.

Pub Theology! Join us at Coach's Sports Bar (downstairs area) **May 20 @ 7pm** where no faith/religion questions are out of place, and all doubts are heard and respected! Bring a friend...I double dog dare you! If we'll commit to ask just one person to come with us, we'll fill that room! Come with open minds, open ears, honest hearts, and doubting guests who seek genuine faith.



DON'T FORGET: Your 2nd mile giving to our Presbytery's 2019 per capita fund—this is a gift (\$31.50) asked from every member of Presbyterian churches in our presbytery to be used for larger mission efforts sponsored by the PC(USA) in our region!! If you haven't yet contributed, please do so now, making out your checks to "Belle Valley Presbyterian Church" and mark the memo line—"Per Capita gift." **See several mission project articles & the Ghana Mission Partnership article below for your next possible volunteer mission opportunities:**

- 1) **Spring Work Days at Camp Lambec:** On Saturdays, **May 4 & 18**, from 9:30am to 4:30pm. There are jobs to do for all skill levels. They are planning yard work and minor maintenance projects for May 4th and a "spring cleaning" on the cabins and buildings for May 18th. Please bring: drinking water, work gloves, and any tools that you think would be helpful for yard work. Please email Bob Meanor at meanor300@comcast.net if you are coming (and with how many people). A light lunch is provided.
- 2) **Presbytery of Lake Erie Mission Trip: June 23–29**, the Presbytery will be heading to Kinston, N.C. area to aid in ongoing Hurricane Recovery efforts. Ages 14 & up are encouraged to join us. No previous experience required! Just bring a heart and hands willing to serve! Space is limited to 22 participants, on a first-come first-served basis with a \$75 non-refundable deposit. Cost is \$375 per person which includes meals, housing, transportation, and work materials. Please contact Jamie Fowler ASAP with questions or to register, 814-673-0874 OR fowler676@gmail.com. Our own Clay Woodring is going along, and in anticipation of this, we want to help with the group's expenses, so we are hosting a **chicken & biscuits fundraising dinner** after worship on **June 2** (from 11:30am—1:30pm); take-outs and deliveries to area senior apartment buildings will be available as well.
- 3) **"Labors of Love":** To commemorate the 50th Anniversary in 2019 of medical missions and service, CHOSEN is partnering with the Presbytery of Lake Erie and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana in a new endeavor called "Labors of Love". The goal of "Labors of Love" is to raise \$50,000 that will be invested in the three Health Clinics to increase and improve healthcare services to the women, children, and communities that they serve. Each of the Health Clinics has specific needs for getting to the next level of development. These include building construction, renovations, equipment, supplies, infrastructure, potable water, sanitation, staff training and support. **Our Maundy Thursday joint worship service offering, our Good Friday Men's Communion Bkft. profits, and our recent months of "Penny Sunday" offerings all went to this special effort!!**

Our Mission Partnership with the Upper Northern Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana:

We will be hosting the annual Ghana Mission Network this summer, June 27-30. People from across the US and Ghana will join together for their annual celebration of mission partnerships. They will stay at Gannon University and meeting sessions and meals will be held at 1st Covenant Church. We will need volunteers from our presbytery to help provide meals and transportation to other venues as well. If you'd be willing to help create & serve a meal (or 2) with others from Elmwood & Belle Valley Churches, or help provide transportation, please contact Lisa Buffalari (504-7104) or Pastor Dave (397-1861). We will commit to a **new GMP emphasis: "Labors of Love"** (a joint project between the



presbytery and CHOSEN (an international medical mission agency here in Erie, originally founded through Westminster Presbyterian Church). This project is so named to honor CHOSEN's founder, Dick Love, and their 50th Anniversary. This project is set to fund improvements at 3 health clinics in the Upper Northern Presbytery of the EPC-Ghana, where many have no access to a hospital. These clinics especially provide vital pre-natal, maternal and child healthcare. **As you pray for this partnership, know that our church has been partnered with a cluster of LEP churches in prayer for a district of churches in the Upper Northern Presbytery of EPC-Ghana:** Seeking to be faithful to God we encourage faithful prayer for each other. While it is good to pray for all churches, your Ghana Mission Team encourages prayer for specific groups of churches. You can certainly pray whenever you desire but you are especially encouraged to pray at least once a month for your sister congregations. We are venturing into the next several years of our partnership with CHOSEN by our side as we discern how to best help with the needs of the Wapuli Health Clinic. Also keep Rev. Josh Heikkila and Ruth Brown in your prayers as they are PC(USA) missionaries on the ground in the Upper North.

Chereponi District

11 churches
126 male members;
183 female members;
219 children

District Pastor:

Rev. M. L. Agbovi

Lake Erie Presbytery

Ripley, NY	Erie, New Hope
North East	Erie, First Covenant
Harborcreek	Erie, Elmwood Avenue
Erie, Eastminster	Erie, Belle Valley
Erie, Emmanuel	

Annual Belle Valley Rummage Sale will be held **5/17 (8am - 4pm)** and **5/18 (8am - 2pm)**. **START SAVING YOUR TREASURES!**

We need your help with this annual sale and fundraiser for our church's ministry! All donations can be brought to the church **Monday, 5/13** through **Wednesday, 5/15 from 12 - 4pm** and **6-8pm** for set-up. Volunteers are needed these days to help put things out on the tables. We ask that no donations be brought on Thursday so that we can make sure everything is priced and ready to go for Friday. We will need all donated baked good items to the church by Thursday evening so that they can be priced and ready to go! We will finally need volunteers during the sale to keep the tables neatly organized, to periodically refold and stack clothes, to help answer customers questions or to help carry items to their vehicles. All large items (furniture, appliances, lawn & garden etc.) can be placed under the pavilion. Those who come to help with the sale, especially on Friday morning, please enter through the rear side entrance into the fellowship hall, since customers start lining up at the front doors very early before we open. Any questions call Kim Ragen (392-5831) or Rita Postlewaite (899-7305). Sign-up sheets for bake goods and volunteers will be in the foyer.



This Summer's Camp Lambec Season: <http://www.camplambec.net/> Check out their website to see the whole slate of 2019 summer camp programs (there's something for everyone: music, mission, "wet & wild," family camp, etc.). Don't forget that BVPC has camp scholarship help!

The Women's Dinner Club: May 30 (Thursday) @ 5:30pm at the Church or 6pm at The Beechwood Inn (Rt. 8)—all women welcome! RSVP by Tuesday, May 28 to Chris Tombaugh (882-8932) or Anne Campbell (490-9259). Come and enjoy the fellowship and good food!