

## The Pastor's Searchlight—July, 2021:



Wayne Rice shares this story in his book, *Hot Illustrations for Youth Talks*:

*Dear Christians: This is my commission to you—in face, you might even call it a great commission. You are to go to all people everywhere and call them to become My disciples. You are to baptize them and teach them to obey all that I have commanded you. Don't forget. I will be with you always to help you, even to the end of the world. I will never leave you nor forsake you, because I love you. Please don't forsake Me. With all my love, Jesus Christ.*

*Dear Jesus Christ: We acknowledge the receipt of Your recent communication. Your proposal is both interesting and challenging; however, due to a shortage of personnel, as well as several other financial and personal considerations, we do not feel that we can give proper emphasis to Your challenge at this time. A committee has been appointed to study the feasibility of the plan. We should have a report to bring to our congregation sometime in the future. You may rest assured that we will give this our careful consideration, and our board will be praying for You and Your efforts to find additional disciples. We do appreciate Your offer to serve as a resource person, and should we decide to undertake this project at some point in the future, we'll get back to You. Cordially, The Christians.*

How have we responded to Christ's commission to go and make disciples? Do we understand it as our responsibility or do we think it's someone else's job? The local church does not become relevant to the world unless we humbly surrender to Jesus' desire to love the broken, the unlovable, the angry, the lost, the afraid, the traumatized, AND embrace the racially, religiously, sexually, politically, and gender-ly different from us!

*...Go and make disciples of all nations...!* (Matthew 28:19)

In Christ, Pastor Dave ([reved87@verizon.net](mailto:reved87@verizon.net))

**We have returned to in-person worship services** (face masks & social distancing no longer required for those already vaccinated), **but we will continue to live-stream** our Sunday morning worship experiences (9:30am @ "ErieEAPC" & 11am @ "belle.church" and the pastor's personal page "Dave Edmunds") and our Wednesday devotional experiences (6:30pm) on the pastor's personal Facebook page: "Dave Edmunds". Know that we are all praying daily for you, for our ministries, our mission, those who are especially hit hard by this crisis (the poor, the refugee, the unemployed, those without insurance, truckers & supply chain personnel, farmers, those on the front lines of the pandemic), our Ghanaian Mission Partnership, and our world! Keep following the guidelines of the CDC! We will get through this together...and God will be glorified!!

**Belle Valley Rummage Sale** will be held 7/9 (8am - 4pm) and 7/10 (8am - 2pm). **START SAVING YOUR TREASURES!** We need clean clothing (men's, women's, kids and infants). Toys, household items, linens, bedding, tools, books, games, puzzles, shoes and boots, purses, DVDs, VHS, electronics (please only items that work), furniture, or anything else you can think of. All large items, furniture, appliances, lawn and garden etc. can be placed under the pavilion. We need your help with this annual sale and fundraiser for our church's ministries! Please remember we did not have one in 2020 so hopefully we will be very busy. All donations can be brought to the church Monday, 7/5 through Wednesday, 7/7 from 12-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. 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 (12-4 or 6-8pm) so that they can be ready to go! **PLEASE REMEMBER NOTHING IS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH UNTIL 7/5/21.** If you have any questions, please call Kim (814-392-5831) or Rita (814-899-7305).

Please do your best to continue your regular giving, and for those able, please increase your giving to cover those who have been negatively impacted by this pandemic's financial hardships. **Financial Report YTD thru May, 2021:** Operating **Revenues** YTD Received: **\$61,387.69**; Operating **Expenses** YTD Paid Out: **\$47,405.44**; **Leaving a YTD surplus of \$13,982.25** (due to funds taken from the Beemer Fund for upcoming Building & Grounds projects—especially sanctuary technology & elevator repairs). **Please reach out to Albert Boorady** (treasurer, [arboorady@yahoo.com](mailto:arboorady@yahoo.com), 218-2544) if you'd like to learn how to set up BVPC as a regular payee with your bank automatically! **Please continue to pray for BVPC's ministries and your financial giving!**

**BVPC PRAYER CONCERNS:** Jean Maciolek, Anderson Family, Elijah Carner, Woodring Family, Sadie Jones, Ryleigh Hagmaier, Don Zimmer, Kim Ragen, Horduski Family, Richard Hoffman, Patty Craft's mother, Niles Copeland, Bob Schreckengost, Sophie Mason, Steve Narasevich, Everett Carbahal, Scott Wilkinson, George Poulson, Cathy McNally, Mary Lou Joyce, Lloyd Cutshall, Courtney & Malik (lost their mother, Kari Lynn Teubert), Katherine & Mary Roward, Phyllis DiNicola, Ed Bauer, Sue Payne, Susie Wright, Pastor's friend (Greg & family: adult son w/ addiction struggles), Rob Williams, Mick Caspar, Mike Wiczorek, Mike Wright, Gracie Lynn Kingsley, Cheryl Petrone, Michael Beuchert, Jamie Pianta, Skylar Patora, Dan Casey, Char Napierkowski's grandson (Zach) & Son (Bob Jr.), Sherry Wnukowski, Lydia Baer, Jeremiah Murosky, Jackie Roddy, Nohade Boorady, Jay Miller, Cooper Montroy, Marilyn Keim, Lydia Rhodes, Scott Jones, Kim Glasser-Seybolt, Angelo Meyers, Sarah Nicosia, Joy Kirk, Deana Lasher, Joyce Moore, Brian Cook, Linda Lamb, Sandy Knight, Jeannette Komorek, Adam Muse, Cheryl Tobin, Clark Leasure, Joyce Miller, Jack Weir, Stephanie Garcia, Joe Cauley, Genny Cosco, Barb Voystante, Mary Lou Joyce, Julia Zukowski, Tyson Copeland, Jason Walsh, Aimee Gross, Jimmy Bojarski, Evangeline Boga, Teresa Brewer, Stephanie Warren, Bennett Testa, Aubrey Macs, James Demtsy, Jim Glass, Adam Muse; The corona virus epidemic; Systemic racial injustice; Myanmar, the Middle East, & Armenia internal violence crises; Brazil & India Covid crisis; Senseless gun violence; the Miami, FL condo collapse; Current military services personnel (*especially Jared Marzka*); 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*); the Wapuli Health Clinic; **Presbytery prayers:** Revs. Rick Cepris, Jim Moelk, Rachel Johns, Jim Haas, and Jim McCormack.

### **Belle Valley Presbyterian Church Session Meeting, June 14, 2021 6:30PM AGENDA:**

- 6:30 pm Opening prayer
- 6:40 pm Approval of the Docket & May, 2021 session minutes
- 6:45 pm Correspondence
- 6:50 pm Pastor's Report: *Vision brainstorming (BVPC's mission statement: Connecting Our Neighbors to an Experience of God's Love).*
- 7:30 pm Committee Reports
  - Stewardship & Finance (*Steve Glass*)—*Treasurer's Report (Albert Boorady).*

- Building & Grounds (*Clay Woodring*)—report on June 5 work-day, and any new concerns.
- Christian Education (*Leslie Sickles*)—report from VBS mtgs.
- Fellowship & Membership (*Sandy McConahy*)—June 13 Coffee Hr.—very nice. Next: June 27 joint svc. & picnic w/EPC.
- Mission & Outreach (*Pam Baker*)—COTC Saturday lunch program.
- Nominating (*TBD*)
- Personnel (*Chris Tombaugh*)
- Worship & Music (*Cheryl Kendzior*)—May 30 mtg. report; People for Life carnation bill paid? Grad gifts?

8:00 pm Clerk's Report

8:02 pm Old Business

8:05 pm New Business:

- Next session mtg.—Aug. 9, 6:30pm (no July session)
- Next Presbytery Mtg.—Sept. 11 (Sat.), 10am

8:10 pm Adjourn with Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

#### **Pastor's Report (May, 2021):**

- 1) Prep 4 Sunday sermons / 4 Sunday live-streaming services; 3 live-streaming Weds. Prayer & Praise svcs. & devotions/Bible study; notes (bulletins)/live-streaming; Prep newsletter digests/calendar mat'ls. & email them, session agenda & pastor's reports, visitors' letters, proof session minutes. Sending out music lyrics to cong. for Sunday worship so they can participate in singing. Arrg. for Julie von Volkenburg to play for BVPC (5/16).
- 2) Attended the LEP/WNY clergy retreat (5/3-4) @ Chautauqua Institute.
- 3) Deliver punch fixings to church for the Mothers' Day Coffee Hr. & set up serving table w/ table clothe & punch bowl mat'ls. (5/1).
- 4) Monitor Clay & Kristin's progress in completing their requirements for becoming CREs. Chat with Kristin re: the details of covering pulpits for me on May 9.
- 5) Prep for and led Adult Study Group (Romans): May 18, 25.
- 6) Continue to serve on the **Ghana Mission Partnership sub-committee**.
- 7) Serve on the **LEP Committee on Ministry** (Board mtg., 5/11). Attended the LEP zoom mtg. (5/25).
- 8) Coordinate email reminder process for PCUSA clergy gathering monthly (Zoom, on hiatus for summer).
- 9) Serving on the **Inter Church Ministries Board** (zoom, 5/17). Help prep all-community mailing (5/20, @ Luther Memorial).
- 10) Exec. Board Treasurer & Nominating/Personnel Com. for **Behrend PCM** (pay Julia for June; prep financial report; prep IRS 1096 forms).
- 11) Attended: set up & moderate session (5/11), VBS mtgs. (5/1-zoom, 5/20-in-person), Mothers' Day Coffee Hr. (5/2), 1<sup>st</sup> Covenant Sunday Suppers (5/23)—w/vols. from both EPC & BVPC congs., Worship & Music Com. mtg. (5/30).
- 12) Assorted tasks: p/u staff gifts for Kim/Albert (Nat'l. Office Staff Day—presented 5/19), help proof BVPC Covid guideline changes for letter to cong. as we prep for going maskless; set up zoom mtgs. for all events I have to moderate; Email cong. re: svc. music each week, outdoor work-day (6/5); prayer concerns & upcoming programming & recycling efforts; visitor follow-up; calls to set up visits; contacted Deacons re: hospitalized; several calls to pray w/members re: concerns & offer counsel; long-range sermon planning.
- 13) *Vacation May 5-11 (for daughter's wedding).*

**All Are Welcome to Join Us for an Adult Study Group on Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome!** We meet on Tuesdays @ Belle Valley Presbyterian Church (1694 Norcross Rd., just beyond the BV Fire Hall @ Pine Ave. & Norcross), under the picnic pavilion @ 10:30am (donuts & coffee are provided). We usually meet from 10:30am-12noon. On the first Tuesday of each month, we normally meet for breakfast and fellowship at Perkins' Restaurant on Buffalo Road & Nagle Ave. Our next Perkins' gathering is 8/3, 10:30am.

**Plot These Dates on Your Calendar: August 2-6 "Son Canyon" VBS 6-8:30pm @ the Belle Valley Presbyterian Church Picnic Pavilion** (1694 Norcross Rd., just beyond the BV Fire Hall @ Pine Ave. & Norcross). All kids from Pre-K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us—bring your kids, your grand-kids, your neighbor's kids to join in the fun of exploring who Jesus is through crafts, music, snacks, story-time, games, and skits! It is completely FREE for all! It takes place after our joint church Waldameer event on Aug. 1 as we start the day @ 11am with worship, followed by a picnic luncheon, and for those who wish to stay the entire day, we will have access to discounted park passes!! (\$28.75 each—BVPC's Birthday Bank Fund will be providing scholarships to all of our youth).

#### **BVPC July Birthday Calendar:**

- July 7 Clay Woodring, 50 Rena Drive, Erie, PA. 16510
- 12 Bonnie Zimmerman, 1046 East 10th St., Erie, PA. 16501
- 14 Mary Ann Rice, 2189 Foxboro Ct., Erie, PA. 16510
- Sally Ebert, 10784 Mohawk Rd., Cranesville, PA. 16410
- Sarah Brown, 9797 Jamestown Rd., Wattsburg, PA. 16442
- 16 Chris Nicholson, 3328 Saltsman Rd., Erie, PA. 16510
- 20 Dick Liebel, 345 W. 21st St., Erie, PA. 16502
- 28 Patty Smolinsky, Grandview Manor, 4210 Davison Ave., Apt. 329, Erie, PA. 16504
- 30 Ed Crissman, 115 Airport Rd., Corry, PA. 16407
- 31 Mary Lou Albert, 11589 W. Road, Albion, PA. 16401

**Upcoming Celebrations: Summer worship**—we are remaining at 11am all year long due to Nick's playing schedule at St. Thomas in Corry.

**July 16** (Friday @ 7pm) @ Belle Valley Church **drive-in movie** night—"Toy Story 4" (G)—we may see the "Balloon Lady"! Hot popcorn, ice cream novelties, and beverages provided!

**August 27** (Friday @ 7pm) @ Elmwood Church **drive-in movie** night—"Finding Dory" (PG)—All are welcome! Inflatable basketball game provided! Possibly face-painting! Hot dogs, chips, beverages, popcorn provided!

**August 1—Joint Waldameer Event** @ Train #1 Pavilion, 11am Worship, picnic lunch follows; Park passes are \$28.75 each (RSVPs & cash for tix due by July 18); Bring a dish to share (A-H salads, I-P side dishes or snacks; Q-Z desserts); If you need a ride, or help with a wheelchair to transport you from the parking lots to our pavilion, please contact Kim (814-392-5831) or Pastor Dave (814-397-1861).

**August 3—"National Night Out" Event** @ the Belle Valley Fire Department, 6-9pm. BVPC will have a table handing out free popcorn bags, hard candy, and brochures about our faith family. We will need volunteers to staff the table and be BVPC "ambassadors" to all the participants...since many folk will be volunteering for our VBS program, we will need all the help we can get. Please contact Pam Baker if you can help (814-528-1380). You can volunteer for 1-hour slots (or all evening if you're able!).