

PASTOR JEFF'S "ONE MORE THING..." (OR A FEW)

As many of you know, I announced that I will resign as Senior Pastor in September. The BWCOB community of faith is remarkable, and the bonds we have are deep, which is why such change is difficult. I have great faith in the future of this particular corner of the world. As I noted in my letter, I am seeking to further explore ministry in the healthcare context – that might look like chaplaincy, nursing, or the mental health community ... Those details have not yet been solidified. In many ways this is a personal step of faith, and many of you have given me hope as you face your own life changes with courage.

In the meantime, it is our family's plan to live in the Bridgewater community. We will step away from participation in this congregation's life to set good boundaries, to create space for the necessary responses, and to allow for new relationships to be formed. We will still see each other at the store, gas station, restaurants, on the street, at the school and other local events. We will look forward to these occasions to say hello and find out how you are. We love this community and appreciate the privilege that we have had in sharing life together.

Over the course of the next weeks, I will take a few vacation days between Sundays. My last Sunday will be September 1st and I will be using accrued vacation time for the rest of that month.

In the meantime there is still life to be had, work to do, and faith to celebrate. The Executive Committee has been hard at work already, and church leaders are looking to the future with renewed energy. I am also excited to see how the Spirit moves in this place. In time you will welcome persons in new roles and they, too, will have the chance to be loved by you. The BWCOB community will remain in my thoughts and prayers.

May the Grace of God abound as we seek the peace of God and love of Jesus.

~Jeff (and Wendy, Gabe and Nate)

2018 PICTORIAL DIRECTORY SUPPLEMENT

Included with this newsletter you will find the 2018 Pictorial Directory Supplement, which introduces new members, shares photos of the life of our congregation, and remembers those who have died in the past year.

SEVERE BLOOD SUPPLY SHORTAGE! Donate Blood on August 11th to help save a life!

On behalf of the Mission and Service Commission, our congregation will be hosting a blood drive on August 11, from 12:30-4:30p.m. Your blood donation can go towards helping 3 people in need of life saving blood products. We know that we have a giving church body, and we hope to reach a goal of at least 18 donations. To schedule your appointment, please contact Shannon in the church office. You can also go to redcrossblood.org to make your blood donation appointment today!

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

“Joy in the Moment”

by Lauren Capasso, BVS Unit # 319

“Within my first week at Casa de Esperanza de Los Niños in Houston, Texas, I experienced different struggles including moving to a new place, parenting and living with people I’d never met before, and getting to know four new children. The environment in which I live houses adults and children together as if they are a family. After only a week of being in my house, I experienced one of the realities of becoming a parent—having sick children.



One evening, when I was putting a little girl to bed, she started to become drowsy, but would not fall asleep. While reading to her, I saw out of the corner of my eye that she was sitting up and a large amount of liquid was coming out of her mouth. As an immediate reaction, I grabbed her blanket and quickly draped it across my arms in an attempt to make something that resembled a bowl. Oh so quickly there was vomit all over her face and hair, but also all over my arms. As soon as I thought it was safe, I started to lower my arms to clean up the mess, but it started happening again. Eventually, I wiped her face and noticed the look in her eyes that told me she was scared and needed someone to comfort her.

Although I was panicking internally, I was able to stay calm in this moment and help ease the fear and discomfort she was feeling. We were both such a mess, but it was in this moment that I found joy in working with children simply because I realized that this girl and my other kids do need my help. She needed me and I could help her, which brought joy and reminded me of my purpose at Casa. The first few weeks at my project were difficult, but they became very rewarding and made me want to continue this mission even more.”

UPDATE ON JOURNEY BAG PROJECT

Our original donation of 22 journey bags initiated a relationship with the Foster Care Office at Harrisonburg-Rockingham Department of Social Services that is very exciting.

Since mid-May, our church has had the opportunity to support local children and teens in foster care through these purchases:

- crib mattress and bedding for an infant
- bed frame, mattress and bedding for a 9-year-old child
- breastfeeding supplies for a teenage mother
- collections of additional bottles and pacifiers for infants
- child safety seats for an infant and toddler

We continue to have regular contact with the Foster Care Office when there are children who have urgent needs.

~ Christian Education Commission

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

August 4—Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*

Scripture Reading: Luke 12:13-21

Sermon: “*The One about Legacy*”

August 11—Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:22-34

Sermon: “*The One about Windows*”

August 18—Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*

Scripture Reading: John 21:15-19

Sermon: “*The One about Justice*”

August 25—Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Guest preacher & singer/songwriter, Mike Stern

Meditation: “*For the Facing of This Hour*”

EVER RUN A BIBLE MARATHON? 66 BOOKS INSTEAD OF 26.2 MILES



It takes a long time to read through the entire Bible...

It takes 7 hours to learn the basics of each book.

Announcing a special church-wide chance to “run” through the entire Bible, beginning with how the Bible came to be; exploring the uniqueness, characters, themes and primary messages of each of the 66 books! This Marathon has received rave reviews from experienced pastors as well as folks who are still trying to figure out what the Bible is all about. Semi-retired pastor and church leader Mary Cline Detrick of our congregation has taught her Bible Marathon countless times through retreats at a number of churches and three times as a JMU Life-Long-Learning course. Mary is offering her well-tested Bible Marathon free for the adults and youth of our church, hoping it opens the Bible up in new ways for every ‘runner!’

Save this date: Saturday, October 12, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in our church

Bring your own lunch; drinks and snacks will be provided. Free child care provided. Information about registration will be given in later announcements. Anyone wishing to pre-register may leave your name with Shannon in the church office. Sponsored by the Witness and Nurture Commission.

THE BENEFITS OF OUR FOUNDATION – PART 2

Previously we discussed some of the benefits of our foundation from the perspective of the congregation. This time let’s look at some additional benefits from the point-of-view of the donor.

Endowment contributions-both for new funds or adding to existing funds-provide numerous benefits to donors:

Perpetuates the donor’s values and priorities. A restricted endowment can ensure organizational support of the donor’s choice.

Creates a permanent tribute to the donor and the donor’s values.

Makes significant investment in funding our church’s future.

Endows annual gifts.

Allows incremental funding.

Provides lifetime income.

Alleviates the donor’s management burden. A split interest gift enables the donor to receive regular income for life without the burden or cost of managing investments.

Permits additions later. The donor, or the donor’s friends and family, can add to a named fund by simply identifying the fund as the object of the gift.

While not all of these benefits may apply to all donors, they underscore the importance in having a foundation that works in concert with the goals and needs of our congregation. The current officers of the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren Foundation take their role and responsibilities seriously. The Foundation appreciates and applauds the past gifts made by individuals of our congregation, and look forward to working with those of you interested in supporting the future of our church.

~ BWCOP Foundation: Anita Beckman, John Flora, Claire Martindale, Jim Replogle & Ruth Watson

For Our Prayers during the Month of August 2019

Each month a prayer list with opportunities for directed prayer is included with our newsletter. In addition to highlighting specific prayer requests, we are invited to pray with particular mindfulness of the persons connected with our congregation and community. Additionally, focusing thoughts and prayers around the following may be helpful as a guide:

Our Congregation and its Ministries, Vision and Mission

Those who are...

Graduating and preparing for new phases of life

Undergoing significant life changes

Living with illnesses, both chronic and acute

Seeking employment and who have lost work

Traveling

In difficult relationships or experiencing the loss or lack of relationship

Struggling with mental illness, anxiety, depression and/or thoughts of suicide

Criticized, belittled and demeaned because of their beliefs and understandings

Survivors, Victims, Witnesses, and Perpetrators of violence, intolerance, racism and hatred

Advocating for justice and righteousness

Wrestling with their faith

Facing financial hardships

Finding peace and contentment

We also lift up in prayer and mindfulness specifically...

...Our Nation and World

...our congregation, district, and denomination

...those who grieve, especially the families and friends of...

Lorna Shrider, sister of **Glenda Wampler**, who died July 9

Edna Earl Powell Withers, great-grandmother of **Dominique Duncan**, who died July 4

Elizabeth "Libby" Hodge, mother of **Ellie Draper**, who died June 25; *Tom Byerly*, father of **Trent Byerly**, and brother-in-law of **Nancy Michael**, who died June 7; *Sarah Moats*, mother of **Karissa Hunt**, who died June 2;

Veronze Strader, mother of **Leanne Kreps**, who died May 5; *Wayne Crist*, son of **Anna Crist**, who died April 24;

... those under the care of Hospice, Palliative Care and Comfort Care

...those who recently have had surgery, been hospitalized, are receiving treatments, are recovering from illness or are in rehabilitation, specifically ...

Chester Bowman, Alan Diehl, Erin Eye, Terry Green, Jimmy Ross and Shylah Zepp

... those receiving treatments for cancer...

Lynne Brumbaugh, Betty Wayman, mother of **Claire Wayman; Amanda Zepp**, and her mother **Carolyn Beckwith**

...those requiring long-term healthcare, specifically those at...

Curis of Harrisonburg, Bridgewater Home, Harrisonburg Health & Rehab, & Sunnyside

...those taking classes from *Bethany Theological Seminary*, specifically... **Sharon Flaten** (Jos, Nigeria), **Hope Staton** (Staunton VA),

...those in *Volunteer Service*, specifically...**Lauren Capasso** (Houston, TX), **Lauren Flora** (Elgin, IL)

...those in *Military Service*, specifically...**Tyler Hopkins, Kent Hutchinson**

...those who are requesting prayer specifically or have been on the prayer chain recently...

The Figgs Family, The Duncan Family

Gary Studebaker, a friend of **Fonda Erdman, Robert Harlow**, a relative of **Sally Chumbley, Marietta Jordan, Sally Jane Conner**

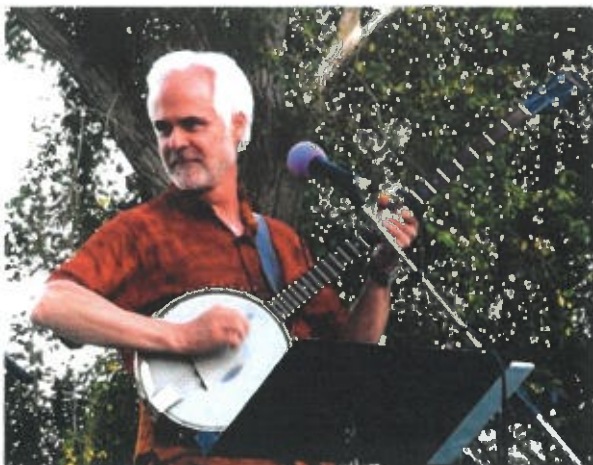
Hauwa Abdu, 1 of over 200 girls & young women kidnapped in Nigeria in April 2014.

For the sake of our Associate Pastor and the Moderator and certainly others please pray for the Baltimore Orioles.

For the serious and humorous in life we pray...

For these and all God's Children we pray...

Sunday Afternoon Concert Mike Stern with Louise Brodie Sunday, August 25, 3 pm



After performing as part of the "Sing Me High" Music Festival in Harrisonburg on Saturday and bringing the message in word and song in our worship on Sunday morning, Mike Stern and Louise Brodie will be offering a concert in our sanctuary on Sunday afternoon at 3 pm. Admission is free, and a free-will offering will be taken.

Michael Stern is a Seattle singer/songwriter who has been creating inspiring music of peace, justice and compassion since the 1970's. His performances move audiences with original lyrical images that are thought provoking, then humorous, romantic and spiritual. Come prepared to laugh, cry, be challenged, and to sing-along. Mike performs in a wide variety of venues including folk festivals, churches, schools, libraries, retreats, camps and conferences, and for groups such Fellowship of Reconciliation, Hiroshima to Hope, Veterans for Peace Golden Rule Project, and the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima - to name just a few. David Horsey (Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoonist and columnist, Seattle Post-Intelligencer) wrote: *Michael Stern's music is an anthem for an America as it should be - a reminder that peace and justice should be our highest moral values.* And Maureen Jackson described Michael's music in Victory Music Review as: *".. tender and powerful lyrics ..., subjects that matter ..., warm voice, beautiful poetry and rich arrangements draw us into the heart of compassion ..."* For more info visit www.mikesongs.net

Mike will be joined by Chicago based fiddle player, Louise Brodie. She shares a passion for peace and justice and performs with Mike each summer at the Brethren Song and Story Fest. Louise also performs throughout the Chicago area with the groups Trillium, Briar Road, and the Riverside Ramblers.



INTERESTED IN LEADING OR CONTRIBUTING TO WORSHIP?

Would you be interested in helping to lead congregational worship one or more Sundays during the upcoming year? Perhaps you would like to try writing a meditation or directing a drama? Or maybe you'd like to offer a children's story or share a moment for mission? Opportunities exist for those looking to do as little as reading scripture or as much as working with us to shape an entire worship service. Assistance and coaching are available as needed or desired. If interested, please contact Pastor Chris to schedule or inquire.

BITS AND PEACES

[brought to you by Peace Committee and Mission & Service Commission]

Love and justice belong together like two sides of the same coin.

~ Culbert G. Rutenber

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.

~ Psalm 82:3, NIV

BWCOB AUGUST 2019 EVENTS PROGRAM CALENDAR

This is a church-related program calendar and does not include all building use. Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS and building use through the church office. All events are at BWCOB unless otherwise indicated.

- 4 Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon
Council – 1 p.m.
- 7 Christian Education Commission – 7 p.m.
Fellowship & Recreation Commission – 7 p.m.
Mission & Service Commission – 7 p.m.
Ministerial Services Commission – 7:30 p.m.
Worship & Music Commission – 7:45 p.m.
- 8 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Blood Drive – 12:30-4:30 p.m.
- 12 Finance Commission – 7 p.m.
- 14 Properties Commission – 6:30 p.m.
Witness & Nurture Commission – 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- 22 Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Mike Stern Concert – 3 p.m.
BSM Leadership Team – 6 p.m.
- 29 Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m. – Carter Center
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 6 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.
- 12 Retired Ministers & Spouses – Noon – Maple Terrace
- 14 Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace
- 20 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.

UPDATED DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Please make the following correction in your 2019 Congregational Contacts Directory:

- Heather Barkey (cell) 849-6180
- Crystal & Shane Brubaker
50 Gosling Circle, Apt. 102, Fishersville, VA 22939
- Mike & Sally Chumbley
2160 Scenic Highway, Churchville, VA 24421
Mike (cell) 717-602-3977 / michaelchumbley@gmail.com
Sally (cell) 904-608-6165 / sallyschumbley@gmail.com
- Ann Daggett—109 Cliff Custer Court, Bridgewater
- Mark Dowdy—dowdy.mc@gmail.com
- Dan & Pam Funkhouser
51 Somerset Drive, Weyers Cave, VA 24486
- Sue Garst—PO Box 137, Bridgewater
- Heather & Timbo Hartwell
(cell) 421-9594 / thartwell.home@gmail.com
- Beth, Gena, Lilly Day-Miller
212 High Street, Bridgewater, VA 22812
- Haggi Molalenge—haggimes@gmail.com
- Jean Rice—(cell) 416-3914
- Wilbur Rittenhouse—Bridgewater Home
- Pam Mason—(cell) 820-9526
- Jerry Whitmore—(cell) 850-544-4497

SAVE THE DATE

Join us after Worship at 11 o'clock on September 8 for our
All-Church Picnic!
That means you might want to dress in your best "picnic clothes" that day.
More information to come...