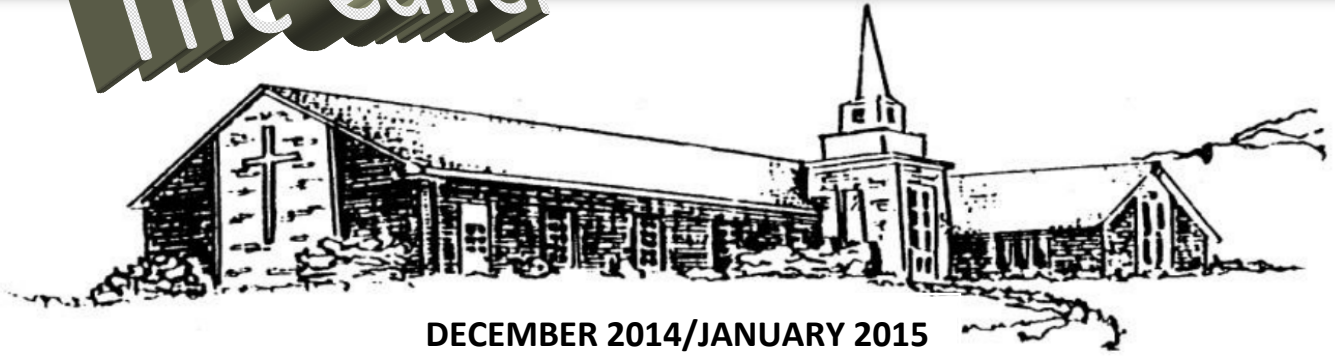


The Galler



DECEMBER 2014/JANUARY 2015

Editor: Jody Hansroth

BROWNSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

1911 Rohrersville Road
Knoxville, Maryland 21758
301-432-8354

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Alan Smith, Pastor



Love, peace and happiness ~ may all these blessings and more be yours this Christmas season.

Bethlehem

Our cantata this year is titled “Lead Me Back to Bethlehem” and one of my favorite songs in the cantata has the same title. In the narration before the song starts the narrator asks this, “When we hear the Bethlehem story repeated year after year, do we forget its holy power and mystery? Have we lost the joy and excitement of the story? Have we grown indifferent to its promise of life, love and peace?” These are very legitimate questions for us to explore.

By the time you will read this we will probably be in the Advent season. We will be busy shopping and decorating. Doing all those things we do to celebrate Christmas. We get caught up in the Christmas rush and we stress about getting everything done in time. God did not intend the celebration of His son’s birth to be something that is stressful. As you know I love Christmas! I love seeing the lights. I love hearing and singing the Christmas carols. To me it’s a time of hope, peace and love. For some this year may bring painful reminders that our loved ones are no longer with us and there is an emptiness in our hearts. Remember this is a time of promise. The promise that was given to us through the birth of Jesus in that little town of Bethlehem.

Bethlehem was a little town south of Jerusalem. Bethlehem has the distinction of being not only the birth place of Jesus but also the birthplace of King David. Out of this little place comes hope. The hope that one day there will be true peace on this Earth. Hope that our sins are forgiven and we will be able to spend eternity in heaven! Out of Bethlehem comes the power over sin and death! Let’s not get caught up in what the world thinks Christmas is about. (Profit and gifts) Let’s remember it is the celebration of the birth of the savior of the universe. Let’s keep focused on the act of love that happened many centuries ago. Let’s take that love that was given to us and share it with others. As we move into another new year let’s always remember the peace, power and love of Christmas day.

Merry Christmas and Happy New year! May God be your source of strength and peace in the year to come!

Pastor Alan

IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Caroling Party

On **December 7th** the youth and children are invited to join us for a caroling party.

We will meet at the church at 2:00 p.m. to prepare gifts to deliver as we carol. We will then board the church vans and spread a little Christmas cheer to folks in Pleasant Valley and the surrounding area. We will end up back at church for cookies and hot chocolate.

If you know of someone who would appreciate a visit from us, please contact Julie Norris.

Parents: We are in need of cookie donations and a few chaperones.

Carol Sing

At **7:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 14th**, all are invited to share in song with the Touchdown Sunset Praise Band. They will lead us into worship with acoustic music, readings and songs.

We hope you can join us and invite someone to come with you.



“ A Creativ-i-Tea” LADIES NIGHT OUT

Saturday, December 20 - 6:00 p.m.

Please RSVP by signing up on the bulletin board!

An Evening To Celebrate the Birth of Jesus Sunday, December 21st

At **6:00 p.m.** our Children and Youth will present their **Christmas program** in the Fellowship Hall. You won't want to miss this exciting and inspiring event.

This will be followed by our annual **Birthday Party for Jesus** at **6:45 p.m.**

Everyone is invited to stay and enjoy cake and punch as we sing Happy Birthday to Jesus!

SENIOR HIGH CHRISTMAS LOCK-IN

is coming up on Friday, December 12th. All senior high youth are invited to attend the M.A.D. Youth Christmas Lock-in at Frederick COB. We will be leaving at 6:00 p.m. from Brownsville to attend.

SENIOR CITIZENS will meet Wednesday, December 17th at noon for their Christmas Turkey Dinner served by the Kitchen Committee. The cost will be \$12 per person. Everyone is asked to bring a small decorated gift bag or basket (limit \$5 please). Mark your gifts for a man or woman as appropriate. Contact Marlene Bowers by Dec. 7 if you plan to attend. Thank you.

--Dottie Tritapoe

After many years, Joan Best is retiring as our Sunday School Secretary. We need someone to fill this position during our SS hour. If you are interested, please contact the Church office or Julie Norris.

OTHER HAPPENINGS/EVENTS

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Children's Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Children 4 years old through Middle School are encouraged to participate.

Next Performance: **December 21st** during Traditional Service.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Chancel Choir practice follows the second service for approximately 30 minutes.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Cantata this year is "Lead Me Back to Bethlehem" and will be presented on Christmas Eve.



Fahrney Keedy Home & Village Dec. 2, 7:15 PM

Christmas by Candlelight Carol Sing Dec. 14th
Claggett Center, Women's Retreat Jan. 16/17, 2015

For additional information, please email the group at touchdownsunset@gmail.com or follow the band on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/touchdownsunset>

CDs are still available for purchase. See a band member to pick up yours!



Operation Christmas Child – A Success!

We would like to send a very special "Thank You!" to all who contributed to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry this year. Thanks to you and your generous efforts, we exceeded our expectations, collecting a total of **200** boxes!! Our congregation filled 100 boxes, while two very special "Secret Santa" families in our congregation chose to take it upon themselves to fill and drop-off 100 boxes at our nearest drop-off location. We are very touched by their generosity and kindness, and sincerely thank them for their interest in and passion for this most worthwhile ministry. We'd also like to thank a very special man in our congregation, who also chose to remain anonymous, for covering the shipping costs for 42 of the boxes. We are overjoyed by his kindness and very gracious to him for supporting us with this effort. Our appreciation also goes out to Leigh Ann Shorten for picking up and delivering our boxes to the drop-off location (especially on a cold day!) and all of you who filled boxes – thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You really came through for us! Thanks to you, the Brownsville Church of the Brethren, 200 children will know what is like to receive a gift this Christmas season, to know someone cares for them, and that Jesus is love. Merry Christmas!

Crystal and Julie



Fahrney-Keedy Plans Wreaths Fest, Luminaria Display on December 13th

A Festival of Wreaths and a Luminaria Remembrance Display will take place at Fahrney-Keedy Home and Village from 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13th. There will be over 50 donated wreaths along with a bake sale.



It's not too late to bake and donate items for the Annual Craft Bazaar! But you have to hurry...



Theme Baskets

Last day to deliver them is Tuesday, December 2nd

Craft Items

Thursday or Friday, Dec. 4-5.

***BE SURE TO PRICE YOUR ITEMS BEFORE YOU BRING THEM.**



Baked Goods

Please have your donations to the church by **December 5th**. It is helpful to list ingredients on the wrapping (i.e. nuts, peanut butter, etc.)



Cookies by the Dozen

Have them to the church by December 5th please!

These are very popular so bake more than 1 batch!!!

★ *Brownsville Church of the Brethren's Annual Craft Bazaar* ★

CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY

1911 Rohrersville Road ★ Brownsville, MD

★ **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th** ★

NEW THIS YEAR!	FEATURING...
Kids can shop in the Elf Club House filled with affordable gifts and have fun in our free Christmas photo booth!!	"SELECT-A-DOZEN" COOKIES
	HOMEMADE FOOD
	BAKED GOODS
	AUCTION & HANDCRAFTS
	THEMED GIFT BASKETS

9AM TO 1PM

Brownsville Church of the Brethren welcomes all...

KIDS TO THE FIRST ...

ELF CLUB HOUSE

Children are invited to shop safely in the Elf Club House at our Annual Christmas Bazaar!! Handmade gifts are available for purchase for their family & friends. All items are priced under \$5 and will be wrapped after purchase by volunteers. While shopping, kids are also invited to snap some pictures in our free Christmas photo booth!

SERVING THE CHURCH IN DEC./JAN.

Pastor's Sermons

12/7	<i>"Bethlehem's Hope"</i>	Isaiah 12:1-6
12/14	<i>"Bethlehem's Light"</i>	John 1:1-14
12/21	<i>"Bethlehem's Love"</i>	Luke 2:1-20
12/28	--Pastor on Vacation--	
1/4	<i>"God's Plan"</i>	Ephesians 1:3-14
1/11	<i>"The Privilege"</i>	Ephesians 3:1-12
1/18	<i>"Speak Lord"</i>	1 Samuel 3:1-10
1/25	<i>"Fishing"</i>	Mark 1:14-20

Worship Leaders

12/7	Esther Kidwell
12/14	Paul Heavner
12/21	Bob Deener
12/28	Rob Galpin
1/4	Mike Kenney
1/11	Lori Dagenhart
1/18	Dave Hahn
1/25	Esther Kidwell

Nursery Helpers (1st Service)

12/7	Heather, Tori & Carly Galpin
12/14	Tedi & Jami Nelson
12/21	Julie Norris
12/28	Jocelyn Pennella
1/4	Julie Norris
1/11	Jocelyn Pennella
1/18	Wendy Tritapoe
1/25	Linda Clough

Acolytes

12/7	Joshua Dixon
12/14	Ashleigh Bohrer
12/21	Jesse McGuffin
12/24	Abby Dillow
12/28	Sabrina Bohrer
1/4	Ashlee McGuffin
1/11	Mattie White
1/18	Abby Dillow
1/25	Kiera Loughlin

Nursery Helpers (2nd Service)

12/7	Lea McGill
12/14	Christine Loughlin
12/21	Brenda Mentzer
12/28	Christine Loughlin
1/4	Lea McGill
1/11	Christine Loughlin
1/18	Brenda Mentzer
1/25	Christine Loughlin

Ushers

Contemporary Service

M. David Hahn
Mike Carey

Traditional Service

Wayne Smallwood, Team Capt.

Organist

Betsy Warrenfeltz

Pianist

Linda Sayler

Children's Church

12/7	Christine Loughlin
12/14	Tedi Nelson
12/21	Julie Norris
12/28	Danielle Clary

Deacon of the Month (Dec.) Dottie Tritapoe/
Wanda Metcalf

Building Steward (Dec.) Scott Norris

Sound Technician (Dec.) Jerry Iseminger

Kitchen Helper Sandy Jones

1/4	TBA
1/11	TBA
1/18	TBA
1/25	TBA



MEMORIAL GIFTS

A gift of money has been given to Micah’s Backpack in memory of Bryer Hendricks and Clinton Hendricks, by Tommy & Tracy Mentzer.

A gift of money has been given to the F.A.Y. Fund in memory of my father’s (Fred Younkins) birthday, by Gale Younkins.

A gift of money has been given to Outreach in memory of Clara Himes, by David & Barbara Hahn.

A gift of money has been given to the Playgroup in memory of Vallie Kiracofe, by David & Barbara Hahn.

A gift of money has been given to the Playground Equipment Fund in memory of Bryer Hendricks, by Dale and Sandy Smith.

A gift of money has been given to Missions & Outreach in memory of Bryer Hendricks, by Tracy Mentzer.



THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

I first became aware of your church in an article given to me from a friend.

Church of the Brethren
Annual Conference (Journal)
Columbus, Ohio July 2, 2014
“Brownsville (MD) Church of the Brethren Shares Prayer Cloths”

This article was the beginning of our Christmas project for our college students and high school students. Thank you for sharing and giving to the Lord!

Your prayer shawl ministry is another fine example of how we can “Let Our Lights Shine for Jesus.”

May God bless you all abundantly,

Joyce Good
“Prayers and Shawls for His People”
Midway Church of the Brethren
13 Evergreen Road
Lebanon, PA 17042

P.S. With this letter comes a variety of items. Please forward the card to Jodie and thank her for the “pleasant phone call” I received this week. Also please forward the envelopes to Jackie. Hopefully, we can share and bless your prayer shawl ministry as much as you have ours.



PRAYER CONCERNS

for those with ongoing health concerns:

Curtis Barnard, Sr.	Bonnie Duarte	Janice Mentzer
Jamie Barnhouse	Doug Frye	Mary Metcalf
Shirley Barnhouse	Aaron Hahn	Rose Moats
George Baugher	Marvin Hahn	Gloria Moore
Eileen Bayles	Audrey House	Loleta Potter
Rayetta Bennett	Mike Jennings	Sherman Potter
Delores Brawner	Jim Kidwell	Holly Price
Margaret Darr	Teresa Kitts	Buck Thompson
Brian Dillow	Sean Loughlin	Jon Tregoning
		Marian Welsh

for those serving in active military duty:

Garrett Cook	(Son of Whitney Hellman and Guy Cook; grandson of Joan Howell; and great grandson of Pete Higdon)
Sgt. Luke Maxson	(Husband of Jessie Maxson)
Travis Morgan	(Son-in-law of Janet Kaetzel)
Russell Shorten	(Son of David and Leigh Ann Shorten)

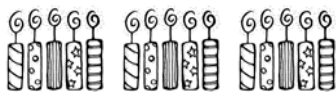
for those in nursing homes and assisted living:

Eileen Bayles	Homewood at Crumland Farms 7407 Willow Road, Room 256 – Meadows Frederick, MD 21702
Ruth McGolerick	Vindobona Nursing Center 6012 Jefferson Boulevard P.O. Box 318, Room 219 Braddock Heights, MD 21714
Alice Oakes	Fahrney-Keedy 8507 Mapleville Road, Boonsboro, MD 21713
Zettie Smith	Somerford Place 2100 Whittier Drive Frederick, MD 21702

Continued Prayer Requests for Nigeria

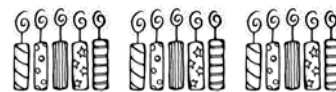
In addition to the continued prayer request for Na'omi Bitrus and the other young Nigerian girls who were abducted and whose whereabouts remain unknown, we have received word that the Nigeria Brethren Church headquarters property and **the Kulp Bible College have been overtaken by the Boko Haram insurgents.** Please pray for those who have not yet been heard from, those who are trapped in controlled areas, those who have lost loved ones, and those who have been forced to flee their homes. **H. Stover Kulp and Albert D. Helser arrived in Nigeria in December 1922 to establish the first mission work in Africa. The Kulp Bible College was established in 1960 to train lay leaders and pastors.**

December Birthdays



1	Kristin Jennings Victoria Jennings
2	Nan Mullendore
4	Teri Heavner Sara Dillow
5	Victoria Bowers Dave Nicodemus
6	Donna Carey
8	Matthew Myers Brandi Harbaugh
11	Tim Rohr
12	Cheri Hahn Barbara Miller Beverly Negley
13	Kristin Hutchinson
14	Bobbi Hahn Larry Heffner Hannah Smith
15	Jessica Hahn Janice Mentzer
16	Lori Zimmerman Jennifer Mentzer
18	Della Younkins
19	Ennis Sponaugle
22	Wayne Smallwood
 25	Frank Kelbaugh Charlie Reeder
26	Beth Bucy Shawn Younger
27	Kate Snoots
31	Rick Vaughn Amanda Barnard

January Birthdays



1	Scott Best
2	Vaughn Crowl Gerald Thomas "Tommy" Miller
3	Lori Sanders Snoots
6	Blake Folden
7	Peggy Nutter
9	Rachael Truitt
10	Barbara Nicodemus
13	Jean Rohr
14	Marie Carter
15	Brenda Mentzer
21	Marcia Bealer
23	Tracy Bowers
24	Lawrence Heffner Lauren Lipps
25	Julie Norris
26	Bill Utterback
31	Lori Bowers Stella Thompson



December Anniversaries

10	Frank & Barbara Kelbaugh
18	Charlie & Cheryl Reeder
30	Wallace & Mary Metcalf

January Anniversaries

7	Wayne & Ruth Smallwood
24	Bill & Sue Utterback

If you do not see your name in the monthly birthday/anniversary listings, please contact the Church Administrative Office so that we can recognize your special dates!

**FROM THE FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP
COMMITTEE:**

**December's special offering
will go to the**

Denominational Disaster Fund

Please find it in your hearts to support this project. Checks are payable to BCOB, with a notation it is for Den.Dis.Fund.

Thank you

**Receipts for Expenditures Must Be Turned Into
Bubba Clary, Church Treasurer**

We have an ever increasing problem with receipts not being turned in. If you are spending Church funds, you **must** turn in the receipts to the Treasurer. This is required for auditing purposes. A listing of expenditures, not accompanied by receipts, is unacceptable. Occasionally a receipt may be lost – please list the expense and note that receipt is unavailable.

Your full cooperation in this matter is requested.
Thank you.

Church Directory Updates

Kathy & Bob Mendiola
2244 Chestnut Grove Road
Sharpsburg, MD 21782

Kyle Getzandaner & Alyson
3703 Chestnut Grove Road
Keedysville, MD 21756

Dawn & Joe Gerachi
22 Farragut Drive
Keedysville, MD 21756

Megan & Chris Plumadore
19526 Carrie Court
Hagerstown, MD 21740

February Newsletter Submission Deadline



PLEASE HAVE ALL SUBMISSIONS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH. THANK YOU.

STATISTICS – NOVEMBER


Average Worship Attendance	182
Average Worship Offering	\$3,710.66
Average Sunday School Attendance	78
Average Sunday School Offering	\$17.75
<hr/>	
Playgroup Tuition	1,190.00
Playgroup Other	50.00
Playgroup Fundraiser	150.00
Playground Equipment	430.00
BCOB Disaster Fund	150.00
Micah's Backpack	125.00
Emergency Fund	681.00
Food Bank	1,060.00
Maintenance Fund	799.00
Janitorial/Kitchen Supplies	43.00
Missions and Outreach	250.00
Clear Spring MD Disaster Relief Fund	100.00
Literature Rack	5.00
CE, other	328.00
Touchdown Sunset Band	20.00
Sound System	50.00
Seasonal Flowers	100.00
Youth/NYC	220.00
F.A.Y. Memorial Fund	25.00



December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 <i>Food Bank 3:30-5:30 pm</i>	3 Playgrp (3's) 9-11:00	4 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Bazaar Setup</div>	5 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30	6 <i>Christmas in the Valley Craft Bazaar 9am-1pm</i>
7 Deacons Meeting Caroling 1-4pm Cantata Rehearsal 5:00	8 Playgroup (3's) 9-11	9 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 Prayer Shawl 7pm <i>Food Bank 3:30-5:30 pm</i>	10 Playgroup (3's) 9-11 Golden Rule Christmas Dinner 12noon @ Louise Humerick's Ruritan Bd 7:00 pm	11 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30	12 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30	13 FH Reserved
14 Cantata Rehearsal 5:00 Carol Sing 7:30pm	15 Playgroup (3's) 9-11 Ruritan Mtg – 7:00 pm	16 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 Committee Chair Mtg 7pm <i>Food Bank 3:30-5:30 pm</i>	17 Playgrp (3's) 9-11:00 Senior Citizens - noon	18 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30	19 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 Girl Scouts 5:30-7:30 pm	20 Ladies Tea – 6pm Rescue Mission
21 Children's Choir Sings Cantata Rehearsal 5pm Christmas Program 6pm Birthday Party for Jesus 6:45 pm	22	23 <i>Food Bank 3:30-5:30 pm</i>	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 PM Cantata	25 	26 Church Office Closed <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Pastor Alan Vacation thru 1/2/15</div>	27
28	29	30	31	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">December's – Special Offering – Denominational Disaster Fund</p> </div>		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; width: 80%;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Pastor Alan Vacation thru 1/2/15</p> </div>						
		<i>Food Bank 3:30-5:30 pm</i>				

January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2 Girl Scouts 5:30-7:30 pm <i>Pastor Alan Vacation</i>	3
4 Youth & Kids Club 6pm Bible Studies 6pm	5 Playgroup (3's) 9-11 Board Mtg 7pm	6 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 <i>Food Bank 3:30-5:30 pm</i>	7 Playgroup (3's) 9-11 Bible Study 101 7pm	8 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 Women's Ministry 6:30-8:30 pm	9 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30	10
11 FELLOWSHIP TIME Youth & Kids Club 6pm Bible Studies 6pm	12 Playgroup (3's) 9-11	13 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 Prayer Shawl 7pm <i>Food Bank 3:30-5:30 pm</i>	14 Playgrp (3's) 9-11:00 Ruritan Board Mtg 7:00 pm Bible Study 101 7pm	15 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 Women's Ministry 6:30-8:30 pm	16 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 Girl Scouts 5:30-7:30 pm	17 Ladies Tea 6pm
18 Youth & Kids Club 6pm Bible Studies 6pm	19 Playgroup (3's) 9-11 Ruritan Mtg 7:00 pm	20 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE <i>Food Bank 3:30-5:30 pm</i>	21 Playgrp (3's) 9-11:00 Senior Citizens – noon Bible Study 101 7pm	22 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 Women's Ministry 6:30-8:30 pm	23 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30	24
25 Youth & Kids Club 6pm Bible Studies 6pm	26 Playgrp (3's) 9-11:00	27 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 <i>Food Bank 3:30-5:30 pm</i>	28 Playgrp (3's) 9-11:00 Bible Study 101 7pm	29 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 Women's Ministry 6:30-8:30 pm	30 Playgrp (4's) 9-11:30 Girl Scouts 5:30-7:30 pm	31