



# The New Vision

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All are invited to participate in our Adult and Children's Sunday School Classes at 9:00 a.m. and Coffee Hour at 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service begins at 10:15 a.m. Nursery is available for younger children.

### Our Staff:

Becky Fuchs – Pastor  
John Hess – Director of Music  
Gloria Hess – Organist  
Amy Boshnaugle – Puppet Ministry  
Jackie Sands – Secretary  
George Schwert – Custodian

Mountville Church of the Brethren is located at the corner of College, Hoover, & Clay Streets in Mountville, PA. If you have further questions regarding the Mountville Church, please feel free to call the church office at 717-285-5122 or 717-285-7424.

## Adult Sunday School Makes a Change for April

Adult Sunday School will explore new topics beginning April 3 with a talk on "Keeping Conflict Constructive" given by Leslie Huff from the Samaritan Center. The remaining April Sundays will feature the "Wired Word," which is a scriptural based program featuring topics relevant to current events which helps Christians examine their beliefs and apply them to everyday life.

## Lancaster Woodwind Quintet to Perform at April 17 Worship Service

During our worship on April 17, we will be inspired by the music of the Lancaster Woodwind Quintet. The group consists of Kathy Horein, oboe; Morgan Davis, flute; Beverly Butts, clarinet; Gail Ober, bassoon, and Cheryl Staherski, French horn. They will play at various times throughout our worship service. This special event is provided as a gift from Linda Ott Gerber in memory of Richard Ott, a former member of our congregation and Chancel choir. Please plan to join us for this very special worship opportunity.



*Don't Keep it to Yourself* ✨

## Pastor's Ponderings

A few weeks ago I received the plant in the picture as a gift and I have been pondering it ever since. When it was given to me, it was a bulb with only a few green leaves and a small unopened bud. The instructions said to place it in a window and keep the vase 3/4 full of water. I wondered if it was possible for water alone to provide enough sustenance for the plant to grow. It's obvious the plant got all it needed, because it grew and blossomed, sending the wonderful smell of hyacinth into my kitchen.

Now for my ponderings: Jesus often used plants and seeds as objects of his lessons so I began to look at the plant as metaphor for our spiritual lives. The hyacinth grew and blossomed, but it was not the full bloom we usually see on hyacinths. It was smaller. The second bloom just beginning to flower is also smaller than usual. So, I began to ponder the difference between a plant set in a vase of water and a hyacinth planted in the soil. The hyacinths in the soil grow bigger and the blooms last longer.

One day I came home from work and discovered the weight of the bloom had caused the plant to fall over. It was lying on its side, with the roots out of water. Hyacinths

anchored in the ground do not fall over and become uprooted.

Just like the hyacinth, many folks in our culture do fairly well without a relationship with Jesus and without the support of a faith community. They are like a plant who grows only in water. But without Christ they don't ever have the full blooms of life that those who are securely planted in Jesus can have. And when troubles weigh us down, those of us who are anchored in Jesus will not topple over. When our roots are firmly planted in the fertile soil of God, we will bloom and thrive through all kinds of life's weather.

My hope is that all of you are securely anchored in Christ so your life might bloom beautifully and completely and that you might remain steady when the challenges of life weigh you down. And if you don't feel firmly planted, consider this an invitation to seek some fertile spiritual soil where you might grow and blossom into all God intends you to be.



## Camp Swatara News

### Spring Weekend Camps for Juniors, Intermediates, and Jr. Highs!

Camper in 1st-9th grade are invited to head out to camp for a spring weekend to experience the best of camp even before summer begins! Weekends are planned for: Juniors, grades 1-3: April 8-10; Junior High, grades 7-9: April 15-17; Intermediates, grades 4-6: April 15-17. Check-in begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and ends at 1:00 p.m. Sunday.

**2016 Summer Camp Registration is now open!** Get ready for *Fearless Faith* as we experience "Courage in Community". Online registration is now open for about 25 camp programs for campers in 1st-12th grade.

Mail in your registration or log in at [www.campswatara.org](http://www.campswatara.org) to register for the above camps. Contact Jason Haldeman, Program Coordinator, at [jhaldeman@campswatara.org](mailto:jhaldeman@campswatara.org) or call 717-933-8510 for more information or if you need assistance registering.

# Bits 'n Pieces

Congratulations to Luci Brock on the birth of her son, Tyheir Stewart, on February 15. Tyheir joins siblings John Miller, Taleah and Tyzaiah Stewart. Tyheir is also the grandson of Gretchen Brock.

We would like to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, hugs and concern for our family these last six months! Our daughter Lyn cared for her husband, Joe Brubaker, at their house before his death in January. - Bill and Jean Carlin

Dear Church, Thank you all for your generous Christmas offering to the *Nigeria Crisis Fund*. What an awesome display of Christian love. As we look at the year ahead our Nigerian brothers and sisters will try to “pick up the pieces” as they begin to move back to their homes and communities. Your contribution will go toward helping them move back successfully. We are praying that strained relations with Muslim neighbors can find peaceful resolutions. We ask that you continue to pray for “our” Nigerians. Again, thank you and may God continue to bless the ministry of your church. With love, Carol & Roxane Hill, Co-Directors Nigeria Crisis Response

Thank you for your continued support to the *Hempfield Area Food Pantry* as evidenced through the recent generous financial contribution of \$333.33. Monetary contributions help to purchase food items at the Central Penn Food Bank in Harrisburg and items at below super market costs, which include meats, eggs, dairy products and other food products not received through food drives and donations. In January, we served 178 families which included 231 children, 373 adults, and 89 seniors for a total of 693 people served. In addition to the clients who visit the pantry to select their food items, deliveries are made to senior citizens, and families who are unable to get to the pantry due to physical disabilities, or lack of transportation. Currently, the Hempfield Area Food Pantry has over 300 families registered to receive food assistance weekly. The majority of these families live in the Hempfield School district!

Sincerely, Diane L. Gerlach, Vice President/Pantry Coordinator

Dear Knitters, Sewers and Quilters of Stitch 'n Sew 'n Share,

I want to share a recent outreach enabled by your group that is now a source of comfort and encouragement to a young pregnant women in the depths of despair. This was only possible because hearts are open and committed.

As you may recall, our church volunteered the first week in March (the fourth time since Dec.) to provide evening meals and overnight supervision at the Columbia Emergency Winter Shelter. Winter is especially hard on those needing warmth, nourishment and hope. Larry Booz and I spent our assigned sleepovers helping with nightly tasks and getting to know the folks and the challenges they face. One night we shared a jigsaw puzzle and conversation with Kim - obviously a soon-to-be mother. Kim's pregnancy is entering the last trimester - a challenging time for any pregnant woman even when circumstances are better.

I told Lois about Kim upon returning home the next morning. She was just finishing knitting a soft yellow baby's cap when she mentioned to me that a soft yellow baby's blanket was waiting quietly on a shelf in the Stitch 'n Sew 'n Share's closet at church. It was awaiting a mission. Together the cap and blanket were wrapped in tissue paper and put in a printed flowered bag. The two pieces were delivered to the shelter for Kim on Friday as a welcoming gift for her new born's arrival into the world.

Continued on page 4

## February Forum: 2015 Highlights; 2016 Directions

After enjoying a delicious lunch, with a surprise menu (ask someone who was there) served as a youth fund-raiser, our February Congregational Forum got underway. This meeting focused on celebrating the high points of our ministries in 2015, and envisioning our calling in 2016.

A high level of appreciation and support was expressed throughout the reports of ministries and activities. Comments included appreciation for:

- Our increasing inclusion of all age groups in worship and study, and opportunities to serve
- The ministries of our Deacons
- The emergence of the Sunday morning coffee as a significant part of our hospitality ministry
- The quality of our youth ministry experiences including work camps and conferences, and Second Sundays with Pastor Becky
- The opportunities for our younger children engaged in faith-developing Children's Ministries and Worship
- The gifts and commitment of our staff

The outcomes of our "Futures" conversations confirm the value of our current ministry and affirm our openness to the call of the Spirit. As we enter the coming year, we are

called to growth in spirit, growth in membership and participation.

The congregation received financial reports indicating continued strong support for our ministries. This generous support has allowed us to aggressively reduce our building debt and fully fund all our commitments in the general budget, and finish the year with a surplus.

Forum also recognized transitions in leadership, expressing thanks and appreciation to Harry Light who completed his term as Chair of the Stewardship Ministry Team, and to Jerry Bushong, completing his term as Chair of the Deacons. Especial recognition and a standing ovation greeted Ella Eckenrod who completed twenty-plus years as Church Clerk.

Forum also welcomed incoming leaders Norman Bollinger as Chair of Deacons, Jerry Bushong in a new role as Chair of the Stewardship Ministry Team, and Joyce Kerns as Church Clerk.

Leadership Team received enthusiastic endorsement to pursue a seminary student ministry intern placement at Mountville. Students typically receive a small stipend, serve 10-14 hours per week and participate broadly in the life of the congregation. Pastor Becky would provide supervision and oversight for the intern. The Forum viewed this and similar experiences as opportunities to enrich and enhance both the lives of the congregation and the intern. Watch for news as this possibility unfolds!

## Bit's and Pieces continued from page 4

I can only imagine the smile on Kim's face when she saw the bag and touched the soft yarn of the two garments inside. What I do know for sure is that Kim and we have experienced God's love once again as it closes the space between strangers with hopeful promise and the possibilities of kindnesses. Many thanks to you all for what you do for others. - Charlie Worrall



# Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? will be held on **Sunday, April 24, 2016** at 5:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Deacons and coordinated by Marian Bollinger. It is a fun way to gather with other members of our church family for fellowship and food. Each family or individual who wants to participate must complete the sign-up form below, indicating the number in their family who will attend and if they prefer to be a host or a guest.

The **host** will provide the main course, and **guests** will be assigned a vegetable, salad or dessert to complement the meal.

**Sign up forms** need to be returned by **April 10**.

Place them in the offering plate, in mailbox #8, or mail to the church office.

**On Sunday, April 17**, everyone participating will be given instructions about what food to prepare and for how many persons.

**On Sunday April 24**, guests will learn who their host is along with directions to the house. Hosts will discover who's coming to dinner when their guests arrive! If you have questions, please contact Marian Bollinger:

299-0304 or [mmbollinger@verizon.net](mailto:mmbollinger@verizon.net)

*This fun event is a great way to get to know others in our church family.  
Please plan to join us for an enjoyable evening  
of good food and great fellowship.*

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This form must be returned by **April 10, 2016**.

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) will be a host and can accommodate \_\_\_\_\_ persons.

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) would like to be a guest.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ adults and \_\_\_\_\_ children (under 12) in our family.

\_\_\_\_\_ Name



# April Birthday Blessings & Anniversary Wishes

## Birthday Blessings to:

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Bob Huber         | 15 Alec Hess         |
| 2 Emily Smith       | 17 Cathy Funderwhite |
| Larry Burkholder    | Mike Mele            |
| 3 Jerry Bushong     | 21 Daron Ritchie     |
| 4 Vernon Stinebaugh | 22 Fran Mershon      |
| 7 Linda Bushong     | Judy Shenk           |
| 9 Don Wagner        | 26 Steven Hess       |

## Happy Anniversary to:

- |                        |
|------------------------|
| 17 Art & Betsy Thomas  |
| 20 Tom & Carol Ritchie |
| 27 Dave & Joyce Kerns  |
| 28 Jim & Pat Musser    |



*Happy Anniversary!*

*Please contact the church office if your birthday or anniversary was missed. Thank you.*



<b>Mountville COB February</b>	<b>2016 Offerings</b>
For General Fund	\$ 19,633.00
Continuing Our Vision	\$ 7,258.06
Designated	\$ 3,45.50

The Health Ministry Team is providing this list of Members and Friends who are unable to attend church regularly.

Merlin & Flora Jean Beam  
1400 Enterprise Dr.  
Lynchburg, VA 24502  
434-239-0889

*Birthdays: Merlin 2/6  
Flora Jean 8/7  
Anniversary: 10/9*

Ruth H. Bushong  
3001 Lititz Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17606  
560-4929

*Birthday: 10/10*

Ethel Good  
3604 Horizon Dr.  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
285-3920

*Birthday: 9/26*

Olive Kline  
203 Greenbriar Circle  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
397-5386

Betty Mowrer  
c/o Vanessa Klaus  
2251 Oswego Dr. Apt. 7  
Columbia, PA 17512  
681-2351

Miriam Sampsel  
2401 McKee II  
551 Free Mason Dr.  
Elizabethtown PA 17022  
361-5601

*Birthday: 10/19*

Gene & Barbara Swords  
3001 Lititz Pike,  
Lancaster, PA 17606  
560-0345

*Birthdays: Gene 10/25  
Barbara 1/31  
Anniversary: 8/26*

★ *Please remember these persons in your prayers, cards, phone calls and visits. We suggest you contact the church office, 285-5122, with any additions or changes.*



# APRIL SERVERS

Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolytes
Harry Light	3 - John Graham	3 - Claudia Ebersole
Holly Mele	10 - Dave Fuchs	10 - Indiana Ebersole
Joe Mele	17 - Linda Bushong	17 - Catherine Repkoe
Johnathan Thompson	24 - Becky Fuchs	24 - Love Simegn

## Children's Ministry

- 3 – Joyce Kerns, A J Taylor/Devin Ritchie, Joan Boshnaugle, Love Simegn
- 10 – Kitty Collier, Steve Hess, Lisa Boshnaugle, Amanda Ritchie
- 17 – Margie Musser, Tess Wolford, Carey Taylor, Alexa Taylor
- 24 – Betsy Thomas, Cece O'Day, Amy Boshnaugle, A J Taylor

**PUZZLE**

**A SPECIAL GIFT**

Give thanks to God for this amazing planet, which he filled with people, animals and plants.

*Directions: Following the code below, fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse. Then color the earth.*

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
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

The \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ 24:1, NIV

Answer: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1, NIV

# SHAVING CREAM EARTH

God created this wonderful world and told us to care for it. Remember that by making a unique painting.



### What you need:

- A cookie sheet
- White shaving cream
- A wooden craft stick
- Paint (blue and green)
- A straw
- A paper plate

### What you do:

1. On the cookie sheet, spray shaving cream in a circle (the same size as the bottom of the paper plate). Smooth it out with the craft stick.
2. Squirt the blue and green paint on top of the shaving cream in loopy, squiggly patterns. Swirl the paint around with the straw.
3. Place the bottom of the paper plate on top of the paint. Press it down gently so the whole plate bottom is covered in paint.
4. Lift up the plate and gently remove excess shaving cream with the stick.
5. After the painting dries, hang it on your wall.



# LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, May 1 - Youth Sunday, 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, June 5 - Teacher / Graduate Recognition

- Consecration of Work Camp Attendees

Jr. High Work Camp: Brooklyn, New York

Sr. Hi Work Camp: Crossnore, NC

*Deadline for the May 2016 New Vision articles is Sunday,  
April 12, 2016.*



*"Your young . . . shall see Visions -  
your old . . . shall dream Dreams."  
- Acts 2:17-21*

**Address Service Requested  
Dated Material Enclosed**