

Bush Creek Church of the Brethren  
4821A Green Valley Road  
Monrovia, Maryland 21770  
Address Service Requested



***What's Happening at Bush Creek  
"The Bridge"***



***Bush Creek Church of the Brethren  
4821A Green Valley Road  
Monrovia, Maryland 21770  
301-663-3025***

***office@bushcreekchurch.org – Church office  
http://bushcreekchurch.org/ - website***

***Sunday School – 9:30 – 10:15 am  
Worship – 10:30 am – 11:30 am***

***Pastors:  
Leo and Melissa Barnes***

***The Bridge – January Volume 51, Number 1***



***CENTRAL VISION FOR BUSH CREEK  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN***

***Because of our commitment to Jesus Christ,  
we are a spiritual family who loves all people.***

# ***Ponderings by Pastor Melissa***

## **A New Year, A New Start ...**

About eight or nine years ago, when we were a part of the Training in Ministry (TrIM) program, one of our colleagues was creating a collection of devotions on the parables of Jesus, and he invited the rest of us licensed ministers to contribute to the effort. The following is the devotion which I wrote at the time:

### **The Unmerciful Servant Matthew 18:21-35**

“Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me!” We may not say it, but don’t we think it? Keeping track of strikes – “strike one!” “strike two!” – takes place in more aspects of our lives than just the game of baseball.

It is human nature not to want to let anyone “get over on us.” In essence, that is what was driving Peter. Jesus had just taught about the person who hurts you. Peter wanted to justify himself and said to Jesus, “Master! How many times do I have to forgive this brother of mine? Seven times?” (And you better believe that he was going to keep track!) The Jews taught that a person was to forgive another three times, but not a fourth. Peter more than doubled this – surely expecting Jesus to commend him for his merciful spirit.

And then Jesus answered him, “not seven times, but seventy-seven times!” Let’s be realistic – who is going to keep count of seventy-plus times that they forgive someone?

The good news for us is that God doesn’t count the number of times He forgives us. The “bad news” is that He expects us to follow suit. Our Father forgives us over and over, unconditionally, and He expects us to do the same thing for each person we encounter. Unconditionally! Not “I’ll forgive him if he apologizes...” Simply forgive him. Period. Because our Father has forgiven us so much.

As we enter the New Year, some of us make resolutions for things we want to do differently in this New Year. In essence, we review our lives and look for opportunities to make a new start – perhaps in our physical health (eat better, exercise more, lose weight, etc.), in our relationships (deliberately schedule time with people whom we love), in our finances (curb spending, give more generously), and in our spiritual lives (become more consistent in prayer, join a Bible study, etc.)

Thinking about making a new start, I challenge each one who is reading this to spend time with the Lord, asking Him if there is any situation in your relationships – present or past – where you need to exercise forgiveness. Has anyone wronged you in some way? Have they hurt you (emotionally or physically), betrayed you, abandoned you, cheated you, or harmed your reputation? I know that the greater the wrong is, the deeper the pain goes – and so the less we feel like forgiving the other person. However, forgiveness is not based on feelings. It is a decision. We decide in our hearts that it is more important to be right with Jesus, than it is just to be “right.” So we decide to forgive the other person, and ask Holy Spirit to work within our feelings, to make our feelings catch up with our decisions. We choose to pray “Holy God, I want to be obedient to you and so I choose to forgive \_{name}\_ for \_{action}\_ and release \_{name}\_ into the freedom of my forgiveness. Please send your Holy Spirit deep within my heart and transform the feelings I hold toward \_{name}\_.” Sometimes, we have to pray this prayer numerous times – maybe even seventy-seven times! But the end result – of having gotten rid of all of the ugly feelings we have held, and having a new peace enter into our hearts – is worth its weight in gold!

***Happy New Year, Happy New Start!***



**\*Commission meetings Monday, Jan. 7 @ 7 pm.**

**\*Two new Bible study groups are meeting weekly:** 1) **Every Tuesday at 10 am, at the church,** studying "The Life of David" – contact: Wanda Embrey, 301.639.5472. 2) **Every Thursday at 6 pm, at Ricky Fullmer's,** studying "Unwrapping the Gift of Advent" – contact: Nancy Pastor, 301.748.4950. **Additional participants are welcome** – please coordinate directly with the contacts.

**\*Roof Fund:** A fund has been established to set aside money toward ultimately replacing all the roofing on our facilities. If you are interested in making a monetary donation to this fund, please make check payable to Bush Creek Church and mark in memo line "roof fund". **Donations to date - \$32,531.** – Thank you – Trustee Commission

**\*MESSENGER Subscriptions:** If you would like to renew your current subscription, or request a new subscription, please see Anna Mae Poole by NLT **Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019.** Payment is not due until later when we receive an invoice from MESSENGER. However, if you wish to pay now, please: Make the check out to Bush Creek Church, Put "Messenger" in the Memo section; and **Give the check to Anna Mae.** Anna Mae will make note that you have paid, and will forward the check to the Bush Creek Treasurer to process. The cost remains at \$14.50/year; or \$27/2 years. Thank you!



**\*Bush Creek Youth are taking orders for Super Bowl subs the month of January.** Please pick up an order form located on the program table & sanctuary. Deadline to place an order is Jan. 27. Orders will be picked up after worship on Feb.3. Fundraiser for Appalachia Service Project (ASP). Please support our youth and this mission project by purchasing a sub.

**\*In the event of inclement weather listen to WFMD (930 AM) & WFRE (99.9 FM) for a radio announcement; check your email for a message, and the church website ([bushcreekchurch.org](http://bushcreekchurch.org)). In addition, you will receive a call from your deacon caregiver to inform you of cancellations.**





**\*All Commission/Committee Chairs please prepare 2018 year end reports to be used in Spring Council package by February 1.** Please put reports in the Admin. Asst. box located beside the sanctuary door. A copy will be given to the Board Chair. Thank you.

**\*Annual and District Conference Delegates Needed:** Please pray about and consider volunteering to serve as either an Annual Conference Delegate (need 2) or District Conference (need 2) in 2019. 2019 Annual Conference is scheduled for July 3-7 in Greensboro, NC. Travel and lodging expenses will be paid. District Conference is scheduled for Oct. 11-12 at the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren. If you are interested in serving as a delegate for either of these conferences or need further detail, please see Board Chair – Beth Green.

**\*Meditation Moments Collection from 2018 –** A collection of the Meditation Moments prepared by Deacons in 2018 is located on the program table. Please help yourself. If you are unable to attend worship and would like a copy to be mailed to you, please contact the church office @ [office@bushcreekchurch.org](mailto:office@bushcreekchurch.org) or call 301-663-3025.

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**Be a Tigger** – let the Holy Spirit energize you to greet your sisters and brothers in Christ with a smile and a bright outlook as we grow together in the Kingdom of God at Bush Creek. **Be the hands and feet of Jesus.**

**Don't be an Eeyore** - gloomy and displaying a negative attitude. Let your light shine always to encourage others.



## NEWS FROM MISSIONS & SERVICE COMMISSION

The Greater Urbana Food Bank is collecting the following for the month of January: dry spaghetti noodles, laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels, body wash for men, pump hand soap, instant flavored oatmeal packets, strawberry jelly, hearty meal-like soups, Campbell's chicken noodle soup, Campbell's tomato soup, meals in a can or box i.e. chili, beef stew, Hamburger Helper, canned tuna & chicken, Ramen noodles, canned corn & cut green beans. Also collecting pet food, cat litter, baby wipes, diapers for newborns, plus diapers in size 1, 2 and 5. The food bank can also use magazines and grocery bags of all types (plastic and cloth). Please place donations in the container in coat room. If you have furniture or appliances you would like to donate please contact Jo Ostby directly at 240.529.4815 or email at: [allsodifferent@gmail.com](mailto:allsodifferent@gmail.com). Thank you.



**\*District Disaster Response Auction Booklet Patron Ads** – A table is in the middle narthex for sign up for patron ads. **Please** write name clearly; circle the amount of your ad; and complete the check # or if paid in cash. Please put all payments check or cash in the offering plate or treasurer's box indicating payment to Bush Creek Church and in memo line – patron ad. **Payments & ads are due by Feb. 17.**

## NEWS FROM WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**\*Needed** – English walnut shells, keys and thread spools of any kind (wood or plastic) needed for craft projects by Phyllis Clarke. A basket for the keys is located on program table. Thank you

**\*Apple Butter** is still available to purchase. Half pint - \$2.50 – Pint - \$4 and Quart - \$7. **Please pick up apple butter in lower level kitchen and put money in Anna Mae Poole's mailbox in middle narthex.** Make checks payable to Women's Fellowship please.

# January

## Preparing for Worship

Sunday School: 9:30 am. – 10:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am – 11:30 am

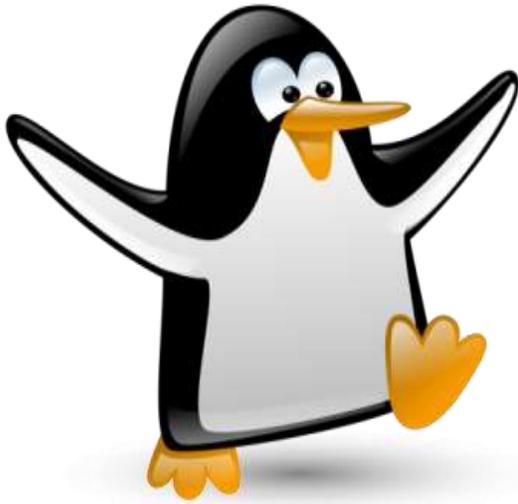
Date	Message and Scripture	Preaching	Other Notes	Greeters
<p>6</p> <p>Ephiphany Sunday</p>  <p><small>@shutterstock - 341318011</small></p>	<p>Gifts for a King!</p> <p>Matthew 2:1-12</p> <p>Bread &amp; Cup Communion</p>	<p>Message: Pastor Melissa</p>	<p>Worship Assistant: Bob Farmer</p> <p>CCW: Helen Roberts</p> <p>Nursery: Jean &amp; Elwood Hipkins</p>	<p>Jim &amp; Linda Walker</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Wheat Gatherer's 5 pm</p>	<p>At the Proper Time</p> <p>Luke 3:15-17, 21-22</p>	<p>Message: Pastor Leo</p>	<p>Worship Assistant: Nancy Pastor</p> <p>CCW: Donna Nunn</p> <p>Nursery: Scott &amp; Jeni Hipkins</p>	<p>Randy Toms &amp; Pat Brady</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Chilly Willy Sunday</p> 	<p>Sarah's Faith</p> <p>Hebrews 11:11</p>	<p>Message: Art Frank</p> <p>Scripture Reader: Emily Ray</p>	<p>Worship Assistant: Randy Toms</p> <p>CCW: Sam Weinberg</p> <p>Nursery: Helen Roberts</p>	<p>Elwood &amp; Jean Hipkins</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>Turning on the Light</p> <p>Psalm 119:105-106</p>	<p>Message: Pastor Melissa</p>	<p>Worship Assistant: Anna Mae Poole</p> <p>CCW:</p> <p>Nursery: Jessica Dixon</p>	<p>Jim &amp; Linda Walker</p>

January 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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
27	28	29	30	31		

## January 2019

- 01/02 – Quilting 8:30 am
- 01/02 – Bible Study 10 am - hall
- 01/03 – Bible Study @ Fullmer home 6 pm
- 01/07 – Safety Survey meeting @ 1:30 pm
- 01/07 – BSA leader meeting @ 6:30 pm – second level
- 01/07 – Commission meetings @ 7 pm
- 01/08 – Bible Study @ 10 am– sanctuary
- 01/08 – Bible Study @ 6 pm – Hipkins’ home
- 01/09 – Quilting @ 8:30 am – lower level
- 01/09 – Bible Study @ 10 am - hall
- 01/10 – Bible Study @ 6 – Fullmer home
- 01/12 – District Spirituality & Cong. Life Team 9 – 11am – hall
- 01/13 – Wheat Gatherer’s 5 pm – Coffee House & hall
- 01/14 – GSA meeting 6:30 pm – hall
- 01/15 – Bible Study @ 10 am – sanctuary
- 01/15 – Bible Study @ 6 pm – Hipkins’ home
- 01/16 – Quilting @ 8:30 am – lower level
- 01/16 – Bible Study @ 10 am - hall
- 01/17 – Bible Study @ 6 pm – Fullmer home
- 01/20 – Chilly Willy Lunch after worship
- 01/21 – Prayer Warriors – 7 pm – hall
- 01/22 – Bible Study @ 10 am – sanctuary
- 01/22 – Bible Study @ 6 pm – Hipkins’ home
- 01/23 – Quilting @ 8:30 am – lower level
- 01/23 – Bible Study @ 10 am – hall
- 01/24 – Bible Study @ 6 pm – Fullmer home
- 01/27 – Super Bowl Sub order deadline
- 01/29 – Bible Study @ 10 am – sanctuary
- 01/29 – Bible Study @ 6 pm – Hipkins’ home
- 01/30 – Quilting 8:30 am – lower level
- 01/30 – Bible Study @ 10 am - hall
- 01/31 – Bible Study @ 6 pm – Fullmer home

- Bible Study @ Hipkins home -Tues. Sept. thru June 6:00 pm
- Bible Study every Tuesday 10 am at church - sanctuary
- Bible Study every Thursday 6 pm @ Fullmer home
- Bible Study @ 10 every Wed. September thru April
- Quilting every Wed. @ 8:30 pm
- BSA meetings every Wed. August – June @ 6:30 pm
- Choir Rehearsal schedule to be announced
- Wheat Gatherers Youth ministry – every other week - Schedule TBD
- Youth Coffee House during worship – schedule TBD



## ***It's Chilly Willy time again..***

The Chilly Willy lunch will be held  
**Sunday, January 20** after worship in the fellowship hall.

Bring your favorite winter type food i.e. chili, soup, casserole, etc.

Bring a favorite dessert to share.

Drinks and salad will be provided by the Fellowship Team.

Warm up with great food and fellowship.

See you there.

***Dress like Chilly Willy or one of his friends!***





**Celebrate the Love of Jesus Banquet  
(formerly *The Sweetheart Banquet*) –  
Sunday, February 17  
after worship**

***Celebrate and Fellowship***

Price - \$13 adults & \$6  
(children 7 – 12) under 6 free

Menu: Fried chicken, baked ham, green beans, mashed potatoes & gravy,  
salad, rolls, fruit salad, drinks & dessert.

A sign up is located on the program table.

**Deadline to sign up – Feb. 3**  
**(sign up in middle narthex or email [office@bushcreekchurch.org](mailto:office@bushcreekchurch.org)**

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# Turkey, FRIED Oyster & Country Ham Dinner

Bush Creek Church of the Brethren  
4821A Green Valley Road  
Monrovia, Maryland 21770  
Rt. 75 Between Rt. 80 and Monrovia  
301-663-3025  
[www.bushcreekchurch.org](http://www.bushcreekchurch.org)

**Saturday, March 23, 2019**

**12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Menu includes mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, cranberry sauce, dressing, cole slaw, rolls, butter, ice tea, hot tea and coffee.



**Adults - \$20**

**Children 6 – 12 - \$8      Under 6 – Free**

**Carry-Out - \$1.00 extra**

**Tell your friends and neighbors –**

**Come on out...**