

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](mailto:office@bushcreekchurch.org) – Church office  
<http://bushcreekchurch.org/> - website***

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

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

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***The Bridge – December 2017*** Volume 49, Number 12

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

***Because of our commitment to Jesus Christ, we are a spiritual  
family which shows love, acceptance  
and concern for all persons.***



# Ponderings by Pastor Leo



We just celebrated our blessings as a nation with our annual Thanksgiving Holiday. There were parades and football games and many other events as we celebrated our blessings with the harvest season. I celebrated with our farmers that the harvest was in and that it was a good year. Now as we finish one season of physical blessing and well-being, we are looking forward to the season of spiritual blessings.

We are entering the season of Advent. This is a season of preparing for the coming of Jesus into our world.

The word Advent means arrival or coming and in our Christian calendar it refers to several things. It refers first to the coming of Jesus to be born and to live among us. Secondly, it refers to the advent of Jesus into the hearts of all who will receive him. Thirdly, it refers to his Second Coming at the close of history.

Jesus came to restore us to a personal relationship with God our Father and to free us from the many burdens of the Law and of traditions and expectations placed upon us. God's chosen people saw Him as distant and unapproachable. Jesus came to show us that He loves us so much that our God invites us to approach Him and that He wants to be part of our lives. Jesus brought us into peace with God the Father.

In John 14:27 Jesus says "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." The Hebrew word for peace is Shalom. However, "peace" is only one small part of the meaning. Shalom is used to both greet people and to bid them farewell, and it means much more than "peace, hello or goodbye". Hebrew words go beyond their spoken pronunciation. Each Hebrew word conveys feeling, intent and emotion. It is a wonderful word that means so much more than just peace. It is not just an absence from war or turmoil, it is a complete peace. It is a feeling of contentment, completeness, wholeness and well-being. This is the peace Jesus wants us to enjoy this Advent Season. **Shalom.**



*Merry Christmas*

*As another year is winding down and we are counting our blessings, we want to thank you. Thank you for helping us grow in our ministry and in our service. We appreciate the constructive feedback we have received and we appreciate your support. We are blessed to serve you and to serve with you.*

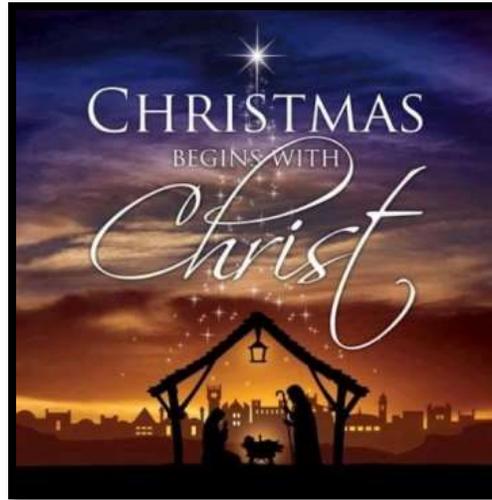
*Thank you for calling us to be part of the family.*

*We feel truly blessed to be and to have been a part of this Bush Creek family.*

***We love you. Merry Christmas! – Leo and Melissa***



## IN THE NEWS AT BUSH CREEK..



\*Board meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 4 @ 7 pm.

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.



\***MESSENGER Subscriptions:** If you would like to renew your current subscription, or request a new subscription, please see Anna Mae Poole by NLT Sunday, January 14, 2018. 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!

\***Please continue to pray about donating to the Projection System Fund** to acquire a system to display slides and video in the sanctuary (to eliminate having to use a portable screen or to relocate to the fellowship hall). Donations to date - **\$10,420**. 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 "projector system".



**Sunday School Time Change – A decision was made at the Fall Council meeting held recently to change the time for all Sunday School classes to 9:30 am – 10:15 am. This is a trial time change and will be discussed at the Spring Council meeting.**



**Congratulations to Jeff Musselman** for being the recipient of the **2017 Linganore High School Distinguished Graduate Award for Business**. The award was presented by the LHS Alumni Association. **Way to go Jeff!**



## IN THE NEWS AT BUSH CREEK..



**Poinsettia order will be taken starting Dec. 3.** Order forms will be located at the sanctuary door and program table. **Deadline to order will be Dec. 17.** Poinsettias will be on display Dec. 24 during the morning worship service and the Christmas Eve candlelight service. – Music & Worship Comm.



**Dec 17 – Christmas Caroling 4 pm** – Gather for pizza, then go caroling and deliver plates of cookies. Will return to the church for warm drinks and goodies. A sign up is located on the program table so carpooling can be planned and donations of cookies would be appreciated. – Sponsored by the Youth.



**\*Christmas Cards for congregational mailboxes.** We welcome you to prepare Christmas cards for your church family to be placed in mailboxes in the middle narthex. The boxes are provided for those who attend worship regularly. Please consider mailing a card to those unable to attend on a regular basis. **New address directories** available on the program table.

**\*BVS Christmas Card Listing** - A list of BVS (Brethren Volunteer Service) volunteers is located on the program table. Please take a copy and consider mailing a Christmas card.

**\*Advent Devotionals** are available on the program table. Advent begins December 3.

**\*Year End Giving Reminder** – Reminder that all offerings/donations to be included in 2017 giving must be received by **December 31, 2017.** Thank you – Stewardship & Finance Commission

**\*Annual Greeting Card Collection** of every day and Christmas cards. Just a reminder that I use the front and the back for some projects. The collection box will be located under the mail box table from mid-December until the end of January. I will also take any craft items that you are no longer using. If you have any questions please call 301-831-7995. Thank you – Phyllis Clarke



***If there is no cross in the manger, there is no Christmas. If the Babe doesn't become the Adult, there is no Bethlehem star. If there is no commitment in us, there are no wise men searching. If we offer no cup of cold water, there is no gold, no frankincense, no myrrh. If there is no praising God's name, there are no angels singing. If there is no spirit of alleluia, there are no shepherds watching. If there is no standing up, no speaking out, no risk, there is no Herod, no flight into Egypt. If there is no room in our inn, then "Merry Christmas" mocks the Christ Child, and the Holy Family is just a holiday card, and God will loathe our feasts and festivals. For if there is no reconciliation, we cannot call Christ "Prince of Peace". If there is no goodwill towards others, it can all be packed away in boxes for another year. If there is no forgiveness in us, there is no cause for celebration. If we cannot go even now unto Golgotha, there is no Christmas in us. If Christmas is not now, If Christ is not born into the everyday present, then what is all the noise about?** - Ann Weems*



***Plan to attend this  
inspirational evening worship service filled with  
scripture and music  
with your entire family.  
A quiet time to reflect on the birth of our Savior  
in the candlelight.***





A 430,000-square-foot **Museum of the Bible** has been under construction in Washington, D.C. (two blocks from the National Mall and three blocks south of the Capitol). The new museum opened recently. The museum will use cutting-edge technology to bring the Bible to life. Examples of exhibits include:

- Narratives of the Bible & Nazareth Village: walking through the narratives of the Hebrew text from Genesis to Chronicles and then through first-century Nazareth, ending **with the story of the New Testament.**

- The History of the Bible: following the Bible from its

origins as a series of writings accessible to only a small group of people, through many changes in form and adoption by multiple faith traditions, to the most widely read text in history.

- The Impact of the Bible; exploring the Bible's impact over time on cultures, civilizations, and daily life, including its profound influence on fine arts, science, government, music, film and more.

Find out more about the museum by visiting their website at [www.museumofthebible.org](http://www.museumofthebible.org).



## Baby Shower for Jesus ...

In the Christian Year, Epiphany begins on January 6. Epiphany means “manifestation” or “appearance” and refers to three manifestations of Christ’s lordship, the most familiar being the recognition of Jesus by the wise men (the epiphany to the Gentiles). The Gospel of Matthew records the wise men (or Magi) coming to Herod, asking “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Upon finding Jesus, they offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

You may have come across the tongue in cheek version of how things might have been different, had the Magi been women -- they would have asked for directions; they would have arrived on time; they would have helped deliver the baby; they would have cleaned the stable; they would have made a casserole; and they would have brought practical gifts. That’s all well and good, but it is only in jest. We know there was huge significance to the gifts the Magi did bring, and that they traveled at great cost and sacrifice to seek out the King, arriving in God’s-ordained time.

However, as we approach Epiphany this year and we recall the gifts the Magi brought to the young Jesus, let’s consider ... what might we do to remember their gifts, and more importantly, to honor Jesus, who came to us as a baby? The Missions & Service Commission is sponsoring a **Baby Shower for Jesus** – an opportunity to offer some “practical gifts.” Everyone is invited to bring typical baby shower gifts – diapers (especially the larger sizes), baby wipes, wash cloths, baby clothes, blankets, bottles, etc. – to the worship service **January 7** and to place them beneath the Christmas tree at the front. **Please do not wrap your gifts.** If you have difficulty with the steps, surely someone will assist you with your gifts.

Gifts will continue to be collected during the month of January, and can be placed in the coat room. At the end of the month, our baby shower gifts for Jesus will be donated to Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick – an opportunity to assist mothers who have chosen life for their unborn babies, and a tangible remembrance of the One who came as an infant, to bring us all eternal life.



**Breakfast with Santa!  
A family event for  
all ages.**

**Saturday, December 2  
9 am – 12 noon**

**Free**

**Breakfast served all morning.  
Experience the story of the Nativity,  
Games, Crafts, Santa's Workshop ...  
and a gift for each child from Santa**



**Children/Youth Christmas Program  
and Christmas Party!  
Sunday, December 17**

**RSVP to 240-315-7575 by Dec. 10.**

**If you would like to participate in the Christmas Program, be at church at 9:00 a.m. sharp in nice blue jeans and a white shirt or blouse and be ready to sing a Christmas Carol or two!**

**You do not have to participate in the Christmas Program.  
Arrive at 10:30 to watch it and then go to the party!**



**Bush Creek Family  
Christmas Meal  
Sunday, December 10 after worship.**

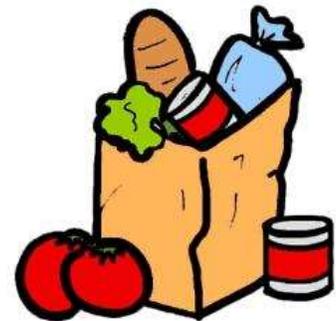
**Please plan to come  
for the fellowship and good food prepared by the  
Fellowship Team.**

**Fried Chicken, Ham, Green Beans,  
Succotash, Harvard Beets, Dressing  
Mashed Potatoes and gravy  
Cranberry salad and sauce  
Cake – Coffee – Ice Tea**



**The Fellowship Team will have  
2018 calendars available for each family.**

**Please bring non-perishable food items  
to be donated to the Greater Urbana Food Bank  
to assist needy families in our area.**



**Please see sign up on program table  
or email [office@bushcreekchurch.org](mailto:office@bushcreekchurch.org)**

## MISSIONS AND SERVICE COMMISSION NEWS:



Christmas Family Gift Tree – A table is available starting TODAY in the narthex for the Christmas Family Gift Tree program to benefit families in the Urbana Food Bank. Please return gifts by **SUNDAY, Dec. 10**. **Please read the back of your tag for complete instructions, tape the tag to the outside of the gift, put gifts in the coat room and mark your name off please that your gift has been delivered.** Sponsored by the Missions and Service Comm.



Please remember Food Bank donations are always welcomed. A large container is located in the coat room.

## Fahrney-Keedy News:

**Fahrney-Keedy Holiday Festival–Fri., Dec. 8 from 4–6:30 pm.** Donations of gift baskets are needed for the festival to support Pastoral Care Ministries at Fahrney-Keedy. The Silent Auction begins Nov. 23. Also accepting wreaths, homemade crafts, gift cards, jewelry, event tickets or other gift items. Donations can be dropped off in the lobby by Nov. 20 from 8 am – 8 pm. Contact Chaplain Twyla @ 301-671-5008 with questions.



**Fahrney-Keedy Sr. Living Community is planning a Christmas Remembrance luminaria display for Fri., Dec. 8 @ 5 pm.** If you would like to contribute a luminaria, please pick up a form located on the program table.



## **News from Women's Fellowship**



**Women's Fellowship Christmas Meal** will be held **Wednesday, Dec. 13** at noon. Please bring a dish and dessert to share. The quarterly meeting will follow the meal. All are welcome to attend.



*We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who helped out with the bazaar this year as well as those of you who donated crafts, baked goods, produce, plants, food for the kitchen and items for the white elephant table. We sincerely appreciate the contribution of each person. We made \$3,306.75. We want to wish all of our Bush Creek family and friends a wonderful and blessed holiday season! **The Bazaar Committee***

**Apple Butter** is for sale by the Women's Fellowship. 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.

## Consider these alternatives for gift-giving this year....



 Shop **SERRV's** unique and handcrafted fair trade items from around the world. Fill your home and kitchen with authentic décor, handmade dishware, and stunning handcrafted baskets. Adorn yourself with gorgeous fair trade jewelry, scarves, and bags. Indulge in delicious Divine Chocolate and fair trade snacks and gourmet coffee. Give special fair trade gifts that improve the lives of artisans and farmers worldwide. Shop on-line @ [www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org) or visit the store @ 500 Main Street, New Windsor, Md. 21776. Hours: Thurs., Fri. & Sat. from 10 am – 5 pm.



Consider a monetary gift to assist the **Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry** (camping and retreat) program. You can mail your gift to 16869 Taylors Landing Road, Sharpsburg, Md. 21782



Support the **Emergency Disaster Fund** to benefit victims of various disasters by sending your donation to Emergency Disaster Fund, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin IL 60120. Your contributions to **Brethren Disaster Ministries** will also support rebuilding homes and lives around the world. You may also choose to make a donation to the Bush Creek Disaster Ministries volunteers. You may do so by making your check payable to Bush Creek Church of the Brethren and indicate "Disaster Ministires – Missions and Service" on your check.

**Meat Canning** – consider a donation within the Bush Creek congregation to support the Meat Canning ministry to feed the hungry around the globe. Make checks payable to Bush Creek Church – mark "meat canning". Please see additional information included in Missions and Service news.



*Continuing the work of Jesus.  
Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

Global Mission and Service, Congregational Life Ministries, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Brethren Volunteer Service, the Office of Ministry, and many other Church of the Brethren core ministries are supported by donations. They are grounded in core Brethren values like service, peace-building, faith formation, discipleship, and continuing the work of Jesus... peacefully, simply, and together.

If you believe in the ministries of the **Church of the Brethren**, consider a gift to support their important work today—at home and around the world. Visit [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) or mail your donation to: Church of the Brethren General Offices, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120. If you prefer to donate by phone, call the Finance Office at 800-323-8039 ext. 300



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

*Bushcreekchurch.org*

***Check out what is happening with the  
Bush Creek youth and children.  
Spread the good news!***

### **\*Youth Coffee House Schedule:**

Dec. 3 – Tom & Peg Crichton speakers

The coffee house is located on the second floor – first door on the right. Coffee, hot chocolate, hot tea, donuts, comfy new surroundings will welcome our youth. Members of the congregation are invited to share with the youth in the Coffee House at 10:30 am on designated Sunday's. (Please contact Jennifer Smith).

### **\*Wheat Gatherers Youth Night Schedule for December @ 6:30 pm:**

Dec. 3

in the Coffee House on the second floor.

Featured speaker will be Dylan Rinehart.

Pizza will be served along with fun and fellowship.

**Be sure to invite a friend.**

**\*Breakfast with Santa and Baby Jesus – Saturday, December 2.** Activities include: Interactive Nativity story, a visit with Santa, crafts, games, breakfast. A really fun time for the whole family. See more details in this issue.

**\*Dec 17 – Children's/Youth program during morning worship @ 10:30 am.** Christmas Festival to follow program in the fellowship hall. See more details in this issue.

**\*Dec 17 – Christmas Caroling 4 pm** – Gather for pizza, then go caroling and deliver plates of cookies. Will return to the church for warm drinks and goodies.

**\*Dec. 30 – Youth Christmas Party @ 6:30 pm in fellowship hall.**

Special events are also planned throughout the year including mission projects, youth conferences, movie nights, coffee house-type meetings, pumpkin patch visits, swim parties, car washes, bake sales, caroling, service projects in the neighborhood, etc. Check our website @ [www.bushcreekchurch.org](http://www.bushcreekchurch.org)

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| December 2017 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S             | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
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| 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 2018 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |    |



## December

- 12/02 – Breakfast with Santa 9 am – 12 noon
- 12/03 – First Sunday in Advent
- 12/04 – Board meeting @ 7 pm
- 12/06 – Bazaar review meeting @ 12:15 pm
- 12/06 – BSA meeting 7 – 8:30 pm
- 12/10 - Wheat Gatherers (youth) 6:30 pm
- 12/10 – Baby Dedication during worship
- 12/10 – Second Sunday in Advent
- 12/10 – Family Christmas Meal after worship
- 12/13 – Women’s Fellowship meal & meeting
- 12/13 – BSA meeting 7 – 8:30 pm
- 12/16 – Sanctuary reserved – Scott & Jeni Hipkins
- 12/17 – Third Sunday in Advent
- 12/17 – Children’s Christmas Program – worship
- 12/17 – Christmas Caroling @ 4 pm – meet at church
- 12/20 – BSA meeting 7 – 8:30 pm
- 12/24 – Fourth Sunday in Advent
- 12/24 – Christmas Eve service @ 7 pm
- 12/25 – 12/31 - Leo & Melissa vacation
- 12/30 – Youth Christmas Party 6:30 pm in hall





## Preparing for Worship

Sunday School: 9:15 am. – 10:15 am  
Morning Worship: 10:30 am – 11:30 am

| Date   | Message and Scripture   | Preaching   | Other Notes  | Greeters   |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>  <p>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</p>   | <p><b>My Hope is Still in You</b></p> <p><b>Psalm 25:1-7</b></p>  | <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Leo</p>     | <p>Worship Assistant:<br/>Nick Brown</p> <p>CCW:<br/>Beth Green</p> <p>Advent Readers:<br/>Youth</p> <p>Nursery: Diana Frank</p>   | <p style="text-align: center;">David &amp; Pat Harshman</p>        |
| <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>  <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Christmas Meal after worship</p>  | <p><b>Peace – No Matter What</b></p> <p><b>Isaiah 40:1-11</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Melissa</p> | <p>Worship Assistant:<br/>Art Frank</p> <p>Advent Readers:<br/>Art &amp; Diana Frank,<br/>Nancy Pastor</p> <p>CCW:<br/>Helen Roberts</p> <p>Nursery:<br/>Elwood Hipkins</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;">Ben, Jennifer &amp; Lily Wilson</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>  <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Children's/ Youth Program during worship</p> <p>Festival in hall during worship</p> | <p><b>From Ashes to Joy</b></p> <p><b>Isaiah 61:1-3</b></p>       | <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Leo</p>     | <p>Worship Assistants:<br/>Joy Culver &amp; Wanda Embrey</p> <p>No CCW<br/>Children's/Youth Festival during worship</p> <p>Advent Readers:<br/>Joy Culver &amp; Wanda Embrey</p> <p>Nursery:<br/>Helen Roberts</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Jeff &amp; Jane Musselman</p>       |
| <p style="text-align: right;">24</p>  <p>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Worship @ 10:30 am</p> <p>Candlelight Service @ 7 pm</p>                            | <p><b>Immeasurable Love</b></p> <p><b>Luke 2:1-20</b></p>         | <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Melissa</p> | <p>Worship Assistant:<br/>Jane Musselman</p> <p>Nursery:<br/>Jeni &amp; Scott Hipkins</p> <p>No CCW</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;">Addie Null &amp; Joy Culver</p>     |
| <p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p><i>Happy New Year</i></p>  |   | <p style="text-align: center;">Kameron Trout</p>  | <p>Worship Assistant:<br/>Anna Mae Poole</p> <p>CCW:<br/>Helen Roberts</p> <p>Nursery:<br/>Jean Hipkins</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;">Rick &amp; Judy Regnier</p>         |