

VALLEY TIES

Seeking You . . . With GOD'S Good News

CHURCH LEADERS - 2018

PASTOR.....David Grimes

MINISTRY TEAMS

Administration.....Chris Imler

Christian Education.....Tonya Dibert

Deacon.....Barry Snyder

Evangelism.....Valarie Smith

Fellowship.....Linda Trivelpiece

Maintenance.....Andrew VanHorn

Mission.....Ruth Dibert

Pastoral Support.....Jeff Dibert

Worship.....Carla Manges

BOARD CHAIR.....Rock Manges

CHURCH CLERK.....Bev Hershberger

FINANCIAL SECRETARY.....Darla Brady

TREASURER.....Della Watters

GIFTS DISCERNMENT.....Crystal Imler

VALLEY TIES STAFF

Doris Dibert.....Heather Koontz

Carla Manges

MAILINGS

Shirley Foor.....Mereta Imes

Rock Manges.....Marcella Morgret

Valarie Smith.....Gary Trivelpiece

OFFICE HOURS

SECRETARY – Sue Geyer

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday – 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Deadline for Bulletin Items is Wednesday, 4:00 PM

SNAKE SPRING VALLEY

Church of the Brethren

1411 Lower Snake Spring Road
Everett, PA15537-6658

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SNAKE SPRING VALLEY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



"God's Family Celebrating His Love"

Morning Worship 9:25 AM

Sunday School 11:00 AM

652-5074

ssvcob@embarqmail.com

ssvcob.com

FROM THE PASTOR

Is Something In My Eye?

A few years ago, when I was serving in another congregation, several of us went to an all-day workshop. During the morning session, I sat next to one of our members named Larry. He had a heart for the Lord and loved people but he didn't have time for small talk. He "told it like it was."

As we listened to the speaker, we noticed the woman in front of us kept checking messages on her phone. The more Larry watched her do this, the more irritated

he became. Eventually he leaned over and whispered in my ear. "Can you believe how rude she is?" I didn't tell Larry I knew she was a pastor. Possibly she was communicating with someone who was going through a difficult time. I simply nodded to Larry that I heard what he said.

Larry took a couple of minutes during lunch to tell our group how impolite this lady was. She shouldn't be on the phone when people are talking. We finished lunch and went back into the auditorium for the afternoon session. The speaker stepped up to the podium. The crowd quieted down. Guess what happened about ten minutes into the presentation? Larry's cell phone rang. And it was loud. He got an "I can't believe this just happened" look on his face and quickly shut his ringer off. At this point, Larry was just like his phone. They both went silent. He never mentioned the woman on the cell phone again.

Matthew 7:3 says, "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" How different would our world be if we spent time working on our own faults instead of focusing on other people's inadequacies?

Pastor Dave

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Welcome to all! The Snake Spring Valley Church of the Brethren extends an invitation to all who receive this newsletter to join us in worship each Sunday morning at 9:25 a.m., followed by snacks and fellowship time. Sunday school for all ages is from 11:00 to 11:45 a.m. Please join Pastor David and our congregation to experience being a part of a caring church family.

January 2018, a month for rest – Last February, our congregation observed a Sabbath month to help us “recharge our batteries” and spend more time with our families. This January, no team or business meetings will be scheduled. After a very busy year, and approaching cold winter weather, enjoy your evenings at home, create new family memories, play games, read the Bible together, and come back in February refreshed.

Senior Servants Luncheon – This social event is one activity not being cancelled, but the date has changed. Mark your calendar for Monday, Jan. 15 at 1:00 p.m. (weather permitting). Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a carry-in meal and good conversation. Be thinking about some words of wisdom your parents gave you, or life lessons learned, and be ready to share.

Greeter and Flower Charts are posted in the library. Please sign up soon to fill in the coming months.

Offering Envelopes for 2018 are on the counter in the library. Feel free to take a box. Using these envelopes on a weekly basis helps to keep our giving for the work of the church on a regular and faithful schedule. Only the Financial Secretary knows the name of the person corresponding to the number on the envelope, and sends out a personal financial statement at the end of the year for income tax records.

Church Board, Dec. 4, the last meeting of the year, was attended by outgoing and new team leaders. Appreciation is expressed to all who have served and to Church Board Chair Evelyn Creps for her leadership the past two years. Please keep Rock Manges, the new Chair, in your prayers as he takes over this very important role, guiding the church board through monthly meetings.

Condolences are sent to the family of R. Donald Snyder, the husband of Willie and brother of Margaret, upon his passing on December 12.

In our thoughts and prayers – During these cold winter months, remember our shut-ins with a card, phone call or personal visit: Margaret Snyder, Steve Shuss and Ruby Calhoun at Pennknoll; Joyce Tenley at the Village at Morrison's Cove, and Phyllis Snyder and Pearl Perrin at home. Our prayers also need to go out to the missing kidnapped Chibok school girls in Nigeria, including our assigned girl, Anthonia Yahonna.

HERE ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHRISTMAS 2017...

Advent and Christmas Memories

The Christmas season is always a very special time at our church. Again, thanks to the many persons who worked together from various teams to make it so memorable. We cannot begin to list everyone who helped, or many would be missed – from those who worked behind the scenes, carrying boxes from storage, decorating, singing or playing an instrument, attending practices, cooking or serving a meal, sending cards and visiting to shut-ins, your involvement is appreciated.

Holiday Banquet, Dec. 2 – Hosted by the Fellowship Team, 95 persons were served a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings, plus homemade pies for dessert. There were 10 kitchen workers and 10 of our youth that were a great help as table servers, for a total of 115 people in attendance that evening. The video program afterwards, *Christmas Snapshots*, and singing by our children, was a nice end to the gathering.

Advent Bible School, Dec. 9 – Led by Tonya Dibert and the Christian Education team, this Saturday afternoon event was enjoyed by 20 children. Each one made a Christmas Keepsake nativity set to take home.

Christmas Carolers by the bus load! Sunday, Dec. 17, a group of 45 or so merry singers, ranging in age from one-month-old baby Kadyn to 83 years, filled a Bollman bus for a few hours of bringing Christmas songs and joy to shut-ins. After nine different stops

to sing at homes and Pennknoll Village, the evening ended as the bus parked along Main Street in Everett and our group filled OIP for pizza. A special thanks to Todd and Tonya Greenawalt for chauffeuring the Snake Spring Valley Carolers by bus so that we could travel as a group... And a good time was had by all! It is always interesting to observe how the small children are cared for by others in the group – a true church family experience.

Christmas Cantata, *One Small Child* – On Sunday morning, Dec. 24, our sanctuary rang with music by twenty-five members of the Adult choir, led by Barry Snyder, accompanied by Doris Dibert and Lisa Duvall, and narrated by Jackie Koontz and Evan Watters. Soloist was Rock Manges. The Junior choir joined in for the opening and closing song. There were 202 people filling our sanctuary that morning.

Christmas Eve Service was a beautiful evening of worship, music and a message by Pastor Dave, with 155 in attendance. Special music was provided by Ariel Watters, Barry Snyder, with Megan Allison signing the lyrics to *O Holy Night*; a selection by the Hand Chime Choir and the Adult Choir. As the light was passed from candle to candle, the glow filled the sanctuary. The singing of *Silent Night* ended the service, as we departed to our homes to celebrate the coming of the Christ child.

Men's Bible Study will begin on Saturday morning, Jan. 6 at 7:30 a.m. Pastor Dave will guide the men on how to read and study the Bible. Please contact him for any questions or topics you'd like to cover.

Mission Team
Ruth Dibert, Leader

"And He sat down and called the twelve. And He said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."

Mark 9:35

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child - Thanks to all who helped fill 34 shoeboxes to be shipped around the globe. The gifts inside these boxes are truly cherished by each child who receives one. For most, this simple shoebox delivers the very first message of the gospel that they will hear.

Advent Offering received on Dec. 17 was \$470. Along with the church's budgeted gift, a check for \$1,500 was sent to the Church of the Brethren offices in Elgin, IL, to support the many ministries of our denomination.

Christmas Eve Offering received on Dec. 24 will help to replenish our Love Gift Fund account, which assists members of our own congregation and others in our community facing financial hardships. This past year, the fund gifted to 20 different individuals and/or families.

CentrePeace Volunteer Opportunity in Bellefonte will be Jan. 16 and Feb. 20, the third Tuesday of the month, leaving the

church at 6:30 a.m. Staff at the Used Household Goods/Furniture Store look forward to our coming each month, knowing we can do any task assigned with ease, from cleaning ovens or new donations, raking leaves, vacuuming, measuring material, fixing broken gadgets or rearranging merchandise. If you can join us on a Tuesday, see JoAnn Dibert for travel plans.

Disaster Relief Spaghetti Supper - Mark your 2018 calendars for March 17, the tentative date for this annual event at our church. More details to come. Plan to join friends from our churches around the district for one of the best spaghetti suppers around!

Bedford County Food Bank received a gift of \$500 from the free-will offering at the Holiday Banquet held on December 2 in the Fellowship Hall. Please continue to support the food bank with your food donations. Needed for the next two months are:
January - Spaghetti or other pasta, spaghetti sauce, Parmesan cheese, pancake mixes and syrup, fruit in its own juice, fruit juice.
February - Macaroni & cheese, tuna or salmon, canned vegetables, pancake mixes and syrup, tea and coffee.

CAMP BLUE DIAMOND NEWS

Coming soon - District Youth Retreat, Jan. 12-14, and Junior High Retreat, Feb. 23-25. See Terri Shaffer, our camp rep. for a registration form and more details or go to www.campbluediamond.org.

Looking ahead: Lent and Easter season, 2018 - Because Easter comes early, on April 1, choir practices for our choirs - Kid's, Junior, Hand Chime, and Adult - will resume in February.

The Hand Chime Ringers was a new choir formed this fall, and the five youth who practiced faithfully after Sunday school each Sunday are eager to continue playing. The two-octave set of hand chimes were "inherited" by Doris Dibert, rescued from a closet in a hospital in South Bend by her son-in-law. They had been unused for many years for a music therapy program and were destined for a Good Will store. If any youth would like to join this choir, please let Doris know.

She would also like to start an adult choir this spring, and already has two ringers. If you enjoy music and would like to try playing hand chimes, please contact Doris soon so a practice time can be set for February. Even if you don't read music, you can soon learn. Have chimes, will teach! Needed are six to eight more persons willing to be a part of a new experience.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

As we begin a new church year, all participants have an opportunity to join one of the teams that help our church to function smoothly. If you have never been on a team before, would like to rejoin or change to a new team, contact one of these team leaders for meeting times: Evangelism - Valarie Smith; Christian Education - Tonya Dibert; Fellowship - Linda Trivelpiece; Mission -

Ruth Dibert; Worship - Carla Manges; Administration - Chris Imler and Maintenance - Andrew Van Horn.

Deacon Team
Barry Snyder, Leader

Members of this team are chosen during the Called Leadership process each November at the Congregational Business Meeting. Appreciation is given to Gary Koontz and Todd Greenawalt as they have completed their terms. In reorganizing for the coming year, Barry will continue as Team Leader, Bev Hershberger as Secretary, Shirley Baker as Gifts Discernment representative, and Jackie Koontz as Pastoral Support representative. Two new deacons are Tina Jesk and Jackie Koontz. In addition, other deacons serving in the coming year are Rock and Carla Manges, Stephanie Grimes, Allen Baker, and Peggy Snyder. The Deacon team thanks the congregation for their support through the year, and always welcomes any questions, new ideas and prayers.

Christian Education
Tonya Dibert, Leader

Sunday school teachers - To all who have served during the past year, thank you for your willingness and investment of time to help nurture our children and all those who attend classes each Sunday. Being a part of a class and discussing scripture together is one of the best ways to grow in our Christian faith.

Tuesday evening Bible study, led by Pastor David, will resume in the next month or so. Check the bulletin for the starting date.