

MEET THE NEW BWCOP INTERIM FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The Board of Administration acted on Wednesday January 17th to hire Karissa Hunt to fill the role of Interim Financial Secretary.

The Interim Financial Search Committee was fortunate to have multiple qualified applicants for the position. Each applicant offered a specific set of gifts to potentially bring to the position. After a discernment period, review of materials and conversations the committee recommended Karissa to the Board. Karissa has started to work with Glenna Wampler to make a smooth transition as Glenna begins her retirement.

Karissa offers the following word by way of introduction.

"I am very excited to join the staff at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren as Interim Financial Secretary.

I grew up in Mt. Solon and attended Bridgewater College graduating with a degree in Business Administration. After graduating I worked at a local CPA firm preparing corporate income taxes.

I currently live in Bridgewater with my husband, Joseph, and our 2 kids, Lucas and Madison. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, working on house projects, cooking and traveling.

I am thankful for this opportunity and look forward to meeting you all!"

Together let us join in welcoming Karissa to our staff and ministry.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

Each life is like a garden, created and nurtured by God. Lent invites forty days of intentional soul work. It gives us time to reflect on God's word and pray, trusting God to tend our garden and bring forth new life. To help in your Lenten devotions, you are encouraged to use the booklet, "Growing in God's Garden," written by Erin Matteson. Erin is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren and is married to Jan Matteson's son, Russ. They live in Modesto, CA.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEALS AND PROGRAM

Wednesday Night Meals are back! Everyone is welcome to join in these meals, served in the Social Hall most Wednesday Nights 5:30-6:30 pm through the spring. Catering is being provided by local restaurants and in-house chefs on a rotating basis. Check the bulletin, mid-week emails, or the church website for weekly menu and schedules. A free-will offering supports the cost of these meals, with a suggested minimum donation based on the catering/menu. And if you would like to volunteer to help with set-up, clean-up, dishes, etc, for one or more meals, please contact the church office or visit the online volunteer calendar by following the links for Wednesday Night Meals found under the "Fellowship" on the church website. Contact Pastor Chris with any questions.

NOTES OF THANKS

I wanted to thank you for the kind care package; it was very helpful during my stressful finals week! I am doing great at Berea College in Kentucky and am officially done with my first semester of college. I can't wait to return in the spring and can't wait to reunite with Bridgewater CoB family in December. Thanks so much for thinking of me.

Blessings, Lisa Reitze

Dear Bridgewater COB – Thanks for the Care Package. Your thoughtfulness will not be forgotten. Merry Christmas to you all and God bless! ~ John Harding

BRIDGE OF HOPE BENEFIT CONCERT

Bridge of Hope will have its Third Annual Benefit Concert on Friday, March 2, at 7 p.m. in Court Square Theater. Cost is \$15/person. Featured bands will be Walking Roots Band, the Harrisonburg High School Jazz Band, and as an opening act—Low Volume.

To provide a way for those caring individuals to reach out and help fight despair on a local level, Bridge of Hope Harrisonburg-Rockingham (BOHHR) was founded. BOHHR is a faith based non-profit organization started locally by a multi-denominational group of Christians and a Bridge of Hope National affiliate—one of 19 Bridge of Hope locations in 11 states and Canada and the only one in Virginia. Their unique model is built on a three-way partnership matching individuals in need with those wishing to help.

For more information about the benefit concert or about Bridge of Hope and how you could volunteer, please call 478-2356.

2018 PHONE PRAYER CHAIN

Anyone interested in being included on the PHONE prayer chain for this year or anyone wishing to be removed from the list should contact Delores Simmons at 828-6040 or Janet Wampler at 828-6526 as soon as possible.

WHAT IN GOD'S GREEN EARTH

Percentage of waste Germany recycles and composts: 65
Percentage of waste South Korea recycles and composts: 59
Percentage of waste the United States recycles and composts: 35
~ Source: OECD Publishing

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

February 4—Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*

Scripture Readings: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;

Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39

Sermon: *"Openings and Closings"*

February 11—Transfiguration Sunday & Scout Sunday

Preaching: *Pastor Chris Zepp*

Scriptures: 2nd Kings 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9

Sermon: *"Gag Orders"*

February 18—First Sunday in Lent

Preaching: *Pastor Jeff Carr*

Scripture Readings: Psalm 25:1-10; Genesis 9:8-17;

Mark 1:9-15

Sermon: *"Wilderness and Promise"*

February 25—Second Sunday in Lent

Preaching: *Samuel Sarpiya*,

2018 Annual Conference Moderator

JOIN TEAM HEIFER

When you run for Heifer, you bring communities around the world closer to ending hunger and poverty. Redefine your personal best. What does success mean to you? Team Heifer thinks it's not about how fast you get there. It's about the lives you change along the way.

You can participate in two upcoming Team Heifer Runs:

- Rock'n'Roll DC—5k, Half & Full Marathon on March 10
- Frederick Running Festival—Half, 2-Person Relay, 5k, NutJob Challenge, Kids Run on May 5 & 6

For more information or to register for either event, visit teamheifer.org or call 1-888-943-4337.

Bridgewater Home Auxiliary

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE LUNCH

Tuesday, February 13, in the social hall
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Menu:

Pancakes—Plain & Buckwheat
Sausage Gravy & Chipped Beef Gravy & Syrup
Applesauce & Fruit Cup
Tea & Coffee

Donations to the Bridgewater Home Auxiliary will benefit auxiliary projects.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Got the winter blues? Then come have fun and laughs at church when the Fellowship and Recreation Commission hosts a Family Game Night on Saturday, February 17, beginning at 6:30 p.m. As always, the active games, such as half court basketball and Ping-Pong, will be located in the Social Hall, while board and card games will be in the Greeting Hall. Drinks will be provided. In case of snow, the alternate date will be Saturday, February 27.

Got a game to play? Bring it!

Got a snack to share? Bring it!

Got friends to bring? Bring them!

All by yourself with nothing to do? Just come and LET'S PLAY!!!

INTERESTED IN LEADING WORSHIP?

Would you be interested in helping to lead congregational worship one or more Sundays during the upcoming year? Opportunities exist for those looking to do as little as reading scripture or as much as working with the pastors to shape an entire worship service. Assistance and coaching are available as needed or desired. If interested, please contact Pastor Chris or the church office. Thank you!

PASTOR'S BOOK STUDY

This month's book study with Pastor Chris will meet on Wednesday afternoons, 2-3 pm, February 7 and 21 and will focus on *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God* by Kelly Brown Douglas (2015). "The 2012 killing of Trayvon Martin, an African-American teenager in Florida, and the subsequent acquittal of his killer, brought public attention to controversial "Stand Your Ground" laws. The verdict, as much as the killing, sent shock waves through the African-American community, recalling a history of similar deaths, and the long struggle for justice. On the Sunday morning following the verdict, black preachers around the country addressed the question, "Where is the justice of God? What are we to hope for?" This book is an attempt to take seriously social and theological questions raised by this and similar stories, and to answer black church people's questions of justice and faith in response to the call of God." If you have not already ordered a book through the church office, you should obtain your own copy. We will discuss through Part 1 on February 7.

Looking Ahead – The next book study will meet on March 7 and 21 and April 4, and will focus on *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian* by Brian McLaren (2017). A leading voice in contemporary religion, McLaren argues that— "notwithstanding the dire headlines about the demise of faith and drop in church attendance—Christian faith is not dying. Rather, it is embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift. Drawing from his work as global activist, pastor, and public theologian, he challenges readers to stop worrying, waiting, and indulging in nostalgia, and instead, to embrace the powerful new understandings that are reshaping the church. With his trademark brilliance and compassion, McLaren invites readers to seize the moment and set out on the most significant spiritual pilgrimage of our time: to help Christianity become more Christian." Order your copy through our office at an estimated cost of \$14 (if ordered by Feb. 18) OR obtain your own copy.

JUBILEE CIRCLE NEWS

Jubilee Circle will meet February 8 at 11 a.m. at Karis in Mt. Sydney for a visit and lunch. Please note that this is on a Thursday. (Snow date: February 15)

Don't forget the Women's Spiritual Retreat at Camp Brethren Woods in March. Please see the Brethren Woods web page (www.brethrenwoods.org) for more information.



BWCOB FEBRUARY 2018 **EVENTS PROGRAM CALENDAR**

This is a church-related program calendar and does not include all building use. Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS and building use through the church office. All events are at BWCOB unless otherwise indicated.

1 Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m. – Carter Center
Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

4 Children's Worship during Worship at 11
Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon
Council Meeting – 1 p.m.
Youth Super Bowl Party – 6 p.m. – Zepp Home

6 Properties Commission – 6:30 p.m.
Executive Committee – 7 p.m.
Foundation Board – 7 p.m.

7 Book Study – 2 p.m.
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
Yorffs Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Fellowship & Recreation Commission – 7 p.m.
Ministerial Services Commission – 7 p.m.
Mission & Service Commission – 7 p.m.
Worship & Music Commission – 7 p.m.

8 Jubilee Circle – 11 a.m. – Karis, Mt. Sidney
Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

9-10 BSM Lock-In

12 Finance Commission – 7 p.m.

14 Office Staff Meeting – 10:30 a.m.
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
Yorffs Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
JOY Circle Dinner – 6:30 p.m.

15 Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m. – Carter Center
Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

17 Youth to Spotswood Musical
Family Game Night – 6:30 p.m.

18 Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Children's Worship during Worship at 11
Youth Play, Create, Unwind – Noon

21 Book Study – 2 p.m.
Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
Yorffs Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Board of Administration – 7 p.m.

22 Puppets Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Sanctus Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 p.m.

23 Brethren Student Movement – 6 p.m.

24 Youth to TAHS Musical

28 Cherub Choir Rehearsal – 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal – 5:30 p.m.
Carol Choir Rehearsal – 5:45 p.m.
Yorffs Rehearsal – 6:30 p.m.
Witness & Nurture Commission – 6:30 p.m.

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

1 Interfaith Association – Noon – EMU

3 VBMHC Annual Dinner – 6 p.m.

6 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.

12 Ret. Ministers & Spouses – 5 p.m. – Maple Terrace

13 BRC Shrove Tuesday Pancake Meal – 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

14 Bridgewater Ministers – 8 a.m. – Maple Terrace

20 Bridgewater Interchurch Food Pantry – 7 p.m.

Happy
Valentine's
Day

For Our Prayers during the Month of February 2018

Each month a prayer list with opportunities for directed prayer is included with our newsletter. In addition to highlighting specific prayer requests, we are invited to pray with particular mindfulness of the persons connected with our congregation and community. Additionally, focusing thoughts and prayers around the following may be helpful as a guide:

Our Congregation and its Ministries, Vision and Mission

Those who are...

Hopeful for and anticipating fresh starts and new opportunities in 2018

Facing financial hardships

Undergoing significant life changes

Starting new ventures, jobs, establishing new homes and new rhythms

Living with illnesses, both chronic and acute

Seeking employment and who have lost work

Finding peace and contentment

Feeling lonely

In difficult relationships or experiencing the loss or lack of relationship

Struggling with mental illness, anxiety, depression and or thoughts of suicide

Seeking a new church home

Criticized, belittled and demeaned because of their beliefs and understandings

Survivors, Victims, Witnesses, and Perpetrators of violence, intolerance, racism and hatred

Advocating for justice and righteousness

Wrestling with their faith

We also lift up in prayer and mindfulness specifically...

...Our Nation and World

...those in Nigeria... facing violence, kidnappings, and deep unrest...and for those committing these atrocities

We continue to pray specifically for **Hauwa Abdu**, one of over 200 girls and young women kidnapped in April 2014.

...our congregation, district, and denomination

... those under the care of Hospice, Palliative Care and Comfort Care

...those who grieve, especially the families and friends of...

Iris Shank, mother of **Kelly Good**, who died January 16

Gloria Liskey, sister of **Norman Liskey** and **Phyllis Lambert**, who died January 8

Eunice Pugh, mother of **Mike** and **Barry Pugh**, who died January 1

Carolyn Pettis, sister of **Linda Clem**, who died December 25

Bob McFadden, significant other of **Glenna Wampler**, who died December 8, **Vera Kline**, who died November 28,

Ella Mae Fike, who died November 25

...those who have had surgery, been hospitalized, receiving treatments, recovering from illness or are in rehabilitation...

Cliff Keplinger, **Berlyn McElwee**, **Todd Kiracofe**, **Betty** and **Sheldon Propst**, **Anna Mae Will**,
Warnie Lambert, **Fred Zimmerman**

...those requiring long-term healthcare, specifically... in Bridgewater Home

...those in Volunteer Service, specifically... Stephen Miller (Japan)

...those in Military Service, specifically... Seth Flory, Tyler Hopkins, Kent Hutchinson

...those who are requesting prayer specifically or have been on the prayer chain recently... **The Figgs Family**, **Dick Stutzman**,
Sharon Flaten, daughter of **Dale** and **Janet Flaten**, who attended a workcamp in Nigeria, **Holly Carter** daughter-in-law of
Eleanor Weaver, **Carolyn Taylor**, friend of **Naoma** and **Allen Clague**

For these and all God's Children we pray...

