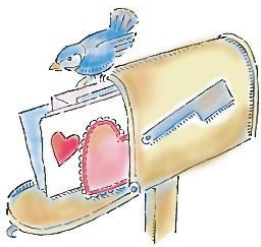


The Valley Echoes

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren
4800 Long Green Rd., Glen Arm, MD 21057

Visit our website: www.lgvcob.org
Email: lgvcob@comcast.net

Church office: [410-592-9300](tel:410-592-9300)

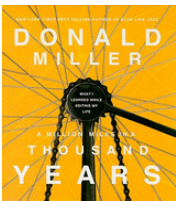


February 2012

Valentine's Day isn't just for couples dining over flickering candles and making googly eyes at each other. It is also an excuse to show other's in your life just how much you love them, including your church family. The Mid-Winter Pot Luck Celebration being held on **Sunday, February 12**, following Sunday School, is just the opportunity. The theme is Valentine's Day, with a side of heart health awareness. Wear your red to church that day (to show heart disease awareness), and bring along a colorful dish to share with everyone during the pot luck to brighten up the winter! Think Valentine's

Day....write a card to someone special, bring a flower for someone, or even be someone's secret admirer. Have fun and share your love.

Book club



A Million Miles in a Thousand Years by Donald Miller tells the story of what the author lived through while movie producers made a fictional story of his own person memoirs. While Hollywood changes the past for Don, he works on changing the present and the future. Join us on Friday, February 24th, at 7pm at the home of Kay Kearns. All are welcomed to attend.

Church Family News

Surgery: **Paul Sonczewski** will be having cataract surgery and receiving a cornea transplant on his left eye on Thursday, Feb 9th. The right eye will follow 2-4 weeks later...**Tim Shenk**, Karen's husband, had surgery the last week of January and it will be followed by radiation treatment for his cancer.

Health Concerns: **Ed Erdman's** mother, Donna Gardner, will need surgery to repair a hole in her heart sometime in the new year...**Israel Rosas** as he deals with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease)...**Monica Barlow** continuing treatment for her lung cancer...**Carl Palmer** will soon begin radiation again. He also had a bone scan for a chronic sore shoulder...**Eugenia Dunn's** dad, Lawrence, in Nigeria, dealing with confusion...**Karen Shenk** has been experiencing severe headaches and vertigo.

Recovering: **Bill Albright** continues to recover from his mild heart attack and was able to be back at church after an absence of several weeks...**Frank Barringer** is doing better as he recovers from his breathing problems at home... **Bill Pennell** continues to recover and looks forward to returning to Florida this month with Diane who retired at the end of 2011... **Tessa Haynes** is recovering well from surgery to repair a collapsed lung caused from a popped bleb (small blisters) on the top of her right lung, not so uncommon in adolescents who are tall and thin... **Mary Kagarises'** recovery has permitted her to begin driving herself to church. **Phil Groves** had a thyroidectomy done for cancer. He is recovering at home able to only talk in a whisper, other treatments are ahead...

For those who mourn: We remember our longtime next door neighbor, **Lou Reichart**, who died on December 29. A memorial service was held at our church January 7...**Ed Lewis'** Aunt Betsy died on January 12. Her funeral was in Las Vegas. Although Ed was unable to attend, he remembers her as a devout Christian and did have a good visit last year when she came east...**Eugenia Dunn** is back from her mother's funeral in Nigeria. All went well, even though it was a time of mixed emotions...**Darren Gonzalez's** maternal grandmother passed away Christmas Eve. A service celebrating her life was held January 14. On January 10, his paternal grandfather died. A service was held later that day...A memorial service was held for **Terri Meushaw**, former District Administrative Assistant, on Dec. 31 at her church, Uniontown Bible Church in Union Bridge, MD. **Helen Dorman's** brother Wallace Cochran passed away on January 17... **Willard Wymer's** cousin, Chuck Bennett lost his battle with cancer...Keep all of these people and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Engagement Announcement: **Melissa Smith** and **Robert Levy's** engagement was announced in December. Melissa was one of our youth. She is the daughter of Dusty & Joanna Smith and granddaughter of Helen & Don Dorman.

This-n-that: *The Phoenix Players* (a non-profit organization) presented the church with a check for \$500... While in Nigeria, **Eugenia Dunn** was happy to see her daughter Clementina (last visit was 10 years ago). Pray for Clementina whose Nigerian school has been canceled due to nationwide strikes. Pray for a resolution for this and for the recent religion violence suffered there...**Kay Kearns** sang with the National Christian Choir at a concert held in Bel Air. Check their website for remaining concerts this season:

<http://www.nationalchristianchoir.org>

Remember to pray for our brother in prison and send notes of encouragement, addressed to: **Callixtus Nwaehiri**, #42557-037, FCI Fort Dix, PO Box 2000, New Jersey 08640.

Our Shut-Ins: Mary Reed...Don Dorman...Margaret Bayless...Linda Sonczewski's mother, Carrie Talley.

Record of our Faithfulness

	Worship Attendance	Sunday School Attendance	Regular Offering	Special Offering	Total Offering
Jan 1	45	No SS	\$2370.94	\$396.00	\$2766.94
Jan 8	55	19	3198.00	60.00	3258.00
Jan 15	56	23	1637.00	39.35	1676.35
Jan 22	41	21	3652.00	0	3652.00
Average	49	21	\$2714.49	\$123.84	\$2838.32

Please remember to keep up your promise to God even when you cannot be present in church on Sunday.

Head Ushers for February:

Floyd Myers & Willard Wymer

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren 2012 Gifts & Abilities Pledge Form



Church Family,

Our annual pledging is voluntary and has no bearing on one's standing as a member of our faith community or in the welcome of every person has to participate at Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren.

Our pledging is an expression of worship for our God who provides and a promise of support to all that our faith community seeks to do together for one another and for our neighbors.

Your gifts and ability pledge will be shared with the various commissions and teams of our church as we seek to do God's work here at Long Green Valley.

Your pledge is a practice of bringing your gifts & abilities to the community; it is a hope of shared life, joy and service.

Thank you for being a part of this church.

------(cut here and return in the offering plate or send in the mail)-----

Name/Family: _____

My/Our Gifts and Abilities to share are....

- | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Leading worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Repairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting/calling people | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yard work | <input type="checkbox"/> Child care/nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> Food prep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching children | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning/Organizing | <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate |

Other: _____
(please explain)

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

(Ephesians 4:15-16)



SERVANTS IN GOD'S WORLD

Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren 2012 Financial Pledge Form



Church Family,

Our annual financial pledging is voluntary and has no bearing on one's standing as a member of our faith community or in the welcome of every person has to participate at Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren.

Our financial pledging is an expression of worship for our God who provides and a promise of support to all that our faith community seeks to do together for one another and for our neighbors.

Your financial pledge is held in strict confidence, handled only by our financial secretary. You will receive quarterly updates and year-end report of your donations for tax purposes.

Your financial pledge is received with gratitude and humility, and is to be used as directed and overseen by the church board.

Thank you for being a part of this church.

------(cut here and return in the offering plate or send in the mail)-----

Name/Family: _____

My/Our Financial Pledge for 2012 is: \$ _____

And we hope to deliver that pledge:

Weekly Twice a month Monthly

Other: _____
(please explain)

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:8-11)



SERVANTS IN GOD'S WORLD



Wellness Matters Presents:
The 5th ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:
"Spiritual Nourishment for Daily Living!"

SATURDAY March 24, 2012

9am-5pm

Join us once again on **March 24, 2012** to continue deepening one's connection to the presence of God through the importance of nurturing mental, spiritual, physical and relational wellness.

A few session/speakers we are working on for this year: Exercise Physiology, Green Cleaning, Meaning of Life, and Taize Worship.

We also have the optional spa time, the last 2 hours. We will have many types of massage, therapies and pampering treatments available for you to try and be treated to!

Look for the registration brochures the beginning of February!!

If you would like to participate please contact Robin Burges or e-mail: rburges08@gmail.com to obtain registration information!

Let's Move



It might be cold, slippery, and dangerous to walk outside...but it's perfect inside! Come and join a group of walkers at White Marsh Mall on **Saturday, February 11th** and **Saturday, February 25th**. The group will meet in front of Ruby Tuesday's in the food court at 9am. Come and walk, fellowship, and improve our health together as a group. Contact Gail Hanna for more information. If there is a question about walking due to weather, please contact Gail.



February is designated as heart disease awareness month. To show your support, wear red to church on February 12th. Because, Wellness Matters!



All of the year-end activities for 2011 are now complete. With the help of faithful giving by members and a generous bequest during the year we were able to end the year with a balance of \$192.56 receipts over expenditures. A copy of the final budget report has been posted on the bulletin board along with a listing of the balances remaining in the non-budgeted funds.

A while back there was a request for a report of all outreach giving which would include non-budgeted as well as budgeted giving. This would give members a better overall picture of how our church is responding to the needs of others. The following represents our total giving for the year 2011:

2011 Non-Budgeted Outreach Giving	
Christmas Project for FCC (not including gifts purchased)	\$ 722
Dundalk Food Pantry (Cash Donations – not food)	2,200
Deacon’s Mutual Aid	1,150
Health Kits/School Kits	1,239
Family Crisis Center (Bulk from Proceeds of Play)	10,760
CROP Walk	5,000
Helping Up Mission	50
Love Offering for Terri Meushaw	286
Meat Canning (non-budgeted)	205
Mid-Atlantic Disaster Relief	<u>822</u>
Total Non-Budgeted Outreach Giving	\$ 22,434
2011 Budgeted Outreach Giving	<u>5,935</u>
Total Outreach Giving	\$ 28,369
2011 Total General and Special Offerings Received	\$161,667
Congregation’s giving percentage—budget + non-budget	17.5%

These amounts do not include gifts given directly to an agency by individuals.
There is no way of tracking such donations.

Meat Canning News

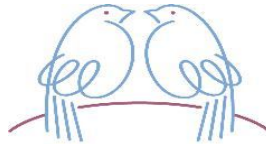
The Long Green Valley canning date for 2012 is **Wednesday, April 4th** at 9 am until 2:30 pm. Mark your calendars if you are interested in participating this year. The district still is only doing six days of meat canning instead of the eight days scheduled years ago. This was done because of a decrease in the giving directed to this program. Supplemental giving is asked for from individuals interested in giving a boost to the program. Please mark your gift "meat canning".



February Birthdays and Anniversaries



2 Lois Horst
3 Mike Hanna
4 Charles Braun
8 Heather Smith
9 Nathan Wheatly
10 Ezekiel Underwood
14 Pam Bryant
16 Daniel Wheatley
18 Dwayne Miller
19 Mary Reed
19 David Bayless
20 Leota Smith
23 Ellen Pecora
23 Lynn Shenk
29 Ed Lewis



Celebrating an Anniversary

13 Alan & Esther Showalter
15 Robert & Barbara Makin
26 Chris III & Trisha Breidenbaugh

Are you celebrating a milestone? Do we have your birthday or anniversary incorrect? Please contact the church office; we want to celebrate with you!

As I write this, my youngest daughter is still in the hospital. While nobody wants to undergo surgery, a father (or mother) would rather go through it himself than have his child do so. I hope you read earlier in this newsletter that Tessa is doing just fine, so don't worry about her or us. We've been blessed with no broken bones or many of the other usual maladies that raising children can involve. She's the first one of her siblings to even stay overnight in a hospital (besides those first few days of life).

A huge blessing for me was to witness the love and care my children have for one another. That's not always a given among brothers and sisters. Over the years I've seen my share of families that fight like cats and dogs (why do we malign felines and canines by saying that?) and come to actually hate each other. It's a wonder to behold when they actually love one another. I think of the Palmer daughters and how they care for mom and dad and each other.

On the day of surgery, our cell phones were abuzz with text messages and calls from work places in Salisbury and Baltimore, as siblings kept in the loop over how their little sister was doing. The two who were able to do so, stopped in after work and spent hours with her, bringing gifts and presence. Laughter (good medicine in itself) flowed from silly pictures made on the computer, nutty sibling banter over the phone, and talk of a "sister sleepover" at the hospital. I smiled on the inside as I thought about how, though things have dramatically changed in the last few years, we remain "family." Joy overflows.

As we head into the month of February, with red hearts and cupids being about the only color on the winter landscape, let's expand our understanding of valentines to include the loving between siblings, as well as all the other caring that goes on between us. Even through all the changes, of which life is full, we remain "family." Joy overflows.

See you along the way,
Pastor Pete

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Quilters 9:30am-3pm	2 Exercise 9-  Groundhog Day	3	4 Adult Fellowship Planning @ Horsts' 6pm (just snacks) Wellness Steering Committee for 5 th Women's Conference 10am
5 Praise 9:50am Worship 10am/SS 11:10am <i>Rest of Sunday</i>	6	7 Exercise 9- 10:30 Community Bible Study 11am	8 Quilters 9:30am-3pm	9 Exercise 9-10:30	10	11 "Let's Move" @ White Marsh Mall 9am/Meet at Ruby Tuesday's
12 Praise 9:50am Worship 10am SS 11:10am Pot Luck <i>Wear Red for Heart Disease</i>	13	14 Exercise 9- 10:30 Community Bible Study 11am 	15 Quilters 9:30am-3pm	16 Exercise 9- 10:30	17	18
19 Praise 9:50am Worship 10am/SS 11:10am <i>Transfiguration</i>	20  Presidents Day	21 Exercise 9- 10:30 Community Bible Study 11am	22 Quilters 9:30am-3pm <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	23 Exercise 9- 10:30 SERRV	24 Book Club @ Kay Kearns home: <u><i>A Million Miles in a Thousand Years,</i></u> Donald Miller	25 "Let's Move" @ White Marsh Mall 9am/Meet at Ruby Tuesday's
26 Praise 9:50am Worship 10am SS 11:10am <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>	27	28 Exercise 9- 10:30 Community Bible Study 11am	29			

Snow? Ice? If church should be cancelled due to bad weather, a prayers chain will be initiated through phone and email. You can also listen to a recorded message on the church answering machine announcing the cancellation.

Anointing

"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14) This ordinance of the church is available whenever needed. Contact Pastor Pete or a Deacon.

Prayer Request

Our prayer chain is available to pray for special needs. Call the church office or Pastor Pete to initiate the chain with a request.

Pastoral Care

Please let Pastor Pete know of any special needs. He can't visit you in the hospital, for instance, if he doesn't know you are there. Feel free to call. Office: 410-592-9300 Home: 410-592-6343

Who's in the office?

Pastor Pete can generally be reached in the church office Mon - Fri 9 am - 12 noon. His day off is Saturday, though some weekend activities require him to take family time off elsewhere.

The office hours for our secretary, Allison Funkhouser: Mon & Fri 9am-2pm. Wed from home 443-299-6377.
Email: allie@comcast.net

Special Monthly Offerings

The first Sunday of every month is designated as Dundalk Food Pantry Sunday. Please bring an offering of nonperishable food to restock the pantry. A monetary gift is also helpful. The fifth Sunday of the month (during the months that have five weeks) is designated as our Mutual Aid Fund offering which is used to help out folks in our fellowship running into tough times financially.