

**Indian Creek Church of the Brethren**  
821 Main Street, Harleysville, PA 19438

### INSIDE...

Deacon Ministry  
EYN at 100 – The  
Faithfulness of God

Family Fun

Small Talk

Youth Group News

Birthdays, Poems and More!



### Sunday Schedule

9:00 am – Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

### Church Staff

**Mark E. Baliles**

Pastor

**Susan Gallen**

Administrative Assistant

**Don Ziegler**

Custodian

**Kathy Moyer**

Wee Folk Director/Teacher

**Heather Thomsen**

Wee Folk Assistant Teacher

### **Messy and Miraculous**

What is it like being a mother? I don't think anything else in life can adequately describe the joy, the beauty, and the depth and fierceness of love; nor the fears, the doubts, the tears, and the heartaches that often accompany this incredible calling. I've watched it as the husband of an amazing and deeply devoted mother. The past two years, I've seen it through new eyes as the father of another incredible mom.

There is a sense in which being a mother is messy. I don't just mean diapers and laundry and crayon on the wall. I mean the fact that you can have it all scheduled and programmed, but things seldom turn out as planned. Kids don't turn out as planned. You don't turn out as planned. It's messy. And yet, in the midst of the mess, there is indescribable beauty, joy, and love. There is something miraculous.

That's motherhood. That's life. In fact, it's how both motherhood and life get their start. Remember childbirth. It's actually quite messy...literally. And it is terrifying, and painful, and hard, and ... beautiful and ... yes, miraculous.

As we honor moms this month, let's remember that Mother's Day can also be complicated and messy. For some, it is one of the most difficult days of the year. There are women who wanted to be mothers, and who live in pain of unfulfilled longings and dreams. There are women who are at peace with not being a mother, but who often are treated as *less than* because of it, especially on Mother's Day. I am the father also of daughter who is *not* a mother but who is incredible and smart and strong and creative and compassionate and fierce in so many beautiful ways.

There are also *mothers* who have been treated as *less than*—by the culture around them, by extended family, or even by their own husband or children. Most every mother has been unappreciated at times—or at least under-appreciated—despite her strength, her perseverance, her self-sacrifice, and so much more.

There are mothers who will not hear from their children this Mother's Day. There are mothers who have buried children. There are mothers who have experienced excruciating pain in other forms. And for these, Mother's Day is hard.

Then there are children—young and old—whose mother is no longer with them, and they miss her terribly, and Mother's Day is hard. There are children whose experience of having a mother was less than what their heart longed for—some a little less, others unbelievably less—and Mother's Day is hard.

In the midst of the messy this year, may there be an abundance of beauty and joy. May there be sensitivity and grace. And may miracle and grace flow through us.

- Pastor Mark (your partner in the journey)



## Deacon Ministry

*Deliver us from evil.... Matthew 6:13 (KJV)*

I'm content with almost all of the words Jesus used when instructing His disciples how to pray. Apparently, like many of us, they had been uncertain they were doing it right. Jesus countered that one's heart, attitude, and approach needed to be right, rather than specific words (Matthew 6:5–8). I appreciate the "hallowed be thy name" part and the "thy kingdom come, thy will be done" portion of the Lord's Prayer. I lean on "give us this day" and quickly ask forgiveness for my transgressions.

But yesterday I was stuck on a less comfortable phrase that, despite being a prayer directive from Jesus, is one I've slid over too lightly. "Deliver us from evil." There it was on the page before me. It did not say, "grow complacent with evil, because, after all, it's everywhere." Jesus didn't suggest turning a blind eye to evil, or in contrast, giving up in despair because evil is rampant. He asked us to pray to be *delivered* from evil, a Greek word *rhýomai* that means "rescue," or "deliver me to Yourself and for Yourself.

Some people, young and old, within my circle have let the evil of this world form their opinions, shape their thinking, mess with their theology, and draw them into habits and patterns and illogic that are the opposite of God's good. Jesus emphasized the importance that we pray to be rescued or delivered (us and them) from evil.

I don't yet know what that means in full, but I'm committed to praying as Jesus taught, for myself and for those I so deeply care about.

~Cynthia Ruchti

Faith Step: Think of someone you love who has succumbed to evil. Rather than worry, earnestly pray.

From *Mornings with Jesus* devotional.

Submitted by Pat Bub.

## The Least of These

It was a cold winter's day that Sunday. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. I noticed as I got out of my car that fellow church members were whispering among themselves as they walked to the church.

As I got closer, I saw a man leaned up against the wall outside the church. He was almost lying down as if he was asleep. He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you couldn't see his face.

He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet. With holes all over them, his toes stuck out. I assumed this man was homeless and asleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the Church.

We all enjoy fellowship for a few minutes, and then someone brought up the man who was lying outside. People snickered and gossiped, but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me. A few moments later, church began. We all waited for the preacher to take his place and give us The Word when the doors to the church opened. In came the homeless man, walking down the aisle with his head down.

People gasped and whispered and made faces. He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit. When he took off his hat and coat, my heart sank. There stood our preacher. He was the "homeless man".

No one said a word. The room was silent and still.

The preacher took his Bible and laid it on the stand.

"Folks, I don't think I have to tell you what I'm preaching about today. Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" He proceeded to preach a sermon about treating others with dignity and kindness even if they seem to be the "least".

From Varietyreading.com

## EYN at 100 – The Faithfulness of God

By Donna Parcell

I was honored to be part of a delegation from the United States that attended the Centennial celebration of the EYN church in Nigeria. What started as a church service held under a tamarin tree in Garkida has grown to over 1.5 million members! We were welcomed with open arms and an abundance of hospitality as we attended celebrations in Jos, Kwarhi, and Abuja. Our international delegation included friends from Rwanda, DR Congo, Burundi, Germany, and the United States.

The theme of the celebrations was “EYN @ 100 – The Faithfulness of God”. Keeping in mind the persecution that EYN has suffered, and continues to suffer, I was amazed at that theme. It is easy to doubt God’s faithfulness in times of hardship, and the people of EYN have certainly faced many horrific hardships. Yet, their faith in God remains strong. They know God is faithful, and they joyfully celebrate His faithfulness to them even while attacks continue. They are not afraid, and these celebrations showed that. They were not done in secret. There were huge banners, it was widely broadcast, and abundantly attended. Despite temperatures of 112 degrees, people sang, danced, and celebrated for 8 hours at each event. Attendance in Kwarhi was 8,000, and attendance in Abuja was 10,000. One woman told me the Abuja celebration had to be held at the convention center because, in her words, “the church could not contain us.” And that was with putting a limit on the numbers from each district that could attend.

Each celebration included the beautiful voices of many choirs – women’s choirs, men’s choirs, and youth choirs. The choirs were each accompanied by traditional drums and percussion instruments, and often energetic dancing. Normally the choirs each have their own uniforms, but on this occasion most people wore the blue anniversary fabric featuring the pictures of Rev. Dr. Stover Kulp and Rev. Albert Helser. It was a glorious sea of blue fabric. We were honored to each receive tailor-made garments in the anniversary fabric as well.

In addition to the choirs, there were many dynamic speakers. At each celebration the worship leader would shout “EYN at 100!” to which the people would respond, “the faithfulness of God!” The joy and excitement was contagious! The speakers spoke of the history of EYN, reminded us of how faithful God has been over the last century, and encouraged its members for the path forward.

Each celebration also featured several tribal dances from local tribes. These groups dressed in traditional outfits and performed incredibly dynamic and energetic dances. It was so exciting! People from the performing tribe often could not contain their enthusiasm and joined in. The joy and excitement was contagious!

There was also cake. Always a very large and beautifully decorated cake. The conclusion of each ceremony was the cutting of the cake by EYN president Joel Billi and other dignitaries. We were honored to receive very large portions of each cake!

Even as they look forward, the people of EYN celebrate and are proud of their history. They remember with reverence and thankfulness those first missionaries, and other missionaries who served after them. They are thankful for the continued support of the Church of the Brethren in the United States. We felt so welcome during our time there, in so many ways. We were well taken care of, treated as honored guests, fed amazing home-cooked meals, and we were asked to pose for many MANY pictures!

We are all so thankful for God’s provision during these celebrations. We continue to hold our brothers and sisters of EYN in prayer.





Article and photos by Donna Parcell



Our April activity was the egg hunt the Saturday before Easter! This is the only egg hunt around that included ALL ages! This year we had two groups. The first group was for little kids and those who are on the injured reserve. This included Micah Duett, and Kadlin Grau who is recovering from a broken collarbone. Micah enjoyed grabbing the traffic cones as much as he did picking up Easter eggs and candy. Kadlin was kind and went very slowly so there was plenty of candy left for Micah.

Next came the “no age limit, no rules, full contact allowed” group. The parents are invited to participate and it’s always fun seeing them grab candy from their kids. Leyahna and Nathan Stevens outran their mom Donna and collected quite a haul. Helen and Claire Spigel showed no mercy towards Jane. Sarah and Dennis Duett were seen hip checking the youth, and we all agreed that’s the fastest we ever saw Joseph Grau run! So much fun and so much candy, and prizes for everyone!



# Youth Group News

Article and photos by Donna Parcell



In April we chose a service project for our monthly youth activity. For the second year in a row we participated in the Perkiomen Creek Clean Up. Under the guidance of our fearless leader Don Moyer, and fueled by snack provider Sue Moyer, we headed out to make the creek a little cleaner. Don gave us instructions, gloves, and garbage bags and off we went! Participants were Don and Sue Moyer, Jadon Bateman, Grace Moyer, Helen Spigel, and Miss Donna. We were very pleased to report that there was much less trash this year than last year. Possibly because last year there was a lot of flooding prior to clean up, but hopefully also because people are taking better care of the earth. We did find some exciting things though, including a deer skull which Grace took home to scare her mom (did it work?). We also found a live adult snapping turtle that was stuck and promptly rescued without injury to turtle or human. And lastly we found a live snake. Let's just say that some of us were more excited about that than others. It's never a dull moment with our youth! It was a fun time and we got a lot of work done as well.



## Small Talk

by Kathy Moyer

As another school year soon comes to a close, we can look back and see how much we have accomplished, and how much our “Wee Folk” have grown over time spent with us. It is with mixed emotions that we send off another group to kindergarten, but we are confident that they are ready for the new experiences ahead. How thankful we are for the close relationships we have established with the families we serve, as we have partnered together in nurturing their children.



In May, we will be emphasizing alphabet activities and begin our “writing workshop” with our M-W-F Class. Our theme this month will be a “Potpourri from A to Z,” as we learn more about the ABC’s while playing letter games and reading a wide assortment of alphabet books. Show-and-Tell time will find us being letter detectives, as we try to guess the items our friends bring hidden in their tote bags from the alphabet clues they share.

The Wee Folk are busy now practicing special songs to share for Mother’s Day celebrations to be held in the church fellowship hall on May 11 & 12. Music, crafts, games, along with tea and treats, will be part of the surprises we have planned for the mommies or grandmas who attend.



We look forward to renewing our annual visit to Center Point for “Daddy & Me” fishing on May 20. The Batemans continue to offer this fun day for our families, which is always a great experience for anglers of all ages!



Another highlight of the year is sure to be our visit from Transportation Services, with a lesson about bus safety for our soon-to-be kindergartners, and the opportunity to board a big school bus!

End of year picnics will honor children celebrating summer birthdays. Weather permitting, we will enjoy our class picnics

outside, followed by our traditional graduation “ceremony” – with a slide down the sliding board! Our last school day together will be a time for water fun games and ice cream treats! On behalf of all of us at Wee Folk, thank you so much for the support you have given in various ways to further the ministry of this outreach to the community.

Your prayers and financial support allow us to continue serving families who choose Wee Folk for their children.



### . Thought for Mother’s Day

We all remember Mother  
on her special day.  
We send her gifts and flowers  
and lovely cards that say  
How very much we thank her  
for the things that mothers do,  
The sacrifices that they make;  
but when this day is through  
We’re prone to take for granted  
Her precious love and care,  
The fact that when we need her,  
Mother’s always there.  
She will never mention it,  
nor ask for any praise.  
The joy of doing things for us  
is her reward always.  
But just the same, it would be nice,  
If we’d find time to say  
Just one small word of heartfelt thanks  
to Mother — every day!

~Nadine Brothers Lybarger



### May Birthdays

- 1 Rick Houck
- 2 Janet May
- 3 Isabella Smalls
- 4 Jeanette Kirk
- 9 Chester Detweiler
- 18 Lorena Eichhoefer
- 21 Ruth Baker
- 22 Ray Keller
- 27 Debbie Kane
- 29 Dale Galecki

### Early June Birthdays

- 1 Esther James

If we are missing *your* birthday, please let the Church Office know! We want to include everybody in our monthly birthday notice.

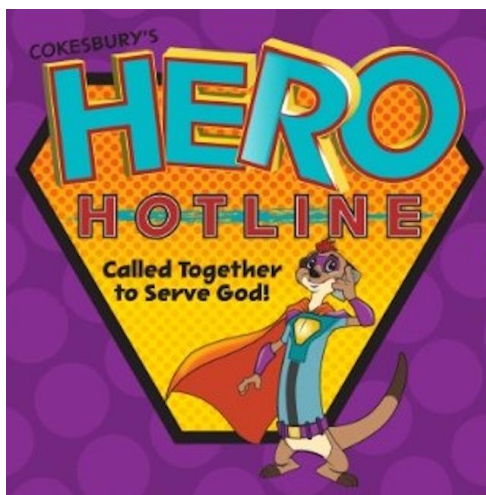
### Spring Poem by Ruth Bell Graham

O tenderest Love,  
 how we do fail  
 through our own folly  
 to avail  
 ourselves of You.  
 Cold,  
 We shun  
 Your warmth,  
 Your Sun;  
 dry  
 Your dew,  
 Your everflowing Spring;  
 and pressured much,  
 we miss your gentle,  
 calming touch;  
 then wonder, "Why"  
 O pitying Heart,  
 forgive  
 the pauper spirit  
 that would live  
 a beggar  
 at Your Open Gate  
 until it is too late  
 —too late.

### SAVE THE DATE!!!

2023 Vacation Bible School

June 26<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>



From The Billy Graham Library,

<https://billygrahamlibrary.org>

