

April 21- ABWM Calendar Party at 11:00 a.m.
April 27-28 – Sunday School Convention (page 6 & 7)
May 3 – National Day of Prayer
May 6 – Mother and Daughter Luncheon
May 6 – BYF end of the season Party
May 14 – Last Monthly Board Meeting for the summer
May 15 – God’s Tots field trip (page 2)
May 27 - Sunday Evening Outdoor Services Begin at 7:30
June 3 – The Lord’s Supper
June 24 - ICBC 175th Anniversary
July 4 – Independence Day
July 16-20 - Vacation Bible School

**4th of July Homecoming Picnic
 Wednesday, July 4, 2018
 ICBC Grove**

12:30 pm Parade
 1:00 pm Flag raising ceremony with
 VFW Post 12019
 2:00 pm Games for all ages
 6:30 pm Musical entertainment
 7:30 pm "Masters" gospel group
 10:00 pm Fireworks display

Old fashion cake walk in the evening and refreshments available all day.

The Baptist Beacon is sponsored by the Indian Creek Baptist Church. The next Beacon will come out at the beginning of July and will include activities from April, May, and June. Any submissions for the Beacon should be sent as Word Documents or in the body of an email to the Beacon editor by Wednesday, June 20, 2018.

Mail: Attn Beacon
 311 Baptist Church Rd
 Mill Run PA 15464
 Email: icbcbeacon@gmail.com

*Please send any addresses changes to this address.
 If you no longer want to receive the Beacon or would
 rather get it by email, please let us know also.*



The Baptist Beacon

January, February, March 2018

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Mill Run, PA
 15464-1058
 Permit No. 7

INDIAN CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
311 Baptist Church Road
Mill Run PA 15464-1058

Address Service Requested

Church Website: www.icbcmillrunpa.com
 Beacon Email: icbcbeacon@gmail.com

Pastor Chris McLaughlin:
baptistpastorchrismclaughlin@gmail.com
 Secretary Amy McLaughlin
amy.mclaughlin.2010@gmail.com

Church office: 724-455-7344
 Pastor Chris Cell: 724-812-2321
 Home: 724-455-2608

Compiled by Mike Bigam
 (* Service at Mill Run UMC; + Sunday School Rally; -- No service)

ATTENDANCE	1/7	1/14	1/21	1/28	2/4	2/11	2/18	2/25	3/4	3/11	3/18	3/25	3/29
Sunday School	70	83	98	94	96	89	77	93	88	90	96	87	
Morning Church	117	126	165	160	120	130	129	133	131	161	160	156	
Evening Church	*	34	*	38	*	*	38	*	39	+	*	111	55

ICBC Ministries

- Prayer Meeting is the first Wednesday of every month and Bible Study is every other Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.
- The third Thursday of every month is ABWM at 7:00 p.m.
- God's Tots is every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. through May
- Sr. Choir meets Wednesday nights at 8:15 p.m.
- Youth Choir meets Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m.
- Yogi Bear Campground Service Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day
- Outdoor Sunday evening services at 7:30 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day

God's Tots Field Trip

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Windy Acres Farm
 followed by a picnic lunch at our church.

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:14-17

District 11 Sunday School Association Rally

Submitted by Brian Dull

On Sunday evening March 11, 2018 the District 11 Sunday School Association Rally was held at the Normalville United Methodist Church. A total of 57 people attended. Normalville United Methodist won the red banner for having the most in attendance, and also won the blue banner for having the highest percentage of their total Sunday School in attendance. John Tressler led the congregational singing, and pianist was Louis Kemp. Barney Shipley, District 11 President, opened the evening with prayer and scripture reading.

The program for the evening featured a solo by Pastor Mark Sholtis singing "I Got Saved". Additionally, Kristin Maselli and her father Dean Pletcher led the congregation in singing two hymns, "I'll Fly Away" and "Washed in the Blood". Virginia Work read a comical story entitled "Sam's Ordination".

Those attending the Rally voted to give a \$100.00 donation to the Fayette County Sunday School Association. The Benediction was given by Pastor Mark Sholtis.

The next Sunday School Rally will be held in June at the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church. Hope to see you there!



From the Desk of Pastor Chris **The Agony of the Cross**

“What we need is a fresh vision of the Cross. And may that mighty, all embracing love of His be no longer a fitful, wavering influence in our lives, but the ruling passion of our souls.” – Evan Roberts

“Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.” – Isaac Watts (When I Survey the Wondrous Cross)

On Resurrection Sunday, believers around the world joyfully and triumphantly celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ- as we should. We celebrate the fact that Jesus has overcome death and has brought life and immortality to light. We recognize, as believers, that His resurrection is ours- that He is the First-fruit from the dead. All who have responded to His Gospel in faith will likewise be raised from the dead.

As we celebrate the Resurrection, I wonder if we give enough thought to what Christ endured before going to the Cross. In Jesus’ *Upper Room Discourse*, we find our Lord, knowing full well what lay ahead: He knew the agony of the death that awaited Him, and yet we observe His feelings on His impending death:

“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’ No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name!” (Jn. 12:27)

Jesus knew that in the days ahead, His body would be subjected to humility, to abuse, and to death... but He also knew that this was the path the Father had set before Him. He knew that the way to bring the Father glory was to endure the agony of the Cross, and so He embraced it. In that moment of trouble (note that the Bible never says *fear*) He cried out, *“Father, glorify Your name!”*

The goal of the Christian life is to walk even as Jesus walked. We are called to be a vessel for the Lord of His choosing... to be so fully in line with His purposes that the circumstances of our lives are viewed as opportunities to be poured out for Him. Have you died to your desires? Is the world crucified to you? In your moments of trial, do you find yourself crying out, *“Father, glorify Your name”*?

The hymnist noted the only response we ought to have in light of the agony Christ endured on the Cross: *“...demands my soul, my life, my all.”* Is there anything you are holding onto? Are you following Christ’s example and laying down everything that the name of the Father might be glorified?

Let our hearts cry out with the echo of the words found in Jim Elliot’s (Martyr for Christ in Ecuador, 1956) journal: *“God, I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like You, Lord Jesus.”*

Youth News

Submitted by Tiza Dunaway

Our ICBC Youth have been busy the last few months. I’m happy to share some of their accomplishments with you. We are proud of you- keep up the good work!

Madison Kinneer- will be running Middle School track. She will also be playing on an AAU basketball team, Strick Hoops.

Meredith Kinneer- has joined the Rock N Roll Cheerleaders. She will also be in her 1st play, “No Strings Attached” the end of May.

Miles Kinneer- will be playing his 2nd year of Tee Ball.

Kenzie Mowry- participated in the PA Farm Show. She showed a goat, placed 8th in class, and placed 2nd in goat showmanship for her age group. She also showed a pig & placed 5th in class. She competed in the Young Shepherds Skillathon and placed 5th. Kenzie also participated in the 4-H National Agriculture Summit in Washington, DC. She got to take a night tour of the monuments & visit the Smithsonian Museum & The Botanical Gardens. Kenzie then finished the month of January by attending the 4-H State Leadership Conference at Penn State in State College, PA.

Kaydance Oldham- recently finished her basketball season with St. Rita’s. Her team won the championship! She is now getting ready for her softball season.

Amaris Richter- placed on the honor roll & is busy taking care of her baby lamb & goat.

Maura Richter- is busy taking care of her triplet baby boy goats & her twin baby girl lambs!

Sadie Richter- competed in the 2018 Farm Show. She placed 3rd in Outstanding Young Shepherd competition & was champion AOB (All Other Breed) with her lamb, “Jack”. She placed 4th in class with her goat, “Dudley” & won Division III showmanship.

Nicholas Santore- recently finished his basketball season with St. Rita’s Youth Basketball League. He received Highest Honors for the 2nd 9 weeks. In March he represented Springfield CNP in the 4th & 5th grade Math Bowl sponsored by Connellsville High School & Middle School Gifted Department.

Camp Christian Winter Retreat

Submitted by Madison Kinneer

I was able to attend the Winter Retreat at Camp Christian the weekend of March 16-18. “Hope” was the main focus of the weekend. We learned that your hope and faith in Jesus Christ will help you build a strong foundation for the rest of your life. During my week at camp, there were 9 girls and 9 boys camping. Some of the campers also attended Camp Carmel in the summer.

Easter Egg Hunt

Submitted by Dara Pritts

During the 2018 ICBC Easter egg hunt, there were 14 kids and we hunted outside. I hid eggs for grades 3-5. I hid them around the gazebo and the concession stand. We hid around 300 eggs total. The kids enjoyed hunting and getting candy. I enjoyed hiding them and watching the kids find them. Afterwards, they had snacks and drinks followed by a short devotional by Pastor Chris. The egg hunt was a fun time for everyone.

Roller Skating

Submitted by Bonita Warrick

If you have pre-school or elementary age children or know someone who does, they are invited to come on Monday night to the gym at 6:00-7:00 for a fun time of roller skating. We even have some assorted sizes of

skates available for them to use if they don't have skates. It will be beginning again on Mondays in November then Mondays in January thru March. If there is no school there will be no skating. We play Christian music while they skate have several games, devotions/Bible story and usually a snack. Even a few adults have put skates on and dared to skate. All are welcome.

King's Kids Club 2018

Submitted by Becky Broadwater/Mindy Santore

King's Kids Club was held after school until 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday from January 23rd through February 27th. Thanks to Colborn's Bus Lines for sending 2 buses to transport approximately 60 students in grades 3-5 from Springfield Clifford N. Pritts Elementary School directly to ICBC. Also, thanks to over 25 adults and 20 teens from various churches and the surrounding area who volunteered weekly to help make the program run so smoothly. A lot of work and organization go into the planning of King's Kids Club and everyone gave of their time and talents to help reach children from our area with the gospel.

The program works on an alternating schedule of Bible lesson/recreation week, and missionary story/craft week. This year's Bible lesson theme was "Heroes of the Bible" and lessons centered around our key verse Psalms 34:22. There were 2 decisions made for Christ and 5 Bibles were handed out.

Our offering/donation total was \$280.05. It was sent to Chuck and Peggy Cunningham to help them reach the children of Bolivia for the Lord. Thanks to everyone who helped by praying, volunteering, donating food or monetary gifts to make this year's club possible!

American Baptist Women

Submitted by Bonita Warrick

The ABW here at ICBC have been busy helping out our missionaries and doing the Lord's work. We had 2 Rip Roaring sheet tearing events to get sheets (that many of you gave old sheets...thank you) to get bandages ready to roll and send to the Congo. They are always in need there and we can send as many as we can do. Wayne and Katherine Niles are our missionaries in the Congo. They are the ones who receive these bandages. They distribute them to 10+ hospitals in the Congo. Along with bandages there are, gloves, gauze, uniforms and infant blankets..always are welcome. WE have been making 4 inch by 10 yd. bandages. It is nice to know we have a small part in this ministry so far away. We were also asked to send many different items to the Chin Baptist Church in Indianapolis. This church and its mission have people from Burma, and they take care of, and help these migrant people in their spiritual, physical and emotional formation to adjust to a new culture.

We also supplied Christmas gifts to 3 children who the Connellsville Salvation Army gave us a name of a family who needed some help with Christmas gifts. We had fun buying these gifts and at our Christmas party we met the caregivers and gave them the children's gifts and prayed with them. Missionaries, Bob and Lina Duncan were our guests. They also met with us at another ABW meeting. They will be returning to their mission field, Panama, on March 27. WE always enjoy their visits.

We also sent all our college students a Valentine and a \$5 gift card. We like to be supportive of our college students.

Please keep the date Sat. April 21 open to attend our annual Calendar Party. This years proceeds will go to Midwife Classrooms in the Congo. In the Congo having a midwife can mean the difference of having a healthy birth and death. The women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have a high risk of death during childbirth, one in 23 and in the US the risk is 1 in 1,800. So, if you need a ticket please see one of our ABW .

The “Souper” Bowl

Submitted by Pamela Hughes

February 4, 2018, was the “KICK OFF” for 2018’s Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Box Ministry at ICBC. We held a soup and salad lunch after church to share news about Operation Christmas Child.

Approximately 70 + people attended. We had great soups and salads donated by members of the church. A wonderful sheet cake was made by April Orndorff for dessert.

The ABW has been sponsoring Shoe Box collections since 1993. Our totals over the years have varied and the way we ship out the shoe boxes has changed. In our beginnings, there was no collection site in the area and the boxes were shipped through Pam Hughes’ employer to Samaritan’s Purse. Then local collection sites started springing up around our area.

A small group of women and Pastor Chris sat down at a meeting and decided we would try to encourage giving throughout the year and set an earlier collection time for our shoe boxes.

We have set a goal of 200 shoe boxes. We are collecting items throughout the year. Each month a different item or items will be collected, and we hope to pack shoeboxes at an event. We want to include everyone in this process.

Handouts were provided, and reminders are in the bulletins. A collection box is in the vestibule of the church.

We want everyone to pack their own shoe box or boxes as well. Plastic shoe boxes, cardboard shoe boxes and we ordered shoe boxes from Operation Christmas Child, too.

If you are unable to pack a box but would like to give money, there is a donation box for donations that will be used to purchase items for shoe boxes.

Matthew 28:19 (NKJV) “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” We cannot go on our own, but a simple shoebox can reach a child and provide the Good News to make them disciples of their families and communities. Many areas can share a program of 12 lessons; The Greatest Journey, a discipleship experience. I also read that this program is available to be used with children in the US, also. It allows us to see what is being taught around the world.

Please give, make a difference, and share the love of Christ!!!!

Fayette County Sunday School Convention

Submitted by Brian Dull

The Fayette County Sunday School Convention will be held at the Mill Run United Methodist Church Friday, April 27th and Saturday, April 28th at 7:00 pm. The convention will feature special music and convention messages both evenings.

Friday evening’s special music will be presented by “The Markers”, and Saturday evening’s special music will be presented by Elaine Bowers. The convention message for Friday evening will be given by Pastor Lee Maley of Mt. Olive Evangelical Church, and the convention message for Saturday evening will be given by Pastor Chris McLaughlin of ICBC. Saturday evening’s program will also feature presentation of the awards for the annual poster and T-shirts contest.

A ham dinner will be served Saturday evening at 5:30. Cost of the dinner is \$8.00 and reservations must be made with Loretta Prinkey by April 22nd. Special music following the dinner will be presented by Mindy Santore.

Please come to the convention and enjoy a time of worship and fellowship, and support the efforts of the Fayette County Sunday School Association.

You Are Invited
To Indian Creek Baptist Church's 175th Anniversary
Sunday, June 24, 2018

Join us for a day of celebration, as we commemorate the 175th anniversary of the organization of the Indian Creek Baptist Church on June 24, 1843. ICBC was in existence as early as 1800. Previous to 1843, meetings were held in a small log structure near the location of the first frame church that was built in 1870.

Our day will begin with regular Sunday School and morning worship service followed by a fellowship luncheon at the church. Our Celebration Program will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will have special music, speakers and presentations. Keepsake ornaments and booklets will be available. You can view the photo slide presentation and the numerous photos from the past and newspaper articles. It will be a day of "remember when" and fellowship with present and past church members.

Rich History: Turkeyfoot Baptist Church (Old Jersey Church)

Submitted by Marlyn Dull

They were farmers, but the land they were on was shifting sand and thin soil in New Jersey. They longed for a place where they could raise wheat that they needed for their families and enough to feed their livestock through the winter. It was then that they heard glowing reports of a fine land beyond the mountains; a land of rich soil and pure water; a land of much timber, and after the land was cleared, would grow anything. It was Pennsylvania. William Penn had written to English families and told of this delightful country; that the winters rarely lasted over ten weeks. (A little stretch of the truth.) After much discussion, they made the decision to start their journey over the mountains in the spring of 1770. It was a long and lonely journey. Untold dangers faced them on their way; roving bands of Indians, heavy stones and swollen rivers. Little description is given to the route taken by these 18 to 20 families, but it is believed they were headed for Fort Cumberland and then over the road which Braddock and his British army and also the colonial troops had traveled 15 years earlier. This was part of present route 40.

They left New Jersey in March and arrived at their destination in May. Shelter was their first priority, so log cabins with stone chimneys were built. But it was not many years later that better homes replaced these rough cabins. Feeling the need for a closer religious life, five years after their arrival, they met at a family home June 14, 1775. Under the supervision of Rev. Isaac Sutton and Rev. John Corbly, it was decided to establish a church in the area. This was one year before the Declaration of Independence was signed. For 13 years after organizing the church, members met in various homes. Then, in January 1788, they built a 2-story log structure with a porch. It was used as a schoolhouse in the winter months. Settlers brought their rifles to church and some stood guard during services, as precaution against Indians. The second church at the Jersey settlement was built in 1838. Thirty-nine years later, it was destroyed by fire. In 1877 the third and present church was built. Original cost was \$2,500.

Their records show that they sent pastors to establish Baptist Churches at Indian Creek(1798); Little Kentucky (1834); Crossroads (1849). Some of the pastors who served the Jersey Church also served Indian Creek: William Hickman, Thomas Boord and Frank Wortman.

Turkeyfoot Baptist Church has commonly been called 'Old Jersey Church' because the founding families had left New Jersey, most, if not all from Huntington County, Families who made the journey were: Colborn, King, Drake, Rush, Ream, Skinner, Mitchell, Hyatt, Tannehill, Moon, Harned, Woodmancy, Copp, McNair, Lanning, Brooke, Strawn and Reed, Other families were here, but there are no records that they came with the caravan: Morrissions, Mountains and Tissues.

Stated in church records from 1775: that at the home of Moses Hall, they constituted a church and the following subscribed to their covenant: Robert Colborn, Jacob Rush, David Rush, John Rush, John King, Benjamin Leonard, James Mitchell, Willets Skinner, Reuben Skinner, Nicholas Hartzel, Richard Skinner, Jacob Ketchum, Abram Wortman, David Roderick, Jacob Rutzler, Abram Colborn.

The above information is taken from the pamphlet 'The Jersey Church Through the Years', compiled from church records in 1938 by Mrs. A.G. Boughner. The following is from Nancy Mitchell, current secretary for Turkeyfoot Baptist Church, Confluence,PA.: The building on the original site is now unheated, locked, and with a historic plaque designating it the first Baptist Church west of the Alleghenies. A service is held once each year, 2nd Sun. eve. in Aug. The congregation in Confluence is a continuation of the original, from 1775

WrestleMania Moments

Submitted by Tiza Dunaway

Are any of you WWE Wrestling fans? My husband Greg has been a fan since he was a kid. His enjoyment of this weekly, sweat filled, high drama entertainment has passed down to our son, Jett & surprisingly to our daughter Lexi as well. Monday nights are a big night at our house. Each week we hang out together snacking & cheering for our favorite wrestlers on Monday Night RAW. Once a month is a big Pay-Per-View event & once a year is The Super Bowl of Wrestling- WRESTLEMANIA! In jaw-dropping, breathtaking performances this event is where many of the greats from Hulk Hogan to John Cena step into stardom. With matches & moves so intense they often become known as their "WrestleMania Moment"- or the moment that changes everything for them.

Last year, WrestleMania was Sunday, April 2, 2017. Each week leading up to it the anticipation built as new matches were set & rivalries intensified. In Super Bowl fashion, we ordered pizza & wings, the fridge was full, & an array of snacks were scattered about. We were ready, or so we thought. What we did not realize was that I was about to have my very own WrestleMania Moment- a moment that would change everything for me.

I was kept busy doing the regular mom-stuff of getting snacks, pouring drinks & cleaning up messes, so it was nearly halfway through the show until I actually had a chance to lay down. Looking back on that evening I can almost sense God's sadness as these next moments approached. As if He took a deep breath & said, "Ok, it's time." Because all things must pass through His Hand, at some point I know He had agreed to allow this, but now that the moment had arrived I believe He paused & took a deep breath. After all, He is a good good Father. Although He may allow pain for His purpose, He certainly doesn't like to watch it happen.

As I laid on the couch my right hand happened to brush across my right breast. Was that a lump? No. Surely not. I moved my hand away & gave myself a mental pep talk. No Tiza, it was nothing, probably just the way you were laying. Deep breath. Ok, let's try this again. Son of a gun- there it was again. I tried not

to touch it or think about it. I told myself to just enjoy WrestleMania, there would be plenty of time to worry about this when it's over. But, as you can imagine, I had far too much wrestling of my own going on in my mind to pay much attention to the wrestling on TV. Not wanting to ruin this much anticipated night of family fun, I waited until the kids were snug in their beds to tell Greg. His words were "you better get that checked out." I remember of falling asleep that night thinking, this can't be happening.

I am not a doctor person so the fact I was on the phone with one at 8 am Monday morning is nothing less than the gentle nudging of God, not allowing me to wait around which would be my typical reaction. The myriad of doctors appts. & tests were about to begin. Of course, my amazing family prayer team kicked into gear immediately & I was instantly prayerful & hopeful with each visit the scare would end. The swiftness with which I was able to get these appointments was absolutely God's Hand at work.

Thursday of that week was my 1st appointment with the gynecologist. She was somewhat reassuring, indicating she liked that the lump was small, smooth, & moveable, but she, of course, couldn't be sure & ordered a mammogram & ultrasound. Those were set up for the following Monday. Surely this round of tests would reveal I had nothing more to worry about. I remember of thinking, "wow, I never really understood what people go thru when they have a health scare. God is really teaching me to have more empathy for people waiting on test results"...I now realize He had a little more teaching in mind for me than that. However, because of the density of my tissue they could not determine exactly what the lump was & explained the next step was a biopsy which was scheduled for that Thursday, April 13th. Then the wait for the life-changing results began. It would be 6 days later, on April 19th, I got the call. It was cancer.

With a racing heart & shaking hands I made my way to Greg as quickly as I could. He was perfect. From that 1st moment when I told him, until this very moment 11 months later, he never panicked. He was instantly & continually confident, strong, supportive & positive. I can never thank him enough or love him more.

Without a doubt the Hand of God reached down & orchestrated the events of the following days & weeks. By April 26th God had me sitting in the office of 1 of the coolest people I have ever met. Not only is Dr. Budway tremendously skillful, but her disposition gives you confidence & just makes you happy. You want to call her more than your doctor, you want to call her your friend. After that 1st visit we had a game plan. Step 1 would come just 2 days later. On April 28th I had outpatient surgery to place the port for chemotherapy. God allowed me to recover quite quickly from that & attend Jett's Little League baseball game that same evening. The next 2 weeks as the port healed, I was kept busy scheduling & going for CT & bone scans, echocardiogram, MRI, bloodwork, & meeting with my oncologist. It felt like a whirlwind. This girl who never had a medical procedure more in-depth than a throat swab was now getting prodded, poked, or scanned on what seemed like a daily basis.

These scans would reveal if the cancer had spread outside of my breast, so in anticipation of them I obeyed Hebrews 4:16 and "came boldly to the throne of grace." During these days I prayed God would put a wall around the cancer in my breast & His Hand would not allow it to go anywhere else in my body. He faithfully answered & allowed me to "receive mercy & find grace to help in time of need." The scans were all clear which allowed targeted chemotherapy to begin May 17th.

Here, I must backtrack in my story just a bit. When we are walking daily in a relationship with Jesus, He is always working- doing far more than we see or know. As we are faithful & obedient to Him; He is faithful to us. He orchestrates events that when you see them come together force you to shake your head in

amazement & share an inside smile with Him. During the early months of last year I started memorizing Bible verses. I would write them on notecards, stick them in my pocket, prop them up on the counter in the kitchen & repeat them all throughout my days. Now watch how God used this simple act of obedience to do something amazing! As the 1st day of chemo crept closer, Satan knocked relentlessly on my heart & mind with the, “what if”, “how will”, “why me”, “my hair”, “I’m scared” questions. God knew I would need to settle those thoughts & get Satan behind me- and He prepared me months ahead of time with those memorized verses! The 1 that kept popping into my mind was Proverbs 30:5, “Every word of God is pure, ***He is a shield*** to those who put their trust in Him.” A shield. That was it! That’s what I needed! I needed a shield to protect me from the harshness about to enter my body. The visual came to me of God as a Shield going up throughout my body. A soft, cushiony back side against all my healthy parts & the strong, hard, metal side of the Shield facing outward. The only unprotected thing in me was the cancer. I prayed that with His Shield up within me, as harsh chemo drugs raced through my veins God would take the brunt of them. They would bounce off The Shield, unable to penetrate to my healthy parts, & be forced directly on the cancer. Killing it.

Praise God- killing it is what it did! I was told *after* the 6 chemo treatments there was a 40% chance it would be gone. I had a visit with my oncologist after my 2nd chemo treatment which played out somewhat like a scene from a movie. She examined me to get a measurement of the lump & see if it was shrinking. After feeling around for a while she said, “Hmm” & walked over to her computer. From where Greg was sitting he could see her flip up the scans to double check where the lump was supposed to be. She then came back over, felt all around again & said, “it’s gone!” To which I said, “are you serious?!” and she joyfully said, “yes, you feel & see if you can find it?” I felt nothing! Smiles covered our faces- the kind so big they reach your eyes & push tears out, and a reality began to settle on me. Although this would make a great scene in a movie, this was much more than that. This was God at work. This was a modern-day miracle! If there were “additions” to The Bible I could now have a few verses all my own! Right there with the lame man walked, the blind man could see, we could now add *girl with cancer is cured!* At 39 years old, a young wife & mom to 2 small children why had God allowed cancer to enter my world? I still don’t know all the reasons for sure, but God was beginning to reveal some of them to me. He was certainly making known His faithfulness & His Sovereignty over any diagnosis or situation.

Of course, my temptation at that point was to skip the next 4 chemo treatments & just jump to surgery...my doctors, however, did not have that same temptation. We finished out the remaining 4 chemos with the last treatment date being August 30th. Although I wasn’t totally exempt from chemo side effects, God’s Shield I prayed over myself was always up & certainly did take the brunt of them. A week after chemo ended, on September 7th, I went for a mammogram, ultrasound, & breast MRI. God had indeed not only been listening but also answering all the prayers that covered me on my journey because there was in fact no evidence of a lump! With this fantastic news I now had surgery options. After much prayer & amazing words of wisdom from the again wonderful, Dr. Budway we decided on a lumpectomy. The surgery was September 29th, the day before my 40th birthday.

Surgery was a success. Eleven lymph nodes were removed & there was no evidence of cancer spreading. God indeed had put His wall up I had asked for & did not allow it to move outside my breast. After a month of healing I began 29 sessions of radiation. Because I had a hormone positive type of cancer I have continued to go every 3 three weeks throughout the process for a hormone blocker. My last 1 will be April 18th! The end is in sight.

This past year has been kind of crazy for me. Maybe it has been kind of crazy for you too, or maybe it's the year ahead that's looking tricky at best. Life's like that. It's cruising along just fine & one day we wake up to find ourselves in challenging, unwanted, & often scary situations that can leave us begging the question, "why"? The simple answer is- because this isn't heaven. This side of the streets of gold we are all going to be faced with "WrestleMania Moments" that will either make us or break us. When we are called into the ring it is vital we go in prepared. The preparation we need, which is the game-changer for any match, is a relationship with Jesus. Not a religion with Jesus, a *relationship* with Jesus. This relationship is something we have the opportunity to develop daily. When you carve out time each day to spend with Him- by getting into His Word & letting His Word get into you, by talking to Him all throughout your day, by asking Him to interact with you- you will begin to experience Him doing life with you. Instead of feeling like He's a distant concept, He will begin to feel like your closest Friend.

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, He lives inside us. We have an ever-present Help here & the hope of a forever future absent of the evils we know in this world. Then instead of getting hung up on "why?", you are able to begin asking, "how?". How can I see Jesus even in this? As I look back over this past year I am truly I'm amazed at *how* He was intertwined in my story- His Hand Prints are all over it. I want to give Him praise & thank Him for using me to reveal His glory, strength & power! And I want to reassure any of you facing a difficult situation that what He did for me, He is able to do for you. Draw near to Him & know He has power over any WrestleMania Moment you may find yourself in.

For those of you have faithfully kept me in your prayers this past year- I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Congratulations

Roger and Naomi (Bigam) Eicher, of Mill Run, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on March 19, 2018. Their children are Linda Eicher, Sheila (Gary) Porterfield, Marcia (Leroy) Miller, and Susie (Keith) May. They also have 10 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

In Sympathy

Commander Virginia M. Eberharter, USN, Retired, of Connellsville, died Sunday March 18, 2018, in the Uniontown Hospital. She was born March 11, 1923, in Mill Run, a daughter of the late Frank C. and Mildred Hawkins Eberharter. Virginia was a graduate of Connellsville High School with the class of 1941. She entered the Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Cumberland, Md., in September, 1941, and graduated in September, 1944, as a registered nurse. Virginia also attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where she received a bachelor of science degree with a major in public health.

Virginia was a member of the Mill Run United Methodist Church and attended Otterbein United Methodist Church, in Connellsville, where she served as a Sunday school teacher, trustee and on different committees.

Commander Eberharter was a veteran of three wars, World War II, Korean and Vietnam, and she entered the Navy Nurse Corps in April, 1945. She was stationed at several different Naval Hospitals in the United States. During the Quomoy situation, she was elected to serve with the M.A.A.G., Military Assistance Advisory Group, in Taipei, Taiwan. From there, she was sent to Yokosuka, Japan. Also, she served as chief nurse at the Naval Hospital in Naples, Italy, from November, 1965, to September, 1967. While there, she had the privilege of moving into a new hospital. She was a member of the Retired Officers Association, General Greene

Chapter in Latrobe, Indian Creek Valley VFW Post 12091 and a charter member of the Navy Nurse Corp Association. During her naval service, she was awarded the National Defense Medal, American Defense World War II Victory Medal and the American Campaign Medal.

Throughout Commander Eberharter's Navy Career, she received commendations, letters of appreciation from her commanding officers and upon retirement, on July 1, 1972, as Chief of Nursing Service at the Naval Academy Hospital, Annapolis, Md., and she received the Certificate of Merit from the surgeon general of the Navy. She was inducted into the Class of 2011 of the Connellsville Area Falcon Foundation Hall of Fame and she received the Patriot Award from the Paralyzed Veterans of America in 2013.

She is survived by an aunt, Betty Hawkins, of Mill Run, and her beloved cousins, Wanda Brooks, Larry Burkholder, Pastor Thomas J. Hawkins Jr., Gorman Dull, Marlyn Dull, Patty Broadwater and Barbara Firestone. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her uncles and aunts, Roy Hawkins, Mae Krepps, Ernest Hawkins, Gertrude Dull, Ruth Burkholder and Alverda Ohler.

David Marion Smith, 70, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, formerly of Indian Head, Pennsylvania, went to be with our Lord, on Friday, March 23, 2018. David was born on June 10, 1947 to the late Reverend G.M. Smith and Lorraine Stoner Smith of Normalville, Pa. He was the oldest brother to Donna (Smith) Firestone (Ken) of Normalville, Pa.

David was a proud graduate of West Virginia University and a sports fanatic, especially the Pittsburgh Steelers.

David was married to the love of his life, Bayonne (Shepler) Smith, formerly of Champion, Pa., for almost 50 years. He was the devoted father of Jondavid (Elizabeth), Matthew (Sarah), Beth Radefeld (Matt), Amy Eells (Peter). The joy of his life was being a grandfather to Maxim Smith (16), Alexandria Smith (13), Jackson Eells (12), and Isabella Eells (10) and his seven granddogs. David's dedication to God continued his entire life as he served as a Deacon, usher and past Sunday School Superintendent of Redeemer Lutheran Church (Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio), where he was a long-time member.

Greetings from Mill Run and Thank You

Submitted by Patty Ann Dull

It's almost spring and we are anxious for warmth and beauty, and for permanent removal of grit from our garages and streets. We watched some of the Olympic competition last February. I was amazed at the sacrifices those athletes make. Their devotion to their sport and determination to come back after injuries, even practicing with quite a lot of pain, is so admirable. They let nothing deter them from the goal. I was thinking how great it would be if I could have that much determination in serving God. It gives one pause to think.

We thank August C. and Mary Kay (Coughenour) Stickel, of Altoona, Pa. for helping us with printing and mailing costs.

Until next time, keep in touch and in prayer.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Ephesians 6:18