

- Prayer Meeting is the first Wednesday of every month and Bible Study is all other Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.
- The third Thursday of every month is ABWM at 7:00 p.m.
- Men's Ministry is the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
- God's Tots is every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.
- Jr. Choir (up to 6th grade) meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- Youth Choir (6th - 12th grade) meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
- Sr. Choir meets Wednesday nights at 8:15 p.m.
- Kids Kings Club (for grades 3rd-5th) will run from January 23rd until February 27th. This year it will be held on Tuesday nights from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Gym Activities are Back

Monday: roller skating for elementary – 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday: basketball - Elementary 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Middle School 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Sr. High & Adults 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Thursday: volleyball – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

If school is cancelled due to weather gym activities will also be cancelled

The Baptist Beacon is sponsored by the Indian Creek Baptist Church. The next Beacon will come out at the beginning of April and will include activities from January, February, and March. Any submissions for the Beacon should be sent as Word Documents or in the body of an email to the Beacon editor by Wednesday, March 21, 2017.

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

October, November, December 2017

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

Address Service Requested

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Compiled by Mike Bigam

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

ATTENDANCE	10/1	10/8	10/15	10/22	10/29	11/5	11/12	11/19	11/26	12/3	12/10	12/17	12/24
<i>Sunday School</i>	88	100	88	89	96	100	87	101	96	105	90	108	105
<i>Morning Church</i>	148	157	168	159	152	139	150	153	149	152	191	150	212
<i>Evening Church</i>	*	41	*	47	*	*	40	*	40	--	+	44	176

God's Tots

Submitted by Patty Show

God's Tots, our preschool ministry, recently finished our fall session. This year marks our 9th year and we have been averaging 21 preschoolers each week. We have been blessed to see these children grow in the love of God. For our sharing project, the children packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our lessons this fall focused on faith, church fellowship, wisdom, the Bible, Harvest and scarecrows. Our last three lessons were on the Angel coming to Mary, the Angels coming to the shepherds and the Birth of Jesus Christ. Our "Happy Birthday Baby Jesus" celebration included a video, storybook gift exchange and Christmas crafts.

District 11 Sunday School Association Rally

Submitted by Brian Dull

On Sunday evening December 10, 2017 the District 11 Sunday School Association Rally was held at the Mill Run United Methodist Church. A total of 62 people attended. ICBC won the red banner for having the most in attendance, and the Mill Run United Methodist won the blue banner for having the highest percentage of their total Sunday School roll in attendance.

District 11 President Barney Shipley moderated the service. John Tressler led the singing, and pianist was Vicki Tressler. An offering was collected and designated to go to the ICV Food Bank.

The program included a reading by Albert Ohler, entitled "I Keep a Part of Christmas". Virginia Work also read a story about a man who thought that he no longer celebrated Christmas. However, the man soon discovers that the spirit of Christmas was still alive and well within him by the many ways in which the Lord enabled him to help several different individuals one special Christmas Eve.

The program for the evening was closed out by the ICBC Senior Choir singing the lively Christmas medley entitled "Tell of His Wonder".

The Sunday School Rally was an enjoyable time that included congregational singing and Christian fellowship. The next rally will be held in March at the Normalville United Methodist Church. Hope to see you there!

From the Desk of Pastor Chris

As I sit behind the church computer in the sanctuary facing the front of the church, I see the Christmas tree, the advent wreath, and flower stands. Outside, covered in a fresh batch of snow is our nativity scene. Just three weeks ago, I couldn't get our nativity to stay up (the wind kept knocking it over). Now, I am unsure whether I will be able to get it out of the frozen ground.

As I look at these decorations, I find myself thinking about how glorious our sanctuary looked during our Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Our Senior Choir sat upon the stage dressed for an "Old Fashioned Christmas", candles in the windows provided a brilliant contrast to the dark, cold world outside, and snow began to slowly fall right on cue as the service ended. Behind the Senior Choir, 39 poinsettias adorned the baptistery and a matching red banner on the wall read, "Peace on Earth."

As I walked into the church this morning, the second day of 2018, I found myself caught up not with the thought of how beautiful the sanctuary looked on Christmas Eve, but upon the task that stands before me. Someone has to put all of this away. Just yesterday, Amy and I spent part of our New Year's Day taking down our Christmas tree, stockings, and ornaments. If I am to be honest, I'd say that I spent more time trying to watch Bowl Games out of the corner of my eye than contributing in an earnest manner. At any rate, Christmas has been picked up and placed in boxes for approximately 300 days. Soon, there won't even be any physical evidence of a Christmas Eve Candlelight service in the sanctuary.

Sadly, some will package Christmas in their hearts for 300 days and hide all corresponding evidence that it ever occurred.

During the Christmas season, believers sing triumphant songs about the joy that the Lord brought to the earth during His Incarnation; we sing about how we desire to "adore Him" and we read stories to our children about angels proclaiming the Savior's birth to shepherds in a field. We give generously, and we are more generous with our time: some even attend extra church services. Some invite others to church, using prompts such as, "You have to hear our choir!" or "We have a great children's musical this year!"

For some, these are normal expressions of their daily walk with Christ: they are joyful in spite of difficult trials in this life because of the hope that Jesus has brought to this earth and to their lives; they share their faith with friends and family, challenging them to respond by not only attending a church service, but by turning in faith to Jesus Christ. Perhaps you are among the group that desires to draw near to the Lord in worship each day throughout the year.

For others, Christmas is just a season of outward works and traditions. This group goes through the motions because that is what they have always done, but the Gospel of Jesus Christ has made no real difference in their lives. For over 300 days a year, nobody close to this group even knows that they profess to be Christians. They say, "I believe in God" but don't adore Him... they don't pray daily, read His Word, and they certainly don't submit to what it says. If this is you, Christmas is just another holiday to be picked up and placed in a box until you have to go through those tasks a year from now.

The saddest thing about the second group is that they often feel as though they are doing *enough*. But Christmas reminds us that there is no such thing as *enough* to God. Christmas reminds us that God established a plan in eternity past to save men and women who had absolutely no way of doing enough to earn God's favor or stand in His presence throughout all eternity. Christmas is further a reminder of what God did about this. Philippians 2 tells us that Jesus took on the form of a bondservant and became obedient, even to the point of death on a Roman Cross. While we were helpless in our state, willingly rebellious, Jesus came to die for us. If Christmas reminds us that there is no such thing as *enough* than it ought to challenge us to let go of false beliefs that encourage us just to go through motions. As we reflect back on Christmas, let us not see a season that is to be packed in boxes; let us see an invitation to draw near to God with consciences that have been set free from the burden of guilt, shame, and dead religious works. Christmas should stir your heart and cause it to resound in joy- not just for a few days; but throughout the year. Come, let us adore Him!

Youth News

Submitted by Tiza Dunaway

The youth at ICBC bring much Merry to our Christmas! We celebrate your accomplishments with you & are so happy to see how you are using the talents God has given you.

Garrett Barkley- received Highest Honors in the last grading period.

Ethan Barkley – received Honors for the last grading period.

Jett Dunaway- made Highest Honors last grading period.

Andrew & Christian Firestone- played Bullskin Fall Ball, CYBL basketball, & participated in the ICBC Christmas Program.

Faith Firestone- takes dance at Premier Dance & is part of their Dance Competition Team. She is also a Varsity Cheerleader at Connellsville High School.

Grace Firestone- takes dance at Premier Dance & is also part of the Dance Competition Team. She was in the Christmas Program at ICBC.

Kaydance Oldham- played Fall Ball for Mt. Pleasant YMCA. She is also playing Basketball for St. Rita's.

Jr. and Sr. BYF

Submitted by Bonita Warrick

The Jr/Sr. BYF's had a welcome back pizza party in September after having the summer off. A fun time of games, pizza, cookies and chips was enjoyed by the kids. A group of about 25 came out. Our Jr. BYF is for K-4th grade, with Amy and Bonita as leaders, and now we have started a middle group of grades 5-8, that Jessica Kinneer and Erin Kemp have agreed to lead. The Sr. BYF is led by Rob and April Orndorff. This is for grades 9-12. So, we welcome any children in those age groups to come out on Sunday evenings at 6:00. Parents please encourage them to come.

A trip to Jumonville was planned in October. A slight drizzle of rain that afternoon did not dampen our spirits. What a beautiful trip up to the 60 foot cross that stands on top of Dunbar Knob an elevation of 2,480 feet. It takes your breath away as you stand at the top of the mountain and look out over the surrounding towns below. The Jumonville Cross was erected in 1950 as a symbol of peace, brotherhood and tranquility. A short devotion while at the top of the mountain was done by each group's leaders.

A hayride was planned in October also for all groups but had to be cancelled because of heavy rain. Instead we played games in the gym and ate hotdogs anyway.

A shopping trip for the first week of November to Connellsville Dollar Tree to buy items for the Samaritans Purse shoe boxes. Each group did an excellent job, each purchasing and filling a shoe box for a girl and a boy of the different ages. The S.S. treasury provided the money for the groups to purchase the items. What a wonderful way for our youth to share their love with others. The youth were then treated with ice-cream at the Connellsville Dairy Queen.

Recently a Christmas party was had by each group at the church. The Sr. group had pizza and did charades and our younger group enjoyed hearing the Christmas story, making a craft, playing Christmas bingo(with candy prizes) and feasting on mac and cheese and chicken nuggets.

We will start back with BYF on Sunday January 7th. See you then!!

Casting Crown and For King and Country Christmas Concert

Submitted by Dara Pritts

On December 15th, the BYF went to see Casting Crowns and For King and Country at the PPG Paints Arena. There were 19 people who went to the concert (14 kids and 5 adults). We stopped at Chic-Fil-A on the way to the concert for supper.

For King and Country opened the night by playing the "Little Drummer Boy". Their show was really upbeat and exciting. They had different types of drums and an awesome light show. They played for almost 2 hours.

Next, Casting Crown came on stage. They too played mostly Christmas music. They were calmer and very relaxing. Both groups did a great job. I believe that everyone who went that night had a wonderful evening and were blessed by both groups.

The Annual ICBC Thanksgiving Dinner

Submitted by Sharon Weible

The annual ICBC Thanksgiving Dinner was held on Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the church gym. There was a very good attendance: 106 people.

The planning committee this year was the Couples Class. Sign-up sheets for the food were given to each adult Sunday School class and also placed on the bulletin board in the foyer. There was a very plentiful variety of food and it was all delicious! Three turkeys and a ham were prepared and consumed, with a little left over (the Sunday School paid for the meat and four volunteers prepared it.....a special THANK YOU to those four people: Julie Miller, Damaris Oldham, Patty Show, and Sharon Weible).

The table decorations, including a Pilgrim hat favor for each person, were provided by Bev Morrison and Patty Show. The evening's entertainment was provided by the following Sunday School classes: a joint venture by the Teen Class and the Young Adult Class, the BASIC Class, the YKT Class, and the Couples Class (featuring Junior Show as the TOUGH OLD BIRD at the Pilgrims first Thanksgiving Feast).

The food and fellowship was enjoyed by all as we celebrated our MANY blessings with our church family! If you were unable to join us this year, plan to come next year (the Sunday before Thanksgiving).

THANK YOU to everyone who prepared food and/or helped in any way.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Distribution Center Trip

Submitted by Robin, Jocelyn, Kenzie, & Sadie

On December 9th, twenty ICBC & friends headed to volunteer at the Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox distribution center in Columbia, MD (near Baltimore). Even though there was a winter storm approaching. We thank God for safe travel and good drivers.

While there we checked the shoeboxes. One person would remove the shipping funds. Multiple people would look through the boxes and remove inappropriate items and add items as needed. One person would tape the boxes shut. There were large box packers, with the boxes sorted by age. And finally there was the labeler. Who had a gadget that scanned each box and placed on the conveyer belt to be then stacked and loaded into trucks. Some found the scan gadget fun. Did you know you could label your box and follow it online to its final destination? You can just print a special label from the website.

There were some of the ordinary items like school supplies, socks, stuffed animals, toys, flashlights, batteries, sewing kits and art supplies. Some of the interesting items were tools, a small saw, hammer, nails, tape measure, screws, screw drivers, and sandpaper all packed in a small toolbox. Those are great items to help the boys learn a trade.

A young man who had received a shoebox as a child shared how that box help lead him to find Jesus. They also shared with us that all the boxes pack that day was heading to Kenya, Africa. It was great to know the boxes we helped with was already on there way to lead someone to Christ.

We noticed that there was way more girl boxes than boy boxes. Something that we can help change for next time. Also when packing the boxes no liquids, means even snow globes and balls with glittery water in them!

Also the small regular boxes Samaritan Purse gives out is great because more can fit in the large shipping box which means more can go to an area to be passed out.

This was an awesome experience and a wonderful blessing to get to help others be lead to Christ. Each and every box is so important, so start gathering supplies now. There is less than 325 days til there due.

Continue to pray that as each box reaches a child they will accept Christ as there personal Savior.
Happy giving and shopping.

Congratulations

Charles and Dana Bowser of Latrobe would like to announce the marriage of their daughter Shania to Brett Henry of Scottdale, son of Ron Henry of New Alexandria on September 2, 2017 at First Baptist Church of Jeannette with Pastor

Jeff Bingham and her father Charles Bowser officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Henry reside at 135 Gault School Road Connellsville.

Shannon Beth Miller and Benjamin Charles States were united in marriage on September 22, 2017 by Pastor James Gay. An outdoor ceremony was held at Ligonier Country Inn at 5:00 PM with a reception following for 130 guests. The parents of the bride are Jerry and Julie Miller. The parents of the groom are Chuck States and Christine Smith. The grandparents of the bride are Franklin and Patty Miller. The grandparents of the groom are Benjamin and Diane Luke as well as Charles and Rose States. The maid of honor was Sabrina Miller (friend of the bride). The bridesmaids were Shania Henry (friend of the bride) and Ashley Pritts (cousin of the bride). The best man was Jesse Beeman (friend of the groom). The groomsmen were Robert Utter (friend of the groom) and Seth Miller (brother of the bride). The flower girl was Averly Evans and the ring bearer was Oliver Evans. The couple now resides in Boswell, Pennsylvania.

In Sympathy

Rev. Dr. Michael M. Maleski, of Tucson, AZ died Sunday, November 19, 2017 surrounded by the love of his family.

Michael is survived by his devoted wife, Peggy, son Jason and wife Rachel, daughter Janelle Voss and husband Corey, son Michael, grandchildren Dylan, Zachary, Audrina, Brynn, and Samantha, siblings Sandra Plecko, Timothy Maleski, and Julie Maleski, and 14 nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews, amongst many other beloved family members.

Michael was born in 1949 in Collinsburg, PA to Stanley and Mary Maleski. After high school, Michael enlisted in the Air Force and served a tour of duty in Vietnam. Upon returning home, he enrolled in college, earning his Bachelor's Degree in Theology from Washington Bible College. He subsequently earned a Master's Degree from Eastern Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from Atlantic Coast Theological Seminary. Michael served the Lord as a Pastor ministering in Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Arizona. He served as the Senior Pastor of Indian Creek Baptist Church from 1983 to 1986. Michael served in the Air National Guard for decades, and after 9/11 was called into Active Duty as a Chaplain. Michael retired from the Air Force in 2009 as a Lieutenant Colonel, but immediately returned to work continuing his Chaplaincy work at Ft. Huachuca before retiring in 2015.

In addition to his service to God and his country, Michael was a devoted family man, historian and Civil War aficionado, football official for the Arizona Interscholastic Association, and an avid fan of Pittsburgh sports teams. You would often hear him chanting, "Hail Pitt!", "Here we go!", and "Let's go Pens!" Above all, Michael will be remembered for his devotion to God and the humanitarian work he did throughout his life.

Greetings from Mill Run and Thank You

Submitted by Patty Ann Dull

We hope you are keeping warm and comfortable during these winter months. Some of us were talking about how homes were heated many years ago. My childhood is not as far back as the times of fireplaces and wood burners only, but in the 1950s it was mostly coal-fired furnaces and floor registers. I remember that it was uneven through the house, with some drafty places (no insulation in the walls and single-pane windows) but the warm places were very warm and cozy. We had one really warm floor register that we all raced to after a cold walk or a day in the snow. The first one would stand on it and then we'd take turns. I also remember that the coal heat would leave a dirty film on the walls and we had to wash them twice a year. I was afraid to be near the furnace when mom or dad would throw in some coal. It would blast and sometimes backfire. Marlyn remembers that if one saw a yellowish cast inside, he knew that gases were building up and he would beware. Some things are easier today.

We thank those of you who sent donations to help with our printing and mailing: Virginia Eberharter, Connellsville; August (Gus) and Mary Kay (Coughenour) Stickel, Altoona; and Shirley (Broadwater) Johnson, Mill Run. We received greetings from Edgar and Marie Friend, Albuquerque, N.M. Ed celebrated his 90th birthday and they are so good to send us donations.

There's been a change with the Beacon. Couples' Sunday School Class is not the sponsor anymore and our church is the sponsor. So, if you want to send a donation, checks are made out to Indian Creek Baptist Church.

Until next time, keep in touch and in prayer.