

# *WEST KISH NEWSLETTER*

Rev. Ela J. Robertson, Pastor

Spring/Summer 2022



This year, St. John's hosts community veterans at the Memorial 9:30 AM Sunday Service on Sunday, May 29. West Kish holds its service at 11AM and on Monday, as is tradition, provides its parking and lawn for Valley View residents and others to have front row seats at the parade. The annual Sunday services may be the spiritual accompaniment to the Monday Memorial Day parade and celebrations. We praise God for the gift of the promise of life eternal through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ while we remember veterans for their sacrifice and service to our country and the world.

When we partake of the Lord's supper or take communion the "words of institution" remind us of Jesus' last supper with his disciples and give us his words to them "Do this in remembrance of me." As a church, joining together to 'do in remembrance of Christ,' is the soul of our worship, our liturgy, our mission, our outreach, our life. As members of a community, our country, and our world joining together 'in remembrance of' those who helped preserve this freedom of worship is central to our Memorial Day celebrations.

There is a link here between 'remembrance' and 'the words of institution.' In the verb form "re-membering" is not just 'looking back on' but putting ourselves back together as members of one entity. The Latin verb form "instituere" translates "to set up" or "set in motion."\* It is to 'begin' or to create a new precept or way of thinking about things. God asks us to be a part of the new work of love, justice and peace begun in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. In communion, God nurtures us in doing this together. We are asked to make this the core of who we are, committing our God given talents to this mission.

In this year's memorial services and Memorial Day celebrations we are particularly reminded that being on the front in any war or crisis involves thousands vesting their talents behind the scenes as well.

Don Smith, Edna Chester's brother, is probably St. John's and possibly Belleville's oldest vet. He may have been Mifflin County's last draftee into WWII and was told based on his IQ, that his skills could best be developed in organization and administration. So as a young draftee he put his shoulder not to a rifle but to winding a mimeograph machine! He moved up the ranks in the office until it was time to send him home. Back in Belleville we know him now as 'Water Don,' having administered the water department of the village for decades.

Nancy Simmons, one of our speakers this year, a member of East Kish Presbyterian, is a veteran of the Navy nursing corps, a corp which spans providing triage, skill, compassion, care, counseling and perhaps even a hand-held in passing for those in the full scope of service.

Col. Dirk Remensnyder of the National Guard, our guest speaker for the Memorial Day Services, and son of long time St. John's member Dorie Remensnyder, most recently was posted and in charge of tactical logistics in response to personnel and supply shortages during the Covid epidemic.

This Sunday we will also honor the many in our churches who have been central to our community celebrations on Memorial Day: Kenny Wyland and Ted Carothers for organizing and facilitating these events; Ron Carson and his sons for their needle in a haystack vigilance to making sure every veteran buried in the Valley is honored with a flag or flower. We thank all those listed in our bulletin and all those we may have inadvertently omitted for their dedication to veterans and service people.

Most of all we thank and honor our God - Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit - who gives us that core commitment to serve others with love and unity until the day Christ's Peace is fully realized on Earth. May we live in to this mission as we remember those who died for it. And may all God's people say "Amen."

Rev. Ela J. Robertson



Cindy Beal's grandchildren – Conner & Ava McCurdy  
Please pray for Ava, as she was recently in a car  
accident and had to have serious back surgery.



First communion at Valley View Terrace in a year and a  
half. The concert with Lisa Griffith, Pastor Ela and Patti  
Loudenslager was shown on the TV for them.



Bev Eichhorn's Grandchildren



John Waddell & Brittany Stoner instruct the children in  
Sunday School! It's nice to see Sunday School starting  
again....since we didn't have it through the pandemic.



John and Adrian having serious conversation...



Ron Bailey conversing with friends at the luncheon  
following Nancy's memorial service.





Kish Valley Catering Canteen (Jeri, Jeremy & Oakleigh) preparing the luncheon for Nancy Baileys memorial service.



Stations of the Cross – Our Lenten display



Our organist Seulki 'Susi' Yoo recently performed two graduate recitals at Penn State. Did you know she also has her own YouTube channel? Check it out!!



BMS Students came over for a day of cleaning the cemetery and the Matthew 25 "pill bottle" ministry.



Jonah Waddell helping with the candles



Pastor Ela and Bill Corbin at the Nativity



Tammy Carothers and her granddaughter Penelope lighting the Advent candles



Addie & Penelope in front of the stained glass window at the back of the church



Anticipated dates for the fellowship luncheons will be: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup>, and December 5<sup>th</sup>!



A longtime member of West Kish, Peg Esh, passed away on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Peg attended church regularly and had been ordained as an elder and served 12 years in that capacity. Our thoughts and prayers with her family and friends. Peg will be missed!



St. John's Lutheran Church will be hosting the veterans this Memorial Day Sunday. All are invited to attend. Church begins at 9:30 a.m. There will be light refreshments before and after the service. The annual Memorial Day parade begins at 9:30 on Monday, May 30 after a two-year hiatus due to Covid restrictions. A program and light luncheon will follow at the VFW. Come and support our Veterans.



The mission committee will meet on May 29<sup>th</sup> following worship. The upcoming Minute for Missions will be:

May 29<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Homes

Beacon Lodge Veterans Program

June 5<sup>th</sup> – Meals on Wheels

June 12<sup>th</sup> – Offering Envelope Education

June 19<sup>th</sup>: Baby Bottle Boomerang collection

June 26<sup>th</sup> – Meals on Wheels





The Crossroads Baby Bottle fundraiser began Mother's Day, May 8th and continues through Father's Day, June 19th. If interested, you can pick up a bottle in the narthex and fill it with your pocket change, cash or a donation by check. A collection box will also be placed in the narthex for return of the bottles or you can drop them off at the church office. Crossroads Pregnancy Center is a non-profit organization which receives no state or federal funding. Their mission is to reach out to those facing pregnancy decisions know and understand all their options, by offering help, hope, and healing in Jesus' name.



Pastor Ela joined her husband and other Lions for a dinner at Beacon Lodge and heard about the amazing programs they offer to individuals of all ages with serious physical challenges. At their request she wrote a recommendation for a grant to Presbyterian Women's association for a new accessible playground equipment. They also shared information on their new program for any Vets who may be physically disabled or suffering from PTSD. A brochure about the program is included here. If you know a vet family who could enjoy this all expenses paid opportunity for a week at camp together let them know.

# 57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL Auction

## May 27 & 28, 2022

### Friday, May 27th

- Chicken BBQ Dinners 5-7 PM
- Live Music
- Silent Auction

### Saturday, May 28th

- Breakfast 6:30-8:30 AM
- Merchandise & Gift Certificate Auction beginning at 8:30 AM
- Food, Drinks & Baked Goods
- Kids Activities
- Handmade Quilts

Visit

[www.bmsprek12.org](http://www.bmsprek12.org)

for additional information.

Andy Raber, Auctioneer

PA Lic.# AU005157



**BELLEVILLE**  
MENNONITE SCHOOL



717-935-2184  
4105 Front Mountain Road  
Belleville, PA 17004  
[www.bmsprek12.org](http://www.bmsprek12.org)

Saturday's activities begin with breakfast that will include pancakes, creamed dried beef & biscuits, fruit, donuts, and more! The merchandise and certificate auction begins at 8:30 am, with quilts sold at the top of each hour throughout the day. Fresh strawberry pies, hoagies, baked goods, hamburgers, hot sausage sandwiches, bacon on a stick, salads, soft serve ice cream and a variety of specialty drinks will be available! For a complete listing of details and auction items, visit [www.bmsprek12.org](http://www.bmsprek12.org) or call 717-935-2184.



The annual yard sale at St. John's Lutheran Daycare will be held sometime in July. They are still looking for donations in good usable condition, including furniture. **NO clothing or TV's please!** They may be placed either in front of, or on the stage, or you may set your items outside the fellowship hall door.



## News from the Backyard: May 2022

**The Backyards in April:** During the month of April, Backyard Ministries continued its monthly deliveries and began a new door ministry in the Jefferson Park neighborhood in Altoona. We are also excited that Bible to Schools is partnering with our church partners in Johnstown to restart a Backyard Club this summer in the 400 apartment Oakhurst homes neighborhood. Praise the Lord. We are also excited about the 22 neighborhoods containing more than 2000 families that now have a church ministering regularly right in their neighborhood.

**Neighborhood Prayer Needs:** Please pray for these neighborhood friends: an elderly man who lost his brother after a long bout with cancer, a husband and father continuing to recover from a severe bout with covid, a man who continues to work hard to control his temper, a family of three with a lot of illness issues, a woman who lives alone who is struggling to pay her bills, a family that lost an adult child, a woman who is caring for her husband at home and struggling to feel that she is doing all she can for her beloved and very ill spouse, for all those caring for the sick, for a man in desperate need of a job in Pittsburgh, for others who are seeking work that will lead to better life opportunities, and for the many who have serious medical issues.

Praise the Lord for these blessings: an elderly woman who had a severe bout of illness and was home alone for some time but blessed to have God see her through a very difficult time, the friends who have been able to move out of the neighborhoods to a home, those who continue to have employment, a husband and wife who continue to minister to their grandchildren, growth in many of our friends as we see the effects of encounters with God on daily life, and the many who have recovered well from the virus and other illnesses of this winter.

**Upcoming Special Needs:** Backyard Ministries has the following immediate needs:

- (1) BYM needs church partners to deliver food and Bible study papers monthly in the following neighborhoods: Pleasant Village (Altoona), Homewood North (Pittsburgh), and Glen Hazel (Pittsburgh).
- (2) BYM has a constant need for the following: fruit bars, individual size bags of cookies, individual size apple sauce, individual size crackers, individual size chocolate and vanilla pudding, individual size packages of muffins, Macaroni and Cheese, and Ramon noodles.
- (3) Special: BYM is collecting coloring books, drawing pads, crayons, and colored pencils for engagement at new doors.

### **Adopting Neighborhoods: Starting Backyard Clubs and/or Food Deliveries**

Do you have a neighborhood you would like to reach for Jesus? Would you like to meet most of the kids in the neighborhood and tell them about Jesus this summer? BYM can help you start a summer Backyard Club: weekly one-hour clubs featuring simple games, a snack, and a story about Jesus. Churches can also become a monthly delivery partner. Here's a video that explains how it works: <https://youtu.be/oCxPyh8NqmU>.

### **Partnering with Under-resourced Churches in Low-income Communities**

Backyard Ministries is working on partnering with churches located in low-income neighborhoods doing neighborhood ministry with limited resources. Let us know if you want to be involved in supporting these faithful ministries.

**BYM Support:** Regular monthly support is critical to the functioning of BYM. Churches and individuals provide funding to BYM by sending support monthly to the address below. Checks should be made payable to Backyard Ministries. BYM currently has more than 50 partnering churches. Please contact us if your church would like to partner with BYM or if you would like us to present the ministry in your church.

*\*To get involved or for more info like us on Facebook or contact us at Backyard Ministries, 418 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601 or [kdellape@gmail.com](mailto:kdellape@gmail.com) or (814) 502-8008.*

114 State Route 103 S  
 Mount Union, PA 17066  
 Email: office@beaconlodge.org  
 (814)542-2511  
 www.beaconlodge.org

## *Project New Hope*

Project New Hope was founded by caring individuals



who understand that for disabled veterans and their families, the wartime experience does not end the day a disabled veteran comes home. The effects are often felt throughout a disabled veteran's entire lifetime and can have an impact on each family member, often in ways that may be quite subtle, or hidden from view.

Healing and understanding is vital to life success after military service. Each family member will deal with what has happened in their own way. Returning disabled veterans face the challenge of transitioning from military to civilian life. For many, they feel alone and forgotten. Spouses and children may struggle, first with their loved one being gone and then another adjustment after their return.

No matter which era a soldier served, ALL PA Disabled Veterans and their families are welcome.

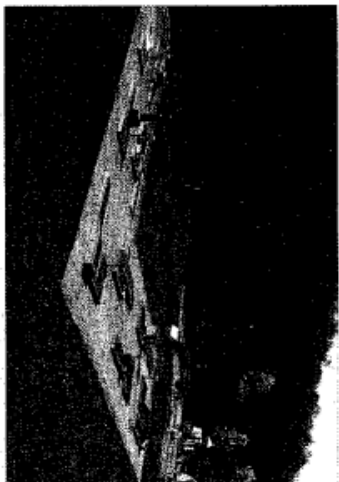
There is no charge for PA Disabled Veterans and their families with Project New Hope. Donations are greatly appreciated.

## *PA Lions Beacon Lodge*

PA Lions Beacon Lodge Camp, located in Mount Union, PA in central Pennsylvania, offers an ideal outdoor retreat that encompasses 583 acres of scenic mountain woodland with fully accessible facilities, accommodations and activities. Beacon Lodge began in 1948 to provide blind and visually impaired individuals the opportunity to enjoy a camping experience.



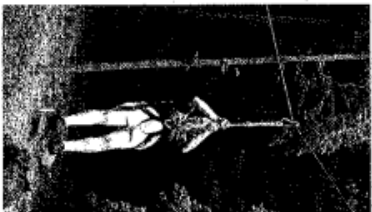
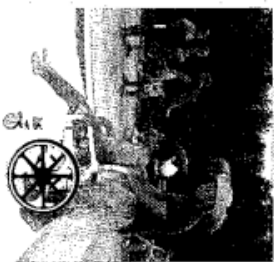
The Children's Village area of the camp includes 12 air conditioned cabins complete with bathroom facilities and individual storage cabinets for personal items. Each cabin can accommodate up to seven family members. The cabin area includes a dining hall, infirmary, art room, laundry facility and activity center.



## *Camp Facilities*

Camp Facilities include:

- Large Outdoor Pavilion
- Playground & Nature Trails
- Outdoor Bowling Alleys
- Wheel-Chair Accessible Outdoor Heated Pool
- Lake for Fishing & Paddleboating
- Mountain & Tandem Bikes
- Wheel-Chair Accessible 9-Hole Mini Golf Course
- Camping Facilities
- Climbing Tower
- 700' Zip Line & More!





# CHURCH FINANCES



Here are our most recent church bank accounts as well as our investment accounts showing the balances from If you have any questions on the finances, please see Matt Waddell or Joy Byler.

	<u>1/1/2022</u>	<u>5/23/22</u>
General Fund	1,400.12	2,018.64
Mission Fund	12,273.29	14,716.67
Memorial Fund	8,478.77	9,933.77
Per Capita Fund	30.00	1,281.25
Flower Fund	143.70	101.60
Building Fund	31,159.02	30,630.34
Pastor's Insurance Fund	4,782.93	6,585.02
Continuing Education	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Cash on Hand	59,267.83	66,267.29
Investment Account	60,517.28	57,347.81
Ward Camp Scholarship	7,643.26	7,241.14
Organ Fund	54,788.98	51,919.52
Memorial Fund	42,556.82	40,328.00
Manse Fund	211,503.05	190,485.98
Rae Young Fund	72,767.55	68,956.51
Cummings/Fleming	<u>7,047.21</u>	<u>6,678.13</u>
Total Investments	456,824.15	422,957.09
Total Cash/Investments	516,091.98	489,224.38



West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 98  
3820 West Main Street  
Belleville, PA 17004



*Welcome*  
to our  
**New Members**

We have been blessed with a few new members in the past few months:  
January 16, 2022 - Jeremy Charles (Jeremy was also baptized this day), Jeri Young, Jeff Young  
April 10, 2022 Patti Koptchak and Chris Wilson  
We welcome you all to the West Kish Family!



New Members Jeri & Jeffrey Young, Jeremy Charles



New members Patti Koptchak and Chris Wilson