The Journey

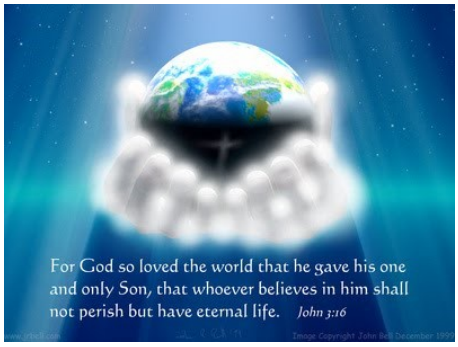
The Brownsville Church of God Quarterly Newsletter **July - September 2023**

A Message from the Pastor

Pastor Victor Johnson

Let me take a few moments and say to each of you once again that Katherine and I appreciate you greatly and thank God for each of you. Every call, every card, and word of encouragement means a lot to us. God is not forgetful. He remembers your works and labors of love.

We are blessed in so many ways at Brownsville Church of God. God is continuing to add souls to His Kingdom through the various ministries of the Church. People are coming to Christ. People are being baptized. People are growing in Christian maturity. In the words of the Apostle Paul, ***I Corinthian 3:6-7 KJV, [6] I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. [7] So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.***



As a believer in Christ, you and I have in our possession the greatest gift available to mankind: We have eternal life. We have been born again. ***John 3:16 NKJV, [16] For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*** Through Jesus, we have eternal life and direct fellowship with God. The most important thing you can do for another person is to help him or her know Christ.

Our Lord has commissioned each of us to share the Good News and "seek the lost." He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations" and "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15). Our greatest calling is to help others experience the love and forgiveness that God has given us.

As we look to the future, we must continue to have heavy hearts for the lost. I ask that you begin to pray with me for the lost. They may be a family member, a co-worker, a neighbor, or a friend. Pray that God will draw them to Himself. I ask that you step out and make an intentional effort to witness the gospel of Christ to everyone God puts in your path.

In closing, let me urge you to see the very hand of God among us and give thanks. As we grow, let us continue to see diversity as a strength and differences as an opportunity to show patience and love for each other as we continue to build a healthy multiethnic church.

Blessings to each of you.
Pastor Vic

Brownsville Church of God
6390 Lincoln Way East
Fayetteville, PA 17222
717-352-9535
www.brownsvillecog.com
Churches of God
General Conference

SUNDAY
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Nursery provided for all the above.

Worship Service - Online
6:00 p.m. (Facebook)

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study - Online (Facebook)7:00 PM

THURSDAY
Bible Study - On-site
7:00 PM

BCOG Youth News

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

From Dan Russell, Director, Franklin/Fulton Counties

The CEF bus was parked at Brownsville Church of God July 3-7 to bring kids to Good News Camp. About 40 children came on that bus and had a memorable week where they heard about Jesus.

A day at Good News Camp is full of fun. There are songs, Bible Stories, a picnic lunch, and snow cones. In the afternoon we have wet and dry time with activities in the pond and in the field.

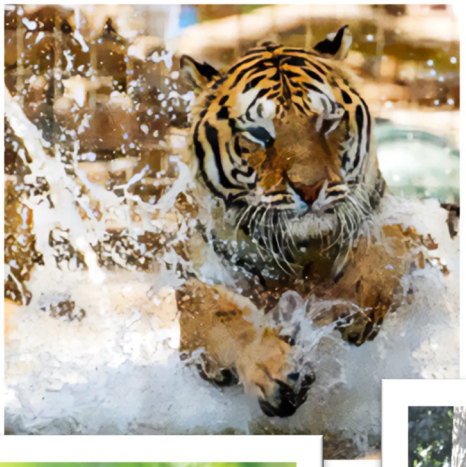
When talking to boys and girls about their favorite part of camp, they mention people more than things. Teachers and Counselors make a lasting impression by showing them the love of Jesus. In fact, the time at camp has an eternal impact. Each week we see unchurched and at-risk children make a first-time decision for Christ. They come to understand the Good News in a personal way.

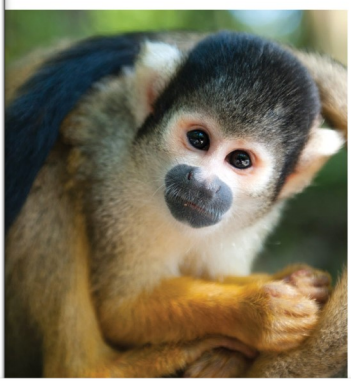
Thank you for being a partner in this ministry. We are praying that children from your church will be encouraged by camp and that kids who were reached at camp will start attending your church.

God bless,
Dr Dan

LAKE TOBIAS WILDLIFE PARK

Sign Up TODAY!





The BCOG Youth Ministry Team is planning a trip to Lake Tobias Safari Park in Halifax, Pa on Saturday, September 16th for youth in grades 6 thru 12.

Cost for the trip is $5 per person. Sign up for the trip will begin on Sunday, August 13th in the church lobby.

For more information see Deacon Ryan Gaither or Brother Kevin Thomas.

Images source: Lake Tobias Wildlife Park

BCOG Youth News

GETTING READY FOR VBS!

STELLAR
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

Introducing

Our New Editor for BCoG's *The Journey*

My name is Michaela Tasker, and I'm going to be the new editor of the BCoG newsletter, *The Journey*. I look forward to serving God as the new editor.

I am the daughter of Elder Mike and Sis. Michelle Tasker and grew up in the Brownsville Church of God. I have wanted to write for as long as I can remember. I am currently a part-time college student at Harrisburg Community College, majoring in Psychology and work part-time in customer service. I am excited to get started and using my God given abilities for the Lord.

For the fall edition of *The Journey,* please submit articles to me via email at . All submissions should be emailed to me by Friday, September 15th.

Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship Committee Essay Contest

The Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship Committee is once again sponsoring an essay writing experience for our youth. Betty Spoonhour Rideout was a strong advocate of education and the opportunities it provides. She exemplified this belief by pursuing advanced post graduate degrees after high school and being a life-long learner. As a way to celebrate and further support Betty's belief in the importance of an education, the committee will once again sponsor an essay writing contest.

The topic of the essay is "**Why is it important to accept others?"** We encourage youth grades 3 thru 12 to participate. One winner will be awarded from each of the following age group categories; 3rd – 4th, 5th – 6th and 7th – 12th (total 3 winners).

Deadline for the essay is Sunday, September 9, 2023. Essays should be turned into Elder Greg Garmen or Brother Kevin Thomas. A rubric/requirements can be found in the Church Lobby or see a member of the Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship Committee.

CAMP YoliJwa — Youth Living Jesus' Way — Touching lives since 1934

SUMMER IS NOT OVER! THERE'S STILL TIME TO CAMP!

www.campyolijwa.org

PARENT /CHILD CAMPS!

FATHER/SON & MOTHER/DAUGHTER
Back on the Camp YoliJwa schedule are two camps designed for children K-2 to come with a parent or significant adult and enjoy a glimpse of a week of Camp! Dates for Mother/Daughter are August 6-7 and Father/Son is August 12-13

ADULT FELLOWSHIP CAMP

August 14-18
Ages 50+
Are you 50+ and miss your days as a summer camper! Come to Adult Fellowship Camp! Great fellowship & activities! Don't miss out!

Click on the website link above for more available camp activities through the end of the year!

Brownsville Church of God's
Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship Committee Awards
$3,000 at Annual Scholarship Luncheon
May 20, 2023

B.S.R.S., Incorporated (Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship) is the nonprofit foundation that is associated with Brownsville Church of God, 6390 Lincolnway East, Fayetteville, PA. Three deserving 2023 graduates from the Franklin County's Area School Districts were selected as BSR Scholarship recipients. Since 2017, B.S.R.S.'s overarching goal has been to impact graduating seniors in our community through initiatives that target mentoring, and obtaining a college education.

Under the leadership of BSRS's President Ruth Delauder, a campaign to notify area youth of this scholarship opportunity was launched. Applications for the scholarship were then reviewed and evaluated by a panel which was led by Katherine Johnson, Selection Process Chairman, and Kevin Thomas, Vice-President of scholarship fund. Members of the panel included Mrs. Wilma Weaver, Elder Gregg Garman, Kenneth Davis and Victor T. Johnson, Pastor.

The criteria for the awards included academic achievement, leadership, accomplishments, extracurricular activities, volunteerism, community involvement, honors, awards, and work experience. Each applicant also submitted an essay that contained information about personal goals and financial need. The recipients were awarded $1,000 individually for a grand total of $3,000 in scholarship funds that were disbursed. The scholarship is non-renewable.

The 2023 Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship recipients and a brief summary of some of their notable attributes and involvements are as follows:

Morgan Nelling, is a graduate of James Buchanan High School, Mercersburg, PA. Morgan will be majoring in Forest Technology at Allegany College of Maryland, wanting to gain a deeper understanding of complex issues facing the environment, such as climate change, deforestation and biodiversity loss. Numerous awards and recognitions fill Morgan's resume such as member of the National Honor Society, and National Technical Honors Society. Morgan is active in her community giving back, volunteering and holding local food drives. Morgan is described by her teachers as "a rare blend of steely determination, assiduousness, and self discipline truly remarkable".

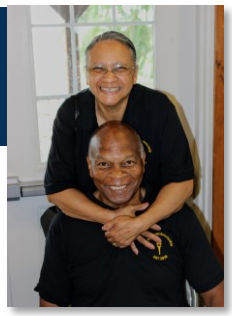
Dasnip Cruz-Yescas, is a Waynesboro High School graduate and headed to Penn State Mont Alto in the fall. She holds a 3.8 GPA. Dasnip will seek a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. A member of National Technical Honor Society, she earned distinction by having outstanding grades, being a good role model, and being career ready. Dasnip has been described by her teachers as focused, positive, organized, and respectful. She has received a solid A (94%) in her course work. In addition, she has earned (3) college credits with Harrisburg Area Community College for Medical Terminology and many certifications including HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) First Aid and Stop the Bleed.

Lexie Wyrick, is a Shippensburg High School graduate and is headed to Hagerstown Community College, Hagerstown, MD to study Medical Technician. Being the first generation college bound student in her family, realizing it will be a struggle to navigate college life and manage how everything is going to work out in the long run. Starting with a small group of friends, she started a "Ignite" a prayer group. They would enter into prayer prior to attending daily classes. Lexie is a Co-Operative student at Franklin County Tech - Veterinarian Assistant Program. She enjoyed working with animals and this ignited her interest to laboratory studies. Maintaining Honor Roll status for the past three years and Student Ambassador for Franklin County -SELL PROGRAM, and NTHS (National Technical Honor Society), and FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) qualifying for state competitions. After receiving an Advancement Comprehension score after testing NOCTI job ready testing. The testing signifies to employers that she is a candidate with the technical skills, knowledge and ability required to successfully perform the duties of an entry level job in a safe and effective manner with minimal supervision. What an accomplishment! When asked where do you see yourself in (10) years she stated "Be successful, stability, and see where God will take me, and HAPPY SELF".

These three young ladies are certainly deserving of this opportunity to receive the scholarship funds and represent some of the best and brightest minds in the Franklin County as they move on to the next chapter in their lives. The members of the Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship Committee, and Brownsville Church extends to them our well wishes for a productive and successful future!

Submitted by:
BSR Scholarship Committee members

Final thoughts



Pastor Victor & Sis. Katherine Johnson

On May 7th Ryan Long, Director of Camp Yolijwa, Doubling Gap Center visited to share about opportunities available this summer for kids and adults at the Camp. Check the camp bulletin board for more camp information for the rest of the summer and fall.

On May 20th the Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship Luncheon was held recognizing the three scholarship recipients along with their families.

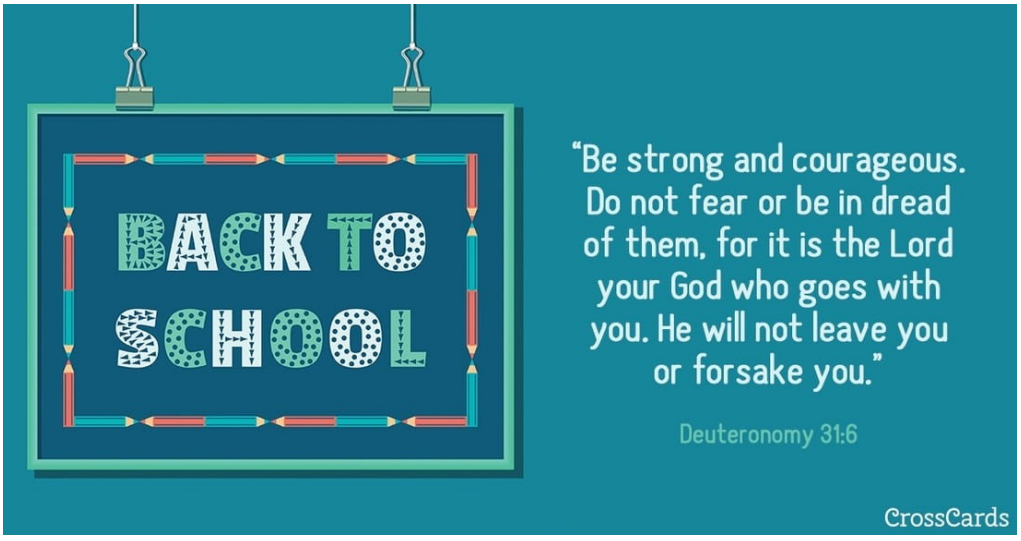
The annual Brownsville Church of God Picnic was held on June 17, on the church grounds with fun, food and fellowship.

On June 25th , Dan Russell the Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) for Franklin and Fulton Counties, visited to share opportunities this summer at Good News Camp. Three of our youth attended a week of Good News Camp: Maria, Eli and Adriella Adams.

On Sunday July 9th, Cohorts from the ninth Multi-Ethnic Conversation Class were presented with Certificates of Completion.

Appreciation Sunday was held on July 16; those being recognized were the Youth Education Ministry Team and the Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship Committee.

Vacation Bible School Kickoff was held on July 23rd followed by a week of Vacation Bible School July 24-28. See more on this in the next quarterly newsletter.



Upcoming Events

Men's Breakfast /Bible Study
Every 2nd Saturday at Brownsville Church of God
10:00 AM

Youth Education Ministry Team Celebration
Saturday, August 19th

Church Anniversary Celebration and Friends & Family Day
Sunday, August 20th

Lunch & Prayer Walk
Sunday, September 17th
(after service)

Layout/Design by Priscilla Shirley

Our Vision: We envision a community of faith where: People are coming to Christ, finding love, acceptance, forgiveness, and experiencing Christian growth.

Brownsville Church of God

WE EXIST for the purpose of Worshipping God, Loving all people, making disciples for Christ.