The Journey

The Brownsville Church of God Quarterly Newsletter April - June 2023

A Message from the Pastor

Pastor Victor Johnson

My prayer and hope is that all of you and your families are doing well. Let me take a few moments and say to each of you, I appreciate you greatly and thank God for each of you. Katherine and I thank you for your prayers, support and works of service at the Brownsville Church of God. Every call, every card, and word of encouragement means a lot to us.

We have just come through the most exciting time of the year for the Christian faith, Easter. Jesus, the Son of God left heaven, came into the world, died on the cross for our sins and rose triumphantly from the dead.

Jesus' resurrection was a display of God's immense power and presence; it is the very foundation of the Christian faith. Without the resurrection --- There is No Savior; No Sure Word of God; No Salvation; we are without hope beyond the Grave.

The Apostle Paul stressed the importance of this fact in *1 Corinthians 15:14-17 NASB, ...and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. Moreover, we are even found to be false witnesses of God because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.*

Because Jesus died and was raised again, He has the power to change lives. *Hebrews 7:25 NKJV, Therefore He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercessions for them.*

I have not seen Jesus with my own eyes, but I met Him one day as many of you have. He lives in me, Galatians 2:20 as the Apostle Paul says.

In closing, let me say that knowing Jesus as Lord allows us to have and share a new life story. Let's tell that story in word and actions in every situation, every circumstance, everywhere we go.

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

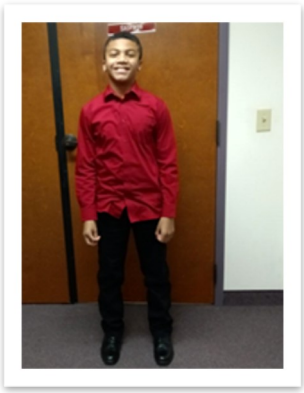
THURSDAY
Bible Study - On-site
7:00 PM

BCOG Youth News

2023 Betty Spoonhour Rideout Essay Winners

Over the past month, we have had the privilege of reading the submissions to Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship Essay Contest for young people. Three young writers submitted original essays, and the Selective Team reviewed them. These writers testimonies reflected upon "What is the true meaning of Christmas". Their eagerness to be helpful in Christ's kingdom and their love for Christ brought tears to our eyes. Their writing sang loudly of trusting God's goodness in times like these. These three young men resting on the gospel encouraged our hearts.

Aiden Greer, grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Quentin Hawkins, 5th Grade Winner



Braylen Davis, son of Ms. Tyson Davis, 6th Grade Winner. Braylen is a second-time winner.

Benjamin Horman son of Mr. & Mrs. Jay Rivera, received Certificate of Honorable Mention for his submission .

Contest winners receive $25.00. **CONGRATULATIONS** and keep on writing!

Ruth Delauder, President
Victor T. Johnson, Pastor

Kids Corner

Come and join us as our kids experience God's presence through His Word.

Children going into kindergarten through 2nd Grade are invited to come to ***Kids Corner*** every Sunday during Worship Service. An area is reserved in the back of the sanctuary in front of the sound booth. We will leave the sanctuary during offering. Parents are welcome to sit with their children until they leave.

We are also looking for those interested in serving as teachers or helpers. Sign up in the lobby.

BCOG Youth News

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

From Dan Russell, Director, Franklin/Fulton Counties

What Do You Know About Satan Clubs?

Satan clubs have re-surfaced in the news as several school districts in PA are now facing lawsuits in connection with them. Listening to the stories it would seem that Satanists are out to get our kids. The reality, though, is that they do not want to start their own club. They just want to shut down Good News Clubs. If their lawyers can show a Satan Club does not have equal access that other clubs have, then they can sue the school to close down all clubs. Here is a little background.

In 2001, the Supreme Court heard the case of Good News Club vs. Milford School District. They ruled that the school district must give the same accommodation to a Good News Club as any other club. For example, if a chess club gets to use a classroom and meet immediately after the last bell, the school couldn't restrict a Good News Club from having that same access just because the Good News Club has a religious perspective. Legally schools have to provide equal access to everyone, or they cannot provide access to anyone.

Equal access has allowed Good News Clubs to be in public schools and reach thousands of children. The success has been so great, in fact, that atheists want it to stop. Using the same ruling that allows Good News Clubs in public schools, they have decided to petition for Satan Clubs in school districts where there is a Good News Club. Of course, when parents see the name "Satan Club," they get upset and go to the school board. The board can't allow one and not the other; so, the hope is to close down all clubs and thus get rid of Good News Clubs.

Knowing what they are really trying to do, here's the advice. **The best strategy is to call their bluff. "Sure, start a Satan Club. It is a free country."** See how many parents give permission for kids to attend. See how well it's run and how long it lasts. The idea of calling something a Satan Club is terrible to start a club, but it is genius to close clubs. These lawsuits are only made in places where there is a Good News Club that they want to attack. They are using the system to scare uninformed people and to get them to overreact.

The fact that Satan Clubs don't actually want to meet is no reason to dismiss concern. These people are opposed to God and are trying any way possible to keep children from learning about Jesus. The best defense is a good offense. Even if you don't have children of your own in public school, but especially if you do, I encourage you to help out in a Good News Club. In Franklin and Fulton counties, there is a Good News Club in every elementary school. To see more about reaching children locally visit http://www.franklincef.com/.

Good News Camp

Good News Camp is offered each summer at the following locations:

Waynesboro
Mark Victor Teeter Memorial Park
11708 Country Club Road
Waynesboro, PA 17268

Path Valley
St John's Camp
17436 Stumpy Lane
Fort Loudon, PA 17224

Students who have finished Kindergarten through (and including) Sixth Grade are eligible to attend. Buses are available to transport children to and from these locations. More information and registration forms are available online at www.franklincef.com. Registration forms are also available in the lobby. Pick up and drop off locations are listed on the registration forms along with dates of the weeks of Camp. ***Brownsville Church of God*** is the pickup/drop off location for the camp week of July 3-7.

Please contact Sister Katherine for more information. 717-491-4834 or preacherswife2k@yahoo.com

"EDUCATION ABOVE ALL ELSE"

Betty Spoonhour Rideout Scholarship Committee

of Brownsville Church, Fayetteville, PA will host their

5th Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon

On Saturday, May 20, 2023

From 12:30 to 2:30 pm

At Norlo Park Community Center,

5050 Lincoln Way East,

Fayetteville, PA 17222

Keynote Speaker:

Robert J. Lee-"Maintaining Focus and Determination"

Clinical Therapist: Aliff Counseling Servicces, Shippensburg, PA

Master of Science, Forensic Psychology,

Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice

For tickets contact: Ruth Delauder (717) 263-4449 email rdelauder@aol.com

Brownsville Church (717) 352-9535 www.brownsvillecog.com or

Ticket will be available April 2 – May 14, 2023. Following Worship Services.

Adults $20 Youth $10 Children under 8 free

Ruth Delauder President

Kevin Thomas, Vice President

Victor T. Johnson, Pastor

Remembering Our Editor, Sis. Valenceia Prather

On Thursday, March 2nd , Sis. Valenceia went home to be with the Lord. Sis. Valenceia was the editor of Brownsville's newsletter, *The Journey.* She was very passionate about the newsletter as she took on the task many years ago while we were still at the Brownsville Road location. She had a goal to make the newsletter a blessing to all and fun for the children. Assisting Sis. Valencia with the newsletter, I was able to learn about her and her children and her many travel experiences . I will always remember her especially with every issue of *The Journey!*

- Priscilla Shirley

Valenceia's obituary may be found at https://memorials.geiselfuneralhome.com/valenceia-prather/5157673/.

CAMP YOLIJWA 2023 SCHEDULE

On Sunday May 7th, Ryan Long, Director of Camp Yolijwa, will be visiting Brownsville Church of God. To the right is the summer camp schedule. Below are some other activities taking place at camp. For more information please visit www.campyolijwa.org.

WILDERNESS CABIN CAMPS

Looking for Adventure?
Attend one of our Wilderness Camps! Week long programs for Jr. Hi & Sr. Hi! Come and enjoy a stay in our wilderness cabins along with exciting outdoor programming!

FAMILY CAMP

June 18-24
Need s'more family time? Come to camp! Enjoy a time of rest, relaxation and fun! Programs offered for all ages. Call the Camp for s'more information! Limited spaces available!

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

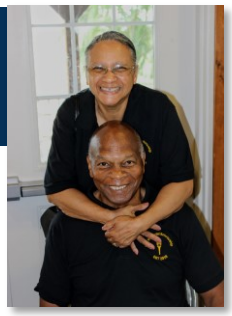
August 14-18
Ages 50+
Are you 50+ and miss your days as a summer camper! Come to Adult Fellowship Camp! Great fellowship & activities! Don't miss out!

YOUTH CAMPS	RECOMMENDED WEEK FOR THOSE ENTERING	ALTERNATE WEEK FOR THOSE ENTERING	DATE
Youth	10th-12th	---	June 11-17
9th Grade	9th	10th	June 25-July 1
8th Grade	8th	9th	July 2-8
7th Grade	7th	8th	July 9-15
6th Grade	6th	7th	July 16-22
5th Grade	5th	6th	July 23-29
4th Grade	4th	5th	July 30-August 3
3rd Grade	3rd	4th	August 4-6
Mother/Daughter	K-2nd	---	August 6-7
Father/Son	K-2nd	---	August 12-13

WILDERNESS CAMPS	RECOMMENDED WEEK FOR THOSE ENTERING	ALTERNATE WEEK FOR THOSE ENTERING	DATE
Wilderness Adventure	10th – 12th	---	July 2-8
Sr. High Wilderness	10th -12	---	July 9-15
9th Grade Wilderness	9th	10th	July 16-22
8th Grade Wilderness	8th	9th	July 23-29
7th Grade Wilderness	7th	8th	July 30-August 5

ADULT CAMPS & RETREATS	AGE LEVEL	DATE
Young Adult Retreat	Post High – 30	Feb. 17-19
Camp HOPE (Intellectually Disabled)	16+	June 4-9
Family Bible Camp	All Ages	June 18-24
Adult Fellowship Camp	50+	August 14-18
Bike Trek	Adults (18+)	Sept. 29-Oct. 1

Final thoughts



Pastor Victor & Sis. Katherine Johnson

A gathering event was held on Saturday, February 4; another one will be scheduled in the future.

Recognition Sunday – April 23
Teams that we recognized were Adult Prayer Team including Sister Mary Dennis of the Women's Prayer Partnering Team and members of the Safety Team.

We celebrated the Easter Season with Good Friday service with Pastor Jenkins who brought the message "Good Friday — Why is it good? Elder Mike Tasker then spoke at our Resurrection Day Sunrise Service — "The Day Everything Changed — He is risen." Pastor Vic brought the message at the later Resurrection Service — "The Event that Changed the World."

Article submission deadline for the next issue of *The Journey* is June 19th. Any articles, questions, etc. may be sent to Priscilla Shirley at priscillashirley@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

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

MS/HS Trip to Gettysburg Battlefield
Saturday, May 6

Camp Yolijwa Presentation
Sunday, May 7
Brownsville Church of God

Vacation Bible School
July 24-28
Brownsville Church of God

Layout/Design by Priscilla Shirley