

# CONNEXION

A Monthly Newsletter  
of

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren



September

2009

## APPLYING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Some recent conversations have centered on theology and doctrines and/or practical application of our Christian faith. You may be aware (or not) of the many websites espousing atheism and agnosticism. These sites are critical of the Christian faith (and other faiths) because of theology and doctrines, but even more they deny the practical application and implications of the Christian faith. Some even go so far as to say that the world would have been and would be better without the Christian faith (and other faith traditions.) They also criticize Christians and individuals for not living the faith they proclaim.

Having been born Brethren and choosing to continue in the Brethren faith and tradition, I believe that faith must be active. The words of the Letter of James challenge me daily:

***But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.*** *The Letter of James 1:22*

And I often feel guilty when I feel as though I should have done something for another person and have not done it. As I read the Letter to James, I perceive him calling the early Christians to share their faith in word and action. James has two other verses that call me to apply my Christian faith to my way of living:

***So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.*** *The Letter to James 2:17*

***For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead."*** *The Letter to James 2:26*

Now the question may be "what is a Christian's work?" A quick answer is that it involves our response to God's grace through Jesus Christ and how we follow the words, actions, and attitudes of

Jesus Christ in our relationships with all other people. To be more specific, though, Christian works means faithful worship to God, being good stewards of our resources, and continually seeking to grow in Christ.

During this past spring, I read a book published by Brethren Press: Beyond Our Means: How the Brethren Service Center dared To Embrace the World. It was written by two friends from my days at Bethany Seminary, R. Jan and Roma Jo Thompson. Reading the book brought back memories of time spend at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD sorting clothing for relief efforts, and visiting various programs housed there.

We can be proud of Heifer International, Church World Service/CROP, and SERRV begun by the Church of the Brethren and now ecumenical ministries supported by a multitude of Churches. They are a symbol of the Brethren belief of "being doers of the world."

And locally, Peters Creek is involved in many local programs of assistance – RAM House, Rescue Mission, and Second Harvest Food Bank. Members have gone on rebuilding trips through Brethren Disaster Ministries. Again, these symbolize the Brethren belief of doing good works for others.

And all that we do begins with our faithful worship and response to God. Worship and works go hand-in-hand. Our response to God's grace is to share the good news of grace through Jesus Christ in any way we can – through words and works and attitudes. God's grace calls us to be doers of the word after hearing the word. And the first step to doing the word is faithful attendance at worship, study, and fellowship times.

It would amaze us to see what God would do if every member of Peters Creek applied Christian faith to their lives.

## OUR AUGUST WORSHIPS



### August Worship Services

In August we will end our summer message series on "Christian Faith 101." As we have shared during the summer the important aspects and beliefs of the Christian faith, we have found that every belief of the Christian faith requires a response and/or an action from believers. And as we continue in August, this will still be true.

#### AUGUST 2:

SCRIPTURE: Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16

MESSAGE: "We are the CHURCH together"

#### AUGUST 9:

SCRIPTURE: Letter of James 5:13-18

MESSAGE: "Prayer power!"

#### AUGUST 16:

SCRIPTURE: Gospel of Matthew 28:16-20

MESSAGE: "A STORY to tell"

#### AUGUST 23:

SCRIPTURES: Psalm 34:15-22  
and Ephesians 6:10-20

MESSAGE: "The Other Side of the Mirror"  
Elayne Garrett, preaching

#### AUGUST 30: CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SCRIPTURE: Letter of James 2:14-26

MESSAGE: "FAITH is an active verb"

## OUR AUGUST 23 WORSHIP

On August 23, I will become an active listener in our worship experience, sitting in the seats where most of you sit. Elayne Garrett who became a member of Peters Creek earlier this year has completed 2 years at the Christian



Growth Institute. I have asked her to prepare the worship and message for August 23 as a part of her continuing process in the Christian Growth Institute and towards licensing as a set-apart minister in the Church of the Brethren. I welcome Elayne's sharing of her gifts with us. Pastor Jack

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY



### Bible Study

Wednesday Evening Bible Study will begin again on Wednesday, **August 5, 2009** at **7:30PM** in Pastor Jack's study. We will be doing a six-week study of "wisdom" passages in the Bible using the Good Ground resource entitled: "Heart Smart: Studies on Wisdom" in the Bible. The study scriptures are from the Book of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, the intertestamental book of Sirach, the Gospel of Matthew, and the Letter of James.

Any interested youth, young adults or older adults are welcome and invited to this study.

## COUNCIL MEETING

### AUGUST 16

Our congregation will meet in Church Council on Sunday, August 16, 2009. Following worship we invite you to share in a "Carry-in Dinner." Bring your favorite dishes to share or make a new dish to try on others.



After we have cleaned-up from the dinner, we will go directly into Council Meeting. Reports of the Board, Commissions, several committees and fellowship groups will be presented. Items of business will include a report on the on-going search for Director of Ministries with Children, Youth and Young Adults; and a report of the Plan of Organization Revision Committee.

Every active member of Peters Creek has voice and vote at Council Meetings. This is the place for discussion and decision. Be present to be part of the discussion and decision process.

The Women's Fellowship event held on **Saturday, July 18, 2009** for the seniors was a successful and memorable event.



We would like to thank everyone that was involved but would also like to say **"a Very Special Thank You"** for the following participants:

Adam Hylton, Sound Technician  
Leighton Casteel, Video  
Laura Smith, Photographer  
Shirley Goodman, Musician  
Charlene Lester, Musician  
Ted Spradling, Musician  
Wayne Carroll, Helper  
James Cox, Helper  
Vickie Wise, Decorations

**"A Very Special Thank You"** also needs to go to the following ladies that worked in the kitchen:

Sue Lawrence, Betty Kropff, Doris Epperly, Vickie Wise, Norma Cregger, Gwen Kropff, Sandra Carroll and Lorna Lowe.

May God bless each of you!

## THE BUSY BEES

It's memory sharing time again! Do you have some of grandma's dishes tucked away that you never use? Let us hear the story behind these hidden treasures. Join us on



Busy Bees

**Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM** for our memories and fun, and then we will enjoy a **potluck lunch at 11:30AM**. We will be celebrating birthdays with Lavene Hylton, Jean Frazier, Margaret Saul, Frances Marshall and Norma Williams.

### Pineapple Pudding Cake

1 box yellow cake mix  
3 eggs  
1 large can crushed pineapple (with juice)  
1 (1 oz.) box vanilla pudding mix (not instant)  
2 cups reduced-fat milk  
1 tub fat-free whipped topping  
1 cup shredded coconut

Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Pour cake batter into a 9 x 13 inch glass baking dish coated with cooking spray. Bake according to directions on package. After cake is done, immediately pierce holes in top of cake with a fork. Pour pineapple and juice over the top. Allow to cool. Prepare pudding according to package directions. Spread pudding over top of pineapple. Spread whipped topping over pudding. Top with shredded coconut and chill before serving.



### Fall Women's Bible Study Beth Moore

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren Fellowship Hall  
Starting Date: Sunday, September 13, 2009 (10-week study)

Time: Sundays from 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Once again, we are planning a Women's Bible study featuring Beth Moore. If the materials are available, we will be doing the Esther study. But this has not been verified yet. All women are invited to join us for great fellowship and fun.

For more details or if you want to attend, please contact Carol Plunkett at 362-2979 or Linda Pulz at 977-1384.



Don't forget to check out the website at [www.pccob.org](http://www.pccob.org) to view pictures from Graduate Sunday and VBS.

Chancel Choir Practice begins again on **Thursday, September 10 at 7:00PM**. If you would like to join the choir, please call Betty Lou Carter at 362-0912.



- 3 – Haley Hylton
- 4 – Frances Marshall, Todd Plunkett
- 5 – Wanda Caudell, Larry Pulz
- 9 – Missy Carter
- 10 – Pam Clark
- 11 – Rick Halverson
- 14 – Don Craft
- 15 – Mark Funderburke
- 17 – Ben Louthen, Dan Bayer
- 18 – Gwen Kropff
- 19 – Norma Williams
- 22 – Wesley Caldwell
- 25 – Richard Lester
- 26 – Thelma Long, Dee Chambers
- 27 – Josie Bruner
- 28 – Lorna Lowe
- 29 – Lydia Harrison, Peggy Ammermann, Enid Mau

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- 6 – Tim and Joyce Bailey
  - 7 – Jordan and Amy Mau
  - 8 – Ray and Melba Martin
  - 9 – Mark and Barbara Wright
  - 11 – Jim and Karen Fabrie
  - 17 – Ronnie and Robin Louthen
  - 21 – Judson and Virginia Bowles
  - 31 – David and Dianne Roberson

Please notify the church office if you wish to be included in or make corrections to the birthday and anniversary list.

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Ashton and Austin Baker, Royal Bond, Reggie Bowles, Don Craft, Nicole Cagle, Tim Clark, Michelle Gray, Matthew Hernandez, Gary and Cindy Hogman, Hazel Horn, Otha Huff, Dick and Carol Kelly, Don King, Nannie King, Larry Kirby, Charlie Lavender, Christopher Mau, Jim Myles, Connie Nichols, Olive Pauley, Lewis Peters, Robert Poff, Linda and Tommy Rhodes, Cathie Rollison, Jonathan Starkey, Chris Whisnant, Iva Whitson

**Please notify the church office if you would like to add or remove a name from the prayer list.**

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## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### Counters:

Willard Flora and John Montgomery

### Deacons:

Margaret Saul and Marie Smith

### Sound System:

Darrell Hungate

### Greeters:

9/06

9/13

9/20

9/27

### Ushers:

9/06

9/13

9/20

9/27

### Sunday School Nursery:

9/06

9/13

9/20

9/27

### Worship Nursery:

9/06

9/13

9/20

9/27

### Scripture Readers:

9/06

9/13

9/20

9/27

### Children's Story:

9/06

### Children's Church:

9/06

9/13

9/20

9/27



**Our Shut-ins**

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### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-IN MEMBERS:

Ida Bower, Judson and Virginia Bowles, Julia Conner, Katherine Hamblin, Anna Belle Plunkett, Clara Pruett, Katie Rhodes, Muriel Turner, Charlotte Wilmoth, Mary Yarbrough



**COME JOIN US!**

### The Promise of Good Things

A woman in a nursing home was sitting in a rocking chair listening to a preacher on television. During his sermon, the preacher's face filled the screen. Suddenly, he shouted, "Something good is going to happen to you!"

A nurse standing near the old woman heard her say, "Well, let it happen, Sonny!"

God promises good things to us all: "I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing" (Ezekiel 34:26, NRSV).

### To deepen your relationship with God, you should:

1. Read your Bible everyday to know Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Tell others about Christ.
4. Worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached.
5. As Christ's representative in a needy world, demonstrate your life by your love and concern for others.

**Thought:** "God loves you and wants you to experience peace and life—abundant and eternal." Billy Graham

### FAMILY FUN DAY AT THE HECKMAN'S HOUSE

Our **Family Fun Day** will be at Rose and Merle Heckman's house on **Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**. The time will be from **2:00PM until whenever**.

Please bring bathing suits and towels, lounge chairs, and a food dish and/or dessert and drinks. Everyone is invited! If you need directions, please contact Merle or Rose at 587-0644.



WHOEVER IS KIND  
TO THE **POOR**  
LEADS TO THE  
**LORD,**  
AND WILL BE  
**REPAID**  
IN FULL.  
PROVERBS 19:17, NRSV



### Month of August:

**August 5** - Busy Bees' Memory Sharing Time and Birthday Luncheon

**August 8** - Family Fun Day at Merle and Rose Heckman's House

**August 9** - Second Harvest Sunday

**August 16** - Deacon's Meeting (following worship service)

**August 16** - Church Council Meeting

**August 30** - Bread and Cup Communion (both worship services)

**August 30** - Recognition Sunday (during Sunday School)