

CONNEXION

A Monthly Newsletter
of

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren



"THEY REALLY LIKE JESUS !"

Former New York Yankee's catcher, Yogi Berra, is famous for many of his remarks. The one I want to quote now is "It's déjà vu all over again." And what reminded me of Yogi's words are some articles and discussions recently about the faith of young people in the United States. In reading and listening, I have the feeling that "It's déjà vu all over again" with the faith of high school, college, and younger adults.

When I graduated from seminary in 1970, the "Jesus People Movement" was just about at its acme. Young people in the 1960's and 1970's were dropping out of the "Church" to enter communes, create coffee house ministries, small study groups for Bible study and prayer, alternative expression of worship, and new means of being faithful to Jesus. They were focused on the words, actions, thoughts, and attitudes of Jesus as he lived among us. They weren't concerned about theological doctrines, or church organizations, or church buildings. They were seeking to know Jesus and feel the Holy Spirit moving them to witness and worship in their daily lives.

There is a new "Jesus Movement" among college students, some high school students, and younger adults today. Much like the movement of nearly 40 years ago, Bible study and prayer groups are multiplying on college campuses. Students are working with community agencies such as Habitat for Humanity, Church World Service, Second Harvest Food banks, and local food banks and pantries, meal programs, and disaster relief. They are making study-action trips to other countries during their summer vacations and break during the year. They want to be like Jesus in their words, their actions, their attitudes, and their thoughts. As one writer says of this new Jesus awakening, "They really like Jesus, but their still not sure about the Church!"

And I think that many of us, if we truly remember our young adult years, might have said the same thing then. We really liked Jesus, but we were ready to see changes in the church. We all knew those who flaunted their Christian faith. We all knew those who only came when convenient, and those who only came to Love

Feast after the deacon's visit. We all know those who were out "recreating" on Sunday morning with little time for worship and Sunday School. And we young people were all certain that we would make the Church better and not hold on to the all old traditions and ways of doing things.

So another generation of Church reformers, or maybe I should call them Faith reformers, is arising from campus Bible study and prayer groups. And with them are arising again, house churches, alternative worship sites, new songs of faith, and a return to the "REAL JESUS." (That's a term the new Jesus movement uses!)

Although the new Jesus People seem threatening to the Church, they are modern day prophets, in a sense, reminding the Church that we are "the body of Christ!" Our witness is to live the new life in Jesus. Our words, our actions, our attitudes, and our thoughts are to reflect those of Jesus, who we confess and proclaim as our Savior and Lord of our Lives.

And I think that the new Jesus movement might continue for some time. As I observe the children of our Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, they are excited to know the stories of Jesus. And as they continue to learn those stories, we will likely hear them say: "I really like Jesus!"

I truly hope that we all really like Jesus! He is our Savior. He is the Son of God. He is the one we vowed to follow when we were baptized. He is our example for living in the righteous way of God.

If we can all become "Jesus people," really liking Jesus, we might find our lives less filled with worry and anxiety. We might again find the excitement of loving God, loving one another, and serving the world in the name of Jesus.

If you really love Jesus, I urge you to read the stories of Jesus so that we may all know, understand, and practice the words, actions, attitudes, and thoughts of Jesus, the Christ, our Lord and Savior.

One of many who really like Jesus,

JULY WORSHIP EXPERIENCES



We will continue to focus on the basic beliefs of the Christian faith as we continue the series of messages on "Christian Faith 101." We can only be effective in sharing the good news of Jesus if we know the basics. Too often, we overlook the basics as they are revealed to us in the Bible. We tend to overlook the major themes of our faith and become embroiled in issues that are more minor to the Bible. By knowing the basics, we create unity of faith and purpose, and follow God's will more closely.

The scriptures and message titles for July are:

JULY 5:

Scripture: the Gospel of John 16:4b-15

Message: "The Spirit of Truth"

JULY 12:

Scripture: the Book of Genesis 1:26-31

Message: "A mirror image"

JULY 19:

Scripture: the Letter to the Colossians 3:5-17

Message: "To SIN is human"

JULY 26:

Scripture: the Letter to the Philippians 2:1-13

Message: "The Joy of FAITH"

The series will finish in August. And there is no final test. Or at least no final test until Judgment Day when we stand and answer for our lives before God!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY is on a summer break. We will begin a new six-week study using Good Ground study materials in August. Watch the Connexion and Sunday bulletins for the dates.

HOW SHALL WE BE KNOWN?

SEPTEMBER 11 & 12 CAMP BETHEL



The Virginia District Spiritual Development committee is sponsoring a retreat at Camp Bethel with the theme: "How Shall We Be Known?" The Retreat leaders are Dr. Jeff Bach, a noted Brethren historian and director of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown, and Dana Cassell, a current Brethren Volunteer Service worker.

The weekend will explore "the manner of their living," which is the answer given by an early Annual Meeting of the Brethren. And discussions will center on the Brethren ideal of "simple living" in our complex world of today.

Brochures will soon be available with costs and schedule. Put the dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

ANOTHER GRAD TO CELEBRATE!

CHRIS COSGROVE, son of John and Tracy Cosgrove, great grandson of Virgil Garst, graduated from Northside High School on June 9. Chris will continue to work at the Valley View Wall-Mart and take courses at Virginia Western College in the fall.



CWS KITS



The "Joyful Noise Offering" collected in June will be used to create "hygiene" and "school kits" for Church World Service, who distributes them around the world, from the Brethren Service Center at New Windsor, Maryland.

Hygiene kits are needed critically now, due to a number of natural disasters. When the items have been purchased, we will need help to assemble the kits. So look for a date – probably following worship in late July to help assemble the kits.

And if you would like to donate funds or items for the kits, you may still donate. A list of kit items are on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

And thanks for helping CWS to supply kits to those who find themselves in temporary need.

SENIORS, SENIORS, SENIORS



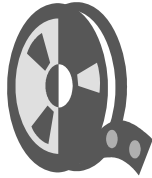
Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, July 18, 2009.** The Women's Fellowship will host an event at the church entitled **"Shining Senior Saints Fun Day."** All seniors

are invited to attend a luncheon and a fun event from **11:00a.m. – 1:30p.m.** Seniors, please wear something patriotic or your red, white and blue colors.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THIS MOST MEMORABLE EVENT!

SUMMER MOVIE DAY

We are going to have a "Movie Day" for the children and parents on **Tuesday, July 21st** at the Regal Grande Theater at Valley View. The movie will be **"Kung fu Panda."**



Please let us know how many plan to attend so we can provide popcorn and drinks for them. Please call the church office at 562-4346 to register. We will meet at the front outside the theater no later than 9:45AM. We have to go in as a group and the movie starts at 10:00AM.

The Children's Ministry

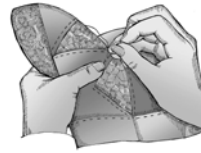
FIVE STEPS TO A FRIENDLIER CHURCH



1. Speak to the other person first. Don't wait for him or her to take the initiative.
2. If there is someone you don't know, introduce yourself to

him or her.

3. Be pleasant in your words and expressions. A great church cannot be built with frowns.
4. Invite newcomers to a worship service or to a church event and introduce them to other members.
5. Encourage people to participate in those church activities that interest them.



Busy Bees

On **Wednesday, August 5th**, we will be celebrating the summer birthdays: Lavene Hylton, Jean Frazier, Margaret Saul, Frances Marshall and Norma Williams, with a covered dish luncheon.

Mt. Olympus Punch

- 4 cups Cranberry Juice
- 2 cups Orange Juice
- 2 cups Apple Juice
- 2 cans (6 ounces each) Pineapple Juice
- 2 Liters Ginger Ale



Chill the juices and Ginger Ale. Just before serving, combine juices in a punch bowl. Stir in Ginger Ale.

Yield: 4 ½ quarts

A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Lord Jesus, we pray that you will somehow give us ears to hear, hearts to love and wills devoted to serve; that in the days to come this congregation may be known not for our glory but for thine alone - a congregation of people who know you; that this place may be an oasis, a place where people come to find out about you, where lives are straightened out and made whole, where people find the peace that passes understanding.

Give us, we pray, a heart to desire these things above all else. We pray through Jesus Christ. Amen.



Mark your calendars! Once again, our **Family Fun Night** will be held on **Saturday, August 8th** at **3:00PM** at the Heckman's Farm. Please join us for an evening of fun and great fellowship. Watch the Connexion and Sunday bulletins for more information.

- 1 – Charlene Lester, Lyndsey Casteel
- 5 – Marie Smith
- 7 – Christi Halverson, Jimmy Plunkett, Jeff Graffeo
- 10 – Amber Montgomery
- 11 – Jim Kropff
- 12 – Willard Flora
- 17 – Melissa Tuck
- 18 – Jeanette Cockram, Lee Linkous,
- 18 – Sophia Lugones
- 21 – Julia Conner
- 22 – Kelsey Casteel
- 25 – Betty Michales, Denise Ory
- 27 – Karen Fabrie, Margaret Saul, Gary Williams
- 30 – Sarah Lugones
- 31 – Ann Dyer, Cathy Keith



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- 1 – Richard and Charlene Lester
 - 1 – Olen and Lavene Hylton
 - 10 – Leon and Doris Epperly
 - 17 – Peter and Peggy Ammermann
 - 18 – Dean and Mary Mannon
 - 26 – George and Sandra Garst Hunter
 - 26 – Mark and Debbie Funderburke
 - 28 – Willard and Sylvia Flora



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

Ashton and Austin Baker, Zack Barnes, Royal Bond, Reggie Bowles, Nicole Cagle, Tim Clark, Michelle Gray, Shirley Goodman, 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, Jeanette Patterson, Lewis Peters, Sue Peters, Robert Poff, Linda and Tommy Rhodes, Cathie Rollison, Jonathan Starkey, Roger Stultz, Amanda Westmoreland, Chris Whisnant, Iva Whitson

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



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-IN MEMBERS:

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

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Counters:

Georgia Coffman, Margaret Saul

Deacons:

Doris Epperly, Richard Wright

Sound System:

Adam Hylton

Greeters:

- 7/05 Merle and Rose Heckman
- 7/12 John and Carolyn Montgomery
- 7/19 Pam and Ray Clark
- 7/26 Cathy and Joel Keith

Ushers:

- 7/05 Carter, Louthen, Cox, Montgomery
- 7/12 Clark, Graffeo, Mau, King
- 7/19 Boone, Walters, Wright, Wise
- 7/26 Kropff, Clark, Ammermann, Carter

Sunday School Nursery:

- 7/05 Sandi Broughman
- 7/12 Rick Halverson
- 7/19 Cathy Keith
- 7/26 Warren and Denise Ory

Worship Nursery:

- 7/05 Rose Heckman
- 7/12 Linda Pulz
- 7/19 Kathy Otey
- 7/26 Autumn Quinn and Ben Louthen

Scripture Readers:

- 7/05 Richard Wright
- 7/12 Garrett Louthen
- 7/19 Warren Ory
- 7/26 Phillip Ammermann

Children's Story:

- 7/05 Kathy Otey

Children's Church:

- 7/05 Christa Hylton and Glenna Hungate
- 7/12 Christa Hylton and Glenna Hungate
- 7/19 Linda Pulz and Vickie Wise
- 7/26 Linda Pulz and Vickie Wise



Don't forget to check out the website at www.pccob.org to see photo albums of recent events or to send a birthday email to members of the congregation.



Forgive the Inexcusable

To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you. This is hard. It is perhaps not so hard to forgive a single injury. But to forgive the incessant provocations of daily life - to keep on forgiving the bossy mother-in-law, the bullying husband, the nagging wife, the selfish daughter, the deceitful son - how can we do it? Only, I think, by remembering where we stand, by meaning our words when we say in our prayers each night, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We are offered forgiveness on no other terms. To refuse it means to refuse God's mercy for ourselves. There is no hint of exceptions and God means what He says.

-C.S. Lewis



Peters Creek Church of the Brethren Outline for Daily Devotional For 2010

The Church Board has approved a church devotional to be prepared for the 2010 calendar year. We are requesting each member of the Peters Creek Church to write a devotional to be used in 2010. Each day in 2010 you can read a devotional written by a member of Peters Creek.



Daily Devotional

- Please select a scripture passage for the day
- Please select one scripture verse
- The devotional should be 100 to 175 words

The devotional can be from personal experiences and does not need to be anything dramatic. Just your walk with God. Sharing how being a Christian has enriched your life. It can be from today's experiences or years ago. You may want to share how someone has influenced your life.

Should include a one or two sentence prayer.
Prayer Focus: What would you like to be lifted up in prayer this day?

There are 365 days and we have 214 members at Peters Creek. It would be greatly appreciated if you would write more than one devotional. Everyone is invited to be a part from kindergarten to 100.

Please turn your devotional in to Cathy Keith, Laura Smith, Lorna Lowe, Rose Heckman or Merle Heckman.

We would like to have your devotional by September 1, 2009.

Thank you very much.

It should be a fun time reading these devotionals in 2010.



Dick Miley has donated a signed print by renowned Virginia artist P. Buckley Moss to Peters Creek Church. Entitled "A Child Is Born," the artwork is a

beautiful addition to the fellowship hall. Several years ago he donated a signed Moss print entitled, "The Quilting Grannies," in memory and in honor of Miller and Berta Garst and Harold and Kathleen Craun. Thanks, Dick, for your generosity.

All articles for the **August CONNEXION** should be to the church office by **Wednesday, July 15th**.



See you next



Join us for Sunday School and the worship service of your choice. Bring a friend!

(Independence Day) We celebrate each year at this time the freedom and the privileges we have in this great land. God has indeed blessed America.

The Church Office will be closed on **Friday, July 3** in observance of Independence Day.