

CONNEXION

A Monthly Newsletter
of

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren



IT'S VACATION TIME!

It's almost summer! -- though it was 39 degrees this morning when I awakened. We still think of summer as being a time to take vacations. Yet, schools have vacation periods at various times of the year. And many people plan vacations in the winter to get away from the cold of Virginia. No longer do most businesses close down so that every employee is on vacation at the same time.

I looked up the meaning of "**vacation**" in my Webster's dictionary. There are four meanings of the word listed there. Meanings 3 and 4 are apropos here.

3. freedom from any activity; a rest; a respite; an intermission.

4. a period of rest and freedom from work, study, etc.; a time of recreation"

Now it seems to me that some people are on vacation from church most of the year. Maybe they consider it a vacation when they do show up at worship, especially in light of the meanings above. And some people try to take a vacation from God, unless they really need God to do something for them. God is ever-present. Often it is God's people who are not present with God or for God. It is not God who is absent. It is us who are too often absent. We do not practice our faith, or learn our faith, or share our faith. We have gone on vacation from God and haven't decided when the vacation will end.

A pastor drove by a church whose sign said: "**Don't forget to take God on vacation!**" In a blog the pastor asked 5 questions:

1. Does God need a vacation? Granted, God did take Saturday off after creating the entire universe, plus other stuff we can't see. But, has He really been that busy lately?"

2. How do you get God to go on vacation with you? Do you just ask Him -- "*Wanna go see Grandma and Grandpa with us?*" And does He ride shotgun, or in the back with the kids?

3. Why is it my job to take God on vacation? Doesn't He have some friends He can hang out with?

4. Who's in charge while God is away? I'm sure we have plenty of volunteers for Lord of the Universe; but, if God does go on vacation who's minding the store?

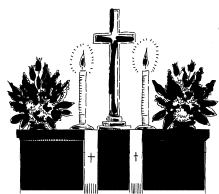
5. Is there an emergency contact number where God can be reached? Or do we try Gabriel or somebody? What if nuclear war breaks out, does God come back early?

This tongue-in-cheek blog makes us think, doesn't it? We expect God to be ever-present with us, even when we don't want to be ever-present with God.

Vacations are good. They provide a Sabbath -- a rest from the usual. They can even give us time to enjoy what God has given to us to enjoy. And God knows we need the rest, because we are a restless, overscheduled people. We fill time without any break. Unfortunately, we also over schedule our vacation and Sabbath times. But that's part of our human dilemma.

I hope you will find time for vacations! And don't worry, God will be with you on vacation, for God never allows us to go where God will not be with us. So enjoy your vacation. Then come home to Peters Creek renewed and refreshed and ready to do what God calls you (us) to do!

JUNE WORSHIP EXPERIENCES



Worship Schedule

During June we honor our graduates and our fathers, as we also honor God in our worship experiences. The overall theme for messages in the summer of 2009 is "Christian Faith 101." We will be investigating the basic beliefs of Christianity so that we are able to share the Good News more effectively and be in dialog with other Christians as we seek to all be one in Christ. This will be a "refresher course" for some, and an "introductory course" for others.

JUNE 7: GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Scripture: Exodus 3:7-15

Message: "The Great I AM"

JUNE 14:

Scripture: the 2nd Letter to Timothy 3:10-4:5

Message: "The original book for Dummies"

JUNE 21: FATHER'S DAY

Scripture: the Gospel of Luke 2:25-35

Message: "They call him Jesus!"

JUNE 28: ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUNDAY

Former Pastor Albert Sauls will be the guest preacher, while Pastor Jack and Lorna are at the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in San Diego, CA.

The summer series on "Christian Faith 101" will continue in July and August. I will be planning some interactive and hands-on activities during these sermons. I want us to learn to share our faith and to feel free in sharing our faith. We will learn the basics in order to grow out of our fear of evangelism and into fuller discipleship and apostleship with Jesus Christ.

"JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING"

JUNE 14

We will receive the "Joyful Noise" offering on Sunday, June 14. This offering will be used to create Hygiene and School Kits for Church World Service, whose supply of these kits is critically low.



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



We share our congratulations with graduates and their families who are related to Peters Creek. We are proud of their accomplishments and offer our encouragement and prayers for their future schooling and/or employment.

Chesley Ammermann, daughter of Phillip and Sarah Ammermann, graduates from William Byrd High School. Chesley will be a freshman at Hollins University in the fall of 2009.

Christopher Atkins, son of Mike and April Atkins, grandson of Earl and Wanda Atkins, graduates from Northside High School. Chris will be a freshman at Virginia Western College in the fall of 2009.

Philip Bailey, son of Tim and Joyce Bailey, grandson of Aubrey and Margaret Plunkett, graduates from Northside High School. Philip will attend Hampden-Sydney College as a Patrick Henry Scholar in the fall of 2009.

Alicia Lawrence, daughter of Tony and Alice Lawrence, granddaughter of Sue Lawrence, graduates from Monacan High School, Richmond, VA. Alicia will attend Old Dominion University and pursue a degree in Elementary Education.

Katherine Mau, daughter of Mike and Enid Mau, graduates from Northside High School. Katherine will enter the School of Engineering at Virginia Tech in the fall of 2009.

Autumn Quinn, daughter of Mary Maxey, graduates from Northside High School. Autumn will attend Virginia Western College in the fall seeking an Associate Degree in Social Sciences, and then transfer to a four-year college to earn a degree in psychology.

Rachel Linkous, daughter of Lee and Sharon Linkous, has earned the Bachelor of Arts degree with the triple majors of Theatre, Psychology, and History from Emory and Henry College. Future plans are not definite.

Brad Argabright, son of David and Sharon Argabright and grandson of Georgia Coffman, received his Master of Business Administration degree from Dallas Baptist University in Texas. He is employed by FedEx Corporate office in Plano TX.



The Women's Fellowship Circle recently helped the Men's Fellowship by selling hot dogs at the Yard Sale that was held on April 25, 2009. Proceeds made by the women will go to Second Harvest Food Bank.

A Pastor's luncheon was held at the church on May 3, 2009 and the Women's Fellowship prepared and served the meal.

The Women's Fellowship hosted a baby shower for Cathy and Joel Keith on May 16, 2009 at the church. For those that participated in any way, we say **"Thanks to You."**

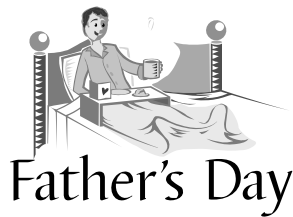
As the months seem to come and go in 2009, our Fellowship Circle has had and will have several upcoming projects/events for the year. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for an exciting event that our women will host for the month of July.

ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH: We extend a warm welcome to any of you that would like to be a member of our Fellowship Circle. We are Christian women that enjoy gathering together to help others by ways of projects and events as well as many more things that we do throughout the year to PLEASE OUR LORD! We open up to you a warm welcome to join us.

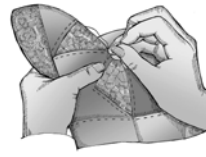
Mark your calendars! Please join us for **Season Seniors** on **Saturday, July 18th**. It will be a patriotic day filled with games, music, good food and great fellowship. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more information.

What is a father?

Being of the male species does not make a man a father, for a dad is a special blend of hero, disciplinarian, a friend, someone to look up to, someone to model ... someone with a touch of the "mother" in him, someone who is big enough to say, "The fault was mine" ... someone who lives the kind of life that makes you want to say, "I, too, shall follow him!"



Scripture: "He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)" 1 Timothy 3:4-5



Busy Bees

On **Wednesday, June 3rd**, the Busy Bees are invited to Pete and Chris Bain's country home for lunch, if weather is permitting.

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.

Toasted Pecan-and-Broccoli Salad

- 1/3 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup light mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. cider vinegar
- 1 1/2 lb. fresh broccoli florets, chopped*
- 1/4 cup chopped red onion
- 1/3 cups sweetened dried cranberries or raisins
- 4 cooked reduced-fat bacon slices, crumbled

1. Place chopped pecans in a single layer in a shallow pan.
2. Bake at 350 degrees for 6 to 8 minutes or until lightly toasted, stirring occasionally.
3. Stir together mayonnaise, sugar and vinegar in a large bowl; add broccoli, onion, and cranberries, gently tossing to coat. Cover and chill 2 hours. Sprinkle with bacon and pecans just before serving. *2 (12 oz.) packages fresh broccoli slaw may be substituted.

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



Once again, I will be participating in the American Cancer Society **"Relay for Life"** event at Salem High School on **June 19, 2009**. If you would like to make a donation, you may write a check made payable to The American Cancer Society and forward to me for processing. Donations may also be made by going to <http://www.salemrelayforlife.org> then click on Donate and search by participant (Charlene Lester).

Any contribution amount will be appreciated in helping to eradicate this disease. Thank you in advance for your support.

Charlene Lester

- 1 – Muriel Turner
- 4 – Todd Clingenpeel, Rachel Linkous
- 5 – George Hunter
- 7 – Joyce Bailey, Carolyn Montgomery
- 8 – Raymond Clark
- 17 – Aubrey Plunkett
- 19 – Kathy Otey, Pauline Hungate
- 21 – Aundria Wilson
- 24 – Glenna Hungate
- 25 – Clara Pruet
- 27 – Philip Casteel, Spencer Halverson
- 30 – Lavene Hylton



- 1 – Elmer and Margie Hash
- 6 – Jeff and Melanie Graffeo
- 6 – Raymond and Pam Clark
- 11 – Darrell and Glenna Hungate
- 16 – Randy and Cynthia Compton
- 27 – Gregg and Wanda Flora



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



- Lynn Akers, Ashton and Austin Baker, Reggie Bowles, Shirley Goodman, Robin Hall, Hazel Horn, Otha Huff, Dick and Carol Kelly, Nannie King, Christopher Mau, Jim Myles, Connie Nichols, Olive Pauley, Jeanette Patterson, Lewis Peters, 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.

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:

Richard Wright

Deacons:

Merle and Rose Heckman

Sound System:

Darrell Hungate

Greeters:

- 6/07 Joel and Cathy Keith
- 6/14 Jim and Gwen Kropff
- 6/21 Rick Halverson and Missy Carter
- 6/28 Olen and Lavene Hylton

Ushers:

- 6/07 Ammermann, Carter, Louthen, Cox
- 6/14 Clark, Montgomery, Graffeo, Mau
- 6/21 King, Boone, Walters, Wright
- 6/28 Wise, Kropff, Clark, Ammermann

Sunday School Nursery:

- 6/07 Rick Halverson
- 6/14 Cathy Keith
- 6/21 Warren and Denise Ory
- 6/28 Jeff Graffeo

Worship Nursery:

- 6/07 Rose Heckman
- 6/14 Linda Pulz
- 6/21 Kathy Otey
- 6/28 Autumn Quinn and Ben Louthen

Scripture Readers:

- 6/07 Merle Heckman
- 6/14 Charlene Lester
- 6/21 Pam Clark
- 6/28 Cathy Keith

Children's Story:

- 6/07 Melanie Graffeo

Children's Church:

- 6/07 Warren and Denise Ory
- 6/14 Enid and Katherine Mau
- 6/21 Children's Church Cancelled (Father's Day)
- 6/28 Enid and Katherine Mau



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.

Elmer and Margie Hash will be celebrating their 63rd Wedding Anniversary on June 1st.





Mark your calendars! **VBS** will be **June 21st** through **June 26th** from **6:30PM** to **8:30PM**. The theme will be **CAMP E.D.G.E.:** Experience + Discover God Everywhere! **CAMP E.D.G.E.** VBS is not your typical stroll through the woods. It's an action-packed, adrenaline-filled expedition

that teaches kids their strength comes from God. Through rockin' contemporary music, larger-than-life recreation games, mind-boggling science activities, extreme sports videos, and cool, challenging crafts, you'll show kids how to live on the E.D.G.E. in their faith. Please join us and invite a friend.



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.

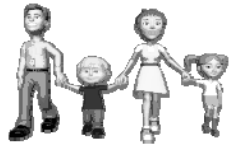
There are 365 days and we have 214 members at Peters Creek. It would be greatly appreciated if you would write more than one devotional. Everyone is invited to be a part from kindergarten to 100.

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 fund time reading these devotionals in 2010.



What is a Christian family?

A **CHRISTIAN FAMILY** is one in which parents so live the Christian life, and practice the presence of God that children come to accept God as the greatest reality of life.

A **CHRISTIAN FAMILY** is one in which each member is accepted and respected as a person having sacred worth.

A **CHRISTIAN FAMILY** is one that accepts the responsibility of worship and instruction to the end of developing the spiritual life of each person.

A **CHRISTIAN FAMILY** is one that manifests a faith in God, observes daily prayer and grace at meals.

A **CHRISTIAN FAMILY** is one that is committed to behavior in keeping with Christian ideals for family relations, community life, and national and world citizenship.

Always

God will always forgive us,
No matter how often we ask.
God will always empower us
With strength for whatever the task.
God will never forsake us,
If we stumble or lose our way.
God always is loving us dearly,
In a glorious and wonderful way!
—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems