

# CONNEXION

A Monthly Newsletter  
of

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren



## HARD TIMES

Many of the periodicals I read and many items I peruse on the internet religious sites I view are focusing on the hard times we are experiencing, not just in the United States, but around the world. It is not just the economy of the US that has fallen on hard times. The economy of the entire world is in hard times. Investors in the US now look at the stock markets in the Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and China before the US stock markets open. News of production problems in Europe and Asia and Africa and news of crop failures in Central and South America effect how the economy of the US will fare. We are now living in a world economy, not simply a US economy.

I was conversing with a friend about the economic crisis and he mentioned the recessions of the 1970's and 1990's. Many of us remember them. Yet, the hard times we are facing today are more severe. Some economists say that the economy of today is worse than the economy that caused the stock market crash in 1929. Since I wasn't born until 1944, my only knowledge of the 1929 stock market crash comes through recollections of my parents and others who lives through the crash, as well as accounts found in historical writings.

There are striking differences in the current economic crisis and those that have preceded it in the United States. In every economic crisis before people were willing to make sacrifices, salaries and wages were cut to help the economy. Prices dropped to help the economy. People came together to do what they could to help one another through the crises – rent parties, neighborhood gardens, church soup kitchens, and food pantries.

I could list statistics from RAM House, Rescue Mission, and 2nd Harvest Food Bank that indicate the gravity of the economic crisis in the Roanoke-Salem area and all of Southwest Virginia. But we are already helping these ministry partners through our gifts and our volunteer hours. So let me turn to a

final difference between the current economic crisis and previous economic crises.

In previous economic crises, people turned to God. They came to worship to pray together. They came for prayer and study groups to find wisdom and to meet their emotional and spiritual needs so that they could find hope for their economic needs. No such turning to God has occurred as yet in the current economic crisis. Worship attendance is going down. Few people seek the counsel of the Bible or the spiritual renewal from worship and prayer. The hopeless do not seek hope from God and the Church. Of course, many are angry because too many preachers have preached a "theology of prosperity" that says that having faith in God will make you wealthy. And if you're not wealthy, it's because of a lack of faith. To me, that's not biblical, or at least it is a misinterpretation of the Bible.

Our Lord Jesus told the crowds on the mountainside"

**"Do not worry, saying 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' . . . indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."**

**The Gospel of Matthew 6:31-33**

God knows the times are hard. God wants to be our help and strength in these times. We can find excuses for not attending worship and Bible study. It's time to find an excuse to attend worship, Church School, Bible study and prayer groups.

Psalms 46:1 tells us who to turn to in hard times:

**GOD is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.**



## MAY WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES!

### WORSHIP SERVICES

Our worships in May celebrate many special members and ages in our Church. And May ends with the Celebration of Pentecost on May 31, 2009. As you participate in worship in May, you will have the opportunity to celebrate the youth, the mother's and the older generations of Peters Creek, and then the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of all generations at Peters Creek. Check out these special worship plans.

### MAY 3: NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY

THEME: "STANDING ON HOLY GROUND"

WORSHIP LED BY THE YOUTH

MESSAGE BY: BLAKE ORY

### MAY 10: MOTHER'S DAY

SCRIPTURE: 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 1:9-18

MESSAGE: "A Mother's Promise!"

### MAY 17: ALL GENERATIONS SUNDAY

SCRIPTURE: PSALM 71:17-21

MESSAGE: "A WISELY EXPERIENCED GENERATION"

### MAY 24: MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY

PASTOR JACK ON VACATION.

WE WILL HAVE A GUEST PREACHER.

### MAY 31: DAY OF PENTECOST/ BREAD AND CUP COMMUNION

SCRIPTURE: THE PROPHECY OF JOEL 2:23-29

MESSAGE: "WHEN THE SPIRIT . . ."

We will include the names of graduates connected to Peters Creek in the **June CONNEXION**. Please contact the church office with the names and information about our graduates. This includes high school, college, post-college degrees, and certification programs. Also, please include information about future plans and or/employment.

## SPRING COUNCIL

### MAY 17



Our Spring Council Meeting will be held following worship and a carry-in dinner on Sunday, May 17. There are several important reports to be shared and a proposal from the Trustees regarding the parking lot.

We hope you will share in the Carry-in Dinner by bringing a dish or two to share. Our carry-ins always provide new foods to enjoy and more than enough food for all.

And please stay for the Council Meeting. Every member of Peters Creek has voice and vote in our Council Meetings. Your discussion, questions, and votes are vital to the ministry and mission of Peters Creek Church!



## BLESS MY SOLE

The Rescue Mission has begun a new and unique ministry called "**Bless My Sole.**" On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month beginning in May, volunteers are invited to come to the Rescue Mission to wash the feet of the guests of Rescue Mission. The time period is 5:00 – 7:30PM. Persons are needed to be "Andrew's Greeters," "Martha's Runners," "Peter's Washers," and "Luke's Trimmers." Musicians to play soft music during this time are also Littlefield at 777-7651.

For more information, look at the bulletin insert on May 10, or pick one up at the church later.

## SECOND SUNDAY FOR SECOND HARVEST

### MAY 10



Why not honor your mother by coming to worship on Mother's Day, May 10 and giving an offering or food or money for 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Bank? We give so that others might live.



The Women's Fellowship had a successful 2009 Easter egg making event. Once again, we would like to say a gracious "Thank You" to all that contributed in any way for the egg making and selling.

A Spring District Women's Rally was held on April 16, 2009 at Oak Grove Church. Several members of the Women's Fellowship attended.

The Women's Fellowship will be serving the noon dinner for the Virlina District Ministry and Mission Day which will be held at Peters Creek on **Saturday, May 2, 2009.**

Our Women's Fellowship discussed and voted on contributing some of our funds to several needed groups. We gave \$100 contribution towards the MS Walk. A \$100 contribution was given to the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, for Kelly Otey. Additional funds have been and will be contributed to projects and events throughout this year.

We, the Women's Fellowship would like to extend a WELCOME to anyone interested in joining us at our monthly meetings and/or participating in any way with the activities and projects throughout the year. We are Christian Women having great fellowship together in the Lord's presence wherever that may be.

The **Family Fun Night** will take place **Sunday, May 3, from 5:00PM – 7:00PM.** We will be having a cook out. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and all the fixings will be provided by the Nurture Commission.



We ask that you bring a side item, drinks, or a dessert. It will be a great time for fellowship and fun with games, devotions, and good food. Hope to see you there!

The church office will be closed on **Monday, May 25th** in observance of Memorial Day.

### Busy Bees...

We wish Mary Crowder a fond good-bye as she moves to Augusta, Georgia with her daughter. Mary served as president of our circle and sewed many quilt tops for our relief work. Thanks Mary. Also, thanks goes to Margie Hash and Mae Honaker for the quilt tops they made. Margie does the hemming of the comforts.



### Busy Bees

New officers for the coming year will be Lucile Weeks, president, Norma Williams, vice president and Margaret Saul, secretary.

Lucille will make the quilt square for the Annual Conference Quilt.

We will celebrate birthdays with Lucile Weeks and Pastor Jack at our luncheon on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Dump Cake



- 1 can Cherry Pie Filling
- 1 (16 oz.) can crushed Pineapple
- 1 small can coconut
- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix
- 2 sticks margarine
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Layer ingredients in a 9 x 13 pan in order listed above. Cut margarine in small pieces over cake mix and add nuts. Bake covered with aluminum foil at 375 degree oven for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake 15 more minutes to brown. (You can turn on broil for 2 minutes to start browning). Serve with ice cream, Cool Whip or as is. Any fruit pie filling can be used.

Norma Williams

All articles for the **June CONNEXION** should be to the church office by **Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.**



**Thought:** Where is God calling you to serve?

- 1 – Nora Epperly
- 3 – Lucile Weeks
- 6 – Jack Lowe, Laura Clingenpeel
- 10 – Mark Wright, Rebecca Rhodes
- 12 – Amy Mau
- 14 – Sharon Schmitt
- 16 – Leighton Casteel, Hanna Hylton
- 18 – Jewell Tyree
- 22 – Angela Bias, Gary Atkins
- 25 – Doris Epperly, Jessica Copeland
- 28 – Jared Jones
- 29 – Danny Otey
- 30 – Anna Belle Plunkett



## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### Counters:

Betty Lou Carter & Lavene Hylton

### Deacons:

Ray & Pam Clark

### Sound System:

Darrell Hungate

### Greeters:

5/03 Rick Halverson & Missy Carter

5/10 Olen & Lavene Hylton

5/17 Merle & Rose Heckman

5/24 John & Carolyn Montgomery

5/31 Ray & Pam Clark

### Ushers:

5/03 Clark, Boone, Walters, Wise

5/10 Wright, Kropff, Ammerman, Carter

5/17 Louthen, Cox, Montgomery, Clark

5/24 Graffeo, Mau, King, Boone

5/31 Walters, Wise, Wright, Kropff

### Sunday School Nursery:

5/03 Rick Halverson

5/10 Cathy Keith

5/17 Warren & Denise Ory

5/24 Jeff Graffeo

5/31 Sandi Broughman

### Worship Nursery:

5/03 Sandi Broughman

5/10 Linda Pulz

5/17 Kathy Otey

5/24 Ben Louthen & Autumn Quinn

5/31 Cathy Keith

### Scripture Readers:

5/03 Katherine Mau

5/10 Kathy Otey

5/17 Elayne Garrett

5/24 Lorna Lowe

5/31 Sue Lawrence

### Children's Story:

5/3 Katherine Mau

### Children's Church:

5/03 Robin Louthen & Autumn Quinn

5/10 Children's Church Cancelled (Mother's Day)

5/17 Pam Clark & Lorna Lowe

5/24 Pam Clark & Lorna Lowe

5/31 Warren & Denise Ory



## MAY Anniversaries

- 3 – Aubrey & Margaret Plunkett
- 3 – Rick & Christi Halverson
- 18 – JR & Susan Lugones
- 21- – Wes Boone & Debbie Jones
- 23 – Merle & Rose Heckman

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, 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 Pulz, Linda and Tommy Rhodes, Cathie Rollison, Laurie and Lilah Rowsey, 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 Pruett, Katie Rhodes, Muriel Turner, Charlotte Wilmoth, Mary Yarbrough



Don't forget to check out the website at [www.pccob.org](http://www.pccob.org) to see photo albums of recent events or to send a birthday email to members of the congregation.

## Memorial Day

Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend. It's now the unofficial start of summer, rather than a day of tribute to the departed it was originally meant to be.

Even if we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it's important to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones — especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America's liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, "Thank you, Father, for these special lives, for sacrifices made and for friendships we have shared."

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### Super Mom

Mom, you're a wonderful mother,  
So gentle, yet so strong.  
The many ways you show you care  
Always make me feel I belong.  
You're patient when I'm foolish;  
You give guidance when I ask;  
It seems you can do most anything;  
You're the master of every task.  
You're a dependable source of comfort;  
You're my cushion when I fall.  
You help in times of trouble;  
You support me whenever I call.  
I love you more than you know;  
You have my total respect.  
If I had my choice of mothers,  
You'd be the one I'd select!

*By Joanna Fuchs*

***"I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me."*** Philippians 4:13



Mark your calendars! **VBS** will be **June 21<sup>st</sup>** through **June 26<sup>th</sup>** 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.

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## IT'S A GIRL

You are invited to  
a baby shower for  
Joel and Cathy  
Keith to celebrate the  
arrival of their soon to be baby  
girl Briana



The shower will be held on  
Saturday, May 16, 2009  
from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM



at Peters Creek  
Church of the Brethren  
In the Fellowship Hall

Given by the Women's  
Fellowship

Cathy is registered at Target,  
Toys-R-Us and Babies R Us  
(online)

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