

CONNEXION

A Monthly Newsletter
of

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren



Thanksgiving

2009

APPRECIATE IT!

How many times have you said to someone this past week: "I appreciate it!"? I know that we all use this phrase as a form of thanks. I am not certain what the difference is between saying "Thank you" and "I appreciate it." I know for myself that saying "I appreciate it" has a greater meaning than saying "Thank you." To me, when I say "I appreciate it," there is an acknowledgment that someone has done something for me that took extra time, extra thought, or extra effort. Also when I say "I appreciate it," I am saying that you are important to me, more important than just being courteous by saying "Thank you."

And in this text-messaging world where a whole new language of abbreviations has arisen, I notice more than ever how we often shorten what we say. So, instead of saying "I appreciate it," I shorten it, like most of you to simply "Appreciate it" or "Appreciate you."

And as I thought about it more, there is something about saying "Appreciate it" that we might learn. In so many ways, we are not an appreciative people. We don't say "Thank you" or "I appreciate it." We expect service from people, and don't always thank them. We have the idea that it is someone's job to do certain things for us, and don't always say "Thank you." We often don't truly appreciate or thank our spouses, our children, our friends for all that they do for us.

Let me ask you, when was the last time you thanked someone for preparing your meal? When was the last time you thanked someone for assisting you with purchases at the grocery or mall? When was the last time you thanked your parents for all that they do and did for you? When was the last time you thanked your children for the love they show you? I trust that these have made you think about how you appreciate others.

And one final question: When was the last time you said "Thank You, God" or "I appreciate all you've done God?"

We often forget that God made everything for us. We think that we deserve everything that we've got because we are entitled to it, we have worked for it, we have paid for it. We don't really appreciate God anymore, do we? All God's wants is for us to **appreciate it!**

Pastor and writer Max Lucado wrote in his book The Great House of God:

*Next time a sunrise steals your breath
or a meadow of flowers leaves you speechless,
remain that way.*

Say nothing and listen as heaven whispers.

Do you like it?

"I did it just for you."

Do we deserve all that God has done for us? Not really. But God loves us and gives us all things to enjoy. And all God asks is that we love him, we love one another, and we serve all God's people in the world. When we do this, God will know we appreciate him. God will know that we appreciate all He has done for us.

I invite you to show God that you **appreciate it**, by every Sunday attendance at worship, participating in the ministries and mission of Peters Creek Church, and at the very least praying for all God's people around the world.

May you have a Blessed Thanksgiving Season and Day. And may God know that you **appreciate it!**

WORSHIP WITH THANKSGIVING IN NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 22, 2009



In November and December, we celebrate three special seasons of the Church Year. In addition to the Sunday morning worship experiences listed below, there are special worship and celebration experiences planned. Check the November and December issues of *CONNEXION* for these special worships, and for the other events of Advent and Christmas.

NOVEMBER 1: (continuing "What God requires")

Scripture: the Second Letter to the Corinthians 9:1-8

Message: "Cheerful giving"

NOVEMBER 8:

Scripture: the Prophecy of Amos 5:21-24
the Prophecy of Micah 6:6-8

Message: "More than money"

NOVEMBER 15:

Our worship will be led by students
from Bridgewater College

NOVEMBER 22: A SUNDAY OF THANKSGIVING AND REDEDICATION

Scripture: the Book of First Kings 8:46-53

Message: "If they sing against you . . ."

NOVEMBER 29: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Our Advent/Christmas Theme is
"The Mystery and Majesty of Christmas."**

Scripture: the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-11

Message: "the Symbols"

COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 15, 2009



Following worship and a Spaghetti Dinner served by the Youth on Sunday, November 15, 2009, we will meet in Council Meeting. At this Council, we will be electing persons to serve in various offices and passing a budget for 2010. Your voice and vote are very important at our Council Meetings.

A DAY OF THANKSGIVING AND REDEDICATION

God has blessed Peters Creek richly even in the midst of a global economic crisis. We have made significant improvements to our parking lot and to our landscape. Katherine Mau's Girl Scout Gold Award project added another finished room upstairs in the Education Building. We have received many new members during the year. And our giving for budget and outreach ministries has increased. So, it's time to celebrate and give thanks.



Sunday, November 22, we will celebrate and give thanks during our Morning Worships. We will also be rededicating our properties and facilities. A special part of the worship will be a rededication of the Stained Glass Window first given by the Willing Worker's Class.

This will also be a time for rededicating our lives to the mission and ministry of God as shown by Jesus Christ our Lord.

And with the early evening Community Thanksgiving Worship at Peters Creek, we have much for which to be thankful.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 - 4:30 PM



It's not a misprint or a mistake! Several local pastors met for lunch to plan the 2009 Community Thanksgiving Worship for the Peters Creek area. Hearing concerns and realizing diminishing attendance on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day, we decided to move to the Sunday before Thanksgiving. And we set it for an earlier time – 4:30 PM – so that older folk who don't drive at night might come as well as families with school-aged children.

Peters Creek will be the host church – a chance for us to show hospitality to our Christian sisters and brothers. Following the worship, we will have a time of fellowship. We would appreciate donations of cookies, brownies, and tea breads.

We trust you will come to give thanks to our Lord God for the steadfast love and bountiful harvests that God gives to us!



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

JUST A REMINDER!!

**The Holiday Bazaar will be held on
Saturday, November 7, 2009
8:00AM to 2:00PM
at
Peters Creek Church of the Brethren**

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AND
ENJOY BREAKFAST, LUNCH
AND THE BAZAAR**

**THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**



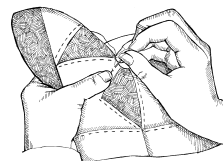
**RITE AND ORDINANCE OF
BAPTISM
Sunday, November 1**

We have one person who has asked to be baptized by the Church of the Brethren Rite and Ordinance of Baptism. The baptism will be on November 1 during the Morning Worship. If there are others who wish to be baptized, please contact Pastor Jack immediately.

**VIRLINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE
November 13-14, 2009**

The Virlina District Conference will be held on Friday evening and all-day **Saturday, November 13-14, 2009.** This year's Conference will be held at Green Ridge Baptist Church and Peters Creek. The worship services and business sessions will be at Green Ridge Baptist. The District Ministers and Spouses Banquet will be at Peters Creek on Friday evening at 5:00PM. The District Senior High's will be using Peters Creek for their activities and an overnight sleep-in on Friday and Saturday. On Saturday morning, the Senior High's will be joined by the District Junior High's for worship and then both groups will leave for service projects.

We are glad to be the "co-hosts" of this year's district conference and to share our facilities with our Brethren sisters, brothers and youth.



QUILTING GROUP

THE BUSY BEES

Thanks to those who donated clothing to the Salvation Army Clothing Drive.

Our next birthday lunch will be held on November 4th. We will be celebrating Chris Bain's birthday.

Because of Thanksgiving being on Thursday, we will not quilt on November 25th.

FANTASY FUDGE

- 3 cups sugar
- ¾ cup (1 ½ sticks butter)
- 1 small can (5 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 – 12 oz. bag chocolate chips
- 1 – 7 oz. jar marshmallow cream
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup nuts chopped



Heat sugar, butter and milk to full rolling boil in a 3 qt. heavy sauce pan on medium heat, stirring constantly to prevent scorching, about 5 minutes or until candy thermometer reaches 234 degrees. Remove from heat, stir in chocolate chips and marshmallow cream until melted. Stir in vanilla and nuts. Spread immediately in a buttered 13 x 9 inch baking dish. Cool and cut into squares.

Georgia Coffman



**A BABY SHOWER TO CELEBRATE
DENISE AND WARREN OTY'S
BUNDLE OF JOY!
WILL BE HELD ON
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2009
2:00PM-4:00PM
AT
PETERS CREEK CHURCH OF THE
BRETHREN
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**DENISE IS REGISTERED AT
TARGET
AND BURLINGTON COAT
FACTORY**

- 1 – Ralph Bayer
- 2 – Dianne Roberson
- 6 – John Lowe (Pastor's son)
- 7 – Carol Plunkett
- 8 – Chris Bain, Ogretta Bayer
- 9 – Marilyn Wilkerson
- 10 – Carter Graffeo
- 12 – James Cox, Doris Mullens
- 13 – Jamie Bruner
- 14 – Katie Rhodes, Melanie Graffeo
- 19 – Cynthia Compton
- 24 – Phillip Ammermann, Tina Lowe
- 26 – Christa Hylton
- 27 – Earl Atkins
- 30 – Kathy Williams



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- 8 – John and Carolyn Montgomery
 - 10 – Phillip and Sarah Ammermann
 - 20 – Gary and Jeanette Cockram
 - 28 – Todd and Kimberly Clingenpeel
 - 28 – James and Gwen Kropff
 - 30 – Pastor Jack and Lorna Lowe



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



Marion Barger, Dan Bayer, Ogretta Bayer, Royal Bond, Brenda Black, Lois Burnette, Debbie Case, Kirby Duncan, Maria Graffeo, Olen Hylton, Jeff Johnson, Don King, Jim King, Nannie King, Mike Lodge, Lilian McDonald, Doug McManus, Ray Owens, Olive Pauley, Lewis Peters, Ralph Plunkett, Cathie Rollison, Dr. Bill Short, Carmen Stevens, Evangeline Valera, Gracie Walker, Teresa Wimmer

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



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Counters:

Betty Lou Carter and Lavene Hylton

Deacons:

Ray and Pam Clark

Sound System:

Darrell Hungate

Children's Storytime:

11/01 Pam Clark

Greeters:

11/01 Rick Halverson and Missy Carter

11/08 Olen and Lavene Hylton

11/15 Merle and Rose Heckman

11/22 John and Carolyn Montgomery

11/29 Ray and Pam Clark

Ushers:

11/01 King, Clark, Walters, Wright

11/08 Wise, Kropff, Ammermann, Carter

11/15 Graffeo, Montgomery, Louthen, Cox

11/22 Mau, King, Boone, Clark

11/29 Walters, Wright, Wise, Kropff

Sunday School Nursery:

11/01 Sandi Broughman

11/08 Cathy Keith

11/15 Denise and Warren Ory

11/22 Jeff Graffeo

11/29 Sandi Broughman

Worship Nursery:

11/01 Rose Heckman

11/08 Linda Pulz

11/15 Kathy Otey

11/22 Autumn Quinn & Ben Louthen

11/29 Cathy Keith

Scripture Readers:

11/01 Kathy Otey

11/08 Elayne Garrett

11/15 Lorna Lowe

11/22 Sue Lawrence

11/29 Rick Halverson

Children's Church:

11/01 Robin Louthen and Autumn Quinn

11/08 Robin Louthen and Autumn Quinn

11/15 Pam Clark and Lorna Lowe

11/22 Pam Clark and Lorna Lowe

11/29 Jeff and Melanie Graffeo



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-IN MEMBERS:

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



The Nurture Commission invites you to attend the last **Family Fun Night** of 2009!!! **Sunday, November 8, 2009 from 5:00 to 7:00PM.** We will have a potluck dinner so please bring your favorite dessert or covered dish. Drinks will

be provided. We will eat then share in a time of fellowship and devotion. In addition, each family will have an opportunity to make a Yule log (the craft, not the dessert!) Please bring a hot glue gun to share if you have one. Nurture Commission will provide all of the wood logs as well as the candles and decorations. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Keith at (540) 353-8039 or email jkck920@comcast.net.

All articles for the **December CONNEXION** should be to the church office by **Monday, November 16th.**

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN GOD?



We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole of the American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.

Abraham Lincoln, 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation

The church office will be closed on **Thursday, November 26** in observance of Thanksgiving.



RULES FROM GOD FOR 2009

1. **Wake UP!!** Decide to have a good day. "Today is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalms 118:24
2. **Dress UP!!** The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart." Samuel 16:7
3. **Shut UP!!** Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. "He who guards his lips guards his soul." Proverbs 13:3
4. **Stand Up!!** For what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. "Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good." Galatians 6:9-10.
5. **Look UP!!** To the Lord "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13
6. **Reach Up!!** For something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him." Proverbs 3:5-6
7. **Lift UP!!** Your prayers. "Do not worry about anything; Instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING." Philippians 4:6

GOD ANSWERS PRAYER!

THREE KINDS OF GIVING

"There are three kinds of giving: **grudge giving**, **duty giving** and **thanksgiving**. Grudge giving says, 'I have to'; duty giving says, 'I ought to'; and thanksgiving says, 'I want to.' The latter comes from a full heart. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God."