

CONNEXION

A Monthly Newsletter
of

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren



There are times when the words of others bring God's message to us in exciting and challenging ways. When I recently received Annual Conference Moderator Shawn Flory Replogle's statement on the conference theme and logo for the 224th recorded Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren to be held July 3-7, 2010 in Pittsburgh, PA, I knew that I had to share it with our congregation. I hope that I have been faithful in calling us over the years to do as the theme tells us.

Pastor Jack

"Taking Jesus Seriously"

"If you love me, you will obey what I command"
(John 14:15, NIV)

We live in challenging times. Perhaps we have been lulled by past economic stability. Perhaps we are troubled by social issues of the day. Perhaps we too closely resemble the world around us.

Perhaps we have become distracted by numbers – or how they are diminishing. Are we spending more time maintaining what is, than participating in the mission of "what could be"?

We live in the most powerful nation the world has seen since the Roman Empire. Like the Romans, our culture worships the gods of power-that-defeats, power-of-consumption, and the power-of-itself. Our entertainment has grown more violent, our perceived need for stuff more prevalent, and our belief in individual rights lifted above all else. And yet, as a culture, individuals report feeling more and more isolated from other human beings. This description does not sound like a world seen through the eyes of a loving Creator, and the dreams dreamed for this creation.

The Church of the Brethren is made for such a time as this.

Among the most central ways the Brethren have lived out their spiritual inheritance – taking Jesus

seriously – is through honest reading of the Gospels, followed by straight forward discipleship.

We have lifted up the ideal of non-violence in our interactions with others and the world. We have sought a way of living that respects the creation we have been given to tend, and all who dwell in it. We have believed in the strength of a faith journey pursued together, even as we each develop a deep relationship with our Creator through knowing Jesus.

Even when divided – by theology, practice, geography, generational perspective and more – *the* core values of the Church of the Brethren has been our passionate pursuit of Jesus, to put into everyday practice our understandings of the life, teachings, interactions, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. This "taking Jesus seriously" is evident from the first gatherings around the Eder River, and runs true through our history, even during the moments of our past which include much brokenness; the Brethren have sought the mid of Christ. We have not always agreed about what that mind might be at any given moment. But the pursuit – taking Jesus seriously – has been genuine. Regardless of what may divide us, that pursuit is what we have in common for the journey.

Shawn Flory Replogle
2010 Annual Conference Moderator

Are you taking Jesus seriously? Are you showing to others how you are taking Jesus seriously? Too often, I perceive that "members" of Peters Creek are not taking Jesus seriously. One problem facing the church today is inactive Christians. No wonder so few people are attracted to the church today when there are so many Christians who do not take Jesus seriously in their everyday living, in their relationships with others, and their ethical practices. **It's truly time that every member of Peters Creek begins taking Jesus seriously!**

TAKE JESUS SERIOUSLY

BY WORSHIPPING IN OCTOBER



WORSHIP SERVICES

After finishing the messages on the wisdom of James on October 4 (World Communion Sunday), we will focus on the theme: ***What does God require?*** There are requirements for receiving a driver's license, for employment, for banking transactions, for education, for marrying and burial – in short, there are requirements for nearly every right and privilege we enjoy. God also has requirements of those who would follow God through the one and only Son, Jesus Christ. Not sure what God requires, then come and hear the messages during October and November.

OCTOBER 4: WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Scripture: The Letter of James 1:19-27

Message: "Hearing and Doing"

OCTOBER 11:

Scripture: The Book of Exodus 20:1-11

Message: "Remember I Am God!"

OCTOBER 18:

Scripture: The Book of Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Message: "First Fruits and Tithes"

OCTOBER 25: PASTOR PETE BAIN PREACHING.

(Pastor Lowe and family on vacation).

Looking ahead, our worship on November 15 will be led by a Deputation team from Bridgewater College. You'll want to come and meet these young Christians who will share their faith with you.

LOVE FEAST

OCTOBER 4, 2009 - 6:00 PM

The Love Feast is one of the three original rites and ordinances of the Church of the Brethren. It remembers the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with his disciples. As we remember this supper, we renew our commitment to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

IT'S APPLE BUTTER TIME !!!



OCTOBER 8 & 9, 2009

A tradition of over 70 years continues as we make apple butter on **October 8 & 9, 2009**. Over the years, apple butter making has provided funds for many projects of Peters Creek. It is not just the funds, however, that make an impact on Peters Creek. It is the fellowship of working together to peel, chop, trim, and stir until the last drop of apple butter is in jars.

Habitat for Humanity requires that every person receiving a house must help build it. They call it "sweat equity." We suggest that every one who orders apple butter should give some "sweat equity" time in producing apple butter.

We will begin to peel on Thursday, October 9 at 1:00 PM. Trimmers will be needed from 2:00 PM until 10:00 PM on Thursday and on Friday until the last apple is trimmed.

We hope to put the first kettle on soon after 9:00 AM on Friday morning. We will need persons to stir until the last kettle is poured.

We also have other needs. We need dry wood for the fires. We need donations of sugar (about 300 lbs in all). Please do not bring super fine sugar as it can not be used. And snacks for workers would be greatly appreciated.

Continuing the tradition, we will have vegetable soup for supper on Friday and a late night Friday early breakfast of sausage, biscuits, and eggs.

Come and help make apple butter. The love and work you give to the apple butter makes it taste better all year!

ROANOKE AREA CROP WALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2009

For many years, churches of the Roanoke Valley have participated in the CROP WALK through the streets of Roanoke City. Walkers seek sponsors who pledge an amount for each mile walked. Of the money collected, 25% will stay locally to help feed people in Roanoke, Vinton, Salem, and Roanoke County. The remaining 75% is used by Church World Service ministries around the world. You can be a part of the CROP WALK by being a walker. Or you can be a part of the CROP WALK by sponsoring walkers. Walkers will be in the narthex following worship awaiting your sponsorship.



Crop Walk



The Women's Fellowship had our first meeting on September 7, 2009 after taking off for the summer months.

We are planning several events for the 2009/2010 year(s) of which we hope that will be successful.

A quick reminder to all of you; please check through your Christmas items and continue to donate any items that you would like to discard of and give them to our annual upcoming Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 7, 2009.

We are still collecting items needed for the Batter Women's Shelter and will collect until the end of this year. Below, you will find a list of items we will collect for the month of October.

First TWO SUNDAYS in October:

1. Over-the-Counter medications for children which may include cough and cold medicine, Tylenol, Imodium AD
2. **DO NOT** need aspirin.
3. Medicine droppers/cups
4. Ear Thermometers
5. Baby Wipes
6. Diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6 (Only)
7. Pull-ups

Last TWO SUNDAYS in October:

1. New towels and wash cloths
2. New twin sheets (sets)
3. Bed pillows

Please try to make any of the above donations which will greatly help and be much appreciated for this primary project that our Women's Fellowship has adopted until the end of the year.

ALL WOMEN INTERESTED in joining our fellowship circle; we would love to have you!

The Witness Commission and Children's Ministry are asking for donations and volunteers to help with our Fall Festival. Bring bags of candy, **no nuts or peanut butter, please.** Also, we can use monetary donations to help purchase prizes and rental of games. Please make your check payable to Peters Creek Church of the Brethren.



There will be a tub for candy and contributions in the fellowship hall. For more information, please call Darrell Hungate (380-2748) or Linda Pulz (977-1384).

THE BUSY BEES



The Busy Bee tackers accepted three tops to tie for the City Rescue Mission. Other churches are participating in this project because they are very much in need of comforts for 400 beds.

This is our ongoing project so we only need to supply the fillers. Blankets make nice fillers if you have any to donate for this worthy cause. If you can tie a knot or cut string, we need your help.

Our next birthday luncheon is October 7th at 11:30AM, celebrating with Ken and Janet Otey.

A donation of \$100.00 was given to Camp Bethel Heritage Day.

We're sponsoring a clothing drive for the Salvation Army. We will be collecting clean men, women and children's clothing. Please separate them and mark the box. Deadline is October 28th.

Sweet Potato Casserole

- 3 cups mashed sweet potatoes
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- ¼ cup stick butter
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ¼ cup milk



Topping

For topping combine:

- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup flour
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- ½ cup butter

Melt all ingredients over low heat and spread over potatoes. Bake in 350 degree oven for 20 minutes.

Margaret Saul



PSALM 26:2, NRSV

- 2 – Wanda Atkins
- 5 – Arthur Dyer
- 6 – Wes T. Boone
- 9 – Don King
- 11 – Mary Mannon, Janet Otey
- 12 – Chris Cosgrove
- 13 – Susan Lugones
- 16 – David Roberson
- 17 – Merle Heckman
- 19 – Ken Otey, Jim Fabrie
- 20 – Ida Bower
- 25 – Joyce Mullens, Morris Gill
- 27 – Darren Roberson
- 30 – Adelia Mau
- 31 – Henry Ammermann



October Birthdays

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- 2 – Charles and Marilyn Wilkerson
 - 12 – Adam and Christa Hylton
 - 14 – Danny & Kathy Otey
 - 14 – Carl and Gladys Stump (their 65th)



October Anniversaries

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 Burnett, Debbie Case, Kirby Duncan, Maria Graffeo, Jeff Johnson, Don King, Jim King, Nannie King, Mike Lodge, Lilian McDonald, Doug McManus, Ray Owens, Olive Pauley, Judy Pendleton, Lewis Peters, Cathie Rollison, Dr. Bill Short, Evangeline Valera, Gracie Walker

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

CONTROL

Things we **CANNOT** control:

- Someone else's faults
- How long we will live
- Another person's opportunities

Things we **CAN** control:

- Our attitude
- The kind of life we live
- What we do with our opportunities

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Counters:

Don King and Dean Mannon

Deacons:

Richard Wright and Mabel Naff

Sound System:

Adam Hylton

Greeters:

10/04 John and Carolyn Montgomery

10/11 Olen and Lavene Hylton

10/18 Joel and Cathy Keith

10/25 Jim and Gwen Kropff

Ushers:

10/04 Mau, King, Boone, Clark

10/11 Walters, Wright, Wise Kropff

10/18 Ammermann, Carter, Graffeo, Mau

10/25 Montgomery, Louthen, Cox, Boone

Sunday School Nursery:

10/04 Cathy Keith

10/11 Denise and Warren Ory

10/18 Jeff Graffeo

10/25 Sandi Broughman

Worship Nursery:

10/04 Sandi Broughman

10/11 Sandi Broughman

10/18 Denise and Warren Ory

10/25 Cathy Keith

Scripture Readers:

10/04 Willard Flora

10/11 Mabel Naff

10/18 Spencer Halverson

10/25 Katherine Mau

Children's Story:

10/04 Cathy Keith

Children's Church:

10/04 Kathy Otey, Jeff Ball

10/11 Kathy Otey, Jeff Ball

10/18 Denise and Warren Ory

10/25 Denise and Warren Ory



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-IN MEMBERS:

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

Join for



School!



**HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL
At Camp Bethel
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009
7:30AM – 2:30PM**

We are in need of helpers to serve and sell goods at our booth. Also, we need your crafts and baked goods to sell. For more information, please contact Darrell Hungate at 380-2748.



FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL
You're invited to the **Family Fall Festival** on **Saturday, October 31st** from **4:00PM to 6:00PM**. Activities include scary/fun house, hay rides,

and games for all ages. For more information, please call Darrell Hungate (380-2748) or Linda Pulz (977-1384).

Thessalonians 5:13-14 asks church members *"to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work."* So it is that we would like to recognize Pastor Jack, Lorna and Tina for their dedication and service to our congregation and to say *"You are deeply appreciated."*

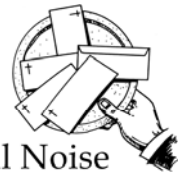


There will be several scheduled opportunities to express our genuine love and support. On **October 11**, there will be time during the service to share any personal stories about how you have been helped or influence through the years by Pastor Jack and Lorna. You may prefer to place a handwritten note on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall; some of these notes will be read during the service.

On **October 18**, a **Pastor Appreciation "Potluck" Luncheon** has been planned for after church in the fellowship hall. (Beverages and dessert will be provided). We look forward to a time of fellowship and shared friendship as we celebrate Pastor Jack and his family.

"JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING"

OCTOBER 4



Our last "Joyful Noise Offering" for 2009 will be received on October 4 during worship. The Church Board has designated this offering on October 4 to be given as an offering to Virlina District which is facing a financial deficit this year. So empty your pockets, purses, and piggy banks on October 4 for the "Joyful Noise Offering" to help maintain the Ministries of Virlina District.

EPILEPSY AWARENESS STROLL

AT CAMP BETHEL

On November 1 at 2:00PM at Camp Bethel, the Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia will hold an Epilepsy Awareness Stroll. As many of you know, my son, Aiden, began having seizures again this past spring after being seizure-free for 2 years.

This cause is extremely important to our family and hits home – right on our door step! I am the event organizer for the stroll. Camp Bethel was gracious enough to extend the use of the gym and grounds to hold the Awareness Stroll this year.

I invite our church family to form a Peters Creek Team, fundraise individually and walk in the awareness stroll. If you are unable to stroll with us, please consider making a donation. If you are interested in forming a PCCOB team or perhaps a team at your business, please contact me either in person or email: roanokestroll@live.com.

We are also holding a raffle, compliments of Walt Disney World! I have 4 – one day Hopper Passes to Walt Disney. We are selling raffle tickets at \$10/each or 3/\$25. The drawing will be held at the stroll on November 1. You do not have to be present to win! The tickets do not expire until July 2011.

Please consider walking, donating or both!

Thank You! Missy, Zac, Aiden and Cole Tuck

"Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty." Proverbs 3:9-10 (NRSV)