

CONNEXION

A Monthly Newsletter
of

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren



2010

I BELIEVE

I find at times that I am not certain about the meaning of words as they are currently used. One example I will cite is the word "bad." Bad once meant something evil or wrong. More recently, younger people have used the word bad to mean good or correct.

When I went to the Merriam Webster Online Dictionary to find the definition for the word "believe," I was not too surprised to find that "believe" can mean "to accept as true, genuine, or real;" and can also mean "to hold an opinion." That somewhat confirms the way I perceive people using the word "believe" in conversation today. And as I listen to people say "I believe" I find some mean they hold what they are saying as true and real while others mean that it is their opinion.

Yet, faith is about belief. The Creeds all state beliefs – meaning the truth, the facts – of the Church. Statements of church leaders and reformers down through the centuries have included their beliefs. And various Christian churches and denominations have beliefs that set them apart from other churches and denominations. Today, there are more and more "independent" churches forming, some over church polity issues, and many over a difference in only one belief. That's where belief becomes opinion, even if held as truth and real.

My thinking was recently challenged on the idea of "believe/belief" by a comment from a member of Peters Creek and by reading Max Lucado's book Fearless. Let me begin with Max Lucado's comment first.

In commenting on Jesus' words in Matthew 24:4-5 -- "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many." – Lucado says

"False prophets always minimize the role of Christ and maximize the role of humanity. Be doctrinally diligent. Stick to one question – is this person directing listeners to Jesus? If the answer is yes, be grateful and pray for that individual. If the answer is no, get out while you can." Lucado is calling us to test beliefs against the doctrines given in scriptural and held commonly by the Church. It is a sound way to check our beliefs. We should always ask: "It is in the Bible? Is it believed by the Church?"

But let me turn to the comment by the member of Peters Creek about belief. I was commenting on the number of calls and e-mails asking for us to pray for a person or family. And I specifically mentioned those we receive from outside of Peters Creek Church. I wondered why people wanted us to pray for them. And a member of Peters Creek responded: "Because we believe in prayer and that our prayers are answered." (I'm not certain that I quoted accurately).

That's why the dictionary has definitions of "believe" that say "to have a firm religious faith," "to accept as true, genuine, or real," and "to have a firm conviction as to the goodness, efficacy, or ability of something." Wow! I'd better start watching my language and not just use the words "I believe" for my opinions.

The Christian faith has sometimes been forced on people. And some still try to force people to believe in Jesus Christ and his church. It is better, though, to give the good news of Jesus Christ to those who do not believe and to those whose belief has weakened through our words and actions and attitudes that show how strongly we believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and in the genuineness and truth of the Bible.

A believer among many believers
in Jesus Christ,

APRIL – THE SEASON OF EASTER



involved in worship this month.

Our April worships begin with Easter Sunday and continue the season of Easter throughout the month. Several special worship experiences are planned, and many people

APRIL 4: EASTER

7:30 AM – SUNRISE WORSHIP

Elayne Garrett will be assisting Pastor Jack in this worship. Elayne will bring an Easter message in a creative way.

8:15 AM – EASTER BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship will be providing breakfast from 8:15 – 8:45 AM. Your freewill donation will help the Men's Fellowship in its endeavors at the Church throughout the year.

10:30 AM – CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION

The Chancel Choir will present our message in the cantata: "I Know that My Redeemer Lives."



APRIL 11:

Evelyn Conner, a God-gifted and Spirit-filled, singer from Salem will present God's word through her music. She has won numerous awards for her music and is also known for her testimony.

APRIL 18:

Scripture: Luke 24:13-37

Message: "Walking with Jesus"

APRIL 25:

Scripture: Luke 24:44-49

Message: "You are witnesses"

Looking ahead at May, we will use our worship experiences as "A Celebration of the Christian Family." There will be recognition of special people and groups at Peters Creek, and a time to reflect on the generations of life represented at Peters Creek Church. Come and celebrate as a family!

APRIL 1 – 7 PM -- LOVE FEAST



We observe our Love Feast on Maundy Thursday, following the tradition that Jesus ate the Last Supper with his disciples on Thursday evening and was crucified on Friday at noon.

We also follow the Brethren tradition of the Love Feast with five services incorporated into the worship around the tables. We begin with self-examination, move into the washing of feet, then a common meal, followed by the breaking of bread and drinking of the cup, and ending with a commissioning to go into our world.

Every member is expected at Love Feast and guests are welcomed. We invite all to the table, though we do make the washing of feet optional.

As Jesus invited to eat a last supper with him before his death, so our Lord Jesus Christ invites us to come to His table to remember his life, death, and resurrection, and to prepare for the great banquet awaiting us in heaven.

APRIL 2 – 7 PM – TENEBRAE

We observe Good Friday with a Tenebrae Service. Tenebrae is from Latin and means "darkness" or "shadows." Much of the Tenebrae worship is done in dim light or darkness. The readings are from the Passion Narratives of the Gospels with the central focus on the Cross and the 7 words from the Cross.



Near the end of the worship the Christ Candle is hidden, though not extinguished, and then returned to the Communion Table. This is to symbolize that the light of Christ was hidden, but not extinguished by his death.

Tenebrae helps us remember the suffering of Jesus Christ and the darkness that covered the earth at his death. It helps us realize the truth of Easter as the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



CAMP BETHEL REGISTRATIONS

Camp Bethel registration forms are here. All children and youth can receive a "good-as-gold" scholarship from Peters Creek which pays 100% of the fee. If we register before May 1, we get a discount. Contact Dick Lester or Pastor Jack for information. AND camp needs volunteers to help in summer camps. Every age can be a Camp Bethel camper!



The Women's Fellowship would like to report and share with you that we donated a total of 43 "Gifts of the Heart Kits" of which included several layette kits

and several health school kits.

A donation of \$100 went to the "Souper Bowl of Caring."

We would like to say a grateful "THANK YOU" to all of you that took Easter Egg orders and also to those that graciously helped in any way with the making of the eggs.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS UPCOMING: Saturday, April 24, 2010 will be the District Women's Spring Rally to be held at Mason's Cove Church from 9:00AM – 3:00PM; cost only will be boxed lunch. On Saturday, May 1, 2010 will be the Men's Parking Lot Sale in which the Women's Fellowship will sponsor a Bake Sale.

WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER AN OPEN INVITATION TO ANY WOMAN OF PETERS CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN TO JOIN US EACH MONTH FOR OUR WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING.



The church office will be closed on **Friday, April 2** in observance of Good Friday.



PARKING LOT SALE – MAY 1 – 7:00AM -1:00PM

It's time for the Parking Lot Sale! On May 1st from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM, sponsored by the Men's Fellowship. Spaces will

again cost \$10.00 with table rental at \$5.00 each. Breakfast items will be available and the Women's Fellowship will sell hot dogs and baked goods for lunch. If you have items you would like to sell, but don't want to rent a space, you can donate them to the Youth Table which will help send youth to National Youth Conference 2010 and to a Junior High Work Camp this summer. Reserve you space(s) by calling the church at 562-4346 or e-mailing admin@pccob.org. Spaces are reserved on a first come, first reserved basis.

BUSY BEES

A donation was made to MS for the walk on April 17th.

Our birthday lunch will be April 7th. We will have a salad lunch. A card shower for Geraldine Plunkett's birthday, please remember Gerry with a card.

TACO SOUP

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 can Rotel tomatoes with green chillies
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 can black beans
- 1 can white corn
- 1 cube beef bouillon
- 1/2 envelope Ranch dressing
- 1/2 envelope Taco Seasoning



Brown ground beef. Add all ingredients and simmer for one hour. All canned ingredients are No. 2 size cans. Serve with cheddar cheese, sour cream and corn chips.

Frances Marshall



All articles for the **May CONNEXION** should be to the church office by April 15.

Good Friday?

At first glance, Good Friday appears to be a misnomer. It seems inconsistent that the day of Christ's crucifixion should in any way be described as "good." But that seeming inconsistency vanishes when we understand that the ancient meaning of good was "holy." The word holy is entirely consistent with the suffering and cross that Christ endured for us. Hence, Good Friday is also known as Holy Friday.



Our doors are open to you EVERY Sunday rejoicing in Christian fellowship together. We especially invite you to join us at 8:45AM Contemporary Service and 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service.

- 4 – Austin Atkins
- 8 – Sandra Carroll
- 9 – Geraldine Plunkett, Debbie Jones
- 11 – Zoe Casto
- 13 – Garrett Louthen
- 16 – Shawn Carter
- 18 – Brian Harmon
- 21 – Carl Stump
- 22 – Rhonda Fisher
- 26 – Sandi Broughman
- 27 – Elayne Garrett
- 28 – Sylvia Flora
- 30 – Nicki Kelly



- 1 – Christopher & Sonya Spradling
- 4 – Richard & Virginia Wright

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



- Alexis Grace Andrews,
- Charlie Atkinson, Royal Bond, Becky Creasy, Georgia Coffman, Margaret Dougherty, Larry Gibson, Tara Graffeo, David Hanson, Donnie Havens, Jacob Hilton, Tracy Keesee

and family, Don King, Anna McNally, Joe Rhodes, Juanita Rollison, Lewis Peters, Ralph Plunkett, Donna Swenson, Gracie Walker, Marisa Walker, Betty Woolwine, Lynn Wright

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, Olive Pauley, Anna Belle Plunkett, Geraldine Plunkett, Katie Rhodes, Muriel Turner



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Counters:

Leighton Casteel & Dean Mannon

Deacons:

Pam & Ray Clark

Sound System:

Adam Hylton

Children's Storytime:

4/11 Charlene Lester

Greeters:

4/04 Ray & Pam Clark

4/11 Merle & Rose Heckman

4/18 Missy Carter & Rick Halverson

4/25 John & Carolyn Montgomery

Ushers:

4/04 Montgomery, Graffeo, Louthen, Cox

4/11 Mau, Clark, Walters, Kropff

4/18 Wright, Ammermann, Carter, Montgomery

4/25 Graffeo, Louthen, Cox, Mau

Sunday School Nursery:

4/04 Denise & Warren Ory

4/11 Laura Smith

4/18 Linda Pulz

4/25 Regina Ball

Worship Nursery:

4/04 Hired Sitters (Cantata)

4/11 Jenn & Zoe Casto

4/18 Jeff & Regina Ball

4/25 Jeff Graffeo & Trimmy Carter

Scripture Readers:

4/04 No Scripture Reader (Cantata)

4/11 Mabel Naff

4/18 Katherine Mau

4/25 Spencer Halverson

Children's Church:

4/04 No Children's Church (Cantata)

4/11 Jeff & Melanie Graffeo

4/18 Robin Louthen & Autumn Quinn

4/25 Robin Louthen & Autumn Quinn



“...the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Isaiah 53:6b



It is time for Vacation Bible School planning! If you are interested in being a teacher or volunteer, please contact Melanie Graffeo (375-6468) or Christa Hylton (389-1487) as soon as possible. Don't forget

to mark your calendars! VBS will be **June 20th thru June 25th**. The theme is **"Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!"**

Please help support Kelly and Kathy Otey and Katherine Mau as they walk in Relay For Life at VA. Tech on April 9-10, 2010. Luminaries can be purchased for \$5.00 in honor or memory of someone who has had cancer.



Thank you, Kathy

Women's Bible Study Starts Sunday, April 11



We will be beginning a new Women's Bible Study by Beth Moore on **Sunday, April 11 from 5:00 – 6:30PM**. This study is a 9-week study of Inheritance throughout God's Word. The key verse for this study is from Psalm 16:5-6. **"The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance."**

The format for this study is slightly different from the ones we have done in the past. Each video session is approximately one hour in length AND there is **NO** homework for this study. This study will be ideal for those of you who struggle to find time to do everything that needs to be done.

We have to order these study guides to be shipped to us, so we need to know how many of you will be joining us by April 1. If possible, it would be appreciated if you pre-pay for your guide when signing up. The listening guides cost \$5.00. If you want more information or to confirm that you will be joining us, please contact Carol Plunkett or Linda Pulz. We need to place our order for books by April 1 in order to receive the books in time for our first session.

As Christ drew near to death, He Himself trembled. It was an experience of all His creation, but He had never felt it. To His humanity, His assumed flesh, it seemed terrible - Gethsemane bears witness [to] how terrible it seemed; but He passed into it for love of us.

Phillips Brooks



The 2010 Peters Creek Church of the Brethren Women's Retreat will be held at Peters Creek COB on Saturday, April 24,

2010 from 9:00AM-3:00PM. Registration will begin at 8:30AM. Light breakfast will be served. Cost is \$8.00 per person which includes lunch. Registration forms will be available in the narthex, in the church office, from Cathy Keith, Gwen Kropff, or Sandra Carroll.

Please return your registration form with your registration fee no later than **Wednesday, April 21, 2010**, to Cathy Keith. You can also mail your form along with your registration fee to Cathy Keith, 4260 Read Mountain Road, Cloverdale, VA 24077 or place in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Women's Retreat."

Join us for a day of retreat, fellowship, music, and worship!! Invite a friend!! We look forward to seeing you there!

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago." — Ephesians 2:10 (NLT).

Unfortunately, **no** nursery will be provided. Any questions, please contact Cathy Keith at 540-353-8039 or jkck920@comcast.net.



Every hour of every day, someone is diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. In March 2006, Jeff was diagnosed with this disease. Fortunately, he is responding well to treatment and is able to live a relatively normal life at

this time. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is dedicated to ending the devastating effects of MS but they can't do it without our help. That's why we registered for the MS Walk on April 17th and that's why we're asking you to support our fundraising efforts with a tax-deductible donation. Last year even during economic hardship, Jeff and I almost met our fundraising goal raising over \$14,800 for the MS Society. Thank you all who donated and continued to view this as important to us to end MS. Understanding the economic environment, this year our team goal is \$15,000 and we cannot do it without your help! You may donate online at <http://tinyurl.com/yl6ptsv> or make a check payable to the National MS Society. Any amount, great or small, helps to make a difference in the lives of people with MS. We appreciate your support!

Jeff and Melanie Graffeo