

# CONNEXION

A Monthly Newsletter  
of  
*Peters Creek Church of the Brethren*



FALL BIBLE STUDY

## August 2010

### **"I'M BORED!"**

About this time of the summer, parents begin to hear children and youth say "I'm bored!" I used to say that when I was a child and youth myself. Even on our recent vacation, I felt bored because we weren't doing much except relaxing and visiting with family. I loved being with family and friends, but I began to realize that with such a relaxed schedule, I was feeling bored.

My normal schedule was interrupted. I slept later. I went to bed earlier. And though I tried to read and do other activities, I could not do it with the purpose and enthusiasm that I normally have when I am doing my ministry as pastor. With such a free schedule and so little stress, although I was happy and relaxed, I was bored.

We can easily allow boredom to enter our lives. We can allow boredom to come into our worship and into our ministry and mission as a church. And I have noticed over my 40 years plus or ministry that the boredom seems to reach its peak in the summer months. Maybe it's because we believe that we should have a vacation from the normal schedule worship and activities. Or maybe it's because we find other boring activities to replace our church activities in the summer. When boredom begins to affect us we have a harder time setting priorities, reflecting of the important aspects of our life, and in general, lose some of the interest in living as full a life as we claim we want. And it seems to be, that the stress of boredom only adds additional stress to our lives.

When our children tell us they are bored, we try to find all kinds of activities for them to do. We send them to every Bible School we can find near us. We assign them up for camps of all kinds. We sign them up for every youth sport that comes along. We may even take them to the library hoping they will find books to read. We think that

lots of activity is the answer to boredom for our children. And while that may indeed help our children beat boredom, adding activities to our adult busy schedules of work may only add stress upon stress upon stress.

God created us in the image of God. God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, and on the seventh day God rested. God did not go on vacation. God did not find some recreational opportunity. God did not work extra hours. God did not join another organization or exercise or service group. GOD RESTED!

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could rest like God rested? And why can't we? Sorry, but these are questions for your reflection. I have lots of answers, but none as good as the ones you will think of as you reflect on these questions. So if you'll take time to rest, if you'll take a Sabbath, and reflect on these questions, I'd like to hear your answers.

And while you're reflecting on the above questions, let God take your stress. Let God guide your thoughts. Let God be the center of your life, if only for the few moments you give to the Sabbath of rest.

And don't worry that you have been feeling bored. With August comes the beginning of church activities and programs, and then in September, the church become alive again with activity and meetings and program and planning for special activities and programs through the year.

So rest up! Enjoy your boredom! It won't last much longer, unless you willingly decide to continue to be bored! I don't think God will allow our boredom to linger. Sooner or later, the Holy Spirit will get hold of each of us!

# OUR AUGUST WORSHIPS

During August, we will finish the summer message series "Another Way of Living in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," focusing on ethical and moral tenets of the New Testament. As the Church was forming in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, Christians became another way of living. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Christians are again becoming another way of living and inviting others to live in the way of Jesus and the Church.

## AUGUST 1:

Scripture: The Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9

Message: "REJOICE!"

## AUGUST 8:

Scripture: The Letter to the Ephesians 4:11-24

Message: "The Church United!"

## AUGUST 15:

Scripture: The Gospel of Luke 6:27-36

Message: "Who is my enemy?"

## AUGUST 22:

Scripture: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter to Timothy 3:14-4:5

Message: "We're all Christ's ministers."

## AUGUST 29: BREAD AND CUP COMMUNION

Scripture: The Letter to the Galatians 5:16-26

Message: "Live by the Spirit"

# YOUTH SHARING

This summer, we have had one youth go to a Workcamp in West Virginia with youth from Oak Grove Church and two youth attend the National Youth Conference in Colorado. They will be sharing about their experiences in our worships. Philip Casteel and Katherine Mau will share about NYC 2010 on August 1, and Logan Atkins and several youth from Oak Grove will share about their Workcamp in West Virginia on August 22. Come and hear our youth share their faith.

# COUNCIL MEETING

## AUGUST 15

We will meet in Council Meeting following worship and a lunch provided by the Youth on August 15, 2010. Reports, plans, and conversation are our reasons to meet in Council. In the Church of the Brethren, the Church Council is the highest authority of the congregation. So, every member of the church congregation has a voice and a vote. Ultimately, we seek the will of God and the unity and order of the Church in Council. Pray for y(our) Church and that we might be the will of God as we meet in Council.

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

### RESUMES AUGUST 18 AT 7:30 PM

After a summer hiatus, the Wednesday Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, August 18 at 7:30 PM in the Pastor's Study (unless the group is too large). We will begin to study the "Minor Prophets" beginning with the Prophecy of Jonah. We will follow one suggested list of the order in which these prophecies were written.

The Bible Study is open to youth, youth adults, and all other adults. Our basic method of study is to read a passage and ask questions or the passage and discuss its meaning for the time it was written and for today.

If there is interest in a daytime Bible Study, please contact Pastor Jack and we will also have the study in the daytime.

## MEN'S SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

### SUNDAY EVENINGS 5:00 PM

We are offering a Men's Sunday Evening Bible Study beginning September 12, 2010. We will be using a 7 session DVD and Study book by Tony Dungy entitled: "Dare to Be UNcommon." It is based on his book Uncommon: Finding Your Path to Significance. The study book will cost \$10.50, but we have resources to cover the cost for those who can not pay for the book. In order to have study books by September 12, we must order by August 28. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, or call the Church Office (562-4346). **INVITE YOUR FRIENDS! THIS IS OPEN TO ALL MEN – YOUNG AND OLDER!**

# WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAY EVENINGS 5:00 PM

The Women's Bible Study group will resume its Sunday evening schedule on September 12, 2010, with a lecture series on Revelation by Beth Moore entitled "Here and Now...There and Then." Please join us from 5:00-7:00PM for this 11-week study.

The cost for the study guide is only \$9, and you may either pick up your book at Lifeway or get your money to either Carol Plunkett or Linda Pulz by August 29 for us to purchase it for you.

**THIS SERIES IS OPEN TO ALL WOMEN, SO PLEASE BRING A FRIEND; WE ALWAYS HAVE A GREAT TIME IN LEARNING AND FELLOWSHIP!** If you have questions, you may call either Linda Pulz (977-1384) or Carol Plunkett (362-2970).

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## BUSY BEES NEWS



Our show-and-tell quilt show will be on August 4<sup>th</sup>. These quilts can be any you've made or received, baby quilts or quilts you have given and hope they will let you have them back for a day.

We are celebrating birthdays at our luncheon with Frances Marshall and Norma Williams. This will be a covered dish meal.

## CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

The beehive (see above) represents the church and its many, varied "workers." A multitude of people, each with different tasks and gifts, works to build up the body of Christ. Often, nine bees are pictured near the hive to represent the nine fruits of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23). Isn't this a wonderful symbol for our own Busy Bees?

## DID YOU KNOW?

"Handwritten notes from home really put a smile on a service member's face," Operation Gratitude founder Carolyn Blashek says. Bundle notes and cards and send them to OPERATION GRATITUDE, 17330 Victory Boulevard, Van Nuys, CA, 91406.



## IHN CHOSEN AS SMITH MT. LAKE TOUR RECEIVING CHARITY

Roanoke Valley Interfaith Hospitality has been chosen as a receiving charity for the 2010 Smith Mt. Lake Charity Home Tour being held on October 1 & 2. This is IHN's most important fundraiser of 2010. Smith Mt. Lake Charity Home Tour raised \$20,000 for IHN in 2007 and \$15,000 in 2008.

There are eight homes on the 2010 tour. Homes can be reached by water or car. Tickets become available in mid-August and cost \$25 in advance or \$30 on tour days. Seven other charities will also receive funds from the tour. For more information about the tour go to [www.smlcharityhometour.com](http://www.smlcharityhometour.com).

IHN has been assigned the Peppers' home, a beautiful, innovative environmentally friendly place at Waters Edge. (You can read more about it at <http://www.smithmountainlake.com/homes/lakerWeekly/wb/241135>) IHN is responsible for providing over 100 volunteer hosts and hostesses for the two days of the tour.

Are you interested in helping out? As a host or hostess you would be stationed in a spot in the house to point out items of interest to touring groups or individuals coming through the home. This is a great opportunity for a small group in your congregation to get together for a fun outreach activity.

If you would like to help on Friday, October 1 or Saturday, October 2 from 9:15-1:30 or from 12:45-5:00, please contact Meredith Roller at IHN at 343-9982 or [meredith@rvihn.com](mailto:meredith@rvihn.com) by August 6.

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## PLEASE ADD TO YOUR PRAYER LIST:



Charlie Atkinson, James Bolt, Tim Clark, Margaret Dougherty, Robert Duncan, the Esch family, Bob Goodman, Tara Graffeo, Carol Harris, Doris Jones (Jen Casto's grandmother), Glenn Kinsel and family, Jeff Large and family, family of Neena Maggard, Raymond Martin, Dave Mundy, Dave Prosser, family of Virginia Richardson, Les Switzer, Cole Tuck, Richard Wright, Timmy Wright, Virginia Wright.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS:



Remember Our  
Homebound  
Friends

Royal Bond, Ida Bower, Judson and Virginia Bowles, Julia Conner, Katherine Hamblin, Don King, Olive Pauley, Anna Belle Plunkett, Geraldine Plunkett, Joe Rhodes, Katie Rhodes, Muriel Turner.



### August Birthdays

3 – Haley Hylton	18 – Gwen Kropff
4 – Frances Marshall	19 – Norma Williams
4 --Todd Plunkett	22 – Wesley Caldwell
5 – Wanda Caudell	25 – Richard Lester
5 --Larry Pulz	26 – Thelma Long
9 – Melissa Carter	26 --Dee Chambers
10 – Pam Clark	27 – Josie Bruner
11 – Rick Halverson	28 – Lorna Lowe
14 – Don Craft	29 – Lydia Harrison
15 – Mark Funderburke	29 --Peggy Ammermann
17 – Ben Louthen	29 --Enid Mau
17 --Dan Bayer	



### August Anniversaries

6 – Joyce and Tim Bailey  
 7 – Amy and Jordan Mau  
 8 – Melba and Ray Martin,  
 8 – Carol and Doug Stackpole  
 9 – Barbara and Mark Wright  
 11 – Karen and Jim Fabrie  
 17 – Robin and Robbie Louthen  
 21 – Virginia and Judson Bowles  
 31 – Dianne and David Roberson

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

## AUGUST MEETINGS

The Church Council will meet at 12:30PM on August 15.

There will be a Deacons' Meeting on August 8, immediately after worship.

## AUGUST VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE



### Counters:

John Montgomery and Willard Flora

### Deacons:

Kathy and Gary Williams

### Sound System:

Darrell Hungate

### Children's Storytime:

8/1 Vickie Wise

### Greeters:

8/1 Emily Ammermann and Adelia Mau

8/8 Pam and Ray Clark

8/15 Rose and Merle Heckman

8/22 Missy Carter and Rick Halverson

8/29 John and Carolyn Montgomery

### Ushers:

8/1 Ammermann, Carter, Montgomery, Wright

8/8 Graffeo, Louthen, Mau, Boblett

8/15 Cox, Austin, Clark, Kropff

8/22 Walters, Ammermann, Carter, Montgomery

8/29 Wright, Graffeo, Louthen, Mau

### Sunday School Nursery:

8/1 Regina Ball

8/8 Jenn Casto

8/15 Susan Lugones

8/22 Sandi Broughman

8/29 Rick Halverson

### Worship Nursery:

8/1 Autumn Quinn and Ben Louthen

8/8 Laura Smith and Missy Tuck

8/15 Sandi Broughman and Linda Pulz

8/22 Cathy and Joel Keith

8/29 Jenn and Zoe Casto

### Scripture Readers:

8/1 Wayne Carroll

8/8 Glenna Hungate

8/15 Richard Wright

8/22 Kathy Otey

8/29 Wanda Atkins

### Children's Church:

8/1 Kathy Otey and Jeff Ball

8/8 Melanie and Jeff Graffeo

8/15 Missy and Zac Tuck

8/22 Linda and Larry Pulz

8/29 Linda and Larry Pulz

