

# CONNEXION

A Monthly Newsletter  
of

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren



## DEALING WITH TRAGEDY?

Unless one is a hermit so removed from the world that no current news comes in any form, we have all been aware of both local and world tragedies in the past several weeks. Now, I am not using the word disasters – though the earthquake in Haiti was a disaster – because what we have heard on local news about the alleged kidnapping, now murder, of the young boy in Southeast Roanoke and the events in Appomattox County were not disasters. The best word used to describe all that has been in the news about Haiti and several local stories are tragedy.

Every one of us has experienced some event in our lives that can be called a tragedy. It may be the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, a divorce, a separation from family, the move from a home, or medical problems. One dictionary defines tragedy as “a disastrous event,” and gives as synonyms “calamity” and “misfortune.” Surely each of us has said that some event in our life was a tragedy by this definition.

The question is how we deal with tragedy. Some seek to ignore any tragedy that does not affect them directly. Others see tragedy as a sign of moral and ethical breakdown, even spiritual breakdown. Some are so obsessed with a tragedy that it affects their quality of life. And still others seek professionals to help them cope with the tragedy. And of course, the Christian calls upon the resources of faith to deal with the tragedies. And likely, as in the tragedy in Haiti, Christians will join to deal with the tragedy of the disaster.

While the media has been quick to tell of local efforts to collect food, clothing, water, etc. for shipping to Haiti, they have not highlighted the efforts of the many Christian agencies that are already working in disaster relief efforts in Haiti. The Church of the Brethren Disaster Ministries has sent teams to help in Haiti. Church World Service

has provided baby layettes, hygiene kits, and blankets from a warehouse in the Dominican Republic. Interchurch Medical Assistance has sent clinic boxes filled with medical supplies and over-the-counter medicines. Brethren Disaster Emergency Funds have been sent to provide food, water, and tarps for shelter.

Locally, Peters Creek will be using the monies collected in the “Joyful Noise Offerings” on March 21 and September 19 for the Haiti Earthquake relief efforts. You may also make a special offering now by using a special offering envelope marked “Haiti Earthquake Disaster.” All the monies will be sent to Brethren Disaster Ministries.

In an e-mail from Brethren Disaster Ministries on January 13, they made these suggestions on “How to get involved in the disaster effort in Haiti:

- Donate
- Pray
- Assemble kits
- Avoid collecting unneeded goods

In this issue of *CONNEXION*, you can read of the Women’s Fellowship and Busy Bees commitment to make baby layettes and hygiene kits. Perhaps you and your family would like to make one of these kits for Haiti. The instructions for the kits are on a table in the Fellowship Hall, or you can call the church office and we can send them to you.

No one should suffer a tragedy alone. Everyone needs signs of hope following a tragedy. Hope can come from a family member or friend. Hope can come through financial contributions to provide food and water. Hope can come from clinic boxes, hygiene kits, and baby layettes.

Always, when a tragedy occurs, **HOPE COMES FROM US!**

## FEBRUARY WORSHIPS



WORSHIP SERVICES

February worship experiences begin with "Souper Bowl of Caring" and Boy Scout Sunday on February 7. And the last two Sundays of February are in the beginning of Lent. This year during Lent, we will be focusing on the Max Lucado book: Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear.

### FEBRUARY 7: "SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" BOY SCOUT SUNDAY

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

Message: "Go, catch people"

### FEBRUARY 14: BREAD AND CUP COMMUNION

Scripture: 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13

Message: "The Greatest is LOVE!"

### FEBRUARY 21: FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Scripture: Matthew 8:23-27

Message: "Why are you afraid?"

### FEBRUARY 28: SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Scripture: Luke 12:4-6

Message: "You are worth more"

Along with the messages from Fearless, there will be small group studies with DVD messages from Max Lucado and a study guide. Small group studies will be on Sunday evening at 6:30 PM and Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM. There may also be an early afternoon small group if there is enough interest. Please sign the sheets on the table in the fellowship hall to indicate your interest. The study books are \$6.00, if you care to donate for the cost of the guide.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 – 12:30 PM

Our Youth will provide a lunch following Worship.

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2010

### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



It doesn't matter who you root for in the Super Bowl, or whether you are even a football fan or not. On Super Bowl Sunday, you can help out Southwest Virginia Second Harvest Food Bank by giving a dollar (\$1.00) to the "Souper Bowl of Caring" promotion. Youth will be standing at the doors of the church as you leave with cans and pots to collect your donations. Or you may prefer to bring food items to be shared with Second Harvest.

This year is the 14<sup>th</sup> year we at Peters Creek will be sharing in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" event. Nationwide, "Souper Bowl of Caring" has raised funds for food pantries, soup kitchens, food banks, and other hunger fighting agencies in the United States and around the world. Each dollar given has been multiplied as food manufacturers offer special prices to food banks. Southwest Virginia Second Harvest is able buy \$6.00 worth of food for every \$1.00 donated. Your contribution of \$1.00 will grow through Southwest Virginia Second Harvest.

Hey, do you have \$1.00 to spare?

## ASH WEDNESDAY MEAL & WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 17

6:30 PM – MEAL 7:30 PM WORSHIP

We will again begin Lent with a Soup, Bread and Cheese Meal on Ash Wednesday, February 17 at 6:30 PM. Soups will be provided, and you are invited to bring cheese and/or bread to share.

Then at 7:30 PM we will have our Ash Wednesday Worship focusing on our need to confess our sins to God and live our lives in service and penance as commanded by Jesus Christ. The Imposition of Ashes will be offered as the symbol of confessions and penance, and the ritual of washing hands will be offered as the symbol of lives of service. This is a family oriented worship in which all ages of the church join for food, fellowship, and worship.



**"BABY CARE & HYGIENE KITS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED FOR SURVIVORS IN HAITI"**



Conditions in Haiti remain critical, if not dire. The full extent of damage is staggering. The Church World Service has released an urgent plea for Gifts of the Heart Kits. - Hygiene, Baby Care and Clean-Up

Kits. These kits are small packages of supplies donated and assembled by volunteers and shipped to people in need around the world. Peters Creek Church generously supports CWS's outreach efforts each and every year. Just last year the Women's Fellowship donated \$300 for Clean-Up Kits and our church sent approximately 30 hygiene kits in December. This month, the Women's Fellowship is focusing on collecting and assembling as many Baby Care Kits as possible. In areas of natural disaster, Baby Kits are essential to help young mothers care for their newborn babies.

**To assemble a Baby Kit you will need:**

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-Shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt
- Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)

All items should be new. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins.

Your help and support is needed. Please contact Sandra Carroll, 389.9527.

The next Women's Fellowship meeting is scheduled on **Monday, February 1, 2010**. We will meet at Anthony's Restaurant in Salem at 6:30PM. Please join us.



*Lent*



The Stone Soup lunch was a great success. For our birthday lunch on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will have Taco Soup. Birthdays during the month of

February are: Mae Honaker, Clara Walters and Margie Hash.

We gave a donation of \$100 to Second Harvest Food Bank for "Souper Bowl of Caring" Sunday.

At Christmas, we sponsored a child. He had a nice Christmas and enjoyed his gifts. Thanks to Frances Marshall and her granddaughter that did the shopping.

We still have 20 school kit bags waiting to be filled for Church World Service.

The Salem Clothes Closet needs blankets and coats.

**2010 Officers for Busy Bees:**

President .....	Lucile Weeks
Vice President .....	Norma Williams
Secretary .....	Margaret Saul
Treasurer .....	Frances Marshall
Supt. of Sewing .....	Janet Otey
Asst. of Supt. f Sewing ....	Clara Walters
Supt. of Relief Work .....	Lavene Hylton

**VACUUM CLEANER COOKIES**

- 1/2 cup margarine, melted
- 1 - 18.25 oz. pkg. yellow cake mix
- 3 eggs
- 1 - 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1 - 1 lb. box powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup flaked coconut
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans



Combine margarine, cake mix and 1 of the eggs. Stir until moistened. Pat into bottom of well-greased 15 x 10 in. jellyroll pan. Beat remaining 2 eggs lightly. Then beat in cream cheese and powdered sugar. Stir in coconut and nuts. Pour over mixture in jellyroll pan, spreading evenly. Bake at 325 degrees for 45 to 50 minutes or until golden brown. Cool pan on wire rack to room temperature. Makes 4 dozen bars. **(NOTE:** Use plain cake mix, not with pudding added. Do not use whipped margarine or real butter).

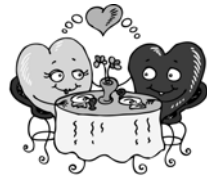
Margie Hash

- 1 – Philip Bailey
- 2 – Minnie Bayer, Mae Belle Honaker,  
Carol Stackpole
- 3 – John Montgomery
- 5 – Wayne Carroll,  
Clara Walters
- 6 – Terri Kelly
- 7 – Virginia Bowles
- 8 – Will Fabrie
- 10 – John Kelly
- 11 – Jack Wimmer
- 13 – Sharon Linkous
- 16 – Vickie Wise
- 18 – Melba Martin, Nathan Mau
- 20 – Olen Hylton, Kim Clingenpeel, Margie Hash
- 21 – Aiden Tuck
- 22 – Georgia Coffman, Clarence Wise
- 23 – Mitch Mullens, Owen Halverson
- 26 – Harold Harrison
- 28 – Frederick Bruner



**FEBRUARY  
BIRTHDAYS**

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- 9 – Trimmy & Betty Lou Carter
  - 9 – Ken & Janet Otey
  - 18 – Bob & Shirley Goodman



**February  
Anniversaries**

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



Add to  
your  
prayer  
list

Gracie Bailey, Dan Bayer, Royal Bond, Shawna Brogan, Sandy Brooks, Lois Burnette, Debbie Case, Kirby Duncan, Barry Faverio, Tara Graffeo, David Hanson, Don King, Nannie King, Lillian McDonald, Doug McManus, Don Meredith, Dutchie Morelli, Lisa Mowles, Lowell Platter, Paul Pasharow, Juanita Rollison, Lewis Peters, Ralph Plunkett, Cathie Rollison, 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.**

**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, Mary Yarbrough



*Valentines  
for Our  
Homebound  
Friends*

**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

**Counters:**

John Montgomery and Willard Flora

**Deacons:**

Richard Wright and Margaret Saul

**Sound System:**

Darrell Hungate

**Children's Storytime:**

2/07 Wanda Atkins

**Greeters:**

2/07 Ray and Pam Clark

2/14 Merle and Rose Heckman

2/21 John and Carolyn Montgomery

2/28 Olen and Lavene Hylton

**Ushers:**

2/07 Walters, Wise, Kropff, Wright

2/14 Ammermann, Carter, Montgomery, Graffeo

2/21 Louthen, Cox, Boone, Mau

2/28 Clark, Walters, Wise, Kropff

**Sunday School Nursery:**

2/07 Sandi Broughman

2/14 Rick Halverson

2/21 Cathy Keith

2/28 Jeff Graffeo

**Worship Nursery:**

2/07 Robin Louthen

2/14 Kathy Otey

2/21 Autumn Quinn & Ben Louthen

2/28 Rose Heckman

**Scripture Readers:**

2/07 Missy Carter

2/14 Elayne Garrett

2/21 Wanda Atkins

2/28 Sandra Carroll

**Children's Church:**

2/07 Rick Halverson, Linda Pulz

2/14 Cathy Keith, Sandi Broughman

2/21 Cathy Keith, Sandi Broughman

2/28 Melanie and Jeff Graffeo

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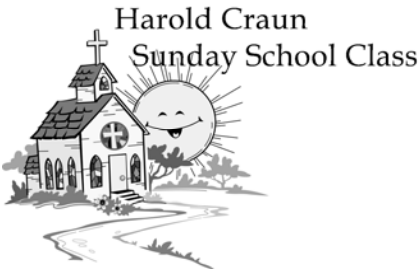
**ACCEPTANCE**

Whatever you send me, Lord, I will accept. My response may be clumsy, or even inept. But I know you want only the best for me, too. So with your help, I'll do what you want me to do.

—Peggy Ferrell



*February 14th*



Harold Craun  
Sunday School Class

Have you been invited to attend the Harold Craun Sunday School Class? Our plan for this year is to make contact by telephone or

send a card to any member who is not in a Sunday School Class. We will invite them to join us.

In lieu of flowers when someone is in the hospital or has a death in their family, we will make a donation to the Second Harvest Food Bank, RAM House and to our church for Sunday School material.

**2010 Class Officers:**

- President ..... Mary Mannon
- Vice President ..... Lavene Hylton
- Treasurer ..... Olen Hylton
- Secretary ..... Janet Otey



**Book: Grace Goes to Prison**  
**Author: Melanie G. Snyder**  
**Review: An Inspiring Story of Hope and Humanity**

Marie Hamilton touched the lives of thousands of prison inmates through her volunteer work in the Pennsylvania prison system. She challenged conventional wisdom about how to rehabilitate inmates by creating unique programs built on principles of nonviolence and restorative justice. Her philosophy with inmates was simple – look for the good, affirm it, and then educate, empower and support. The programs Marie created became the backbone of more than thirty years of volunteer work, and the results were transformational. Discover what this quiet, unassuming woman with no formal education in criminal justice did to tear down the walls of mistrust, bring respect and humanity to people on both sides of the prison bars.

This book is now in the PCCOB Library. Come check it out!

**TATER N' TALENT NIGHT –**  
**FEBRUARY 27TH**  
**5:00PM DINNER**  
**6:00PM SHOW**



All are invited to the "Tater N' Talent" night. This year's theme is "Reality Show Bytes." If you are interesting in performing in the show as your favorite entertainer or celebrity (movies, TV, music, sports, etc.), please contact Darrell Hungate (380-2748), Cathy Keith (353-8039) or Laura Smith (986-0932) **before February 14th.**

**FEBRUARY FUN COOKIE TIME**

The Children's Commission invites all the children to join us at the church in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 20, 2010 from 11:00AM – 2:00PM. We will be decorating sugar cookies to eat and to share with shut-ins or other church families. We will have a great time decorating the cookies and then playing games. We will provide lunch to the children. Parents are welcome to drop off their children and enjoy a few hours of "kid-free time." We hope to see you then. If you have any questions, please let a member of the children's commission know. Members are Cathy Keith, Debbie Funderburke, Melanie Graffeo and Sandi Broughman.



**SAVE THE DATE:**

Peters Creek Women's Retreat  
Saturday, April 24, 2010  
Place: Peters Creek Church of the Brethren  
Time: TBA

More details to follow. Please save the date for this one day event. Questions? Please contact Cathy Keith, Gwen Kropff or Sandra Carroll.



**SCHOOL**

We hope you will join us!



There is one thing we want you to know that will make a difference in your life –

*God Love you!*