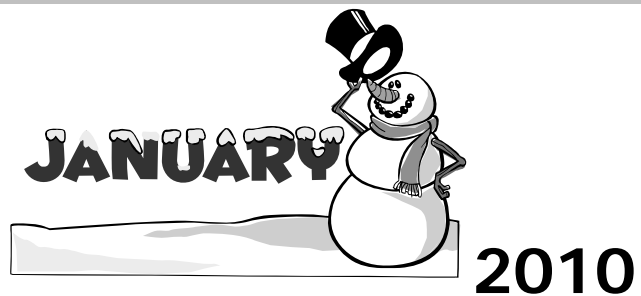


CONNEXION

A Monthly Newsletter
of

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren



WHAT'S NEW?

Well, it's another new year. But other than the date we will now have to put on our checks and correspondence, what's new? Most of us live in homes we have lived in for many years. Most of us still have the same employment that we have had for some years. We may notice our bodies changing or children growing or may mark special events in 2010. But the question is **WHAT'S NEW?**

I have noticed throughout my life how we have made a big deal about New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Like many of you, I made a list of New Year's Resolutions, which I soon forgot or broke. I have eaten the traditional New Year's Day meal of my Pennsylvania Dutch ancestors – pork and sauerkraut, sometimes with dumplings. Why is it that I eat a traditional meal on a day which is to be a New Year Day? That is the irony of our feelings about New Year's Day – and maybe about new things in general.

We talk much about "the new." Younger generations almost venerate "the new." Older generations often reject "the new." And it is hard to define "the new" because we all have our own ideas about what is new and what is not new.

In terms of faith and spirituality though, there is no question that "the new" is of vital importance – of life-saving importance. God is a God of all things – old and new. What God wants most from us is to make our lives new by following the commandments and the example of Jesus Christ our Lord, all the while being open to the Holy Spirit's gifts and movement within us.

In fact in one of the closing verses of the Bible, Revelation 21:5, God tells us: **"See, I am**

making all things new!" This is a reminder that God's new heaven and new earth, promised throughout the Bible is now coming to fruition.

Jesus spoke of new life so many times. And Jesus gave new life to so many people while he lived on our earth. Jesus is the epitome of one who could keep tradition while also making things new. In truth, one of the ways that we follow Jesus is to invite people to a new life, or as our Brethren "tagline" says, we invite people to "Another Way of Living."

I am not against New Year's Resolutions, in fact, I have a couple of suggestions for you.

I resolve to be faithful to God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and to Christ's Church throughout 2010.

I resolve to be faithful in attending worship, Sunday School, and fellowship activities.

I resolve to pray for a minimum of 7 minutes a day.

I resolve to read my Bible for a minimum of 7 minutes a day.

I resolve to volunteer to help in some role at Peters Creek Church in 2010.

We are the inheritors of new life in Jesus Christ. We are commanded by him to love. And the most loving thing I can think of is to share the new life in Jesus Christ with those who are still lost in the world.

Seeking God's newness in my life,

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT – WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY



Our first worship in 2010 will be the Cantata which was cancelled along with worship on December 20, 2009. Christmas begins on Christmas Day (December 25) and ends on Epiphany (January 6). If you count the days, that's the "12 days of Christmas." It's appropriate for the Cantata to be sung during the Season of Christmas on January 3, 2010. The other Sundays of January focus on faithful discipleship.

January 3, 2010:

Cantata: "The Mystery and Majesty of Christmas"

January 10, 2010:

Scripture: Leviticus 25:8-17 and Mark 1:14

Message: "A Year of Jubilee"

January 17, 2010:

Scripture: Acts of the Apostles 8:14-24

Message: "Attitudes Count"

January 24, 2010:

Scripture: 1st Corinthians 12:1-11

Message: "Many gifts, ONE mission."

January 31 2010: SERVICE SUNDAY

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Message: "You did it to me!"

2010 CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are beginning to prepare the 2010 Church Directory. If you have any changes in your address, phone number, or e-mail please let us know by January 7. Also, if you have any other corrections, additions, or changes, let the church office know.

A Reminder to all continuing and newly-elected Church Board Members: Commissions meet at 7:00 PM followed by Church Board Meeting at 8:00 PM on **Tuesday, January 12** in the Fellowship Hall.

"THE MYSTERY AND MAJESTY OF CHRISTMAS"



When worship was cancelled on December 20, 2009, it meant the cantata could not be performed. But the message and music are a part of Christmas. The Cantata: "The Mystery and Majesty of Christmas" will be presented by the Chancel Choir (minus a few members) on Sunday, January 3, 2010. You will want to hear the music and the message of this beautiful work by Joseph Martin.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2010

All newly elected members and all members of last year's Executive Committee are asked to attend the Executive Committee meeting on January 5, 2010 at 7:00 PM. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for this meeting. Because of a large turnover on the Executive Committee and so that the new Executive Committee can be brought up to date on several continuing issues, it is important for the new and old Executive Committees to have conversation and dialogue as we begin the new year. We need all old and new members of Executive Committee on January 5!



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING FEBRUARY 7, 2010



2010 marks the 15th Year of Peters Creek participation in Souper Bowl of Caring. And rather than wait until Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, 2010 to begin our Souper Bowl of Caring giving, we invite you to bring non-perishable food items or financial contributions beginning on January 3 until February 7. This year, our donations will go to Southwest Virginia Second Harvest Food Bank. They then supply food items to food pantries and free meal programs of churches and church-related agencies throughout Southwest Virginia. A donation of \$1.00 as requested on Souper Bowl Sunday will allow Second Harvest to purchase \$6.00 worth of food to help others. Let's continue to make Souper Bowl of Caring a time of celebration and outreach at Peters Creek.



Women's Fellowship Outreach Project and Contributions for 2009

South West Virginia 2 nd Harvest Food Bank	\$250.00
"Matching Fund" Project SWV Food Bank	\$500.00
RAM	\$ 50.00
Rescue Mission	\$300.00
Virlina District Women's Fellowship	\$ 50.00
Roanoke Times Good Neighbor Fund	\$150.00
Relay for Life (Kelly Otey & Charlene Lester	\$200.00
MS Society (Jeff Graffeo)	\$100.00
Church Parking Lot Fund	\$500.00
Junior High Youth Conference	\$100.00
Children's Ministry	\$200.00
Joyful Noise Offering for School Kits	\$100.00
Katie Mau's Scout Project	\$100.00
Men's Fellowship Donation	\$200.00
Senior Fun Day	\$416.00
Awakening Services	\$ 99.00
Heritage Day	\$100.00
Salvation Army Battered Women's Shelter (Turning Point)	\$200.00
Air Conditioning Unit for kitchen	\$171.00
New Kitchen Utensils	\$323.00
New baking pans and pots	\$ 73.00
15 Smock Tops for ladies to wear in kitchen	\$ 98.00
Card Ministry (200+ cards mailed to shut-ins, College students and military – cards and envelopes donated)	\$ 80.00
Sponsored 3 baby showers and 1 birthday gift	\$350.00
Church Christmas Dinner meats	\$300.00
Total	\$5,010.00

A special **"Thank You"** to those that participated and supported in any way for the successful Christmas Dinner that all enjoyed so much and hopefully may carry on to the 2010 Christmas year.

All articles for the **February CONNEXION** should be to the church office by **Friday, January 15.**



The ladies that tack comforts have completed three for the City Rescue Mission and accepted three more. We have a good supply of materials and could use help if you're free or bored on Wednesday morning between 9:00AM and 11:30AM. If you cannot tie or cut, needles need to be threaded. These ladies can knot and tie quickly.



We bought clothing for a small boy for Christmas. Also, give him a comforter with Scooby Doo on it that Lavene Hylton had sewn together. If anyone is interested, we have a comforter in pink for a little girl.

On January 6th, our lunch will be Stone Soup. Each person is assigned a vegetable (stone) to bring and we will cook while we stitch. If you'd like to join us, bring a few stones to throw in the pot. There are no birthdays in the month of January among the members.

We always have the four different colors of dish rags to sell at a \$1.00 each.

Chow Mein Candy

- 2 – 6 oz. pkgs. Butterscotch Morsels
- 1 – 3 oz. can Chow Mein Noodles
- ½ cup Peanuts (I put a little more)
- 2 heaping Tablespoons Peanut Butter



Melt morsels and peanut butter in double boiler or on very low heat. Stir many times. Remove from heat, add noodles and nuts. Stir until evenly coated. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper. Chill and refrigerate.



The church office will be closed on **Friday, January 1** in observance of New Year's Day.

- 2 – Sue Lawrence
- 5 – Kelly Otey
- 7 – Mitch Spencer
- 8 – Ken Mitchell



- 11 – Nickolas Halverson
- 12 – Cory Lowe
- 14 – Bobby Wilson
- 16 – Linda Davis, Katherine Mau, Ray Martin
- 17 – Jerry Rhodes, Roxanne Spencer
- 18 – Sandy Miller
- 26 – Michael Atkins
- 28 – Charles Wilkerson, Linda Pulz
- 29 – Logan Atkins

- 2 – Harold and Lydia Harrison
- 23 – George and Clara Walters



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

Dan Bayer, Ogretta Bayer, Royal Bond, Lois Burnette, Linda Broyles, Debbie Case, Kirby Duncan, Dot Guthrie, David Hanson, Dale Hunt, Don King, Nannie King, Lillian McDonald, Doug McManus, Don Meredith, Dutchie Morelli, Lisa Mowles, Lowell Platter, Paul Pasharow, Juanita Rollison, Olive Pauley, Lewis Peters, Ralph Plunkett, Cathie Rollison, Brenda Smith, 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:



Don't forget our homebound

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

Prayer: Gracious God, open our hearts each day to your love, holiness, and spirit that we may be empowered to spread your kingdom everywhere. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Counters:

Georgia Coffman and Margaret Saul

Deacons:

Kathy Otey and Enid Mau

Sound System:

Adam Hylton

Children's Storytime:

Cancelled (Christmas Cantata)

Greeters:

- 01/03 Ray and Pam Clark
- 01/10 John and Carolyn Montgomery
- 01/17 Joel and Cathy Keith
- 01/24 Jim and Gwen Kropff
- 01/31 Rick Halverson and Missy Carter

Ushers:

- 01/03 Montgomery, Graffeo, Louthen, Cox
- 01/10 Boone, Mau, Clark, Walters
- 01/17 Wise, Kropff, Wright, Ammermann
- 01/24 Carter, Montgomery, Graffeo, Louthen
- 01/31 Cox, Boone, Mau, Clark

Sunday School Nursery:

- 01/03 Joel Keith
- 01/10 Rick Halverson
- 01/17 Sandi Broughman
- 01/24 Warren and Denise Ory
- 01/31 Jeff Graffeo

Worship Nursery:

- 01/03 Jeff Graffeo
- 01/10 Warren and Denise Ory
- 01/17 Cathy Keith
- 01/24 Rose Heckman
- 01/31 Linda Pulz

Scripture Readers:

- 01/03 Cancelled (Christmas Cantata)
- 01/10 Charlene Lester
- 01/17 Pam Clark
- 01/24 Glenna Hungate
- 01/31 Wayne Carroll

Children's Church:

- 01/03 Christa Hylton and Glenna Hungate
- 01/10 Christa Hylton and Glenna Hungate
- 01/17 Linda and Larry Pulz
- 01/24 Linda and Larry Pulz
- 01/31 Rick Halverson and Linda Pulz



Offering Envelopes



You may pick up your **2010 offering envelopes** on the table in the narthex. Please note that your envelope number will not be the same as last year. **Discard offering envelopes from 2009 or previous years.** It is very

important that you write your name on the outside of the envelope before placing it in the offering plate. If you use an old envelope and do not write your name on the outside, then you will not receive recognition on your contribution statement.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Economically speaking, 2009 was a dreadful year for many families around the world. Some lost homes, cars and jobs. Many are unable to fund college educations for their children, and bank accounts have dwindled. What will 2010 bring: movement toward less of everything or toward a more hopeful future?

Here's a good resolution to make: "Our family will pay close attention to our income, our savings and our necessary purchases. We will keep a record of every dollar spent and every dollar saved."

Money accumulated, invested and given wisely will bring peace of mind and the ability to contribute more to the church and people in need. Families must develop a healthy attitude toward money. Scripture doesn't condemn money; it simply warns against loving it or making it an idol (**1 Timothy 6:10**).

With God as our mentor, nearly every family can avoid having crushing debt. Wise stewardship brings relief and unbridled joy to those who practice it. As economist George Humphrey said, "I don't think you can spend yourself rich."



The grace of the
Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of **God,**
and the communion
of the **Holy Spirit**
be with all of you.
2 Corinthians 13:13



Proceeds from the **Salem Red Sox Hot Stove Banquet** on **January 21** at the Salem Civic Center will benefit a scholarship in the name of Mike Smith.

Mike was a game day employee of the former Salem Avalanche Baseball team.

NOW IS THE TIME

We live in troubling times, with wars, poverty, hunger, economic woes, health scares and more. So what now?

Believe this: We Christians will survive the test! Faith, prayer and discipline will bring us victory. Our love for God and the need for worship, Christian education and joyous fellowship will ultimately prevail.

A pastor who worked in a city's poverty-stricken area was asked how his work was going. He answered: "It is a hand-to-mouth existence: God's hand providing for our mouths." So it may be for many churches and people today. But God promises to see us through.



The **Children's Ministry** is planning an outing to "Blessed Blades" Public Ice Skating at Roanoke Civic Center on **January 17th from 2:00PM until 5:00PM.**

The cost is \$5 for ice skating admission and \$2 for skate rentals. Groups of 20 or more receive \$1 discount. If you are interested, please contact Melanie Graffeo

(375-6468) or Cathy Keith (353-8039). All ages welcome!!!

So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions: (1) Pray to the Lord for wisdom (**James 1:5**) in regards to what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) Pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) Rely on God's strength to help you; (4) Find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) Don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead allow them to motivate you further; (6) Don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. **Psalm 37:5-6**, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."