

# CONNEXION

A Monthly Newsletter  
of

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren



Help a Neighbor

## July 2010

### TOGETHER – THEY DID IT!

1845 was an historic and momentous year in the life of Peters Creek Church. Two major events in the life of Peters Creek took place that year, and they occurred less than a mile from one another. As I thought of that year 165 years ago, I pondered how two major events could occur in the life of our congregation within several months of one another.

The first of the historic events was the 1845 Yearly of Annual Meeting of the Fraternity of German Baptists also known as German Baptist Brethren. The 1845 Meeting was held on the property of the Daniel Barnhart family which I have been told included the present site of Glen Cove Elementary School. The dates for this Yearly Meeting were May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, just before Pentecost 1845.

The members of the Peters Creek congregation were likely joined in hosting this Yearly Meeting by the Brethren of the Botetourt church, which was later known as the Valley Church and now Daleville Church of the Brethren which had several preaching points in Botetourt County. Hosing meant providing food for all those who came to the meeting, providing housing, transporting people who arrived by train, and arranging for food and bedding for the horses. Joining together, the two congregations did all that was necessary for the Yearly Meeting.

As many of the Brethren made their way to the Yearly Meeting by way of the Cove Road, they likely observed the construction taking place on the first meetinghouse of the Peters Creek Congregation. The deed for the land was recorded on January 22, 1845. And though we don't know when the meetinghouse was completed or when the first worship was held, we presume from stories passed down at Peters Creek that it was in the fall of 1845.

David Deyerle supervised the construction. Henry Langhorne, a Black indentured servant in the Roanoke Area, made the bricks on site from clays along Peters Creek and did the masonry work. Lumber came from John Garst and was cut in the Dark Hollow area. The cost of the first meetinghouse was \$250. Members of the congregation also assisted in the construction.

I am amazed that two such huge tasks could occur within about one-half mile of one another, and require the efforts and finances of the Peters Creek congregation of 1845. As I pondered how they could do it, my mind became stuck on the word "TOGETHER." They united "together" to accomplish the hosting of the Yearly Meeting and building a meetinghouse. And they united "together" with the Botetourt Brethren to host the Yearly Meeting. I believe it's absolutely true that we can do more when we are united and together than when we all try to do things individually. As we are the people of God and the congregation of Peters Creek TOGETHER, we will find God blessing our endeavors and find that we will accomplish more and go through changes more easily.

Although an 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is not one that is celebrated like the 100<sup>th</sup> or 150<sup>th</sup> or even 175<sup>th</sup>, we will certainly be celebrating 165 years in the fall of 2010. And we will remember that there have been times of division at Peters Creek. There have been times of dispute at Peters Creek. There have been times of great joy and terrible sorrow. Yet, the members and friends who have made up the congregation of Peters Creek over the 165 years (and longer), have persevered and continued always seeking unity of the body and knowing that we must seek to live and be God's people TOGETHER.

Pastor Jack Lowe



## OUR JULY WORSHIPS

As the heat of July descends upon us, and as we celebrate the Day of Independence reminding us that one of our cherished freedoms is the right to worship freely and without being forced into a religion, we celebrate the freedom of religion by gathering to worship God. As Pastor Jack attends Annual Conference on July 4 and visits family on July 11, we will have one guest and one student minister bring the messages. So exercise your right to worship by attending worship.

### **JULY 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUNDAY**

Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Bill Murdock, a Disciples of Christ minister and long-time Chaplain Associate at Lewis-Gale Medical Center. The worship leader will be Richard Wright.

### **JULY 11:**

Elayne Garrett, member of Peters Creek and a ministerial student in the Christian Growth Institute will be the guest preacher. The worship leader will be Merle Heckman.

### **JULY 18:**

Scripture: Letter to the Romans 12:9-21

Message: "The Mark of Christ"

### **JULY 25:**

Scripture: Letter to the Colossians 3:12-17

Message: "The Chosen Ones"

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE WEBCASTS

Annual Conference is going Hi-Tech this year. Webcasts of worships, business sessions, and possibly other activities are being offered this year. You can obtain the schedule of Annual Conference webcasts by going to:

[www.bethanyseminary.edu/webcast/annualconference2010](http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/webcast/annualconference2010)

And maybe next year, if Annual Conference webcasts continue, Peters Creek can share in the Sunday Morning worship by way of the internet.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010-- JULY 3-7 PITTSBURGH, PA

No longer "the Yearly Meeting" or "the Annual Meeting," "the Annual Conference" as we now know it, will meet in Pittsburgh, PA from July 3-7, 2010. Under Moderator Shawn Flory Replogle, this international gathering of Brethren will meet for worship, business, insight sessions, times of fellowship, and meals

There are several items of new business coming to Annual Conference concerning the role of Annual Conference and the Congregational Ethics paper. There are also some items of old business and numerous reports from agencies and committees of Annual Conference.

Worship is a daily highlight at Annual Conference, with evening worships on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday, and morning worships on Sunday and Wednesday.

Five members of Peters Creek are attending Annual Conference this year – Brian Harmon, Morris Gill and Elayne Garrett, and Pastor Jack and Lorna Lowe. Pastor Jack is the delegate this year.

We will be sharing about Annual Conference at the Council Meeting in August and on other occasions in coming months.



## NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> National Youth Conference of the Church of the Brethren in 1954, youth and leaders have met nearly every 4 years for this event. Over the years, many current members of Peters Creek have attended. And this year, two youth – Katherine Mau and Philip Casteel, Jr., -- and one leader – Philip Casteel, Sr. --will attend the National Youth Conference at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO from July 17-22, 2010.

Along with other youth from Virlina District, they will board three buses at the Roanoke Civic Center on Monday, July 12 for the trip to Colorado, returning to Roanoke on Saturday, July 24.

Please pray for National Youth Conference and all those participating from throughout the world.

Pastor Jack and Lorna will leave for Annual Conference on July 1 and return home after a few days of vacation on July 11. Contact Board Chair Willard Flora or Deacons Chair Betty Lou Flora if you need pastoral assistance. Or call Pastor Jack on his cell phone 540-798-6014.



The date is changed for the Busy Bees' hot dog lunch. It will be held on July 14 at 11:30AM and will celebrate the birthdays of Margaret Saul and Jean Frazier. We will quilt on that morning, too.

The conference quilt square was stitched by Lucile Weeks. It was well received, and we got a card stating that it would be used for a wall hanging, since they got too many squares for a quilt.

### Orange Lemonade



- 1 cup sugar
- 2 quarts water
- 1-12 ounce can frozen orange juice
- 1-12 ounce can frozen lemonade

Heat water and sugar until sugar is dissolved; add other ingredients. Mix, chill, enjoy!

### PLEASE ADD TO YOUR PRAYER LIST:

Charlie Atkinson, Pastor Pete Bain, Dan Bayer, Lisa Broughman, Eddie Crowder, the Dennis family, Margaret Dougherty, Robert Duncan, the Esch family, Carrie Flanagan, Tara Graffeo, Carol Harris, Doris Jones (Jen Casto's grandmother), Glenn Kinsel and family, Jeff Large and family, Raymond Martin, Dave Mundy, Connie Garst Nichols, Ken Otey, Dave Prosser, Yvonne Shields, Gladys Stump, Les Switzer, Jewell Tyree, Timmy Wright, Virginia Wright.



### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS:



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.



### Birthdays

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 – Charlene Lester   | 18 -- Sophia Lugones |
| 1 -- Lyndsey Casteel  | 21 – Julia Conner    |
| 5 – Marie Smith       | 22 – Kelsey Casteel  |
| 7 – Christi Halverson | 25 – Betty Michales  |
| 7 -- Jimmy Plunkett   | 25 -- Denise Ory     |
| 7 -- Jeff Graffeo     | 27 – Karen Fabrie    |
| 10 – Amber Montgomery | 27 -- Margaret Saul  |
| 11 – James Kropff     | 27 -- Gary Williams  |
| 12 – Willard Flora    | 29 – Elle Graffeo    |
| 17 – Melissa Tuck     | 29 -- Colin Graffeo  |
| 17 -- Briana Keith    | 30 – Sarah Lugones   |
| 18 – Jeanette Cockram | 31 – Ann Dyer        |
| 18 -- Lee Linkous     | 31 -- Cathy Keith    |

### Anniversaries

- 1 – Richard and Charlene Lester
- 1 – Olen and Lavene Hylton
- 10 – Leon and Doris Epperly
- 15 – Jason and Ryan Poston
- 17 – Peter and Peggy Ammermann
- 18 – Dean and Mary Mannon
- 26 – George and Sandra Garst Hunter
- 26 – Mark and Debbie Funderburke
- 28 – Willard and Sylvia Flora

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

### PATRIOTIC TRIVIA

As we celebrate America's birthday, it's interesting to note that clergymen wrote both the Pledge of Allegiance and the hymn "My Country 'Tis of Thee." Rev. Francis Bellamy wrote the pledge in 1892. Rev. Samuel Francis Smith wrote the hymn in 1831. Both men were Baptist ministers.

The pledge was first used in public schools in 1892 during Columbus Day observances. "My Country 'Tis of Thee" was used as a national song before "The Star-Spangled Banner" was named America's national anthem in 1931.



### *July Volunteer Schedule*

**Counters:**

Georgia Coffman and Margaret Saul

**Deacons:**

Doris Epperly and Marie Smith

**Sound System:**

Adam Hylton

**Children's Storytime:**

7/4 Kathy Otey

**Greeters:**

7/4 Sandra and Wayne Carroll

7/11 Gwen and Jim Kropff

7/18 Elayne Garrett and Morris Gill

7/25 Velma and Pete Kropff

**Ushers:**

7/4 Clark, Kropff, Walters, Ammerman

7/11 Carter, Montgomery, Wright, Graffeo

7/18 Louthen, Mau, Boblett, Cox

7/25 Austin, Clark, Kropff, Walters

**Sunday School Nursery:**

7/4 Denise and Warren Ory

7/11 Jeff Graffeo

7/18 Laura Smith

7/25 Linda Pulz

**Worship Nursery:**

7/4 Jeff Graffeo and Trimmy Carter

7/11 Denise and Warren Ory

7/18 Kathy Otey and Rose Heckman

7/25 Kim and Laura Clingenpeel

**Scripture Readers:**

7/4 Pam Clark

7/11 Morris Gill

7/18 Ray Clark

7/25 Mike Mau

**Children's Church:**

7/4 Cathy and Joel Keith

7/11 Christa Hylton and Glenna Hungate

7/18 Christa Hylton and Glenna Hungate

7/25 Kathy Otey and Jeff Ball

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### **July Meeting**

The Executive Committee will meet at 7PM on July 6.

The Church Board is scheduled to meet at 8PM on July 13.

### **A Dollar Bill's Message**

Look at the back of a dollar bill. On the left circle, which is one side of the Great Seal, are the Latin words *Annuit Coeptis*, which mean "He [God] favors our undertakings."

The pyramid in the left circle represents material strength and endurance. Yet the open spot near the top of the pyramid means there's more good work to be done in our country. The "eye" atop the pyramid represents the "eye of God," watching and reminding us that spiritual matters are more important than material concerns. Under the pyramid, *Novus Ordo Seclorum* refers to a "new order of the ages."

On the right circle is an eagle, our country's national emblem, symbolizing strength and victory. The shield on the eagle's breast signifies self-reliance. One of the eagle's claws holds an olive branch, representing peace. The other talon holds arrows, referring to power and protection.

The center of the bill says "In God We Trust."

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### **The Grace of God**

A man was met at the gates of heaven by St. Peter, who said, "It will take 1,000 points for you to be admitted. The way you lived your life will determine your points."

The man said, "Unless I was sick, I attended worship every Sunday and sang in the choir."

"That's 50 points," said St. Peter. "What else?"

"I gave liberally to the church," the man said.

"Twenty-five points," replied St. Peter. "Anything else?"

Realizing he had only 75 points, the man began to get desperate. "I taught Sunday school for several years."

"That's great work for God, but it's worth only 25 points," noted St. Peter.

The man became frantic. "You know," he said, "at this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the grace of God!"

Peter smiled as he said, "That's worth 900 points! Come on in!"