

# CONNEXION

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



January  
2011

## **"SEE, I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW"**

Our God is a God of blessings and promises. Each day God gives us blessings that we never acknowledge, and sometimes miss. God also gives us promises that have been, are, and will be fulfilled.

Now for a Bible trivia question, what is the last promise that God makes to us in the Bible? The answer is the heading of this column. God's last promise is "See, I am making all things new."

So as to settle any arguments, Jesus makes several promises at the end of Revelation, but the last promise that God makes is in Revelation 21:5: "See, I am making all things new."

Throughout the Scriptures, God has promised a new heavens and a new earth. In Isaiah 65:17, Isaiah 66:22 and 2 Peter 3:13, the promise of a new heavens and new earth are also given. And throughout the Gospels and Epistles, there is the emphasis on the New Covenant and the New Life in Christ.

Along with the Biblical words of newness, there are also many references to change, with many of the words calling on people to make changes in their lives. Ezekiel spoke of God changing the hearts of people, giving people a new heart. In Exodus, we find that even God can change minds, for God chooses not to follow through on destroying the Israelites after Moses has a dialogue with God.

Even though God has planned changes for his creation, and even though God has called for his followers to change and find new life in Jesus Christ, many Christians and church members today seem to long for the past, for the old ways and hymns, for the traditions. Somewhere, we have missed the promise of God that God is making all things new.

Each new year, we make resolutions to change our ways, our bodies, sometimes even our church attendance. The New Year is always perceived as an opportunity to put away the old and embrace the new. The New Year is greeted with expectations of change and newness. Yet, like our New Year's resolutions, the newness is soon forgotten and the old returns, tradition reigns, and God's promise of "all things new" is forgotten.

God invites us to embrace the new, to seek the new, and to become new each day. So while we fear change, while we suspect any thing new, God calls us to be a new creation, to be new people, to receive "a new heart and a new spirit" (see the Prophecy of Ezekiel 11:19, 18:31 and 36:26).

As we begin the Year of our Lord 2011, I invite you to pray daily with me in 2011 the prayerful words of Psalm 51:10:

**CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART,  
O GOD  
AND PUT A NEW AND RIGHT  
SPIRIT WITHIN ME.**

I'll be praying with you and for you.

## JANUARY 2011 –

### A NEW YEAR TO WORSHIP GOD

We often seek to find a purpose for our lives. God created us with a purpose – to love and worship God, and to love and serve others. As we worship in 2011, we will seek to be faithful to God's purpose for our lives.

2011 will begin with two messages related to the season of Epiphany and then move to focus on some of the ways that we can fulfill our God-given purpose.

#### JANUARY 2, 2011: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas



Scripture: the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12

FROM THE  
*Pulpit*

Message: "The LONG Journey"

#### JANUARY 9, 2011:



Scripture: the Gospel of Matthew 3:13-17

FROM THE  
*Pulpit*

Message: "OUR Journey Begins"

#### JANUARY 16, 2011:



Scripture: the Gospel of John 1:29-42

FROM THE  
*Pulpit*

Message: "One by One"

#### JANUARY 23, 2011:



Scripture: the 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the Corinthians 1:10-16

FROM THE  
*Pulpit*

Message: "Pleasing God"

#### JANUARY 30, 2011: Service Sunday



Scripture: the Prophecy of Micah 6:1-8

FROM THE  
*Pulpit*

Message: "Pleasing God"



## "SPECIAL RESPONSE" STUDY



A committee appointed by the Annual Conference Standing Committee has developed a process for dealing with controversial issues and divisions of opinions in the Church of the Brethren. The particular issue facing Annual Conference is proposed changes to the 1983 Annual Conference statement: Human Sexuality from a Christian Perspective." The committee has developed a process which includes study of Biblical passages which focus on creating community, discussing differences, and seeking unity in the body of Christ.

On the Sunday evenings of January, 2011, you are invited to participate in a study of the Biblical passages suggested by the Special Response Committee. From there, we will decide how to proceed with the other issues in the study.

We will begin at 6:30 PM each Sunday, and may not end until 8:00 PM since the study involves much discussion and sharing. But don't let the time keep you away. Come and learn! Come and share. Come, and create a new community spirit in Peters Creek.



Membership  
Classes

During February, Pastor Jack will lead a membership class for Adults during the Sunday School time (9:30 – 10:15 AM) in his study. This is designed for persons considering membership in Peters Creek and for new members who want to know more about the Church of the Brethren and Peters Creek.

There is no need to sign up. Just show up on February 6 at 9:30 AM, if you are interested.

In March and April, there will also be a membership class for older children and youth. We will give more information on that next month.

We will observe the Rite and Ordinance of Baptism on Sunday, April 10 for any who wish to join Peters Creek by baptism. Contact Pastor Jack if you wish to be baptized.



**2011**

Church Directory

We will begin working on the new church directory for 2011 the first week in January. If you know of changes from the 2010 Directory, please call the church office at 562-4346 between 9 AM and 1 PM,

Monday – Friday. or e-mail the changes to [officeadmin@pccob.org](mailto:officeadmin@pccob.org). Changes and information must be to the church office by Wednesday, January 19 to be in the 2011 Directory.

**CHURCH CLOSING INFORMATION**

If it should become necessary to close Peters Creek because of weather, we will put a closing message on the church voice mail by 6:30 AM on Sundays and 8:00 AM on other days. We will also send the closing information to WSLs, channel 10, and WDBJ, channel 7. Because there may be many closings, the best means for checking would be to call the church (562-4346).

We also follow the Roanoke County School closing decisions through the week. If Roanoke County Schools are closed, church activities will be cancelled.



Remember our Shut-ins

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



**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING  
FEBRUARY 6, 2011**

2011 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> Year that Peters Creek has participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Throughout the month of January you are invited to bring canned goods, non-perishable foods, and paper products for RAM House.

And on Sunday, February 6, 2011, youth will be standing at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave to accept monetary donations which will be given to Feeding America Southwest Virginia. We ask each worshiper to give \$1.00 (or more) to help feed the hungry through Feeding America SWVA.

**BUSY BEES NEWS**

**Recipe for a Happy New Year**

- Take twelve fine, full grown months (see that they are free from all memories of bitterness, anger, hate or jealousy).
- Cut into 30 or 31 equal parts of Faith, Patience, Work, Kindness, Prayer and Goodwill.
- Add one teaspoon of Good Spirits, one dash of Fun and a sprinkle of Play.
- Add one heaping cupful of Good Humor.
- Pour over the whole a liberal supply of Love.
- Garnish with a few Smiles and a sprig of Joy. Serve with Quietness, Unselfishness and Cheerfulness, and a Happy New Year is a certainty.



As the new year begins, it's time once again for our pot of Stone Soup. We will enjoy this wonderful lunch on January 5<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30. There are no birthdays in this month among the members. Please join us and bring some stories (veggies) for the pot.

We helped a family at Christmas with clothing and toys. Our thanks to Frances Marshall and her granddaughter for shopping.

## Thank You!

Please be sure to thank Sandy Hunter, Sue Lawrence, Mabel Naff and Janet Otey, who helped to assemble and mail your December CONNEXION.



### PLEASE ADD TO YOUR PRAYER LIST

Brenda Clark, Leslie Garst Cleveland,  
Richard Cox, Houston Crawford,  
Teresa DeBord, Terry Depukat,  
McKinley DeWeese, William Duncan,  
Nora Epperly, Don Filson,  
Floyd Harmon, Julie Hostetter,  
Pat Jenkins, Doris Jones (Jenn Casto's  
grandmother), Marjie Kirby,  
Lisa Lawson, John Long,  
Amos and Loretta Maggard,  
Dennis Mitchell, J B Musucco,  
Connie Nichols, Nancy Rutledge,  
Mildred Saul, Dan Smucker,  
Chris Spiceland, Ted Spradling,  
Tashia Steele, Cindy Tuck, Jewel Tyree,  
Bob Varley, John Williams,  
John Woodell, Sandra and Barry  
Woodford, Marie Wray.

### The Sarum Primer Prayer

God be in my head  
and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes  
and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth  
and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart  
and in my thinking;  
God be at my end  
and at my departing.

As 2010 draws to a close, here are some of the activities we participated in:

\$200.00	Sunday School literature
\$100.00	Haiti Disaster Fund
\$100.00	Feeding America SWVA
\$45.00	Roanoke City Rescue Mission (towels)
\$100.00	RAM
\$50.00	Help for a needy family for Christmas

Our class officers remain the same for 2011.

We thank our teachers for another year of leading us in our lesson studies.

It has been suggested that we plan some activities together outside of class, like class meetings or going out to eat. We're open to suggestions. Come bring your ideas and join us for Sunday School.

### January Birthdays

2 – Sue Lawrence  
5 – Kelly Otey  
7 – Mitch Spencer  
8 – Ken Mitchell  
11 – Nickolas Halverson  
12 – Cory Lowe  
14 – Bobby Wilson  
16 – Linda Davis  
16 – Katherine Mau  
16 – Ray Martin  
17 – Jerry Rhodes  
17 – Roxanne Spencer  
18 – Sandy Miller  
26 – Michael Atkins  
28 – Charles Wilkerson  
28 – Linda Pulz  
29 – Logan Atkins



### January Anniversaries

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

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





## JANUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### Counters:

John Montgomery and Willard Flora

### Deacons:

Kathy Otey and Richard Wright

### Sound System:

Adam Hylton

### Children's Storytime:

1/02 Linda Pulz

### Greeters:

1/02 Ray and Pam Clark

1/09 John and Carolyn Montgomery

1/16 Joel and Cathy Keith

1/23 Jim and Gwen Kropff

1/30 Rick Halverson and Missy Carter

### Ushers:

1/02 Kropff, Walters, Ammermann, Carter

1/09 Montgomery, Wright, Graffeo, Louthen

1/16 Mau, Boblett, Cox, Austin

1/23 Clark, Kropff, Walters, Ammermann

1/30 Carter, Montgomery, Wright, Graffeo

### Sunday School Nursery:

1/02 Joel Keith

1/09

1/16 Sandi Broughman

1/23 Warren and Denise Ory

1/30 Jeff Graffeo

### Worship Nursery:

1/02 Jeff Graffeo

1/09 Warren and Denise Ory

1/16 Cathy Keith

1/23 Rose Heckman

1/30 Linda Pulz

### Scripture Readers:

1/02

1/09 Charlene Lester

1/16 Pam Clark

1/23 Glenna Hungate

1/30 Wayne Carroll

### Children's Church:

1/02 Christa Hylton and Glenna Hungate

1/09 Christa Hylton and Glenna Hungate

1/16 Linda and Larry Pulz

1/23 Linda and Larry Pulz

1/30 Linda Pulz

**Thank you** for all the Christmas remembrances you have given to us this season. You are a very generous people.

With our love, the Lowe family



## What's Important

On February 4, 1968, exactly two months before Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, he delivered his last sermon at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church. In it, he described his preferences for his own funeral. He didn't want people to mention his Nobel Peace Prize, his other awards or where he went to school; none of that was important, he said. Instead, he wanted his eulogist to say King "tried to give his life serving others" and "tried to love somebody."

In that sermon, King also said "everybody can serve," regardless of background or educational level. The only requirements, he said, were "a heart full of grace" and "a soul generated by love."

