

# The Creekside Connection

A publication of

**Creekside  
Church of the Brethren**

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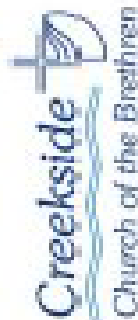
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*The Creekside Connection is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of church programs and to report news about the people of Creekside Church.*

Creekside Church of the Brethren

60455 C. R. 113

Elkhart, IN 46517-9183



• Rooted in God • Growing in Jesus • Bearing Fruit in the Spirit

# The Creekside Connection

## WHO CALLS UPON THE LORD?

As Christians, we are called upon to seek God's love through prayer and Bible reading, to celebrate God's love in meaningful worship, and to share God's love through witness, acceptance, and service. But do we call upon God? Who provides our help, deliverance, protection and sustenance?

Throughout the scriptures for this Lenten season, a theme of human emptiness recurs in contrast to the satisfaction and fulfillment God longs to provide for us. Throughout Lent, God's people are portrayed enduring difficult times—hungry and thirsty, often lost and away from the safety of home. At the same time God's people find their most basic needs met in God's abundance—they find their needs fulfilled by means of a feast which only God can provide. The Lenten theme of "Blessed hunger, holy feast" articulates the truth found in these passages of scripture.

Confession is a key element of the season of Lent. We would like to broaden our understanding of confession during the Lenten services at Creekside to deliberately blur the definition of confession to include both confession of faith *in* God and confession *to* God and who we are in that relationship. Confession is not simply telling God how we've messed up, it is also an acknowledgment that our strength comes from God, and God alone. We all need to call upon the Lord.

During Lent, you will be given an opportunity to share how God has provided for you. This sharing could take the form of a brief story, a poem, a song, or some other kind of offering. We would like to have 1 or 2 people share during each of the first five Sundays of Lent. Please prayerfully consider a time when you have called upon God, and God has responded. It doesn't have to be a dramatic story—God provides for small needs as well as large ones. This invitation is open to anyone at

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(continued from page 1)

Creekside—no one is too young or too old to have experienced God’s care. Our sharing can be as individual as we are—there is no “right” way to confess our faith in God, or how God meets us when we lack faith.

If you feel led to share, please contact Pastor David or Rosanna McFadden. We will try to create space in the worship service for anyone who wants to share, but the sooner we know, the easier it will be to plan. We may tap you on the shoulder if we think you have a story to share or an offering to give. We will plan for each Sunday at least a week in advance, so we must hear from you no later than the Sunday before you wish to share. If you are available on several Sundays and let us know by mid-February, that would be ideal. We would like to have an idea what you are planning to say or share so that it can be incorporated as part of the service. Here are the questions we will be invited to respond to each week:

- February 25 Lent 1 “Who calls upon the Lord today?”
- March 4 Lent 2 “Who seeks the Lord today?”
- March 11 Lent 3 “Who thirsts for the Lord today?”
- March 18 Lent 4 “Who trusts the Lord today?”
- March 25 Lent 5 “Who comes to the Lord today?”

If this seems a bit intimidating, you’re not alone. It’s a little scary to plan our Lenten services around stories we haven’t heard and offerings we haven’t seen. But this is where faith takes us—to places we haven’t been before. This may seem like a step into the wilderness, but

the Bible assures us time and time again that God will provide. We pray that you have felt God’s provision, and will confess your faith in God as we walk through the season of Lent together.

Rosanna McFadden  
Worship Team

## LOVE TREATS

*Show others love by baking them a lovely treat!*

**What you need:**

- ♥ An adult to help
- ♥ Refrigerated cookie dough (sugar or chocolate chip)
- ♥ Jar of red jam (raspberry or strawberry)
- ♥ 1 or 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters. (If you use 2, make sure they are different sizes.)
- ♥ Powdered sugar
- ♥ Sifter
- ♥ Knife

**What you do:**

1. Follow the cookie dough directions for rolling out the dough.
2. If you are using one cookie cutter, cut out the heart-shaped cookies and transfer to a baking sheet. Try to have an even number of hearts when finished.
3. If you are using two cookie cutters, cut out the large hearts. Take half of the hearts, and cut out a small heart window in the center with the smaller cookie cutter. Now you have a heart inside another heart.
4. Have an adult help you bake the cookies according to the dough directions.
5. After baking, place the cookies on a cooling rack.
6. When the cookies are cooled, make cookie sandwiches by spreading jam onto the flat side of half the cookies, and then placing another cookie on top of each one. (If you made cookie windows, use those for the tops.)
7. Sprinkle powdered sugar over your heart sandwiches with a sifter.
8. Share the cookies with the people you love.

**Just for KIDS**

***But the Greatest of These Is LOVE!***

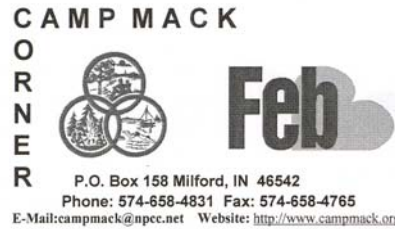
God shows love to us every day and in many ways. Fill in the blanks below with the missing letters to see how God loves us perfectly!

“For God so lo \_ ed the world,  
that he g \_ ve  
his on \_ y  
begott \_ n  
So \_ ,  
\_ hat whosoever  
believeth \_ n Him  
should \_ ot perish,  
but have \_ verlasting life.

—John 3:16, KJV

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Answer: valentine



**YOU ARE INVITED TO CAMP MACK'S ANNUAL DINNER, FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>.** Plan to enjoy hors d'oeuvres at 6:15 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. with dinner music by Harriet Hamer on her harp. And don't miss hearing guest speaker, Walt Wiltchek, Editor of *Messenger*. Cost \$20 each. Preferred seating is available for tables of six, seven or eight persons at \$300, \$350, and \$400 respectively.

**"ON THE WAY," THE SUMMER PROGRAM BROCHURE FOR 2007, has been mailed.** You will find a registration form at the back of the brochure. If you did not receive a Summer Program Brochure in the mail, please request one from your Camp Rep. Camp offers exciting programs for persons of all ages.

**NEW FOR 2007:** Canoe Camp is a brand new offering for those completing grades 5, 6 and 7! After spending two days learning basic canoeing skills at camp on Lake Waubee, campers will day trip down the St. Joe River. Next they will progress to an overnight trip paddling down the Eel River. All of this, plus exploring God and nature and sharing favorite camp activities packs a "waterrific" week!

**PLAN NOW TO HELP OUT AT CAMP DURING ONE OR BOTH VOLUNTEER WORK CAMPS:**

March 19-21, 2007 April 23-25, 2007  
Please call the Camp to let us know when you can come.

**MOTHER/DAUGHTER WEEK-END IS MARCH 31-APRIL 1.** This year's theme is *Woven Together*.

Come to Camp Mack and weave closer relationships.

**The Spring QUILTING RETREAT** is April 19-22, 2007. Register now for this popular retreat. Registration is limited to the first 45 fully paid persons.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for: The Camp Mack Staff Committed counselors and Summer Staff

**Quiet Place Quote:** Scripture should never stop sounding in your ears and working in you all day long, just like the words of someone you love. - Dietrich

Bonhoeffer



- Feb. 1 John Zerbe
- Feb. 5 John Berkebile
- Feb. 10 Bill Birr
- Feb. 11 Cheri Howe
- Feb. 18 Connie West
- Feb. 21 Michael Soucie
- Feb. 21 Cody Vance
- Feb. 23 Scott Metzler



**February Anniversaries**

- Feb. 21 Tim & Shelly Randall
- Feb. 26 Bruce & Cathy Barwick
- Feb. 27 Chris & Missy Zimmerman

**ATTENDANCE NUMBERS**

DATE	Sunday School	Worship
Jan. 7	49	77
Jan. 14	68	105
Jan. 21	84	87
Jan. 28		

Our new pictorial directories have arrived. If you had your picture taken for the directory, or submitted a picture for the directory, and haven't received your copy, contact Cindy at the office at 875-7800.

**FOSTER HOMES NEEDED**

Elkhart County has a need for quality foster families to provide a safe, nurturing environment for children and/or adolescents until they can be reunited with their biological families. If you would like more information about being a foster parent, please call Cindi Schnitz at (574) 533-1234 ext 754.

**Shalom Team In Training**

*Shalom Team Members participated in a two-hour training on Thursday January 18, 2007. Carolyn Shenk faculty member at Goshen College who specializes in relationship building within congregational life and peace studies was our trainer. Our team will occasionally have this kind of in-service to better equip us to serve Creekside. Shalom Team members are available to anyone in the church to help address concerns and affirm/cultivate the spiritual health of our congregation.*

*Shalom Team*

*Cary Kelsey, Anne Griffith, Deana Markley, John Zerbe and Bill Pletcher*



**ARE THE WINTER BLUES GETTING YOU DOWN?**

**ARE YOU FEELING SOMEWHAT BLAH?**

**ARE YOUR COMPETITIVE JUICES BURNING?**

**Then bring your friends and family and join us on Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. for the 1<sup>st</sup> annual**

**“BRETHREN BLARNEY BASH”**

**Expect an evening of food, fun, games and plenty of laughter. Whether your specialty is euchre, board games or ping pong, we will have it all. Whether you are young or old it is sure to be a great time. Mark your calendars now!!!**

**There will no Community Dinners until after May.**

## SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Sunday, February 11, 2007 is the Creekside Valentine's Dinner. The food will be provided by Fellowship Team, but you can help make this a time when we share with many members and friends of Creekside. Here's how:

- 1. Make Valentines:** Worship Team is inviting each person at Creekside to bring two Valentines to church on February 11<sup>th</sup>. We encourage you to make a Valentine, and will provide supplies (colored paper and doilies) for you to take home on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>; the valentines do not need envelopes. If you would rather purchase Valentines, you may do that as an alternative. **Don't address the Valentines to a specific person**, but you may sign them with your name, if you wish.
- 2. Eat:** Share a meal and fellowship with Creekside friends immediately after Sunday School on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The food will be prepared for you.
- 3. Sing:** After lunch we'll clear the tables and gather in the foyer to sing hymns by phone to our shut-in members. If you have a cell phone and bring numbers of people whom you would like to call, we can sing to several people at the same time.
- 4. Share:** After singing, we will gather the valentines and address them to members and friends of our congregation. Those who are able can go in small groups to Greencroft, or Elkhart homes or nursing homes and deliver valentines in person. Some will be mailed to members who are out of town.

We did not have a time for Christmas caroling this past Christmas season, so we hope you take this opportunity to fellowship and to share the love which brings us together in Christ. Please consider contributing a valentine or two, even if you're unable to stay for the afternoon on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be a basket to collect finished valentines in the gathering area on February 4<sup>th</sup> and through the week until the 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for taking the time to share God's love.

Rosanna McFadden  
Worship Team

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of forty days of Lent (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter Sunday. During this time, the church enters into a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Although Ash Wednesday is a solemn service, it need not be a depressing one; its observance has become a meaningful way to begin the season for many of us at Creekside.

Ash Wednesday 2007 is February 21<sup>st</sup>. Our service at Creekside will begin at 7:00pm and will be finished before 8:00pm. Childcare will be provided. The service includes the imposition of ashes (putting ashes on the forehead) for those who wish to receive it. In preparation for the service, you are invited to read the following scripture passages:

Joel 2:12,17

Psalms 51

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

You may also want to contemplate this poem by desert father Isaac of Syria:

As a handful of sand thrown into the ocean, so are the sins of all flesh as compared with the mind of God.

Just as strongly flowing fountain is not blocked up by a handful of earth, so the compassion of the Creator is not overcome by the wickedness of his creatures.

Worship Team

### Mission Outreach

#### Special Giving

(as of December 31, 2006)

2¢ a Meal	\$ 334.97
Baldwin Missionary	\$ 1,140.00
Church Community Services	\$ 1,155.00
Disaster Relief	\$ 25.00
Heifer Project	\$ 143.18
Soup of Success	\$ 50.00
Gen. Bd/One Great Hr of Sharing	\$ 307.00
Gen. Bd/Nigeria	\$ 50.00
Gen. Bd/Christmas Offering	\$ 68.00
Church World Service	\$ 192.00
CWS/Blanket Offering	\$ 925.00
CSW/Health Kits	\$ 7.60
Total above budget giving	\$ 4,397.75

### Financial Statistics

Financial Statistics through:  
December 31, 2006

#### General Fund

Year to Date Income	\$ 199,196.38
Expenses	\$ 222,888.34
Net Loss	\$ (23,691.96)

#### Building Fund Balance (To-date)

Building for Christ Acct. (w/Int) \$ 9,738.05

#### NEW ADDRESS FOR MARK ARNOLD (until May)

Mark Arnold  
Mercedes Gazcón  
Calle Caños del Peral 2, 3ºIzqioerda  
CP 28013 Madrid España

#### LENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Worship Team will be providing Lenten devotional books for your personal and family use. The Brethren Press publication, "Growing the Fruit of the Spirit," by Rhonda Pittman Gingrich leads us in a prayerful effort to tend and cultivate the seeds planted by the Spirit, so that we might grow and bear nourishing fruit. One copy will be placed in each church mailbox by Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Additional copies for you to use or share with a friend will be available upon request from the ushers or on the hospitality table in the gathering area.



I am really enjoying the book of meditations I received at Christmas time. Thank you so much.

I would also like to thank the congregation for the gift of books John received at Christmas. I'm sure he enjoyed them. It always give the family a warm feeling when he is remembered.

Gratefully,  
Joyce Gordon

#### THANK YOU!


Worship Team would like to thank those of you who brought cookies and snacks for the fellowship time following the Christmas Eve service. Thanks also to those who organized and cleaned up afterwards. We appreciate, and our guests appreciate, your generosity and service.



- February 11— Valentine's Dinner—Worship Team
- March 10—Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
- March 17—Brethren Blarney Bash—Mission/Outreach Team
- May 6—Honor Your Father & Mother Dinner—Fellowship Team
- May 19—Blessing of the Bikes
- July 15—Ice Cream Social—Fellowship Team
- August 12—All Church Picnic—Worship/Fellowship Teams
- September—Annual Golf Outing
- October—Dinners for 8—Fellowship Team
- December 2—Advent All Church Gathering—Fellowship Team

# FEBRUARY

# 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Choir Practice	1	2	3 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Church Board Retreat at De Pue's
4 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School  CHOIR SINGS New Life Super Bowl Party	5	6	7 9:00 a.m.—Volunteer Fellowship 7:00 p.m.—By-Laws Mtg— Heeters 7:00 p.m.—Fellowship Team	8 7:00 p.m. - Worship Team	9	10
11 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School  Valentine Dinner	12	13	14  Valentine's Day Choir Practice	15	16	17
18 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School  CHOIR SINGS	19	20 6:30 p.m. - Church Board	21 <b>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER</b>	22 6:30 p.m. - Mission/ Outreach Team	23 <b>YOUTH WINTER RETREAT</b>	24
25 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School  YOUTH WINTER RETREAT	26	27	28 Choir Practice			