

The Creekside Connection

A publication of

**Creekside
Church of the Brethren**

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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.



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

The Creekside Connection

FEBRUARY 2008

C O N G R E G A T I O N

InFormation

Lent at Creekside Church

If you have looked ahead at your 2008 calendar, you may have noticed that Easter is March 23--the earliest date in decades. As Christians, we ought always to be aware of the reality of Easter and resurrection in our lives; as those who plan worship at Creekside Church, this reality has had practical implications for our activities as a congregation in the coming weeks:

Sunday, February 3 is the last Sunday before the beginning of Lent. As part of our worship service that day we will "bury the Alleluia" and not use Alleluia as part of our corporate worship until it breaks forth again on Easter Sunday. Check your mailboxes that Sunday for copies of the Lenten devotionals from Brethren Press. There will be additional copies available from the ushers if you want an extra for your family or to share with friends or visitors.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 6. We will be observing this day with a service at the church at 7:00 p.m. The service will include reading Psalm 51, singing, silence, and the imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive this symbol of repentance and humility. All ages are welcome to participate; the service will be about 45 minutes long. Children should be supervised by an adult; no child care will be provided, but the nursery is available for your use.

As part of that service, we will introduce the theme for Lent at Creekside, "Congregation InFormation." Christian formation is the name given to the process of being formed into the image of Christ.

This is the goal of every aspect of our life as Christians and our life in the church: our worship, fellowship, Christian education, committee meetings, and service and witness to our community and world. Although Christian formation is already part of our mission, vision, and programming, we would like to focus on formation in a particular way in the season of Lent. Our goal is for every person at Creekside to spend at least 60 minutes per week in prayer from Ash Wednesday through Easter. Worship Team will provide a packet with a

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brief description of Christian formation, and suggestions for structuring prayer time each week during Lent. There will be one packet for adults and youth, and another for children and adults who work with them. The central image of Congregation InFormation comes from Isaiah 64:8 "Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay and you are our Potter; we are all the work of your hand." As part of our worship and prayer practice you will be invited to consider these words from second-century saint of the church, Iraneus:

*It is not you who shapes God. It is God who shapes you.
 If then you are the work of God,
 Await the hand of the artist, who does all things in due season.
 Offer him your heart, soft and tractable
 And keep the form in which the artist formed you.
 Let you clay be moist,
 Lest you grow hard and lose the imprint of his fingers.*

We plan to explore topics of Christian formation in our worship and individual spiritual practice. Christian formation is a life-long process, and many of you already have a long and fruitful practice of prayer and devotional reading. We hope that you will share those experiences with those who are earlier on the spiritual journey. The topics for worship and reflection each week are:

February 10	Awareness
February 17	Identity
February 24	Character
March 2	Faithfulness
March 9	Justice

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, March 16. Morning worship and Sunday School will be at the usual times. The following Thursday, March 20, will be our traditional Maundy Thursday Love Feast with feet washing and communion at the church at 6:30pm. This will be followed by Tenebrae Service, the Service of Shadows, that same evening. All ages are encouraged to participate; childcare will be provided for pre-school age children.

Events for Easter, March 23 will begin with a Celebration of the Risen Son and Easter breakfast at the church at (7:30am). Morning worship will begin at 9:30am, and there will be no Sunday School that day. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate the resurrection with us!

Thank you for your support of worship activities at Creekside; please be in prayer for our congregation as we enter the challenges and the promises of the season of Lent.

Rosanna McFadden
 for Worship Team

Give a heart



One way to show love is to do something nice for someone else. Luke 10:27 tells us to love our neighbors, but who are our neighbors? Everyone is!

Make these fun heart treats to share with some of your neighbors.

What you need:

- Saucepan
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 2 or 3 bags of miniature marshmallows
- 4 cups of crisp-rice cereal (regular or chocolate)
- 9 x 13 pan
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bag of chocolate chips (milk or white chocolate)
- Bowl
- Zipper sandwich baggie
- Scissors

What you do (with adult help):

1. Melt butter in saucepan and add marshmallows.
2. Stir until mixture becomes difficult to stir anymore. Mix in cereal and stir.
3. Butter the 9 x 13 pan and spread the mixture evenly in it. Allow to cool.
4. When cool, use cookie cutter to cut out heart-shaped treats.
5. Melt chocolate chips in a bowl in the microwave.
6. Spoon melted chocolate into a baggie. Cut off a corner and drizzle chocolate over the treats.
7. Enjoy giving a heart to your neighbor!

Just for KIDS

LOVE

In the Bible, Jesus says there are two greatest commandments. Below is a heart with continuous words around it. With your pencil, draw lines between the words. Then copy the words onto the lines below to complete Luke 10:27, NIV.

YOURSELF LUKE 10:27 LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH AND WITH ALL YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself."

AMBS NEWS

We welcomed several new students this week as we begin a new year, coming from down the street in Elkhart and from as far as Seattle. January interterm promises to be intense but fruitful as students and faculty explore Old Testament prophets, Christian formation in the congregation, the gospel and epistles of John and theology.

Please pass along the information about these upcoming opportunities:

1. Seminary Sampler: Our spring open house for people considering seminary study is March 7. It's a great time for someone you know with gifts for ministry to visit. See the [Seminary Sampler invitation](#).
2. **Beginning Hebrew** is a new online course for spring semester. For someone who wants to start seminary studies but isn't ready to relocate to campus, this online course is a good place to start. See a course profile for [Beginning Hebrew](#).
3. **!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth** invites applications for both summer 2008 and summer 2009. This summer the program will include 15 youth who will work with pastors in their home communities for five weeks and spend three weeks in the !Explore group experience. In summer 2009, !Explore will take ten youth and their pastors to Mennonite World Conference. Register by February 29 with the [online !Explore registration forms](#).
4. Biblical Views on Food and Farming is the topic of this year's Theological Lectureship with Dr. Ellen Davis, professor at Duke Divinity School, Durham, N.C. See [details about her lecture series](#) at AMBS, February 28-29.
5. We are saddened by the recent deaths of two AMBS professors:

[Erick Sawatzky](#), associate professor emeritus, on December 6 in Winnipeg, Man. A memorial service will be held January 27, at 2 p.m., at Eighth Street Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.

[David Tripp](#), adjunct faculty in Methodist studies, on December 16, in LaPorte, Ind.

Campus calendar:

Upcoming events:

[Dealing with Dysfunctional Family Systems](#), January 28

[Pastors Week, January 28-31, 2008](#)

Featured AMBS speakers will be Arthur Paul Boers, Alan Kreider, Ben Ollenburg and Rebecca Slough.

Pastoral Care Series workshop: [Broken Marriage](#), May 29

[Summer 2008 course offerings](#)

[Upgraded? The Influence of Technology on Christian Worship consultation](#), August 7-9

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

DATE	Worship	Sunday School
1/6	96	70
1/13	105	84
1/20	101	74
1/27		



FEBRUARY Birthdays

Feb. 2 John Zerbe
 Feb. 10 Bill Birr
 Feb. 11 Cheri Howe
 Feb. 18 Connie West
 Feb. 21 Melissa Taylor
 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 & Melissa Zimmerman

THANK YOU!
 THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to the congregation for the belated Christmas gift. I really appreciate it.

Cindy Harman

Living thanks always for all things unto God and the father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 5:20

Dear Creekside,

PASTOR DAVID & SUE'S NEW PHONE # - 295-6147.



AT&T PRESENTS

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Ministry of Reconciliation Workshop, Exploring Consensus Decision-making. April 12, 2008 from 9 am to 4 pm. at the West Charleston Church of the Brethren, in Tipp City Ohio. The leaders will be Charletta Erb and Wanda Joseph, MoR practitioners. Cost is \$60 per participant or \$100 for groups of three or more. This event is open to congregational members, pastors, leadership teams/board members, district and agency leadership. Join us as we explore the paradigm shift from traditional linear decision-making to the collaborative process of collective decision-making. We will explore a series of prerequisite learnings underlying the consensus process including: Collaborative creativity; Letting go of pre-conceived solutions; Awareness of power; Reframing questions; Awareness of self; Suspending judgment. Our goal for the morning is experiencing the above learnings and the release of creativity that lies in each one of us for a transformed decision, one which could be found completely outside of the traditional yes/no vote found in traditional decision-making. In the afternoon, the participants will learn the nuts and bolts of the consensus process. Participants will learn the steps to guiding the consensus decision-making process and experience a mock meeting in which the group will practice deciding an issue by consensus. To register or for more information contact Annie Clark at annie.clark@verizon.net or call 260-982-8595.

John Horning M.D., member of the Goshen City congregation, passed away December 26, 2007 at 1:20 pm. He was at Goshen General Hospital where he had been since December 18. John was an ordained minister and spent years in Ecuador and Nigeria as a missionary. He leaves behind his wife, Estella (Boggs), one son, four daughters, 13 grandchildren, one great grandson, one brother and one sister.

Memorials may be given to the Goshen City Church. Visit www.yoderculpfuneralhome.com to send on-line condolences.

Art Hall, wife of Phyllis, and member of the Beacon Heights congregation, passed away on January 2, 2008. Phyllis' address is 7002 S. Lake Knoll Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46815/ phi6366@verizon.net

Our condolences and prayers go out to both of the families.



For your convenience, there are mailboxes at the top of the mailbox center that are labeled for each Team Leader, as well as Treasurer, Board Chair, Administrative Assistant, etc. We are also adding a basket/folder outside the office door for your convenience.

District News Notes

- 1) Herman Kauffman announced at District Conference that we had been invited to apply for a **Lilly Endowment Grant for their Economic Challenges Initiative project**. The initiative invites Indiana judicatories to participate in an experimental initiative that seeks to help churches address economic challenges that undercut the effectiveness of their pastors. The ultimate goal, as stated by Lilly, is to alleviate the financial burdens carried by pastors and thereby strengthen the quality of pastoral leadership and enhance the vitality of Indiana congregations.

In order to meet the guidelines established by the Lilly Endowment, **the two Indiana districts joined together to apply for a "Planning Grant"** as the first step in this process. Our Proposal was for a \$50,000 grant to explore the nature of two primary economic challenges facing Church of the Brethren pastors in Indiana: Debt related to education and Debt related to health issues. During the planning phase the grant will enable a confidential survey of ministers related to debt and financial issues, listening sessions around the state for pastors and for congregational leaders, a forum, gathering of information and refinement of goals for proposing an implementation grant. This planning phase is expected to take place during the first half of 2008.

During December we received word from Lilly Endowment that our Planning Grant Proposal was approved and shortly before Christmas the check for \$50,000 to fund the planning stage was received and deposited.

Ron Finney, who has previous district staff experience in both Indiana districts, has been called as Project Manager for this Planning Stage and will work 1/2 time on this project during the coming months. He will be compensated through the grant. Ron has already begun working on plans and you can expect to hear from him in the near future with further information.

I am thankful to the Lilly Endowment leadership for making this opportunity and the funds available for this important project and I am hopeful that pastors and congregational leadership will give full support to the various opportunities to provide input which could lead to a much larger implementation grant by the end of 2008. Herman Kauffman

- 2) The **music publishing and recording industry continues to prosecute illegal use** of copyrighted music and videos in the courts, and there are fines being levied in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. This article discusses a new development that has implications for churches that make use of copyrighted and recorded music and videos in worship. To read the whole story, log on to www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=45730&loc_id=17,823.

Sudan Initiative - The Church of the Brethren has built significant relationships and reputation over decades of work in the Sudan. We now have an opportunity to help rebuild and heal communities in Southern Sudan and to plant new churches in the Torit area.

Presently, **Jim and Pam Hardenbrook**, Lead Team mission workers, are working on mission interpretation visits and generating financial support for the Sudan Initiative prior to their departure in the coming months. They will be sharing further about the Sudan Initiative on Sunday evening, January 20, at 6:30 pm at the Union Center Church of the Brethren. They will also meet with district pastors and other interested persons at the district office at noon on Monday, January 21. Bring your own lunch.

Until recently Jim served as pastor of the Nampa, Idaho congregation and was Annual Conference Moderator in 2005.

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Prospective volunteers needed to go to New Orleans for **disaster relief, March 2 – 8, 2008**. Planning to drive down either overnight on Saturday 3/1 or leave very early on the 2nd, then return either overnight on Friday 3/7 or leave early Sat. morning, depending on the consensus of the group. John Berkebile plans to drive his van, which can hold 6 comfortably. If the group desires, could even plan to visit the French Quarter.

Contact John Berkebile if you are interested at 206-4164.

- March 1—10:00 a.m.—Work Day at Church
- March 2—5:00 p.m. Movie
- March 4—7:00 p.m. Worship Team Mtg.
- March 5—9:00 a.m.—Volunteer Fellowship
- March 6—6:30 p.m.—Church Board
- March 7—2:00-5:00 p.m.—Pancake/Sausage Team preparing for Breakfast
- March 7—2:00-5:00 p.m.—Pancake/Sausage Breakfast Team
- March 8—7:30—10:30 a.m.—Pancake/Sausage Breakfast
- March 9—Drop In at Carney's
- March 9—K-5—Card Making
- March 20—6:30 p.m. Mundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service
- March 23—7:30 a.m.—Easter Sunrise Service with breakfast to follow
- March 29—Women's Retreat
- April 20- 9:00 a.m.—Volunteer Fellowship
- April 3—6:30 p.m.—Church Board
- April 4—9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.—Fiber Friends
- April 13—Youth Lock In





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (K-5)

February 16 - Sledding Ferretti Baugo Park



March 9 - Making cards for shut in's

June - Trip to CCS and work for Soup for Success



July - Trip to the beach



Questions? See Scott Harney or Angi Marcin

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cobnews@brethren.org or News Services, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

*The 300th Anniversary Committee has issued a challenge to each congregation to multiply its attendance at the 2008 Annual Conference in Richmond, Va., in July. Congregations are challenged to multiply by three the representation they sent to the 2007 Annual Conference. If a congregation had no members attending last year, they are encouraged to send at least three this year. "If there were four persons from your congregation at Conference last year, for instance, then this year the goal would be to have 12," the committee said. "This would be an overall increase of 300 percent at our 300th Anniversary!" Congregations that succeed in this challenge will receive special recognition at the 2008 Annual Conference.

*Southern Ohio District is planning three worship services centered around the 300th Anniversary theme. The first was planned for Jan. 13 at West Alexandria (Ohio) Church of the Brethren with Bethany Theological Seminary president Ruthann Knechel Johansen speaking on the theme, "Surrendered to God." The second service is planned for March 2 at the recently purchased meetinghouse of Cincinnati (Ohio) Church of the Brethren, with Annual Conference moderator James Beckwith speaking on "Transformed in Christ." The third service is scheduled at Pittsburg Church of the Brethren in Arcanum, Ohio, on May 18, with Annual Conference moderator-elect David Shumate

speaking on "Empowered by the Spirit."

*Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren served an 18th-century dinner and offered a drama about Brethren history given by members of Everett (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, to kick off its celebration of the anniversary according to a piece in the "Carroll County Times." Church members were encouraged to dress like the church founders, and the meal eaten by the light of oil lanterns included a corn-and-chicken casserole, corn fritters, apple-sauce, carrots, green beans, and an apple crisp. At each table were pictures of the Westminster church in its early days, the newspaper reported. Other events planned by the church include an old-fashioned worship service in February and a tour of the county's Brethren churches in March.

*A. Kathryn Oller, 91, retired as associate dean of the School of Library and Information Science at Drexel University in Philadelphia, is filling "her latest volunteer post" by helping to plan anniversary events at Waynesboro (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, according to the "Record Herald" of Waynesboro. The anniversary activities will include a program in March featuring Oller's slides of her trip to Swarzenau, Germany, where the Church of the Brethren was founded. Oller is uniquely qualified, as she and her family are direct descendants of church founder Alexander Mack, the newspaper said, and her doctoral dissertation focused on Christopher Sauer, a colonial printer connected with the Brethren.

BRETHREN NEWSLINE UPDATE

1) 300th Anniversary update: Pentecost offering will support churches, districts, denomination.

A special Pentecost offering scheduled for the Sundays of May 11 or 18 on the theme, "New Heart...New Spirit" (Ezekiel 36:26) is being planned as a 300th Anniversary offering for the Church of the Brethren. The special Pentecost offering will support congregations, districts, and the denomination, and is sponsored by the Church of the Brethren General Board.

"Just as the wind and fire of Pentecost drew together and strengthened Jesus' followers, through God's spirit we can speak and work as one voice," said an invitation from Ken Neher, director of donor development, and Carol Bowman, coordinator of stewardship education.

"We hope and pray that this will be about new life and one spirit-filled voice within the Church of the Brethren."

The Pentecost offering will differ from previous offering emphases in the way it will be allocated to support ministry at all levels of the church.

"When the offering is received, your congregation will keep one third for local ministries and within two weeks forward the rest to the General Board," the invitation said. "The General Board will then gather together all the of-

ferings that are sent by your district churches and return one half of that total to the district office for district ministries. The final third of the offerings will then, after expenses, be shared in various amounts with several other denominational ministries."

Congregations across the country are being encouraged to participate, and to consider multiples of three or 300 to "symbolize the three life-changing centuries of continuing the work of Jesus together."

Worship resources, offering envelopes, and additional materials will be available. Contact Neher at 509-665-0441 or kneher_gb@brethren.org; or Bowman at 509-663-2833 or cbowman_gb@brethren.org.

2) 300th Anniversary bits and pieces.

*A press release template has been posted at www.brethren.org/genbd/newsline/300th.html to help congregations and districts publicize local or regional 300th Anniversary events. For more about the use of the template or for help with press releases, contact the General Board's director of News Services, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, at 800-323-8039 ext. 260 or cobnews@brethren.org. In the future, the website also will be offering a list of links to media reports about local or regional 300th Anniversary events. Please send any links or copies of articles to

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Saturday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.

Free Admission

Popcorn & Drink Provided



**BRING YOUR
FAMILY & FRIENDS**

Bring your family, friends, & neighbors!

SEE YOU THERE!



FEBRUARY

2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:30 A.M. - 3:30 p.m.— Fiber Friends	2
3 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School Alleluia Sunday 4:00 p.m.—New Life Super Bowl Party at church	4	5	6 9:00 A.M. - Volunteer Fellowship 7:00 p.m.—ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE	7 6:30 p. m. - Board at Church	8	9
10 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School Drop In—Vances	11	12	13	14	15	16 K-5 Sledding at Ferretti Baugo Park
17 9:00 a.m.— Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School	18	19	20 7:00 p. m. - Shalom Team Mtg.	21	22	23 MOVIE NIGHT
24 9:00 a.m.— Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School	25	26 7:00 p.m. Pancake/Sausage Mtg.	27 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Mtg. <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER</div>	28	29	