

Creekside Connection

February 2012

Pastor's Ponderings

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18

"Next year I'm going to be a changed person!" Charlie Brown tells Lucy. "That's a laugh, Charlie Brown!" she says. "I mean it!" he replies. "I'm going to be strong and firm!" "Forget it," she says as she walks off. "You'll always be wishy-washy!" "Why can't I change just a little bit?" Charlie Brown asks himself. "I'll be wishy one day," he shouts, "and washy the next!"

It is February and we all know what that means. It is the month that we begin Lent. We celebrate Ash Wednesday on February 22 and that begins our Lenten journey. Sometimes we enter into this month with trepidation. We know that it is a tradition to give something up for Lent - something that we will most likely not succeed at. We become frustrated for our lack of discipline and will power. I've been there and it is not pretty.

But how about if we look to Lent as an opportunity to enrich our lives through the way we relate to God? What if we begin to search God in ways that are new and different? Many of our Creekside members expressed their closeness to God in outdoor settings. What if you decided to find God in the grocery store? What if you entered the store and began to say now God speak to me about your presence here? What do you think would happen? God would begin to change the lens of your spiritual glasses to see God in ways that you did not see.

Let me give you an example. In our last Outreach meeting, each member received a \$25 gift card for a local store. Sharon and Ang asked us to give these cards to someone in need. I received a Martin's card. I thought of many people who I thought may need the card but I opted to give it to a stranger. I decided to shop a few days at the Martin's in Dunlap. Each time I entered the store, I prayed for an opportunity for God to show me the needs of people. This experience opened my eyes to the people who are around me. I did not head into the store with my list and my thoughts on how much time I had to finish and what I needed to accomplish for the day - which is always the case for me. I went in looking for God to speak to me in the midst of my daily routine. And in my desire for God to reveal himself to me, I found someone to minister and to bless.

My illustration is an opportunity to reflect on the new COB Vision statement.

Vision Statement

Through Scripture, Jesus calls us to
live as courageous disciples by word and action:

To surrender ourselves to God,

To embrace one another,

To express God's love for all creation.

This is something I plan on changing in my life - I want to create places to experience God in new ways. Centering all my day in God without the rush and harried lifestyle. What is Jesus calling me to do today? This is the COB vision. Jesus calls us in our daily routine and we listen to God's voice guiding us into a new way of living out our discipleship.

During the Lenten season, we are creating means of grace that embrace this new vision. Calls to Worship, Invocations and Prayers will be designed to reflect the spirit of the Statement. A new Bible study and devotional ideas will be offered. This is a life changing opportunity.

It is not easy to change but when we see the world through the lens of God's love for humanity, our heart, minds and spirits are open to the calling of God in our lives. We are changed. Well, gotta go, I think I hear God calling me.

In the Lord's love and joy, Pastor Janet

FEBRUARY

Birthdays **Happy Birthday**

Feb 1 Tom Lamb
 Feb 2 John Zerbe
 Feb 3 George DeGeeter
 Feb 7 Peter Miller
 Feb 10 Bill Birr
 Feb 21 Cody Vance
 Feb 26 Trinity King



FEBRUARY

Anniversaries

Feb 21 Tim & Shelly Randall
 Feb 25 Keith & Doris Hostetler
 Feb 26 Bruce & Kathy Barwick



SPAGHETTI DINNER Sunday, February 12, 2012 at noon

Come and enjoy great food and fellowship and support the Creekside Youth. All proceeds go to the NYC Fund. Mama Sue will-a take-a good care of us!

	Worship	Sunday School
ATTENDANCE NUMBERS		
1/1	73	39
1/8	77	44
1/15	72	56
1/22	75	29
1/29		

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Annual Pancake Dinner
 February 22, 2012
 Pancakes @ 6:00 p.m.
 Worship @ 7:00 p.m.
 Invite someone to join us!



Courtney & Robert Bogunia
 2719 East Ash Maple Lane
 Elkhart, IN 46514
 574-264-2876
 Courtney's e-mail bravesgirl1@aol.com

Cal and Jean (Mann) Graber
 1122 Spring Brooke Dr.
 Goshen, IN 46528
 home phone - 535-0577
 Jean's cell - 574-215-9771
 Cal's cell - 574-536-5708
 Jean's email - jmanngraber@bnin.net
 Cal's email cbgraber@bnin.net

Ryan and Jessica Prah
 23593 Ashton Court
 Elkhart, IN 46517
 574-875-1160
 Jessica's e-mail mrandsprahl@yahoo.com

Alicia Redinger's e-mail aoredinger@gmail.com

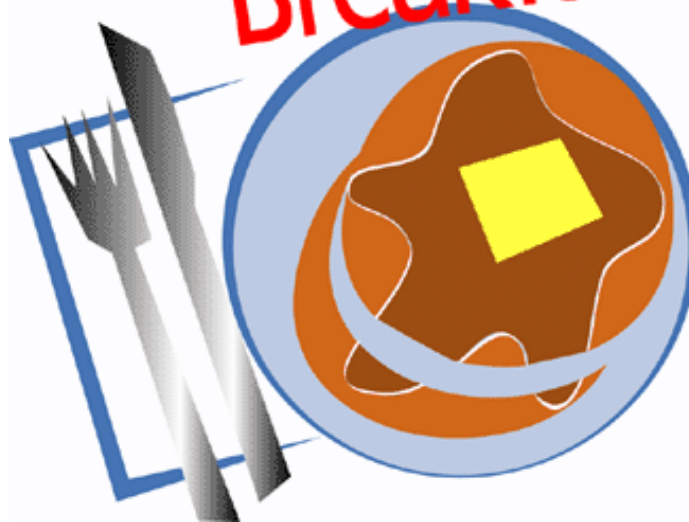
Myron Miller – cell phone #574-238-9661

Sandy Miller – cell phone #574-575-2055

Kevin Prah
 60595 Ashton Way
 Elkhart, IN 46517
 574-849-7045
 Kevin's e-mail
kprahl86@gmail.com

March 3, 2012
Time: 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast



Meal includes all you can eat food and beverage.

TICKETS:

Adults \$6.00

Ages 12 to 7 \$3.00

Ages 6 and under – free

CREEKSIDE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

60455 County Road 113

Elkhart

574-875-7800

www.creeksideconnected.com



February

2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 NO VOLUNTEER FELLOWSHIP	2 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Bible Study	3	4
5 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:45 a.m. - Church School	6	7 Outside Group Activity	8	9 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Bible Study 6:30 p.m. – Followers of Faith 6:30 p.m. – Outreach Team Mtg.	10	11 9:30 a.m. – Vietnam Supper Team Mtg.
12 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:45 a.m. - Church School VALENTINE DINNER 	13	14	15	16 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Bible Study	17	18
19 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:45 a.m. - Church School	20	21 6:30 p.m. - Church Board Mtg.	22 	23 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Bible Study	24	25 PILLOW MAKING DAY
26 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:45 a.m. - Church School 1 ST Sunday of Lent	27	28				

CAMP MACK

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Feb

P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542
Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax: 574-658-4765
E-Mail: info@campmack.org
Website: <http://www.campmack.org>

THE 2012 SUMMER PROGRAM AND RETREAT BROCHURE has been mailed. It contains information and registration information for all summer camps and retreats scheduled throughout the year. If you did not receive a Program Brochure, please request one from your Camp Rep. Check out camps for persons of all ages.

GET-A-WAY DAYS are designed to bring you to camp for a day or part of a day for a “mini-retreat.” A wide variety of programs are offered throughout the year. Check the website for a listing of programs and their descriptions. Fees and materials vary depending on activities. Upcoming Get-A-Way days are:

- February 25: Maple Syrup 101
- March 17: Three choices = Campfire Jam, Scrapbooking and Let’s Get Creative
- March 31: Three choices = Drum Circle, Survival Day and Memoir Writing

CAMP REGISTRATION DISCOUNT DATE is March 19. Save up to \$20 – Register by 3/19/11!

YOU ARE INVITED TO ENJOY:

Winter Quilt Retreat – February 16-19

Mother-Daughter Retreat – March 24-25

Theme is ***The Path Less Taken***

Volunteer Work camps March 19-21 & April 9-11

Help prepare camp for summer!

Details: in Program Brochure or at Camp website

PLANS ARE TO REBUILD THE BECKER RETREAT CENTER at the former Becker site. Go on line to see plans for the new Becker. A committee is at work designing a campaign to raise funds for this large undertaking.

LOOKING AHEAD. . .

March 3 Team Leader Training

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for:

Camp Mack Staff, Counselors & Summer Staff

Quiet Place Quote: “This soul journey is the process of spiraling into the heart of the Holy where, in reality, we always are. We simply learn to see more clearly.” Doris Klein

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Bloom where you are planted !



Find the life you always wanted,
Claim it and share it with others,
when you treasure the little blessings
that God gives to each of us.



Saturday March 24th

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Women from high school age up and above

The Women's Retreat sponsored by the Christian Education Team of Creekside Church will be both educational and experiential.

Beginning with a light breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 24, the retreat will break for lunch together around noon and be completed by 3:30 p.m.

Leadership provided by Nina Lanctot, pastor of the Florence Brethren/Mennonite Church in Constantine, Michigan.

Something New ! Creekside Kids Time



The new Christian Education team would like to start something special.

During the hymn just before the sermon, kids from 5th grade to kindergarten age are invited to a worship designed for kids and directed by Karen Eis.



This will start in February on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.
It is planned to be a fun learning time.
Older kids will help younger ones.
You will sing "kid songs", and
learn some of the songs we sing in church.
The lesson will be based on the
Parables of Jesus (Camp Mack's theme this year).
You will learn the story from the Bible and then
"make it real" for your life today.
There will be time to share your own
joys and concerns,
and then time for a craft.



The **Hoosier Neighbor** column is a small part of Creekside's hospitality. Our hospitality extends not only to our Neighbors outside of the church but to our Neighbors sitting right in front of us in worship. Hospitality is a genuine desire to know our brother and sister in Christ in a deeper way. Who are our neighbors and what do they desire for our church? We hope you enjoy the column and take the opportunity to find out more about our monthly featured Neighbor. God bless!



Jan Nicodemus

- **How long have you been attending Creekside:** 7 months.
- **What is your favorite scripture or hymn:** One of my favorite scriptures is Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” Life has thrown some sharp curves; some huge speed bumps; some deep valleys my way. Trusting God and not trying to figure everything out on my own has brought me some sense of comfort.
- **What does hospitality mean to you?** Loving from the center of who you are. Making friends with nobodies. Discovering beauty in everyone.
- **What do you like about Creekside church?** The warm caring spirit that is present and has been extended to me personally. The gifted musicians, the artistically designed worship centers, the committed pastoral shepherds, the dedicated congregational leaders, and each one who has offered a smile, a hug or a handshake.
- **What is your vision for Creekside church?** My vision for Creekside is that "We Dare to Share." Share God's love and abundant gifts to all. My prayer is that all Creeksiders would say as Isaiah said in verse 6:8 ". . . Here am I Lord, send me."



DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday School teacher asked, ‘Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?’

‘No,’ replied Johnny. ‘How could he, with just two worms?’



*Connecting
at Creekside*

January 2011

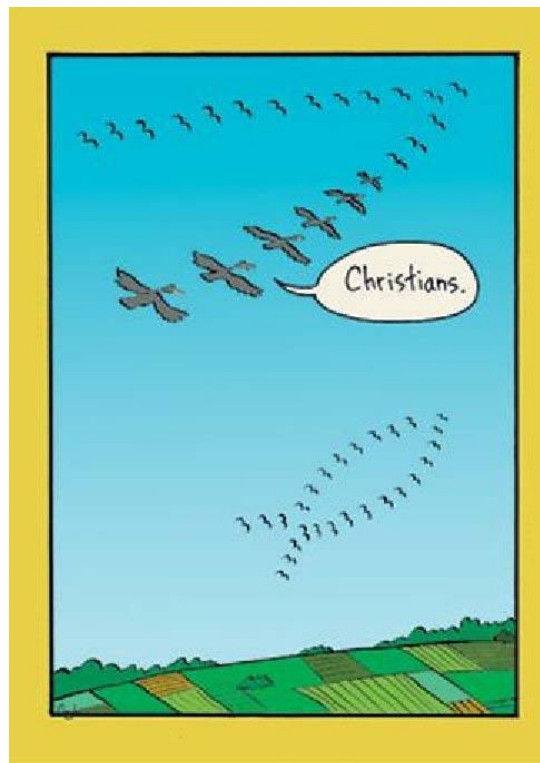
Team Spirit is back in the swing as we move into a new year. We have one year under our belts and it was a good one. Pastor Rosanna is back from Indonesia and we are ready to go.

We won't let any grass grow under our feet as we are planning a sermon series and other spiritual activities around a new Church of the Brethren Vision. Keep your eyes and ears open as we begin to plan our activities.

Lent is right around the corner and that always brings plenty of festivities. Those plans will be under way.

Are there things that you enjoyed and would like to repeat and are there things you would like to try? We are open to new ideas and if you would like us to walk with you in a new ministry we are available to come along.

Pastors Janet, Rosanna and Betty



FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the "music person," who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.




FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

• • • • DIRECTIONS • • • •

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



gain	as	or	ear	van	an	for	give	
gave	her	on	it	one	other	he	an	a

B _____ w _____ h each
 ot _____ d _____ give
 _____ e an _____ if _____ y
 of you h _____ grie _____ ce
 a _____ st some _____ .
 For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
 for _____ you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Colossians 3:13, NIV

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.

