

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

January 2017

All Things New

*From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
2 Corinthians 5:16-17*

One of my favorite reference books is titled *The Dance of Time: The Origins of the Calendar*, by Michael Judge (Arcade: New York, 2004) Judge is a folklorist: and he unpacks our Western holidays and their sometimes surprising history. The most common secular symbol of the new year: old Father Time with his scythe traces his origins to the Celtic countries of Scotland and Ireland, where ancient druids harvested mistletoe through the winter from high in oak trees with—you guessed it—scythes. The baby representing the new year reminds us that “January is the portal of, opening onto a present in which the world, reborn at the turning of the sun, begins to recreate itself.” (Judge, *The Dance of Time*)

Christians have a birth and renewal of light to celebrate this season. Our celebrations of Christmas and the new year are related to the season around us, but we proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord not only of the seasons, but of time itself. Christ has the power not only to seasons, but creation itself. We, as humans beings are part of that creation, and we are invited into transformation in Christ.

Paul’s letter to the Corinthians makes the bold claim that “if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.” In my personal experience with transformation, I have not found it to be instantaneous or magical: rather it has been intentional and incremental. My participation has meant showing up repeatedly, failing regularly, and submitting to a power and a vision which are greater than my own. Everything becoming new has not meant that I am someone else; it means that I have drawn closer to my goal of imitating Jesus: to have my will more aligned with God’s will for me.

As we renew our discussions of hospitality and we continue to live and minister as outrageous and courageous disciples of Christ, I pray that we would continue to be open to renewal and new creation. Not throwing out who we have been and who we are, but offering it to God for transformation so that we may be recreated into the image of Jesus Christ. Behold! God is doing a new thing. Let us join God’s mission in the new year with a new spirit.

In Christ—
Pastor Rosanna



TEAM SPIRIT REPORT

All aboard for the New Year! Ready or not, here it comes! What should Creekside's "resolutions" be for the coming 12 months?

Creekside has been very good at providing outreach activities such as the Fish Fry and Cookie/Candy Walk. The purpose of the *Outrageous and Courageous* study was to consider the real needs of our neighborhood and how we might help. Each study group was asked to submit activities they would be willing to help Creekside initiate. Pastor Rosanna received several pages worth of ideas! See Rosanna if you want a copy of the list, either electronically or hardcopy. The Church Board and Hospitality Team are looking for one or two suggestions we can focus on as a congregation. The board authorized Hospitality Team to write a proposal for focusing our goals. You will hear more about this soon.

The Christmas Eve service has been planned and fine-tuned. Team Spirit wants to thank all of those who are participating—musicians, readers, choir, deacons, fellowship team, ushers and child care workers. Our hope is that the scripture and music will bring the Christmas story to life again this year for each of us. The story of Jesus' coming to live among us can never be repeated too often. "God with us" is our Good News message for the whole world. Thank you for joining us in celebration.

If all goes well, my hip surgery is still on for January 3. While my absence puts more responsibility on Pastor Rosanna in the beginning, I plan to resume pastoral duties gradually as I am able. Your prayers for a smooth recovery are appreciated.

Thank you all for your cards, gifts, and prayers for the pastors during this holiday season. Pastor Rosanna and I wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy new year that fulfills your deepest longing. May we share and restore God's wondrous gift that God is with us!

Pastor Elizabeth for Team Spirit

	<i>General Fund 2016</i>	INCOME	EXPENSES	2016 BUDGET ~\$203,640 total
		January	\$16,229.50	\$13,048.95
	February	\$17,539.00	\$16,562.82	\$16,970.00
	March	\$12,703.29	\$18,796.21	\$16,970.00
	April	\$16,366.81	\$15,769.50	\$16,970.00
	May	\$19,488.85	\$16,044.81	\$16,970.00
	June	\$12,248.00	\$16,028.37	\$16,970.00
	July	\$11,754.25	\$16,009.56	\$16,970.00
	August	\$18,063.25	\$17,020.84	\$16,970.00
	September	\$14,994.41	\$14,773.89	\$16,970.00
	October	\$17,598.32	\$17,058.37	\$16,970.00
	November	\$11,408.95	\$14,668.08	\$16,970.00
	YTD total	\$168,394.63	\$175,781.39	\$186,670.00

If you would like more information, you may contact Finance Team chair Walt Gilliland or Treasurer Roger Griffith.

THANK YOU

A tremendous "Thank You" to all who help make The Cookie-Candy-Walk a success. We netted over \$1,800, but we do have some expenses. This couldn't have done this if it weren't for the faithful Congregation at Creekside.

Karen Kohler for Followers of Faith

January 2017

HAPPENING IN JANUARY:

- 11** —Volunteering at Feed the Children, 9-noon
13 —Game Night at Gilliland's, 7:00 pm
14 —Church reserved, 10:00-4:00
19 —Worship Team, 9:30 am
25 —*Feb. Connection deadline*
29 —Table Talk: Everence

Wired Word will not meet in January.

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Anyone interested in playing table games such as euchre or Five Crowns is invited to Gilliland's home on Friday the 13th at 7:00. Call for directions if you have not previously been to our Goshen home: 534-8414.

BIRTHDAYS

Graber, Jean Mann	1
Kohler, Karen	1
Prahl, Benjamin	2
Gall, Carver DeWitt	7
Cooper, Jenny	8
Rodriguez, Zoey	12
Pletcher, Rosemary	13
Houston, Esther	20
Colver, Carolyn	23
Vardaman, Janet	23
Kelsey, Betty	27
Yoder, Anika	27

ANNIVERSARIES

Graber, Cal & Jean	15
--------------------	----

MEMBERS' NEEDS FUND REPORT

Thank you for your generous support of the Members' Needs Fund at Creekside! These are monies donated by members to be used to support Creekside members who have short-term financial needs. The fund is administered by Pastors Elizabeth and Rosanna, and payments are confidential. Jan Nicodemus serves as our advocate to Everence Financial, which provides matching funds for qualified payments up to a total of \$1000. The Church of the Brethren also has a Brethren Share Fund and can match funds up to \$500 per year for a congregation.

This year, our Members' Needs Fund has made payments of \$1,864 to support our members and their families. We have received \$500 from the Brethren Share Fund, and additional funds from Everence Financial. Creekside members are reminded before each fifth Sunday to consider making a donation above their regular offering to insure there will be funds available for members in need. The next fifth Sunday is January 29, 2017.

We will have a Table Talk during the Sunday School time on January 29 with Sonny Gaby of Everence Financial. She will share about planned giving, and answer questions which you may have about financial planning and stewardship. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Thanks again for your support of our Creekside members, and to Jan Nicodemus for her work with Everence. May we continue to be a blessing to others in the new year.

Pastor Rosanna

The Creekside Connection

A publication of Creekside Church of the Brethren



Address:
60455 CR 113
Elkhart, IN 46517-9183

Phone:
574-875-7800
574-875-7885 fax

Website:
www.CreeksideConnected.com

Pastors:
Rosanna McFadden: PastorRosanna@CreeksideConnected.com
Elizabeth Kelsey: PastorBetty@CreeksideConnected.com

Administrative Assistant & Editor:
Marita Barsoda: Office@CreeksideConnected.com

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.

