

# Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

September 2017

## *The Shadow of God's Wings*

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars  
that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them? Psalm 8:3*

I learned a new word this week: **syzygy**. Not only will this come in handy if I'm ever in the final rounds of competitive spelling bee, but it's a concept which intrigues me. Syzygy comes from a Greek word meaning "paired" or "yoked"; you may be able to picture how oxen or farm horses are harnessed together with a yoke so that they can be guided in the same direction.

The science of astronomy has taken over the concept of syzygy to mean celestial objects—planets, moons, stars—which are in astronomical opposition: that is, paired because of gravitational forces. The moon orbits around the earth, the earth orbits around the sun, and occasionally these three objects come into syzygy, and line up to create a solar (or a lunar) eclipse. This is a predictable, but relatively infrequent, event.

I was fortunate enough to witness a solar eclipse on August 21; an awesome experience. It certainly made me feel like there are forces at work in the universe which are beyond me and my comprehension. The magnitude of that eclipse reminded me of Psalm 8:3 in which the psalmist asks God, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them?" but then the psalmist gives this answer, "Yet you have made [human beings] a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor." As human beings, we are in syzygy with God: that is, we are paired with God and held together with forces which we may not be able to see or are even aware of.

Planets and moons do not have free will—they cannot choose where gravity takes them. And although human beings can choose what we do in relationship to God, I believe we all fall within the gravitational force of God's steadfast love. No matter how we act, we cannot escape that pull; we were created to be paired with God, to be in syzygy as God's people. The psalms use another image of relationship with God which is on a much more intimate scale than the gravity of stars and planets: it is that of a mother bird sheltering her chicks. This, too, is a kind of syzygy. Psalm 36:7 says, "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings." However we imagine God—whether cosmic or tender—we are yoked by God's love as God's people.

In wonder and joy—  
*Pastor Rosanna*



## PASTOR'S REPORT

My heart is full of gratitude this summer: I have been blessed by my time with my family and my family of faith. I am aware of the time and effort that many of you put into ministry and service at Creekside: preparing food and moving chairs and parking cars for the Fish Fry; weeding and trimming the Prayer Garden and landscaping before our vesper service; setting up chairs and serving ice cream; harvesting cucumbers and tomatoes and delivering them to CCS, and cooking for those workers—I could go on and on. I know there are things which happen at Creekside which I do not see, and go smoothly in my absence: bills paid, accounts balanced, music which is chosen and practiced, worship leadership for guest speakers. For all of these things, and those which I have not mentioned, I want to say Thank You.

I have also been grateful for the opportunity to have time with my family this summer: to help Becca and Stephen move to South Bend and into their new home, to celebrate Joel turning 21, and most recently to have a road trip with Tim and our daughter Katy to see the solar eclipse. It was an unforgettable experience.

I know some of you have traveled and been on vacation this summer, and that a number of you will be attending the Church of the Brethren National Older Adult Conference at Lake Junaluska, NC next month. May you travel in safety and be aware of God's generosity and care.

We thank God for the physical healing that is taking place for members of our church family: Roger Stutsman, Jenny Cooper, Lanette Bryant, Isabela Rohrer and others. We are grateful for the guests who have come and are becoming part of Creekside, and for the energy and the gifts that they bring to us. We are blessed for the journey together.

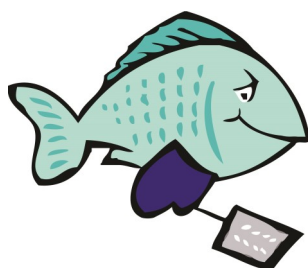
In Christ—*Pastor Rosanna*



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

<i>General Fund 2017</i>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2017 BUDGET</b> ~\$189,240 total
January	\$14,848.84	\$14,095.86	\$15,770.00
February	\$13,067.25	\$12,411.65	\$15,770.00
March	\$15,092.75	\$18,540.71	\$15,770.00
April	\$14,773.57	\$14,933.01	\$15,770.00
May	\$16,787.18	\$16,448.21	\$15,770.00
June	\$14,094.70	\$17,126.54	\$15,770.00
July			\$15,770.00
<b>YTD total</b>	<b>\$88,664.29</b>	<b>\$93,476.32</b>	<b>\$94,620.00</b>

**Note: Our YTD income has not met our expenses.**



## THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make our fish fry successful again this year! Over 580 people were served.



# BLOCK PARTY

Sunday, September 10  
3:00-6:00 pm  
Music, games, food and fun!



## NOTES FROM CHURCH BOARD

The Church Board met on August 15. The Board reviewed comments from the Summer Table Talks; we know there are concerns about the dwindling number of children and youth in our Christian Education program. Christian Education Team brought a position summary to the Board for a part-time children's activity staff person. This employee would be present on Sunday mornings and organize monthly outreach activities to children and families. The initial time commitment would be 5-10 hours per week; this is negotiable. Christian Ed will continue to discuss this position; more details can be found in the announcement below. If you or someone you know of would be interested in this position, please talk to Kathy Royer or Jan Weaver.

Gary Arnold from Media Team presented some estimates for equipment upgrades for the Media Center; top priority would be replacing the existing projector and screen. We are still gathering information. These are costly items to replace, but we feel like they are a valuable part of our mission and ministry at Creekside. We appreciate Gary and all those who help with media services at Creekside.

*Cal Graber, Board chair*

## CHRISTIAN ED TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Church Board approved for Christian Ed Team to search for a new part time staff person to work with Children's Ministries. The person will focus on facilitating children's activities that reach out beyond our church as well as working closely with the children who are already a part of our congregation. The job will average 5-10 hours a week. The amount of time will be flexible week to week depending on the activities being planned, and negotiable to fit the needs of the new staff person.



*If you know of someone who would be interested in the position, please let team co-chairs, Kathy Royer and Jan Weaver know, so they can begin interviews along with Pastor Rosanna. CE Team would like to fill this position as soon as we can.*

## UPCOMING TABLE TALKS

- August 27: Annual Conference Report with delegate Jan Nicodemus
- September 24: Camp Mack with Gene Hollenberg, director of Camp Mack
- November 5: Congregational Business Meeting



## CAMP MACK CORNER

*The following is a letter from Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director of Camp Mack:*

### CAN YOU HELP?

What a blessing it is to have this beautiful place and the people who worship and work here. Camp Mack is a sanctuary for some, a memory of spiritual significance for some others, and for another group it is a place for connecting with God, people, and even themselves. Perhaps it is all of these and more for you!

We have had a very successful summer camp season with ministry to many children, youth, and adults. There is much to be thankful for as we reflect on what has been accomplished in the first two-thirds of 2017!

I am writing to share with you a concern that we have, and we are hoping you can help. Each year we plan several projects, using money given by our churches, to complete important work to keep our facilities in operation. Our planned work this year included cleaning the carpets in the John Kline Welcome Center, replacing light fixtures in Sarah Major with LED fixtures and lights, repairing Jacob's Well so it is safe once again, and rebuilding the access ramp to Ulrich House. These have been accomplished, but circumstances have forced us to stop there.

This year has been full of a number of "surprises" in emergency maintenance and equipment repair and replacement. We have had to spend over \$5,000 in vehicle repairs, \$6,000 in infrastructure failures, almost \$40,000 in equipment repair and replacement in HVAC and the kitchen. This means that there have been over \$50,000 in unplanned expenses since January first. All of them were critical to our ability to provide services to our guests.

For this reason, other planned expenses like carpeting in Sarah Major and Ulrich House, lighting for the east side of the John Kline Welcome Center, and further cleanup of the Becker site have had to be put on hold. These are very important projects also, but in order to be financially secure, we have to recover the \$50,000 in unexpected expenditures.

We would be grateful for any contributions to help us bring our facility budget back into line. Contributions can be sent to Camp Mack, Box 158, Milford, IN 46542. This will keep our financial position stable and allow us to complete the work we need to keep our guests comfortable and focused on their own spiritual journeys.

Please consider if you can help us continue to move forward in providing ministry and developing new ways to reach out to connect people with God.

## CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We have a number of ways we could use help at Church Community Services, including assisting in our food pantry, answering phones or getting a group of friends together to help with food production for our Soup of Success Program. Please contact Gwen Hershberger at [volunteer@churchcommunityservices.org](mailto:volunteer@churchcommunityservices.org) or [574-295-3673](tel:574-295-3673) @ ext 112 for more information.

## EVERENCE UPDATE

In *Embracing Stewardship*, the authors dig into the heart of the matter by naming obstacles to understanding the essential spiritual discipline of stewardship. This book offers new approaches to help faith communities and their leaders become confident, competent, generous stewards. Visit [embracingstewardship.com](http://embracingstewardship.com) to order a copy.

*Jan Nicodemus, Creekside's Everence Advocate*

# September 2017

## HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER:

- 6** —Volunteer Fellowship, 9:00 am  
—Worship Team, 9:30 am
- 8** —Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 10** —Block Party, 3:00-6:00 pm
- 12** —Men's & Women's lunches, Bent Oak, 11:30
- 13** —Feed the Children, 9:00-noon  
—Choir, 7:00 pm
- 16** —Pottery Bayou, 1:00 pm
- 17** —Choir, 8:45 am
- 19** —Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 20** —*Deadline for October Connection*
- 27** —Choir, 7:00 pm

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

### NEW ADDRESS

Tiara Marcin  
501 N Capitol  
Unit 2 8107-C  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

## OUTING TO POTTERY BAYOU

Save the date September 16th for a day of fun and fellowship. We have reserved a room for Creekside members and friends at Pottery Bayou at 1 pm. We can eat at The Boathouse, play with pottery and finish with ice cream! Plan to join us, we will car pool to Winona Village from Creekside.

See Karen Lewallen to sign up and for more information.

## BIRTHDAYS

Vance, Carson	1
Mayes, Kolten	3
Cooper, Samantha	4
Harney, Katelyn	4
Lund, Tim	8
Hade, Jacob	9
Pletcher, Bill	9
Bueter, Stacey	14
Bollinger, Lynn	15
Miller, Sandy	16
Muhlnickel, Beth	16
Otto, Heather	16
Royer, Kathy	17
Ritzmann, Paulajean	22
Erbaugh, Wendy	26
Gall, Stephen	26
Miller, Craig	26
Miller, Curt	26
Gilliland, Morgan	27
Hoke, Annamae	28
Barwick, Bruce	29

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# 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.*

