

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

September 2018

Into the Fryer

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." John 21:10

I had several opportunities for reflection in the midst of preparation for the Fish Fry last week. The first was Friday morning, when two individuals came and single-handedly (well, not more than four-handedly) moved all of the chairs, music stands, amps and choir risers out of the Worship Center. I wondered if anyone asked them, or if they just showed up because they knew it needed to be done.

Next was Friday evening, when folks who had worked at other jobs all day showed up to set up tables, chairs, trash cans and high chairs in the previously empty Worship Center. I wondered when their day had started, when this one would end, and how many hours they were going to put in on Saturday.

The final reflection was on Saturday afternoon when I saw the Worship Center filled with people carrying plates of fish, coleslaw, potato chips and applesauce. I heard one guest say, "Oh, they have people eat in the sanctuary?" and I looked up at the oil painting of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, and I wondered what members or former members of Elkhart City Church think about that beloved painting from the front of that sanctuary presiding over a roomful of hungry people with plates of food.

And then I realized that I was wondering about the wrong thing. Instead of worry about what people thought about a painting of Jesus, I should be asking what **Jesus** would think about a bunch of people being fed at Creekside. I think that Jesus would approve. Jesus, of course, fed a LOT of people with only five loaves and two fish. And although there weren't any miracles (that I know of) at Creekside's Fish Fry, I'd like to believe that our guests were blessed with a sense of generosity and hospitality—the kind of hospitality that says, "Sit down and eat!" instead of "What are you doing here?" and the kind of generosity which sets up chairs—and wipes them off and puts them away—because it needs to be done.

Jesus feeds people and eats with them on multiple occasions, but the story I was reminded of is from John 21: Jesus has been crucified, resurrected, and has already made several appearances to the disciples, but Simon Peter and a few others are still feeling a bit lost, and decide to go fishing. Jesus helps them to an amazing catch, cooks them breakfast, and tells Peter, "If you love me, feed my sheep." It wasn't the first fish fry, but I think it's an outreach that Jesus would approve of. I'm proud to be part of feeding people at Creekside.

In Christ,
Pastor Rosanna



PASTOR'S REPORT

August is a month which is full with McFadden family celebrations, and it was full with Creekside activities, as well. I participated in the District Pulpit exchange on August 12, and received a warm welcome from the folks at Elkhart Valley Church. Thanks to Sue Noffsinger who led worship on the 12th and again on August 19 for guest speaker Nick Miller Kauffman. Tim and I had a beautiful weekend to celebrate our August anniversary.

The Seed to Feed garden has been burgeoning with tomatoes; we have arranged for Merit Learning Center students to help us wash and process tomatoes. The harvest is plentiful and the laborers have been well fed by Betty Yoder and her staff on Tuesday evenings. We have already donated over 1,000 pounds of produce to CCS this season.

Thanks to all who helped serve family and guests at Don Mockler's memorial service; our hearts go out to Sharon and we remember her gracious caregiving and that Don loved his church. Thanks to the deacons who have helped with prayers and visits for those who have been hospitalized. Thanks to your generosity to Hassan Dicks as he is setting up a home in Richmond for his family, and to Lisa and Kurt Vardaman and Diane Lund for their practical support in facilitating his move from Camp Mack back to Bethany Seminary.

Several of our members—Cal and Jean Graber, Jan Vardaman and Bill and Rosemary Pletcher—have moved since mid-July, and we wish them the best and extend our gratitude to those of you who have helped with packing and welcomed them to their new homes.

Thanks to the Community Ministry Grant Team, and to others who joined in prayer walks for our neighbors in The Willows and Sherwood Glen; there will be a prayer walk at Concord Intermediate School at the end of August. That team is continuing to discern what group of people we will partner with in ministry to make our community better for all of us.

It was with sadness that at the end of July we accepted the resignation of Emily Birr, who had served as Creekside's Children Activity Coordinator since October of 2017. Many thanks to Jessica Prah! and the Christian Ed Team who are already finding ways to support an ongoing ministry to children at Creekside. A Fall Party is planned for October and a Christmas Party is in the works.

There is much to look forward to, much to be grateful for, and many things to celebrate in our life together. It is a privilege to walk with you in sorrow and in joy.

Pastor Rosanna



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

<i>General Fund 2018</i>	INCOME	EXPENSES	2018 BUDGET \$193,580 total
January	\$11,0825.25	\$14,928.43	\$16,132.00
February	\$12,038.00	\$12,991.80	\$16,132.00
March	\$18,036.35	\$15,799.33	\$16,131.00
April	\$17,206.00	\$18,055.60	\$16,132.00
May	\$11,567.10	\$13,362.66	\$16,132.00
June	\$16,288.80	\$10,997.33	\$16,131.00
July	\$14,236.00	\$11,314.06	\$16,132.00
YTD total	\$100,457.50	\$97,449.21	\$112,922.00

GAMES, FOOD, VESPERS, AUGUST 26

Sunday, August 26 is Creekside's Outdoor Vesper service. We should have a lovely evening for games, food, fellowship and worship. There will be games for all ages beginning at 4:00pm: special games for children and corn hole and croquet for the young at heart. At 5:00, the Fellowship Team will provide ice cream along with your favorite toppings and desserts. Our vesper service will begin around 6:00 pm. The monastic round of daily prayers included evening prayers, called vespers. We will have an opportunity to enjoy the Prayer Garden and the beauty of a late-summer evening. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, or bug spray.

You may want to visit the Prayer Garden on Sunday after worship if you can't attend the 6:00 pm service; Judy De Pue has created stakes marking all the plants which were given as memorials, and the name of that memorial. It's a chance to remember the generosity of those who contributed to the garden and a chance to thank those who continue to tend and care for it.

See you Sunday evening! *Pastor Rosanna for Fellowship and Worship Teams*

LABOR DAY WORSHIP, SEPTEMBER 2

Worship on Sunday, September 2 will be held in the Gathering Area; we will be honoring the work that we do for ourselves, our families, and for the kingdom of God. Following the 9:30 service, we will have brunch provided by Fellowship Team. There will NOT be Sunday School that day.

Pastor Rosanna, for Worship and Fellowship Teams

BLOCK PARTY, SEPTEMBER 9

Invite your neighbors and friends to Creekside's Neighborhood Block Party! It will be from 2 to 5 pm on the lawn behind the church. There will be music, games, soft-serve ice cream, and a bounce house for kids. Bring your lawn chairs and spend a relaxed Sunday afternoon with your church family and friends from the community.

Pastor Rosanna for Hospitality Team

THOUGHTS FROM RON

September is a favorite time of the year for some of us and it's not just sitting around a crackling campfire on cooler nights roasting marshmallows. It's not making exciting preparations for going back to school. In one word, it's FOOTBALL!!

It's next to impossible when at a game—or even while being a couch potato—to sit quietly and watch your team move the football from goal to goal. It's impossible to sit through a game without standing, shouting, and yelling your favorite cheer. Many of us put our whole selves into this thing called FOOTBALL! We may pick a favorite player, follow their career, and think they're the greatest.

A great athlete once said, "I'm the greatest." Another great man, Martin Luther King, once said, "Not everybody can be famous, but everybody can be great because greatness is determined by service. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love. Somewhere along the way we must learn there is nothing greater than to do something for others." Muhammad Ali agreed with this statement when he said, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room on Earth."

By now we are all aware of the "Big Event" going on here at Creekside. We all need to be as enthusiastic about our Mutual Ministry as we are about our favorite team. Now is the time for us all to become great and demonstrate our love for others through the sharing of our time, talents, and resources in a great way.

Meditate on these words found in Ephesians: "Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord."
Ron Nicodemus, Board Chair

GIFTS AND PLACEMENT SURVEY RESULTS

The Gifts & Placement Team really appreciates the 53 (or so) people that took the time to complete our recent abilities and interests survey. It does provide us with a good base of information about the congregation and helps us to see some talents we may not have known about. Thank you to everyone. If you missed out, there are still paper copies available and those can be added to the computer information. We may have future surveys and it's a great feeling to know you are receptive to that.

Thank you!

The Gifts & Placement Team: Steve De Pue, Lisa Vardaman, and Anne Griffith

THE SIXTH BRETHREN WORLD ASSEMBLY

I knew about the Sixth Brethren World Assembly before I knew that I would be coming to *Creekside Church of the Brethren*. I was looking for something on the internet and ran across an article about one of the previous meetings of the assembly and was totally blown away. The World Assembly is a meeting that is convened every five years and all Brethren are invited. It doesn't matter if you are *Old German Baptist Brethren*, *Old German Baptist Brethren New Conference*, *Dunkard Brethren*, *Grace Brethren*, *Conservative Grace Brethren*, *Brethren Church*, or *Church of the Brethren*, you are welcome to come. *The spiritual children of Alexander Mack were actually talking to each other!* I was dumbfounded, and surprised, and just so overjoyed I could hardly contain my excitement. Then in late May or early June as I was looking for more information about these gatherings; what did I find? The Sixth Assembly was being planned and it was going to be held in Winona Lake, Indiana! There just was no way that I was not going to be there. It did not matter that I did not have a clue as to what happened at one of these meetings; I was going, and I was going to be a part of something that I previously did not believe could possibly happen under any circumstance.

The first plenary session (a search of the internet revealed that "Plenary Session" simply means that everyone is to attend) was to begin at 2:30 on Thursday, August 9. The first speaker was Jeff Bach, a professor at Elizabethtown College. I had encountered him earlier in the day and asked him if he was any relation to that Johann Sebastian guy. The second speaker was a minister and elder in *The Old German Baptist Brethren, New Conference* by the name of Glen Landes. Later in the assembly I happened to talk to one of the organizers of the weekend's activities and he said that this was a breakthrough. According to him, the Old German Baptists have always come to the Assembly and been very supportive and even taken leadership positions but had never before spoken. He was very pleased. The third and final speaker of the afternoon session was Dale R. Stoffer. He retired as the Academic Dean at Ashland Theological Seminary. He spoke about our Brethren history. He talked about the Great Schism of 1881. When the Conservatives and Progressives just could not come to terms, and the Conservatives told the Progressives they were no longer welcome at Annual Conference. The Progressives left and organized themselves into the *Brethren Church*. And in 1908 The Conservative German Baptists changed the name of their denomination to *The Church of the Brethren*. And according to Mr. Stoffer by the 1920's the conservatives were out-progressing the Progressives.

Each evening at 7:30 we worshipped at a different meeting house. Thursday was at *Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church*. That was handy since that is where the Assembly was meeting. Friday was at *West Manchester Old German Baptist Church, New Conference*. And Saturday we traveled to New Paris to worship with the *New Paris Church of the Brethren*. The Congregational singing was just wonderful, and the chance to experience other Brethren in worship was something to treasure. And every evening after worship there was an ice cream social.

I hope I have given you a taste of what goes on at the Brethren World Assembly and what went on in Winona Lake, Indiana on August 9-11. Personally, I think the whole experience of that weekend can be summed up in a comment I heard in the afterglow of one the plenary sessions when I heard a woman ask, "We get along with the Methodists, and the Lutherans, and the Presbyterians, and the Baptists, why can't we get along with each other?"

Mike Stutsman

September 2018

HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER:

- 5** —Volunteer Fellowship, 9:00 am
—Choir, 7:00 pm
- 9** —Choir, 8:45 am
—Block Party, 2:00-5:00 pm
- 12** —Finance Team, 9:30 am
- 18** —Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 19** —Feed the Children, 6:00-8:00 pm
—Choir, 7:00 pm
- 22** —Church reserved, 3:00-6:00 pm
- 23** —Choir, 8:45 am

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

BIRTHDAYS

Mayes, Kolten	3
Cooper, Samantha	4
Harney, Katelyn	4
Lund, Tim	8
Pletcher, Bill	9
Bueter, Stacey	14
Bollinger, Lynn	15
Miller, Sandy	16
Royer, Kathy	17
Ritzmann, Paulajean	22
Erbaugh, Wendy	26
Gall, Stephen	26
Miller, Craig	26
Miller, Curt	26
Hoke, Annamae	28
Barwick, Bruce	29

ANNIVERSARIES

Martin, Ronnie & Mary Lou	4
Hendricks, Stephen & Becca	12

CAMP MACK CORNER

Upcoming Events:

- September 8 Pallet Crafts & Sailing 201 Get-Away-Days
- October 5-6 FLYE Weekend—training youth to be leaders, CITs and counselors. \$25
- October 6 Camp Mack Festival—food, demonstrations, tournaments, and live auction!
- October 13-14 Father Son Weekend—woodshop, games, survival style competition. \$135/pair
- October 17-21 Quilt Retreat—costs differ by arrival time; contact camp office or see online.
- October 18-21 Scrapbooking Retreat—costs differ by arrival time; contact office or see online.
- October 20 Scrapbooking, Knitting and Crocheting, Beginner Quilting Get-a-Way Days
- October 21 Fall Nut and Tree ID Walk
- October 22-25 Seasoned Citizen's Retreat —\$172/person, \$116 if not overnight
- October 27 Children's Drum Building Get-a-Way Day
- October 27 Pumpkin Carving Get-a-Way Day
- Special notes: Prairie Flower Walk NEW TIME: 3-5pm on Aug. 26.
Bible Art Journaling CANCELED.*

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for the Camp Staff & IN Camp Board



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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