

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

August 2019

God Gives the Growth

I [Paul] planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 1 Corinthians 3:6

In the verse above from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, Paul is trying to explain that the church does not belong to him, or to the evangelist Apollos, but to God. Like fields and flowers, churches can be planted. Planting may have the most publicity and potential; watering is often unheralded. Are you a planter or a waterer?

This is a season when growth is all around us at Creekside. The Prayer Garden is flourishing, our Seed to Feed garden is already producing hundreds of pounds of cucumbers, and another week of sunshine will fire the starting gun on the tomato season. We have seen the plants in the container gardens at the church getting tall and unruly, and heard reports from our neighbors about how well their containers are growing. Except one; a gentleman who reported that everything died. He forgot to water it.

I believe, along with the Apostle Paul, that it is God who gives growth. But I have enough experience with gardens and flowers to know that growth is more likely to happen if we water once in a while. This is true agriculturally, but it's true spiritually, as well. Spiritual growth is the work of God, but it is more likely to happen when we show up in prayer, in study, and in service. Mark Batterson in *Draw the Circle* Day 22 writes:

The key to kingdom productivity is this: work really hard at what God has called you to do, but do not trust in your work: trust in God (p 128)

I am aware of a lot of work which goes on in our building and on our property: meals and music and mowing and harvesting; I am aware of donations we have taken to Church Community Services and Guidance Ministries in Elkhart, and of financial support which we have sent to other ministries. But I know that some of the most significant work which I do, and which I encourage you to do, happens out of sight from Creekside. It is the work of listening for God's direction and pausing long enough to consider whether our work is aligned with God's will. Watering and working hard are fine things: they are even better if we're watering and working toward the goals of God's kingdom and we have a clear idea of what those are and what we need to do to get there.

This season, as we water and work, may we also pause and listen. Praise God who sends the growth in our gardens and in our lives!

In Christ—
Pastor Rosanna



PASTOR'S REPORT

I have enjoyed the long days of summer, and particularly the ones I have been able to spend with my new grandchildren. I have also been touched by my church family and your love and care for one another: for older members of our congregation in need of prayer and encouragement, and the youngest children in our church family who had a blast at Vacation Bible School in July.

The ministries of caring for one another are important, and we are continuing to reach out to make friendships and help those in our community. Thank you for your donations for Guidance Ministries, which provides basic necessities for the homeless in Elkhart, and to all who have supported the growth and harvest of the Seed to Feed garden. In September or early October we will be erecting a greenhouse at Creekside so that we can begin our own plant starts for 2020. This greenhouse will be part of our Community Ministry.

A tenacious respiratory infection has given me renewed appreciation for general good health and energy for the work of Creekside and the kingdom. As the wheel of the church year turns toward budgets and planning for the coming year, I give thanks for the opportunities we have been given, and the generosity of members and friends who have made a commitment to support the church with their money, as well as their time. I remember Frances Billet and other beloved members of Elkhart City and Creekside who made their lives a ministry. Their example is an inspiration.

May God bless you as we serve together.
Pastor Rosanna

OUTDOOR VESPER SERVICE AUGUST 25

Creekside's Vesper Service will be Sunday, August 25th. Fellowship Team will provide a light meal at 5:30, and outdoor worship will begin around 7:00 pm. There will be activities for children before the service, and a children's story during the service. People of all ages are welcome to enjoy God's creation and Creekside's Prayer Garden and labyrinth.

Please bring lawn chairs, blankets, bug spray and anything else you need to be comfortable seated outside. If the weather is wet, we will have worship indoors.

Pastor Rosanna for Worship and Fellowship Teams

UPDATES FROM THE FINANCE AND PROPERTY TEAMS:

1. Completed payment requests with receipts may now be submitted in the same ring binder inside the office door which holds the payment request forms and list of accounts. See Marita, Pastor Rosanna or Ted Noffsinger if you have questions about where that binder is located.
2. Finance Team will provide each ministry team with a budget worksheet and a record of year-to-date expenditures by the middle of August. This is to help with budget planning for your team for 2020. Completed budget requests need to be turned in to the Finance Team no later than Sunday, Oct. 6. See Ted Noffsinger or Stephen De Pue if you have questions. Our fall congregational meeting will be Sunday, November 17. Meeting information will be in mailboxes no later than Sunday, November 3.
3. Property Team is compiling a church-wide asset list for insurance purposes. Property will make a video record of the facility, but can use written documentation as well. Teams with large equipment should submit serial numbers when possible (i.e. the organ or refrigerator) and estimated replacement costs for smaller items (i.e. dishes, silverware, altar cloths). Some teams will have no material assets to report (i.e. Shalom). Property Team requests that these asset lists be compiled by Dec. 31, 2019.

Pastor Rosanna for Roger Griffith, Finance and Property Team chair

BEQUEST REQUEST

Our congregation was blessed by the talent, generosity and friendship of Jean Mann Graber while she was among us. Jean's generosity to Creekside Church is continuing in the form of a bequest from her estate for \$49,000. At Cal Graber's request, the Church Board is seeking suggestions from anyone at Creekside who has ideas about how those funds might be used for the work of Christ and the Church.

Please make at least 3 suggestions of how the \$49,000 might be used; forms are available on the ushers' table and may be returned to the green box in the office. You may submit responses through the month of August; they will be collected, collated, and considered by the Board.

Every good gift comes from God: we are grateful for those who share those gifts for God's purposes.
Pastor Rosanna for Church Board

THOUGHTS FROM RON

Louis Palou once said, "Do something revolutionary, love your neighbor; build bridges not barriers." During my time at the Greensboro Annual Conference, I had the opportunity to visit the Civil Rights Museum. The Museum is built in the very building where the sit-in at the Woolworth Department Store lunch counter took place. It was shocking to view the strife, hate, and violence endured by people of color who only wanted a life that allowed them to enjoy the freedom and rights granted to white people. The heart-breaking part is that this philosophy has drifted into the minds of those of us who claim to be Christians. And even sadder, into the minds and actions of our beloved Brethren brothers and sisters.

In Greensboro, I sat in on discussions of the Compelling Vision for the Church of the Brethren where Conference participants grappled with how we as a Body of Believers can show Christ's love to fellow Brethren—even if they interpret scripture differently. As Brethren, we need to strive to focus on the things that draw us together rather than dwelling on our differences.

I truly believe that we at Creekside can be a light in the darkness by caring for and loving all of God's creation. Our new Mutual Ministry program gives us an opportunity to rub elbows with those who might be a little different than us, but they are still God's beloved. Christians need to lead the way in extending God's love to all. Excluding people who are not like us is not a new problem. Back in 2008, a freshman Senator from Chicago attending the celebration of the tearing down of the Berlin wall spoke the following words which are even more true today, "Now is the time to build new bridges. . . and there is a need for all allies who will listen to each other, learn from each other, and most of all trust each other." Of course he was talking about America's allies but these words are so true about how we Brethren need to interact with each other..

It is time to build bridges within our denomination and participate in and support the efforts of discovering a Compelling Vision that Brethren can support and live out in our daily lives.

"What does the Lord require of you; to act justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly."
Ron Nicodemus, Church Board Chair

NOTE FROM THE BOARD

As I am reading "Draw the Circle" by Mark Batterson, I am reminded that the prayer circle he talks about isn't too unlike what we call the prayer line or the phone tree in various churches including our own. When necessary, Pastor Rosanna sends a message out on a phone call alerting us to an upcoming event or to someone who needs our prayers. Those messages of a need for prayer can be one of our prayer circles at Creekside. Batterson notes in his book that "God won't answer 100% of the prayers we don't pray. The greatest tragedy in life is the prayers that go unanswered because they go unasked." That is what we are doing if we assume it's not necessary for us to pray for someone we may or may not know because "others are praying and God doesn't need my prayer". Let's not use that excuse. God wants to hear all of our prayers. And, while we are praying, don't forget to pray for our Pastor and for our Church. WE are Creekside!

Larry Ford, Assistant Church Board Chair

OUTREACH / FOLLOWERS OF FAITH

The Outreach Team has been planning for upcoming events. The Followers of Faith is the fund-raising part of the Outreach Team: they hold the Fish Fry and Cookie Walk each year. Because of the hard work and generous donations of Creekside members, these events have raised money which is kept in a designated account. Those funds are used for outreach and to support ministries at Creekside without having to use budgeted money which is given through tithes and offerings. Some members have asked "What is Followers of Faith money used for?" Here is a report on how followers of Faith and Outreach money is making a difference at Creekside, our community, and internationally:

- Followers of Faith will spend \$1300 to purchase 5 digital thermostats for Creekside. These can be programmed remotely for building usage, such as outside groups which use our Gathering Area, which happens other than Sunday morning.
- Followers of Faith is sending \$1200 to Wycliffe for the Arritt family.
- Outreach Team will be using memorial funds from Jean Graber (not the bequest, but gifts from friends/family) to purchase supplies for school kits to be sent through Mennonite Central Committee. Followers of Faith has committed additional funds to provide school supplies to local teachers.
- Followers of Faith has committed up to \$1000 in 2019 to help with the Community Ministry Grant. They are willing to use additional funds in 2020 as needed.
- Followers of Faith funds cover all advance expenses for the Fish Fry and Cookie Walk.

Members of Outreach Team and other Creekside folks helped Ed Bellows with shipping for the Ration Assistance Project for Church World Service. We received a check for \$1000 and a commemorative plaque as a thank-you. The \$1000 was put in Creekside's General fund, and the plaque is displayed in the conference room next to the office.

Upcoming events for Outreach and Followers of Faith include:

- August-September—harvest and tomato processing from Seed to Feed garden
- August TBA—assembling school kits
- August 29—Jr. High Cross Country Invitational at OxBow Park
- October 5—Camp Mack Festival
- October 19—Fish Fry at Creekside
- December 7—Cookie/Candy Walk at Creekside

Thank you so much for your support of outreach activities at Creekside! If you have questions about Outreach or Followers of Faith, or want to become part of the team, please see team leaders David or Lodema Hoke.

Pastor Rosanna for Outreach

EVERENCE:

Financial Advisor, Chad Campbell, encourages those approaching retirement to create a sense of clarity as to where to invest their time, resources and talents to ensure a lasting impact.

- Consider areas you're passionate about & look for opportunities to further engage (more time to pray, developing new volunteer commitments or creating new relationships.)
- Explore new & exciting service ventures.
- Imagine your 90th birthday, who's there & what do you hope they will say of you?
- What do you consider to be your most important future contribution to the most important people in your life?

Retirement is a major change. No matter what you plan to do in retirement, it's important to be ready financially. Check out the Everence website for helpful information at everence.com.

Titus 2:1-8 challenges the "older" to encourage and set an example for the "young." Retirement provides us with opportunities for the new work God has for each of us!

Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate

August 2019

HAPPENING IN AUGUST:

- 6** —Gifts & Placement, 3:30 pm
- 14** —Worship Team, 9:30 am
- 20** —Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 21** —Feed the Children, 9:00-11:30 am
- 25** —*Church reserved, 12:30-2:30*
—Vesper Service, 7:00 pm (meal at 5:30)
- 28** —Deacons, 1:30 pm
- 29** —Jr. High Cross Country meet at OxBow
- 31** —*Church reserved, 11:00-4:00*

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
				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

BIRTHDAYS

Bueter, Adam	2
Ludlow, Eileen	4
Markley, Deana	4
Lewallen, Karen	5
Hadley, Amber	9
McFadden, Joel	9
Marcin, Alysa	12
Wolf, Delores	12
Schmucker, Chris	16
Fritz, Tamara	17
Vance, Kristina	17
Houser, Eric	18
McFadden, Tim	18
Kohler, Joe	19
Foland, Lynne	20
Stutsman, Roger	23
Barsoda, Marita	25
Jones, Dawn	25
Hade, Trisha	26
Foland, Ted	29
Heeter, Garnett	30
Connett, Justin	31

NEW DIRECTORY

We will be putting out a new Creekside directory in August 2019. Proofs with the latest information we have at the office will be out in the Gathering Area through the end of July. Please check your information carefully and make changes with the red pen which will be provided. If the information is correct with no changes, make a check mark in red so we know you have seen it.

If you have family members who no longer wish to be included in the directory, you may cross them off. We will not delete family listings unless a family members requests that we do so. You may also email the office with updates or changes. Thank you for your help!

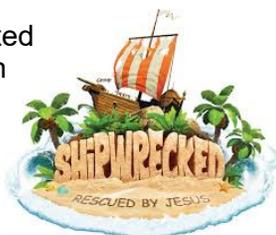
Pastor Rosanna

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A big "thank you" to all of the adults who donated or volunteered to make this year's Vacation Bible School a success, especially Jessica Prahl for her planning and organization!

We had 15 children attend and we collected donated items for Guidance Ministries, an organization that provides necessities for the homeless in Elkhart.

*Kathy Royer & Jan Weaver,
Christian Ed. team co-leaders*



ANNIVERSARIES

Ehret, Larry & Vicki	2
Neal, Roger & Bonnie	9
Noffsinger, Ted & Sue	9
Vance, Cody & Kristina	18
McFadden, Tim & Rosanna	20
De Pue, Stephen & Judy	23
Vance, Jim & Kristen	27
Vardaman, Kurt & Lisa	29

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

Pastor:
Rosanna McFadden: PastorRosanna@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.

