

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

August 2023



Decisions, Decisions

*The gifts he gave were . . . to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ Ephesians 4:11-12*

I am grateful to be part of a congregation which is doing things, and I appreciate people who are willing and able to get things done. This is partly because there are so many things which I am unskilled at: I can help with gardening, but I have no business directing it, and I am all but useless at fixing or building *anything*. It takes a variety of gifts to make any organization run well; this is especially true of volunteer organizations.

An inevitable part of getting things done is the necessity of making decisions about what to do and how to do it. For the past six months, the Church Board has been in discussion about restructuring space for Sunday School classes and Ministry Teams, renting space to outside groups, and considering a request for stained glass. Most of these are ongoing conversations and need coordination and communication with other groups in the church. Although we do the best we can, those conversations do not always go smoothly. For me, the touchstone for all of these decisions is not a goal for using the building; it is the goal of building up the body of Christ. This means that the process of how we make decisions and how we accept those decisions as the body of Christ is at least as important as the decisions we make.

A number of years ago, Shalom Team did a study of the book *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*, by Parker Palmer. There was counsel not only for individuals, but for groups who are trying to be faithful to a call to ministry. Palmer writes, "Vocation does not mean a goal that I pursue. It means calling that I hear." We must align our goals with our calling. The author of Ephesians describes that calling as "We must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." (4:15b-16) This calling is a different challenge than cleaning storage areas, building walls, or moving cabinets, but it is more important to the ministry of our church than facility changes. And the work of building up the body of Christ is work which we are all called to do—even the mechanically or physically challenged. It is work which takes listening, patience, commitment to the process, and a lot of grace. God knows, we may not get it right, but if we can be faithful to our calling of building for Christ, God can use whatever gifts God gave us to work toward ministry together.

Building for Christ—
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

July has been a full month with travel and meetings in Cincinnati for Annual Conference, Vacation Bible School, and working on a float for the Elkhart County Fair. I am well aware that there are volunteers from Creekside who spent more time to make these activities successful than I did. Many thanks to Jessica Pahl for directing VBS; she did a terrific job, and I know that the kids had fun. Thanks to Christian Ed Team and all the volunteers who prepared and were present at VBS. Being part of the Fair Parade in cooperation with Seed to Feed was a great opportunity. There is no way I could have constructed a float [see Pastor's Page!] but I was happy to do a bit of painting. Roger Griffith staged and drove the 16 foot trailer. Other parade participants included Doris McFarren (who got the most cheers of the parade), Jessica, Ben, & Eloise Pahl, Mike Kauffman, Tim & Rosanna McFadden, Seed to Feed director Andrew Hudson, and Dave & Deb Hostetler from River Oaks Church.

Annual Conference was a good experience for me: a highlight was a concert from the Walking Roots Band, and hearing about their free music and liturgy resource, The Soil and the Seed Project. I have already been able to use some of their music in worship, and hope to share more. Thanks to Ted Noffsinger for serving as our delegate; he will share a Conference report during the Sunday School hour on August 6.

We have been blessed by the vision of our Outreach Team to challenge us to put together 210 school kits; these will go toward the 10,000 Kit Challenge from Mennonite Central Committee, and be shared internationally. Your response to the challenge of raising \$1050 exceeded our hopes! As of this writing we have received over \$1800. Donations over expenses for school kits will be shared with local teachers. We will assemble school kits in the Gathering Area following worship on **Sunday, July 30**. Anyone is welcome to help with that effort. We will deliver completed kits to the Depot in Goshen.

Worship Team is planning a Sunday evening Vesper service in late summer: we'll share more details about how you will be invited to experience worship outdoors on our beautiful grounds.

I am looking forward to a visit from my mother in August, and grateful to my brother and sister-in-law who will be accompanying her on the plane here and back from California. She will not be here on a Sunday, but will be eager to hear about our work together and see what is growing at Creekside.

In Christ— *Pastor Rosanna*

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

This month the board has been busy, addressing the usual budget items, the stated board goal, discussing the wall move, possible stained glass and determining whether or not to rent the kitchen. As for the bank accounts we are in great financial shape. We continue to have more than enough cash to pay all our bills, plus some. We are in the process of moving accounts from Old National to Lake City Bank, for our convenience.

Scott Harney, the assistant board chair, is heading up the committee to consider our 2023 board goal to "be intentional about welcoming children and providing activities". They have met once to start the discussion and plan more meetings in the future.

Moving the wall between the Onward and Jr. High classrooms is an ongoing discussion. Currently we are talking with Thee Seekers as they are the only class directly affected by the move.

We are also processing a request to donate stained glass in the sanctuary. We started with a survey to ascertain whether the congregation would like to see it happen, how much, and where.

We received a request from Chelsea Risser and her husband, Phil Chan, to use our kitchen. Chelsea was head of Seed to Feed from 2018-2020. She and Phil would like to use our kitchen to prepare Chinese bao buns & bubble tea to sell at the Goshen Farmers Market. The food needs to be prepared in a state-certified kitchen in order to be sold to the public. The board agreed to let them use the kitchen on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings (5-7:30 am). They will use the stovetop to steam the buns, use our refrigerator to store the stuffing for the buns and use their water heater for the bubble tea. They will pay \$20/weekend plus 10% of their profits this August thru October. They plan to travel to China in November. At that time we can reassess how it is working and adjust the fee, if needed.

Kurt Vardaman, Church Board Chair

AUGUST 6 MEETING

Everyone is welcome to attend the Annual Conference report on Sunday, August 6 in the Gathering Area following worship. Ted Noffsinger will share about the business and worship of the Church of the Brethren from July 4-8 in Cincinnati, OH. There will be an opportunity for questions. Other Creekside members who attended Conference are Deb and Mike Kauffman and Tim and Rosanna McFadden.

At the end of the report, Board chair Kurt Vardaman will have some updates about ongoing projects at Creekside [see Board report in this *Connection* for more details], and Pastor Rosanna will share initial results and questions from the Stained Glass Survey completed in July. Here is a summary of the 39 responses we received to the first question on the survey:

Is stained glass something you'd like to see at Creekside? (options) Yes No Other

15 Yes without qualification

3 Yes with comments

8 No without qualification

5 No with comments

8 Other or not marked, but including comments

Comments generally expressed concerns about stained glass in the Worship Center; how it might affect the light, etc. Several people noted stained glass would be better suited for the Gathering Area—those comments were included with both Yes and No responses.

Please plan to attend on Aug. 6 to hear this sharing and help guide how we might proceed.

Pastor Rosanna

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PROCESS FOR PASTOR ROSANNA

The Shalom Team is planning to conduct a performance evaluation for Pastor Rosanna later this fall. We will be using the Appreciative Inquiry Interview approach for this purpose. Appreciative Inquiry looks at the best of what is by asking a few questions regarding the interviewee's experience with Pastor Rosanna. Any concerns are addressed by way of a "wish" question. The interviews are done face to face and can take as much as 30 minutes. Shalom team will be asking selected persons to participate so we have a good cross section of the congregation involved. If you are interested in being interviewed please contact Cary Kelsey by Sunday August 20th at cbkelsey@frontier.com, 574-596-9854 or speak with him on a Sunday morning. We hope to interview everyone who is interested if time allows. Shalom Team expects to have completed the process by the end of this year. Summary results will be shared with church board and the congregation.

Shalom Team: Cary Kelsey, Jan Nicodemus, Anne Griffith, Steve Barton

FROM FINANCE TEAM:

Finance Team is continuing to work on the directive from the June congregational meeting to assess Creekside's accounting software and program for recording giving. We are grateful to members of Finance and others who have shared helpful input, questions for Finance to consider, and suggestions. Finance hopes to make a recommendation to the Board no later than October 2023.

We have an update on giving statements: they will be printed twice a year for all donors, folded, sealed with a staple or piece of tape, and put in mailboxes of those who attend in-person. Statements will be mailed USPS as necessary. If you have questions about your giving, you may call the office and check with Marita. She can give you information over the phone, send a statement to you by email, or print a statement for you. Pastor Rosanna does not have access to giving information.

Giving statements will typically go out in July and January. Finance Team is considering including information about congregational giving (in addition to personal giving), so in 2023, the mid-year statements may not be distributed until the end of August or September.

If you have questions or information which you think would be helpful to Finance Team, please contact team chair Karen Kohler.

Pastor Rosanna

The Bee Line

I am really bored tonight, even after a busy weekend. So, I will tell you about my little adventure on Thursday, July 6, 2023.

I went to the church to learn about bee keeping. (No, I am not allergic to them! I was well covered. The bee hoods are a bit annoying, but they're an understandable safety requirement.)

I got to go to the hives, 5 of them, each with several boxes on them. I helped with the smoker, which settled them down. Ron and Deana were there checking to see if the bees were making honey. There are many steps and parts to the whole operation, oh my! It is very interesting. And, yes, the bees are making honey—Ron and Deana think they are making many pounds of it. Oh, those little bees have been busy! I'm hoping to go and see when they start pulling the trays, and then the next step of extracting it from the combs. We'll be needing jars!

Doris McFarren



EVERENCE

Everence offers us some practical ways to make financial progress:

1. Create or review your budget

Are there certain areas of spending you could cut back on?

Could you save a little more from each paycheck for an emergency?

2. Consider increasing the amount you invest each month.

Investing in your future financial health is important.

3. Work at a long-term financial plan to achieve one or more of the following goals:

Paying off debt

Buying a home

Taking a dream trip

Saving for your child/grandchild's education

Getting ready for retirement

Or something else

4. Be generous.

Everence specializes in assisting people to make financial decisions that reflect their faith and values.

5. Meet with a financial professional

Someone with training in financial matters can help you chart a course for the future.

Everence helps individuals, organizations, and congregations integrate finances with faith through a national team of financial professionals. Contact Everence at 574-533-9511 or everence.com.

Jan Nicodemus, Creekside Advocate

AUGUST 2023

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fri | Sat |
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Grant, Karen
- 9 McFadden, Joel
- 12 Marcin, Alysa
- 16 Schmucker, Chris
- 18 McFadden, Tim
- 19 Kohler, Joe
- 20 Foland, Lynne
- 20 Gable, Judy
- 23 Stutsman, Roger
- 25 Barsoda, Marita
- 28 Kauffman, Mike
- 29 Foland, Ted
- 30 Heeter, Garnett

ANNIVERSARIES

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

EVENTS

Garden work day every Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00-10:30 am

- 1 Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 8 Brunch at Angel's, RSVP to **Steve B.**
- 9 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 11 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 16 Church Board, 6:30 pm

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.

