

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

July 2025



Seeking the Spirit's Direction

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." Galatians 5:25 NIV

My husband claims that "nobody knows how to read maps anymore." I suspect that he is mostly right, even though it isn't much of a comfort when I'm navigating on a road trip. Of course we have all been shaped by having apps and OnStar and satellite navigation which tells us what to do next, even when we don't have any idea where we are now. Finding direction for a group of people going toward a non-geographic goal has never been as simple as following a navigation system, no matter what clever acronyms we use for GPS. This does not mean that the church is without direction, but we need to develop the skill-set which fits our objective.

What is our objective? Part of Matthew 28, the Great Commission says, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Those words were spoken by Jesus as he ended his ministry on earth and passed that work on to his disciples. That mission has been before the Church for nearly 2,000 years, and there is no reason to believe that mission has changed. But method is another question: How do we partner with God? Whom are we called to make into disciples? Where does this need to happen? The Church has had to answer these questions in every age.

Sometimes I long for simple answers to these questions: just follow the GPS rather than having to figure out a map or some other kind of directions. But, of course, the process of figuring out how, and to whom, and where the Spirit is directing us is part of the mission. We are, as Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia, to be people who live by the Spirit and keep in step with the Spirit. This takes regular and intentional effort. Prayer is one way to think of this process, but listening, paying attention, and sharing with others are also in that mix. It is good to remember that we are working toward God's mission, not relying on our own skills or best guesses about where we should be going.

I hope you have had an opportunity to consider the yellow half-sheet titled "Seeking the Spirit's Direction" from the Pathfinder Team. There are copies in the Gathering Area and included with the email version of this newsletter. Your listening and engagement and sharing are important to this congregation. Thank you for your prayers for Creekside's future.

God bless you— *Pastor Rosanna*



Ages 3-12 are invited to Vacation Bible School: July 13-17, 6-8 pm.

Through worship, drama, Bible study, art, science explorations, and games, children will learn the importance of water and be invited to join God in caring for this precious natural resource. *Volunteers who want to help with Vacation Bible School may use the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area. Thank you!*

PASTOR'S REPORT

June has been a fine month to be at Creekside. I don't know many people—pastors or otherwise—who get to drive past a field of golden flowers next to their workplace; especially when they don't have to do any of the work to maintain it. The flowers, landscaping, and gardens at Creekside are beautiful this time of year, and I am grateful to the volunteers who plan and maintain them.

I will be headed to Greensboro on June 29 for Annual Conference; I'm glad that Tim will be going with me (he'll do most of the navigating, since he can read maps). I have responsibilities for Mission and Ministry Board, but those are mostly for the ongoing administrative work of the denomination; it is the delegates, conference officers, organizers, and volunteers who do the work of the Annual Conference. Mike Kauffman will be Creekside's delegate and will report back to us on discussion and action.

McFaddens will have a new grandson in July, and we pray for blessings for that family; we know what a blessing babies are to our church family. For the baby born in May, the one due in mid-July, and the baby girl we will meet by early August, we are grateful and pray for their families and older children.

Vacation Bible School is July 13-17 and that is an opportunity to welcome children to our church.

Thanks to Jessica Prahl, Christian Ed Team and volunteers for all the work they put into that event.

We love the Shine! materials from the Church of the Brethren and hope that Waves of Wonder will be successful for everyone involved.

I have experienced a challenging situation for pastoral care during the last month. The support and counsel of deacons, board, and property has been invaluable. I am glad to serve a congregation which seeks to live by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

God bless you— *Pastor Rosanna*

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

Friends, it's been a busy month—new roof and new sign. It is all thanks to you and your generosity. You cannot be thanked enough for all that you give and do for our wonderful church.

On a sad note, we say goodbye to our brother in Christ, Ray Bode, and keep Deb and the boys in our prayers for the days ahead. Deb, we are so sorry for your loss.

Our upcoming events bring excitement, especially to our children at Creekside. Vacation Bible School is a wonderful time to teach our little ones about Jesus, his life and miraculous deeds. We will pray for great weather. (Please pray, pray, pray!)

A little further down the road is our hog roast, the Family Jamboree (Sept. 13). There are lots of preparations being done now for this event. If you would like to be part of this terrific interaction with our community, talk to Lodema Hoke. We have jobs that fit different skills and abilities, such as sitting, standing, and running (just kidding). I would love to work with each and every one of you. See you there!

Deana Ward, Church Board Chair



Creekside's Family Jamboree is **Saturday, Sept. 13** and includes a hog roast meal, live music, and kids' activities. Followers of Faith is taking the lead on planning, and would like to include as many people as possible to incorporate your ideas and expertise. The next planning meeting is Tuesday, July 8 at 6pm. Please join us! **Tickets will go on sale in August, and we'll need lots of volunteers on Sept. 12 and 13. Save the date!**

MEAL TRAIN

We have two families at Creekside who are expecting babies in mid July/early August; both families have older children. If you would be willing to make a meal for either or both of these families the weeks of July 27 through August 10, please contact Becky Miller at 574 361-7301 or beckymiller507@gmail.com.

Thanks to Becky for coordinating this delicious care! She will have a schedule and notes from each family to help you plan.



The Bee Line



Thank you for participating in our recent World Honey-bee Day celebration. One of the questions on the quiz suggested that without pollination we would lose 1/3 of our food. BUT, some authorities are even suggesting that it might be as much as 60% of our food resources. Just this year, we replenished our loss of bees with the purchase of 2 Packages and 1 Nuc, at a cost of around \$500, just to stay in business. We are a self-supporting team at Creekside and are not part of the General Budget. Thank you for your support in purchasing our honey and for your donations to our Honey Bee Ministry.

In previous Beelines, we have mentioned the many problems Beekeepers fight on a regular basis: colony collapse, pesticides, American Foul Brood, mites, ants, mice, skunks, raccoons, etc. Careful hive management can protect our Apiary from many of these. Raising bees is not simply putting a hive in your backyard and forgetting it. Our team checks our hives regularly. We recently found one hive was missing a queen. Without a queen, the hive will soon die. Our remedy was to take a frame with queen cells from another hive and place it in the hive without a queen. (Eggs laid and fertilized by the queen are females, and the vast majority become worker bees. But a cell fed Royal Jelly will become a queen bee!)

Question #12 of the World Honey Bee Sunday quiz asked, "Should we continue to raise bees and do our part in feeding the world?" 100% of you said YES! Your support is greatly appreciated. Keep on the lookout for swarms and help us get some FREEBEES this year!

Ron Nicodemus, for the Bee Team

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE:

Studies of 400,000 older adults around the world found that persons who used digital technology more had lower rates of dementia. Researchers believe it's because our use of phones/computers can be mentally stimulating and may help us maintain social connections with others. So call that person you haven't spoken to in a while, get on Facebook or play games on a computer or tablet. Here's another idea: join others at Creekside on the second Friday of each month for Game Night. Food, games and good friends. Your brain will thank you.

Larry Ford, Creekside Everence Advocate

JULY

BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Randall, Shelly
- 9 Harney, Chris
- 11 Connett, Katherine
- 13 Graber, Cal
- 16 Hendricks, Becca
- 22 Wallace, Barrett
- 23 Vance, Kristen
- 24 Nicodemus, Ron
- 25 De Pue, Judy
- 27 Harney, Scott
- 30 Ford, Larry

ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Arnold, Brian & Kaylee
- 8 Prael, Ryan & Jessica
- 11 Nowicki, Tom & Kathy
- 14 Carlson, Kyle & Katy
- 25 Barton, Steve & Jean
- 28 Kelsey, Cary & Betty

EVENTS

Garden work: Thursdays, 9-11 am

- 4 *Independence Day, office closed*
- 8 Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 8 Outreach Team, 6:00 pm
- 9 Finance Team, 3:00 pm
- 11 Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 13 Cal's Birthday Party, noon-3 pm
- 13-17 Vacation Bible School (Sunday-Thursday) 6:00-8:00 pm
- 17 Church Board, 6:30 pm
- 19 *Church reserved, 12:30-5:00 pm*
- 20 Pathfinder Team, 3:00 pm

THANK YOU to our Church Family for your cards and many prayers for John. We believe God heard your prayers for guidance and healing. It has been a long journey, but John is on the road to recovery. We have missed seeing all of you in person. Love you all, *John and Maryann Zerbe*

NEW ADDRESSES (Phone numbers unchanged)

Deb Bode

Judy Gable

Madeleine Randall

Contact Marita for these addresses—we won't post them online.

The Creekside Connection

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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.

