

# THE CHURCH CHIMES

Peters Creek Presbyterian Church • 250 Brookwood Road • Venetia, PA 15367

June 2008

## REACH... BUILD... SERVE...

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### This month...

#### YOUTH SUNDAY

Join us **June 8** for this exciting Sunday as our youth lead us in worship.

#### STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

**Friday, June 13 from 6 - 8:30 PM.**

Entertainment provided from 7:30 - 8:30 PM by The Community Band South

#### Dinner Menu

Ham, Turkey, or Beef Croissants

Potato Salad

Baked Beans

Chips

Pretzels

Strawberry Shortcake

Coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade

#### Tickets

Adults - \$8.00

Children under 12 - \$3.50

Dessert only - \$4.00

Tickets will be available after each Worship Service on June 1 and June 8 and at the door on June 13.

The Deacons would appreciate your help in serving at the Strawberry Festival. If you can donate 1 1/4 hour of your time or if you can help by baking a 9x13 yellow or white cake, please sign up on the back of the Welcome Slip in your bulletin or call the church office at 724-941-6210.

#### SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

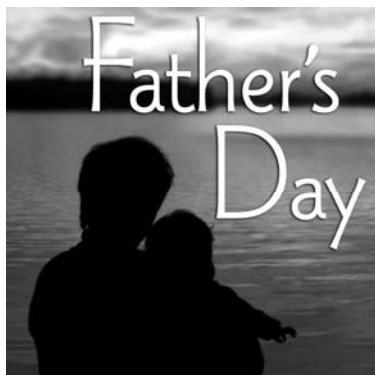
**Begin June 15, 8:30 Traditional Worship, 10:00 Blended Worship.**

#### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 23-27, 9:00 AM - Noon**

**Children age 3 years to finishing 5th grade**

Join us for Hyperspeed Games, Bible Blast, Wacky Works, Crafts, Test Tube Treats. See page 6 for more information.



# FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

*Where do we go from here?*

This is a question I hear frequently as we go through change and move from experience to experience. Most recently this question was asked as we joined the EPC. I find a great answer in the words of the Apostle Paul: **“Be transformed!”** (Romans 12:2)

Last month the Session designed and adopted a new Mission and Vision statement for our church. We are excited to implement these two statements as a foundation to build upon as we move forward.

## **Our Vision:**

“Peters Creek Church is a caring community of faith where we praise God, love Jesus and serve others.”

## **Our Mission:**

“Peters Creek Church is committed to reaching out to the lost, building up the believer and serving those around us.”

## **Reach-Build-Serve**

Jeff Such recently introduced me to a helpful book, Comeback Churches. It tells the story about how 300 different churches in America made a comeback after losing vitality or going through a time of difficulty.

I believe many would say that one of the effects of our move to the EPC is that we have lost some energy and positive focus in our ministry. While many may agree with this evaluative statement, I was recently encouraged by the comments of a church revitalization consultant who worshipped with us several weeks ago. This was his observation:

***Rus, I saw a vital church. The spirit at worship was powerful. The fellowship was strong. I was impressed with the number of children and young families in worship. If the church has ‘slipped’ any, I hope you and the congregation understand that you have a solid foundation and are still more vital than most churches I attend.”***

Since this individual is known for speaking his peace, I found his observation most encouraging.

However, I believe all of us recognize that we have meaningful work to do in order re-vitalize our ministry. I also believe that we anticipate positive results as we make our *comeback*.

In the book Comeback Churches, there is a list of the most significant attributes of *comeback churches*. One of the most critical attributes is that these congregations have a passionate desire to reach *the lost*, those outside

of the church and those who have not accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

***We will focus our ministry equally on two groups – those inside the church and those outside the church. We will have a balanced focus on discipleship (growing the faith of believers) and outreach (leading non-believers to faith in Jesus Christ).***

How would this impact our ministry? It means that, as we make decisions for our ministry, we will make them because they enhance our ability to disciple/reach both of these groups (outsiders and insiders) **equally!**

I believe one obstacle (and one of many congregations) is our tendency to make decisions based on how they affect us, as the insiders. Jesus spent his time reaching out to those who either did not know God or were alienated from Him. We must do the same!

I am afraid that if we honestly evaluated our ministry and our ministry decisions, we would find that a significant portion of our ministry (95%+) was based on our needs, personal preferences, and desires as *insiders*.

The authors write:

***Before we can be a genuine comeback church, we must first change our spiritual values. If we love the people Jesus loves and values those He values (the lost), it brings fresh spiritual energy because we are missional in our approach. This leads us to change our behavior through prayer, reconciliation, and repentance. This, in turn, leads us to structure our church for mission, not maintenance.***

Therefore, I am asking you to pray for two specific transformations for our ministry:

1. Ask God to give you a heart for those who do not believe in Jesus and/or are separated from Him;
2. Ask God to give us (as a church) a passionate desire to reach those in our community who do not believe in Jesus and/or are separated from Him.

Our transformation and our comeback begins with prayer asking God to realign our hearts, minds, and wills to be in accordance with His love and passion for all people. So let us remember as we move forward to: Reach – Build – Serve.

Thanks for praying.

Blessings and peace,



# SESSION UPDATE

The Session met on Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008. After worship, devotions, communion, and prayer the Elders accomplished the following business:

Received a report and recommendations from the Fellowship/Membership Team in regards to efforts to update the church membership roll and Session approved the recommendations. Session will be contacting members who have become inactive to encourage them and see how we can better serve them.

Approved new summer worship hours of an 8:30 traditional service and a 10:00 blended worship service;

Adopted new Vision and Mission Statements as well as 6 primary purposes for ministry to serve as a foundation for all we do.

## **Our Vision:**

"Peters Creek Church is a caring community of faith-where we praise God, love Jesus and serve others."

## **Our Mission:**

"Peters Creek Church is committed to reaching out to the lost, building up the believer and serving those around us."

## **Reach-Build-Serve**

## **Our Purposes:**

Inviting (Evangelism), Fellowship (Connecting), Growing (Discipleship), Caring (Serving), Giving (Stewardship), Worship (Celebration)

These purposes will help guide us in our planning of ministries, activities and programs as we move forward. These Primary Purposes will be outlined more in next months Chimes.

After a time of sharing prayer concerns and for prayer the meeting was adjourned.

# MUSIC & WORSHIP

## **Saturday Night Worship**

Peters Creek Church is a church where we are committed to reaching out to the lost, building up the believer, and serving those around us. **REACH - BUILD - SERVE**. The Creek Saturday night service is a place where authentic spirituality brings meaning to everyday life. The atmosphere is warm, inviting, and you'll experience a caring focus on people.

You'll find people of all ages from all over the South Hills enjoying great worship, fun, and engaging messages from the Bible. The messages are simple, practical and relevant, and of course, there is free coffee.

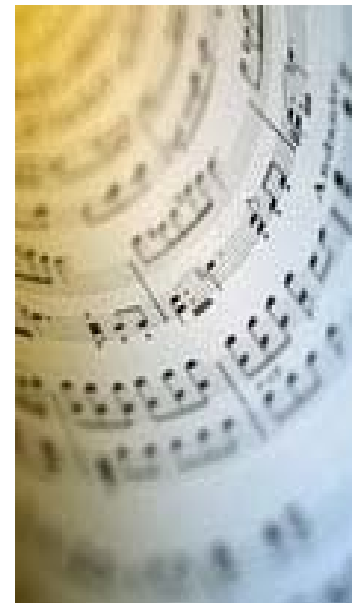
If you have a desire for spiritual growth, you're looking for a place to start over, or you're seeking to reconnect with God, then we encourage you to join us at The Creek.

We are so excited to launch this new service this fall. We believe that God has put this vision in our hearts to see Peters Creek Church reach out to the community like never before through this new contemporary worship service. We believe the best days are ahead for the church and we're motivated to do what it takes to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the community. Please watch the bulletin and Chimes as we share more information on the launch of this new and exciting service at Peters Creek Church.

If you are interested in joining the Worship Team as a musician or singer please contact Jeff Such, [jeffsuch@comcast.net](mailto:jeffsuch@comcast.net), for more information.

## **Music & Worship Pastor Search Update**

It is our desire to keep you informed as we continue with the search process. We have received many resumes and have talked with a number of candidates. We continue to seek God's will and direction as we move forward with the process. Please continue to pray for us and for the person God is bringing our way to help lead us in our Music and Worship Ministry. We will continue to keep you informed as things develop.



# COMING THIS FALL

# MISSION AND OUTREACH

## Working Miracles through Mission Giving

"...inasmuch as ye did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

*Matthew 25:40*



Our mission for the month of June is World Help/Children of the World children's choir. We had the privilege of hosting the Children of the World children's choir during the month of April and we're excited to once again be able to support them through our mission of the month. World Help is currently actively involved in the relief effort in Myanmar (Burma) and assisting with natural disaster in China. Let us give generously this month as we continue our support of this worthy ministry to disadvantaged children and those in time of crisis.



**Thank you to all the IHN volunteers** for giving their time and love, for these wonderful meals that were prepared for our families, those delicious desserts, the drivers for those drives back and forth to Washington, the overnight hosts for making sure everyone was safe and the nurses on call. The program would not be if it wasn't for people like you that are willing to let God work through them and take that extra step. THANK YOU.

Maura & Brian Kelley  
Don & Linda McCaig  
Gina Hall  
Judy Amick  
Mize Family  
Lorraine Glass  
Dr. Rus Howard  
Baehr Family

Jane Long  
Doris Sawhill  
Nancy & Bob Reedy  
Beverly Cwalina  
Carl Maronde  
Stacey Mullen  
Barb Mullen  
Barb Holcombe

Norm Holcombe  
Bob Miller  
Keller Family  
Carlton Corson  
Ron Crosby  
Rich Smith  
Chris De Woody  
Wendy Edgar

God Bless You,  
Kathie Crosby and Kathy Smith

### ADULT GROUPS THIS SUMMER AT THE CREEK

**2nd & 4th Monday at 1:00 PM**  
Cross Stitches Group - A2

**Wednesdays at 6:15 AM**  
Eat 'n Pray - Narthex

**Thursdays between 7 & 10 AM**  
Farmhouse Coffee with Rus

**2nd & 4th Fridays at 7:00 PM**  
Single Moms -  
location varies

## Brookwood Center News

The past few weeks have been a difficult time for the participants and staff of Brookwood Center. Three of our treasured friends have passed away. Tanna, Lee and Stella. We have a deep sense of loss when we lose a friend, but the suddenness of three deaths was shocking. Please remember to pray for us.

Thank you for your heart of compassion. We feel your love.

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Peters Township Christian Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, June 1  
7:00 PM

Peters Township High School Auditorium  
Sponsored by the Peters Township Ministerium

Mr. Vaughn Dailey, PTMS Social Studies Teacher, will address the class of 2008. Personal testimonies will be given by PTHS teachers as well. Please join us for a reception following the service in the cafeteria. ALL ARE WELCOME.



Taylor Caso  
Jake DeWoody  
Elizabeth Lesnett  
Gregory Maronde  
Rebecca Nicholson  
Andrew Nixon  
Kevin Quinlan  
Peter Rothaar  
Charles Semko  
Nikki Swoope  
Laura Zini

## Summer Activities

June 1	End of year Picnic & Bonfire - Lushen property 6 - 8 PM
June 8	Youth Sunday - Youth leading both morning worship services
June 16 - 21	Destination Unknown Sr. High Trip - <b>This trip is full.</b>
June 23 - 27	Vacation Bible School
July 11	Road Trip to Sarris for Ice Cream - 1:00 meet at the church.
July 16	Cedar Point Trip - Leave the church at 7:00 AM - Return late.
July 20	Putt Putt Golf - Coolsprings Bethel Park - 3:00 PM
August 3	Cookout - Youth Hall - 5:00 PM
August 5 - 7	Teen Leadership Retreat
August 13	Wild Things Baseball Game - Meet at the church 6:00 PM
August 24	Church Picnic

# LETTERS, THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

## Dear Habitat for Humanity Volunteers,

We were very pleased with the help you gave us on April 19. Know that you have been instrumental in getting the latest Habitat home "on its feet", so to speak. Your hard work and willing spirit have given us impetus to bring Ford #4 from the long time hole-in-the-ground to a new home for Karen and her family. You helped to bring excitement to Karen as she witnessed the foundation being formed.

You are a good friend to habitat and the families we served. Please accept our gratitude for your help and your faithfulness.

A special thank you to Dan Ruffing for his communication and coordination of this project as it has progressed.

Yours Truly,  
Linda Ferrell, Volunteer Coordinator

## Journey to Bethlehem

If we are to present Journey this year we need LOTS of help. This year we are in need of several new scene leaders. They are: Guides, Costumes, Make up, Reservations, Parking, Synagogue, Marketplace, Thieves.

If we are unable to fill these slots, then it will be impossible for us to have Journey this year.

Please prayerfully consider helping. Sign up on the Friendship slip in the bulletin.



*With  
Sympathy*

Our sympathy goes out to Bob and Joni Sustrik on the death of Joni's mother, Rose Chini. Our prayers are with you.

# Creekside Children's Ministry

June 2008

## Our Purpose:

Creekside Children's Ministry works alongside parents to provide LIFE-shaping experiences in which children grow to:

- LOVE God's Son
- OBEY God's Word
- SERVE God's People
- JOIN God's Family
- SHARE God's Grace



## Creekside Bowling Party

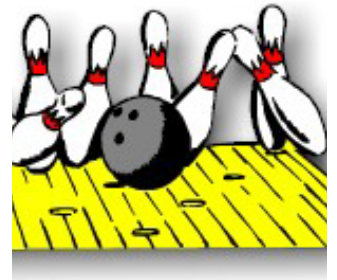
Creekside Friends in Kindergarten to 5th Grade are invited to a Bowling Party on Saturday, June 14 at 12 NOON at West Pike Bowl in Canonsburg.

Kids, don't miss hanging out at our second summer fun event! We always have a great time bowling and this year won't be any different.

Cost is \$14 and includes 2

hours of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, pop, and Dairy Queen ice cream cake.

Please let us know if your child plans to attend! Call the church office or get registration form on facing page filled out and mailed in to the church.



**Kids in Kind - 5th Grade! Join Creekside Friends June 14 at West Pike Bowl in Canonsburg for a fun-filled bowling party at 1:00 PM.**

## Vacation Bible

We are continuing to take registrations for this year's Vacation Bible School which will be held June 23 - 27 from 9:00 AM to noon. Children from 3 years to finishing 5th grade may attend.

This year's exciting theme is **Power Lab!** Throughout each morning, children will visit various stations, including Hyperspeed Games, Bible Blast, Wacky Works Crafts, and Test Tube Treats. **Power Lab** at Peters Creek will be a great place for kids to discover Jesus' Miraculous Power.

Please invite your neighborhood children to attend VBS at

Peter Creek! Vacation Bible School is an outreach event, and we need all our families to reach out to the children in their social circle so that we can reach children throughout the Peters Township Community with the Gospel.

Word of mouth continues to be the best way to get kids to register for Vacation Bible School so spread the news about what a great time kids will have this year at **Power Lab!**

**Power Lab Vacation Bible School  
June 23-27, 9:00 AM - NOON  
Children 3yrs.-Finishing 5th Grade**

## School



## Sunday School Breakfast

Sunday School students and their families are invited to the annual Sunday School Breakfast. On June 8th at 9:45 AM we will be meeting in Hinman Hall. There will be no children's classes held in the Christian Education building.

Each child will be called up and recognized for the work they have completed this year in learning particular Scripture and other memory work.. We will also take the time out to recognize and thank our

wonderful Sunday School teachers.

This yearly breakfast is always an enjoyable time of fellowship and a great way to end the Sunday School year. Please note that the breakfast marks the last time we meet for Sunday School this year.

Have a blessed summer! See you in the fall.

### Breakfast Menu:

Egg Casseroles

Breakfast Potatoes

Coffee Cake

Bagels & Cream Cheese

Doughnut Holes

Fruit

Cereal



**Annual Sunday School Breakfast will be held Sunday, June 8th in Hinman Hall at 9:45 AM.**

## Creekside Worship 2-5-2

In June at Creekside Worship, the children will begin to study God's Word and how it instructs us to act in regards to humility. We will learn that humility is putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.

We will find out what Jesus' reaction was when his disciples were arguing about who was most important.

Children will clearly see the

difference between how the world says we should value people compared to how God values people.

It is normal for young children to be self-centered, but as they mature in their faith, they must learn to devote their hearts and minds to serving the Lord and living to put Him first.

### Memory Verse for June:

*Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be free of pride. Think of others as better than yourselves.*

Philippians 2:3



**Creekside Worship 2-5-2 During the 2nd Service Kindergarten - 5th Grade**

### Bowling Party RSVP

I am in Kindergarten to 5th grade, and plan to attend the Creekside Bowling Party on June 14.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Place this RSVP along with payment of \$14 in an envelope marked Bowling Party. RSVP's are due by June 10.

### Vacation Bible School Registration

Fill out this form and mail in or drop in offering plate on Sunday morning to attend our VBS June 23 - 27, 9:00 am to noon.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dad's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mom's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_ Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative Name And Phone In Case Of Emergency:

\_\_\_\_\_

Permission to take pictures? Y N

### Publication Deadlines

Articles for the Church Chimes and announcements for the bulletin should be submitted in electronic format.

Submissions for the Chimes are due no later than noon on the 15th of each month for the following month's edition.

Sunday Bulletin Submissions are due no later than noon each Wednesday.

### Email:

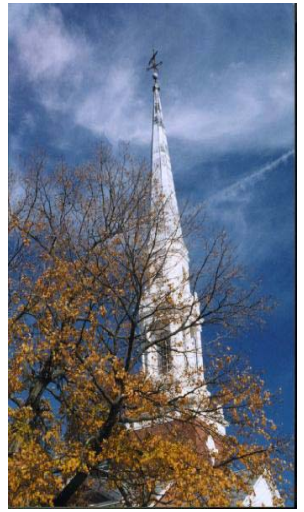
[peterscreekchurch@comcast.net](mailto:peterscreekchurch@comcast.net)

### Chimes by E-mail

The Church Chimes can be emailed to you. E-mail the church office to request our email edition

# WORSHIP THEMES IN JUNE

- June 1            *Extreme Makeover, 3: Our Doorways*  
L. Rus Howard, preaching  
Hinman Scholarship Awards  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
- June 8            Youth Sunday
- June 15          *Extreme Makeover, 4: Our Arms*  
L. Rus Howard, preaching  
**BEGIN SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE!!**  
8:30 Traditional Worship  
10:00 Blended Worship
- June 22          *Extreme Makeover, 5: Our Hearts*  
L. Rus Howard, preaching
- June 29          *Extreme Makeover, 6: Our Backbones and Torsos*  
L. Rus Howard, preaching



**Children's Worship** is held for all children from Kindergarten through 5th grades during the 10 AM Worship Service. Children are dismissed from the sanctuary at the end of our songs and hymns of praise. Special programs for children from age 3 - 5 are held in the nursery during the 10 AM Worship Service. Childcare for children is provided during both Worship Services in the Church nurseries.