

News from the Brick

Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren
5352 N. Brick Church Road
Hagerstown, IN 47346

Carol M. Pfeiffer, Pastor
Church Phone: 765-489-4430
Parsonage Phone: 765-489-3435
nettlecreekcob@tmcsmail.com
www.nettlecreekcob.com

Established 1820



February
2004

Eloise Beeson, Secretary
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:00 a.m.



*Continuing the Work of Jesus.
Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

Mission Statement of Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren: *As the body of Christ, we are Christ-centered in our caring, sharing, and service.*

Carol's Comments

"Our God Box"

O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. (Psalm 34:8)

Have we confined God to a little box? Relegated God to a corner of our lives? We tend to come and visit God in that little box. Take God out. Converse awhile. Then put God right back to go about our business.

But perhaps our little box isn't big enough now. For God tends to burst out. God calls us to see there is more to the Christian life than a little box of our making. Maybe we have been obedient to prayer...church activities...scripture...service. Yet there is still an emptiness, because we may be trying to define God within our limited understanding. But...we can't contain God. God never is contained.

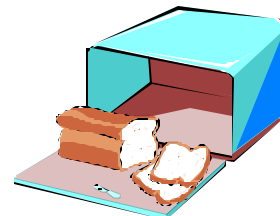
We want to label God saying, "My God is like this!" But the labels don't stick. We can't escape seeing God in tormented faces. In peaceful times. Frightening moments. Joyous occasions. Unexpected situations. We meet God everywhere we go. Everything we do reminds us of God when we pay attention.

When we confine God, we think God isn't present when we encounter a situation that doesn't fit our description of God. When we allow God to burst out of our self-made descriptions, we recognize God **is** like a friend we meet **everywhere** we go. All our wrestling we do is only an attempt to keep God restrained. Controlled in our infinite world to make sense...to get our way.

It may take struggle to "...grasp how wide and long, high and deep is the love that surpasses knowledge..." (Ephesians 3:19).

God is a God of open spaces. So let us walk with our Open-spaced God. It's time we admit God can't be suppressed into the confines of our imaginations. It's hard to experience comfort and relationship from a God-controlled box...a box that only gives momentary peace, joy, love, and forgiveness.

God's life in us is boundless. God is waiting. Waiting to be more than stuffed in a box. Open up the box and see. "O **taste and see** that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8)



Caring Like Jesus Study at White Branch Church of the Brethren Continues

The study *Caring Like Jesus: The Matthew 18 Project* co-authored by Daniel Ulrich and Jan Fairchild continues at White Branch Church of the Brethren, our sister church. Dan, a professor at Bethany Seminary, is leading the study, which begins each Sunday night at **7:00 p.m.**

Results of the Church Council Meeting Election January 25



Dave Reneau has been selected as our new Board Chair. Beverly Nicholson will take on the responsibility of the Christian Education Chair. Dave was the Christian Education Team Chair prior to his being voted in as Board Chair. Brad Bowman is our new Worship Chair. Council gave approval for the Carpet Committee to purchase carpet for the sanctuary. The purchase will be made with invested funds.