

Graduates continued

Paula Head graduates from Hagerstown High School. Paula is the grand daughter of Donna and Leslie Ramey.

Ryan Renaker graduated from Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. His parents are Teresa and Allen Renaker.

Kirby Stout graduated from Indiana University. His parents are Cookie and Gary Stout.

William House graduated from Bethany Theological Seminary on May 8. Bill is a new member to Nettle Creek.

Bread and Cup Communion

July 18 will be our Bread and Cup Communion during worship. Please be in prayer and reflection as you come to the Lord's Table in remembrance of Christ.

American Friends Service Committee and Quaker Hill Conference Center Garage Sale

On **June 11 and 12, 2004** the American Friends Service Committee and Quaker Hill Conference Center are having a garage sale to benefit the work of both organizations. It will begin at 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The location is Quaker Hill Conference Center, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, Indiana. Directions: ¼ mile west of US 27 (near Reid Hospital). Turn into Quaker Hill Drive from Waterfall Road. If you have items to donate for the sale, take them to Quaker Hill Conference Center at 101 Quaker Hill Drive or American Friends Service Committee office at 611 West Main Street (next to West Richmond Friends Meeting). You may call 765-966-6484 to arrange for items to be picked up.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATE BRIEFING SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2004, 2:30 P.M. MARION CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Denominational News:

Brethren leaders support ecumenical statements on Iraq, Middle East, Sudan.

Three ecumenical statements made in May have received support from Brethren leaders. The statements call attention to situations in Iraq, the Middle East, and Sudan. **A Pastoral Letter on Iraq from the National Council of Churches (NCC)** was shared in a May 17 mailing from the General Board's Brethren Witness/Washington Office, which encouraged congregations to read or share it during morning worship on Sunday May 23. The letter has received endorsement from Stan Noffsinger, general secretary, Church of the Brethren General Board.

Recognizing "the broad perspectives of many in the faith community in regards to war" and the stronger stance taken by the Church of the Brethren, the office called "the unified voice represented here as one vital, and needed, in such days as these." The Pastoral Letter is written "out of a deep love for this country, but also out of a profound concern at the direction this cycle of violence is taking us" and calls for a change of course in Iraq. The letter can be found at www.nccusa.org/news/04iraqpastoralletter.html.

Jones added his signature to **a letter from ecumenical leaders to US President Bush sent on May 7 and coordinated by Churches for Middle East Peace**. The letter asked for understanding of "the crisis in the Holy Land confronting Christian Palestinians, Christian institutions, and those who wish to visit the birthplace of Christianity." Concerns regarded the effects of the separation barrier being constructed by Israel, taxation issues that may force some church institutions to close due to the removal of their longstanding tax-exempt status, and "the denial and delay of visas, by Israel, for clergy and church personnel result[ing] in understaffed seminaries,