

ask Him. *If we confess our sin, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Yes, there may still be attacks and temptations upon our spiritual computer, but we always have the Master Technician cheering us on not to give up. Cheering us on to come to Him. Cheering us on to trust, to hope, and to love ourselves and one another once again. There will always be those computer viruses. There will always be sin to contend with. But we are protected in Jesus Christ when we keep our “spiritual systems” updated...when we focus on the original image in which we were created.

Love feast is Sunday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m. What a wonderful time to reflect upon our Lord, the “clean sweeper.” My brothers and sisters have you done a “clean sweep” recently? Are you ready for a “clean sweep?”

Prayerfully,
Pastor Carol Pfeiffer

Worship Team News Notes

Greetings from the Worship Team!

Our focus has been to find ways to enhance the spirituality of those involved in worship that connect the congregation with God. In doing so, we have found it necessary to explore new worship ideas that will be true to our heritage and will meet the growing needs of our congregation. We appreciate your continued support and patience as we listen prayerfully to God’s will in this time of transition. May God bless each of you in your daily worship.

In Christ,

Chad Bowman, Julie Wieseke, Brad Bowman and Valerie Healton- Chair

Discernment in Prayer Continues

October 4 from 9 a.m. - noon we will continue our Retreat on "Discernment in Prayer" with Kathy Royer, who is leading our session. Kathy is Pastor of Spiritual Formation at Cedar Grove CoB in the Southern Ohio District. She is also a Spiritual Director. Anyone may attend. There is no fee. If you missed the first session, you will still gain from attending the second one. Kathy will specifically be addressing discernment in prayer. If you need childcare, please call the church office 765-489-4430 or Pastor Carol Pfeiffer at 765-489-3435.



Love Feast

Love Feast is **October 5 at 7:00 p.m.** For Brethren Love Feast begins with a period of **examination**. Brethren cite Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:23-23, calling for reconciliation before offering gifts to God, and Paul’s warning in I Corinthians 11:27-30 about the dangers of participating in the love feast in a thoughtless fashion. Following the time of examination, participants ponder the powerful meanings in **Jesus’ washing of the disciples’ feet**, recorded in John 13. These meanings include God’s cleansing and forgiveness, as well as our need to give and receive service. Jesus command to wash one another’s feet is a clear reminder that if we do not live in the spirit of feetwashing, we have no part in him. The **Love Feast meal** recalls the meal Jesus shared with his disciples. The unique character of the relationship envisioned for those who are members together in Christ’s body is described in John 14-17. The sharing of food symbolizes the sharing of life and looks toward the messianic banquet of the future. Finally, the Brethren share **the bread and cup**, remembering Christ’s supreme gift of life and renewing their commitment to embody Christ and to follow his path of sacrificial love for the world (*For All Who Minister*). Come join in the celebration of Love Feast. Feel free to attend as an observer if you have never participated before. All are welcome.

Church Directory

We are in the process of bringing our church directory up-to-date for 2004. If you have any additions or changes in the addresses, new class officers, please turn them in to the office or e-mail Eloise at ebepaint@aol.com

Musician Schedule for October

October 5 Organ – Jeff Bach
Piano- no one
12 Rita Hilbert -organ
Dee Reneau - piano
19 Rita Hilbert- Organ
Beth Bowman - Piano
26 Karen Garrett- Piano Organ?

Chorister for the Month of October

Sally Schmittler



Continuing to Pray for...

Lou Malkemus Carl DeVinney John Earl McCormack Bob Klein Philip Stout
Donna and Ben King
Home: Mary Werking
Care Center: Estella Hilbert, LuFreda Bowman

Giving For September

Average Weekly Offering needed to meet budget..... \$1,513.56
Average Offering for September..... \$892.56
Sept. 7.....\$ 898.25
14.....1,124.00
21..... 585.00
28..... 963.00



Bethany Seminary Offering\$102.18
Average Attendance for September45

Church Women United News

The Hagerstown Church Women United awarded \$15,000 toward scholarships for high school graduates to help further their education. The money came from Certificates of Deposits and proceeds from the Hagerstown Thrift Shop. Carol Bullock is the Manager of the **Thrift Shop**, and Donna King works part-time. Other church women volunteer their time. **Business hours are 12:00-4:00 p.m., Tuesday thru Saturday except Thursday, 4:00-7:00 p.m.**

Friendship Sunday



October 26 has been designated as “Friendship Sunday”. We are hopeful that you will put it on your calendar and make special effort to be here and bring your family and invite your friends. There will be a pitch-in dinner and Church Council following worship. **The Witness Team**

Caring Ministries Assembly Held in August

Nettle Creek had five persons who attended the “Healing Out of Silence” Conference in Bridgewater, Virginia August 14-16. **Marjorie Briar, Karen Garrett, Beverly Nicholson, Dee Reneau, and Pastor Carol** attended. There were more than 250 Brethren gathered for the Assembly. This biennial event was sponsored by the Association of Brethren Caregivers (ABC). The three assembly worship services featured speakers Marjorie Thompson, Tilden Edwards, and Deforia Lane. Each afternoon there were worships held on a variety of caregiving topics. It was an inspiring and insightful time for all. Just ask someone who attended.

Women Bible Studies

We have had a number of women attending the Women’s Bible Studies. It has been a fun time of sharing, laughing, and studying together. One study is at 10:00 a.m. in the morning and one at 6:30 p.m. in the evening. Check the calendar for meeting days as we meet twice a month. The morning study on Esther is being led by

Valerie Heaton, while the evening study on Deborah is led by Pastor Carol. We have two more lessons before a new topic will be chosen. Be sure to look for the next studies to come. Join one of them and grow with other women.

Internet Updates

Those of you who have Internet access can check the calendar of events online. They are updated frequently. New information is placed on the Home Page. You can look ahead as you plan your schedule to see what is upcoming at church.

Community Thanksgiving Service in November



A community Thanksgiving Service is being planned for November 23 at 6:00 p.m. at the Congregational Christian Church UCC. Sue Cartee, United Methodist pastor, will bring the message.

World Missions Offering October 12

The focus of this October's World Mission Offering lifts up our exchange of "living letters"—that is, people in mission—with a world longing for Christ's "good news." The ultimate letter, in the view of the apostle Paul, is written on the human heart. By following the Spirit and expressing the love of God inscribed upon your heart, you, too, are a living letter of Christ. **What is written on your heart becomes even more far-reaching through your support of denominational workers who are engaged in face-to-face relationships in service and celebration of the cross-cultural oneness in Christ.** Please support the General Board and its "living mail" to the world by participating in the **World Mission Offering October 12, 2003.**



On Earth Peace –What Our Offerings Support



On Earth Peace is an **agency of the Church of the Brethren** empowering people to discern the things that make for peace. These are excerpts from a letter to the people of Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren: *With your faithful support, here are some ways God is working through On Earth Peace:*

- *In July and August, On Earth Peace staff attended District Conference in the Southeastern, Northern Plains, Western Plains, Oregon/Washington, Northern Ohio, and Michigan districts. Their work involved giving oral reports about the work of On Earth Peace, setting up displays, and providing leadership in insight sessions, worship, and business sessions.*
- *On Peace sponsored five workshops at the Association of Brethren Caregiver's Caring Ministries Conference in August at Bridgewater, Virginia.*
- *Rachel Peterson lead a retreat with the York First Church of the Brethren (PA) to help them strategize the implementation of the Decade to Overcome Violence into their congregation.*
- *Kim Stuckey worked with Youth Peace Travel Team members in August to debrief their summer of travel to six Brethren camps and Annual Conference.*
- *In the Southern Ohio district in August, Matt Guynn, Jim Moore, and Liz and Greg Bidgood-Enders led "Conflict Transformation for Congregational Leaders Workshop. This workshop was for pastors, deacons, board and committee chairs, and congregational leaders to build and reinforce skills in communication and conflict transformation.*

Pastor Carol attended both the Caregiving Caring Ministries Conference and the Conflict Transformation for Congregational Leaders Workshop.

Township Trustees—Exactly What Do They Do?



Joe Smith is the township/assessor for Jefferson Township. He took office following our own **Robert Burroughs**, who was township trustee/assessor for many years. Listed below are the

responsibilities taken from a brochure produced for use by members of the Indiana Township Association, Inc. www.indianatownshipassoc.com

- Township Trustees are, by Indiana law, charged with the responsibility of **providing fire protection and ambulance service** for the areas of the township not incorporated into a city or town. Overseeing the poor and distributing poor relief is a primary duty in many townships.
- The trustee is charged to **care for the poor** by the most economical means available and at the same time is charged to be sure that the necessary needs of an individual or family are met. The applicant must show that they are unable to provide those needs through personal effort and that they have exhausted all other means. Many trustees creatively cooperate with other agencies and churches in their areas, keeping costs controlled and delivering services needed. The advantage the Trustee's system has over other forms of welfare is the freedom to discern whether or not an individual has and is willing to put forth that personal effort to help themselves.
- Burial Assistance is available from the Township Trustee when no other means of payment are available. The trustee is to oversee the burial of the indigent according to IC Title 12.
- In township with a population under 10,000, the trustee is also the township assessor and is responsible for assessing the real and personal property within their township. Personal property is assessed yearly and consists of mobile home and tangible personal property of an individual, business, or farm. Real property is assessed during a reassessment period with new buildings being added yearly.
- Each August, the trustee prepares and submits a budget for the incoming year to the three-person township board for approval. As the Chief Financial Officer of the township, the trustee pays and records all claims for township expenses and salaries and is responsible to keep accurate records and follow all the financial guidelines set out in Indiana Code. In January of each year, the trustee presents to the board an annual report, which shows all receipts, expenditures, investments and debts. The approved report is then published in local papers for public inspection.
- The trustee is to provide and maintain cemeteries located in the township. This includes those cemeteries, which have been abandoned.
- The trustee is charged with destroying detrimental weeds within their township. Guidelines for notification to the property owner are set within the law.
- When a dispute arises between two landowners regarding placement and maintenance of line fences, the township trustee is to make a determination according to Indiana law 32-10-9.
- If livestock is killed or damaged by unknown dog(s), the owner of the livestock may file a report with the trustee who investigates the claim. If valid, the trustee reimburses the owner for the loss from the dog fund which receives its monies from the dog tags sold each year by the Trustee and Assessor within the township
- Miscellaneous duties are in other areas that are not widespread: parks and recreation, zoning and planning, small claims court, emergency medical service, schools, community centers, shelters, libraries.

Annual Conference Council Delivers Answer to Query

Following up on an action of this year's Annual Conference in Idaho, the Annual Conference Council on August 15 delivered an answer to the "Query for Clarification of Confusion" sent by Michigan District. Delegates in Boise adopted Standing Committee's recommendation for the query, which dealt with the 2002 Conference action against licensing and ordination of homosexuals. The recommendation stated that the "concerns and questions contained in the query be received and that the Annual Conference Council be asked to answer these matters."



Council chair Earl Ziegler and 2004 Annual conference moderator Chris Bowman gave the answer in person to Michigan District conference. The Council's letter was read to the delegates and others attending, followed by a question-and-answer period. The response of the Council, whose responsibilities include interpreting Annual Conference actions, said that the 2002 action "does not contradict polity in the credentialing of persons to ministry in the Church of the Brethren." That action, it said, "means that no one known to be engaging in

homosexual practices will be licensed or ordained in the Church of the Brethren.” Other questions and concerns raised in the query are “of either a theological or structural nature,” the letter said, and require “further discussion within the district and the entire denomination.” The Council said it would “encourage and lead” such discussions. – taken from *Agenda*

Theme for the 2004 Annual Conference Announced

The Annual Conference Program & Arrangements Committee has announced "**Loving God and Neighbor**," based on Jesus' discussion of the "greatest commandment" in the gospel of Mark, as the theme for the 2004 Annual Conference in Charleston, W.Va. Dr. Jesse Hopkins, recently retired from the faculty of Bridgewater (Va.) College, will serve as choir director for the Conference, and Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren pastor Scott Duffey as music coordinator. There will be **no logo contest** for the 2004 Conference. Moderator Chris Bowman plans to work with Program & Arrangements Committee to create the logo to help illustrate the theme. – *Newsline September 19*

Church of the Brethren Grants to Aid Those in Need



The Church of the Brethren **General Board's special-purpose** funds continued a busy stretch this month, making two more grants in the past two weeks. The **Global Food Crisis Fund** will send \$15,000 to Angola, in support of an appeal by Church World Service (CWS). The southeast African nation is recovering from a long civil war, when many people were displaced. The funds will help to provide seeds and tools for about 6,000 rural farming families who are trying to rebuild their lives. It is the fifth grant from the Global Food Crisis Fund this year.

The other new grant comes from the **Emergency Disaster Fund**, sending \$5,000 in aid to Ohio and Indiana. The two states were hit by heavy rains and flooding in July. CWS is now working at long-term recovery efforts by providing coordination of response efforts and seed grants to new recovery organizations. The fund has made 19 grants this year. –*Newsline, September 19*



About Newsline

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Camp Mack News

Rose window challenge: A family has offered camp a matching gift of up to \$10,000 for the repair of the rose window in Quinter-Miller that has been covered for years because of its unstable condition. The gift will also create an endowment to care for all camp's stained glass windows. Your gifts for the rose Window will help meet this challenge. Please send your donations to P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542.

Church Signs

- 1) *How will you spend eternity -- Smoking or Non-smoking?*
- 2) *Dusty Bibles lead to Dirty Lives*
- 3) *It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin.*
- 4) *Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church.*
- 5) *If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again.*
- 6) *If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd*
- 7) *Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up.*
- 8) *Forbidden fruit creates many jams.* 9) *In the dark? Follow the Son.* – (Christiansunite.com)