

News from the Brick

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

Established 1820



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

April
2005

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

Carol's Comments

Credit Card Faith?

Matthew 6:19-21 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

Recently while in the church office, the phone rang. When I picked up the receiver I thought it sounded like it might be a telemarketer call, for I could hear a couple other voices in the background. The voice on the line asked, "Do you accept credit cards for charitable donations?" This puzzled me because I had answered the phone with the usual greeting, "Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren." I responded to the question saying, "This is a church." The voice didn't acknowledge that response but went on to again ask, "Do you accept



credit cards for charitable donations?" I replied, "We don't have anyway to process that." Then the caller asked, "Do you accept cash or checks?" I said, "Yes." The caller replied, "Thank you," Then hung up.

There was no clarification from the caller if it was a survey of churches or just someone who really wanted to know if they could make a charitable donation. Or was it someone casing out a church? In this day of scams, one never knows. I'd not quite had a call like this one before. I do experience callers who don't seem to listen to the title Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren, and when I say, "This is a church," they will say, "Oh. Goodbye." But this caller wasn't put off by the title at all. At least she seemed oblivious to it. This call really intrigued me. Was it a legitimate caller? Was it someone looking for a church that could contribute via credit card? Yet she had asked about paying with check and cash if we didn't take credit cards. Perhaps she still didn't grasp the word "church." I'll never know. But more than likely it was a telemarketer checking out whether a business accepted credit cards.

There is a website www.mychurchdonations.com. This site allows individuals to make electronic payments to their church for their offerings, tithe and other donations. It's an intriguing thought. Are we getting to the place in our society that we, the consumer, find it easier to use a credit card for everything? Or is it something that churches need to consider: **Have card will contribute?**

If only the nature of our Christian faith were that easy. Take a credit card and commit to teaching Sunday School. Use a credit card to rack up one's prayers. Insert credit card and attend a meeting online, no physical presence needed. Scary isn't it? It's easier to use a card online or at the checkout counter. It is convenient, yes, but what are we giving up? We seem to get further and further away from personal contact with one another. We can buy anything via the computer with the use of a credit card. But it's not only that. Maybe we're getting further and further away from God too. Do we prayerfully consider the use of our money? All that we have belongs to God. Yet how many of us pray about our spending or our contributions to an organization or to the church? Let's remember that we do need to have money in the bank to back up our purchases.

We need to have faith to back up our belief. We need to have a time for personal devotions. It's not something we can insert a card for and print out a deeper faith. It takes time; it takes commitment; it takes a life totally committed to God; it takes being in community with others. We can't phone in our presence. We can't insert card and think we are in fellowship with our brothers and sisters. It takes a real person in the pew like real cash is needed to back up our purchases.

So let's consider our faith. Let's make our faith **a real faith backed up by real commitment to God**, not a credit card faith that is lifeless, distant, and stiff. And may it be so.

In Christ, for Christ,
Pastor Carol M. Pfeiffer



Women's Spring Rally - April 9

The Women's Spring Rally will be held Saturday, April 9 at **White Branch Church of the Brethren, 10:00 a.m.** There will be a pitch-in dinner at noon. The guest speaker will be Linda Coy Gilchrist. Her message will be "Bernice Goes to Hawaii." She will also sing.

Rural Urban Banquet – April 9, 5:30 p.m.

The Rural Urban Banquet will be held at the Hagerstown High School with Dr. Greg Hellwarth speaking. Dr. Hellwarth is affiliated with Central Indiana Orthopedics—mainly spine surgery at Ball Memorial Hospital. He lives on a farm in Dalton Twp. Throughout the years he has been a globe-trotting humanitarian in medical missions doing orthopedic missions, acute and neglected trauma, infections, deformity, spine and reconstructive work as well as using his skills at a leprosy hospital. See Steve Wieseke, Ron Hoover, or Pastor Carol for tickets. Any Rotarian or Young Farmer has tickets. Tickets are \$5.00.



Guitarist and Folksinger – Sunday, April 10, 4:00-5:30 -m.

First Friends Fellowship at 2010 Chester Blvd., Richmond is having guitarist, folksinger, storyteller, composer and recording artist present a concert. His concerts are fun for all ages and quite interactive and relaxed. The concert is free with a free-will donation. A sloppy joe meal will follow at 5:30 p.m. Plan to stay for the meal.

Rummage Sale – April 21-23

Rummage through your things and bring us your tried but true items to sell. This is an all-church rummage sale. You may start bringing in your items NOW. If you want the proceeds to return to you, price your items with your name on the tag. Otherwise, the money will go to the church. Place your items in the basement.

Regional Youth Conference

Saturday, April 16, 2005 — Sunday, April 17, 2005 are the dates for the Youth Conference to be held at Manchester College, North Manchester, Indiana.

Church Council - April 24

Don't forget to be present at our April Council Meeting following a pitch-in dinner. Come enjoy fellowship around the meal and then stay for the meeting. All are needed for their input.

Spring Fellowship Day – April 30

Spring Fellowship Day is sponsored by the "Friends of Timbercrest." It will be held **at Timbercrest Saturday, April 30, 2005.** The day begins at 8:30 a.m. with a fellowship hour and food market. The program is at 9:55 a.m. featuring The Timbercrest Choir under the direction of Marlin Brightbill. Dr. Park Marden will speak (using a quote from Satchel Page) on "How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are." Lunch is at noon followed by a business session.

Bethany Theological Seminary Graduation

Ann Bach will graduate from Bethany Seminary on **May 7.** Ann is a licensed minister in the Church of the Brethren and a member of Nettle Creek. We celebrate with Ann on her accomplishments.

Condolences To:

- ✓ Allen and Teresa Renaker and family upon the death of Mary Jane Renaker, Allen’s mother..
- ✓ John and Ruby McCormack and families upon the death of John’s brother, Robert McCormack
- ✓ Ted Hobbs family upon the death of Ted.

Giving for March

| | |
|---|------------|
| Average Offering needed monthly to meet budget..... | \$1,465.29 |
| Average for March..... | \$1,377.78 |
| Mar 6 | \$1,097.50 |
| Mar 13 | \$1,341.25 |
| Mar 20 | \$ 785.00 |
| Mar 27 | \$2,287.35 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing..... | \$160.00 |
| Brethren Fund..... | \$500.00 |
| Average Attendance: 72 | |



Continuing to Pray For...

| | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| *Harriet Burroughs | *Ruth Stout | Linda Stearns |
| Eloise Beeson | Bob Klein | Don Seibert Jonah Schmittler |
| Home: Mary Werking , Raymond Hoover, Viola Nicholson, Ruth Crull, Bernetha Davis | | |
| Care Center: LuFreda Bowman, Cliff Renaker | | |

April Birthdays

- 3 Barbara Winterer, Vanessa Hilbert
- 4 Homer Andrew
- 5 Jackie Bendsen, Frances Robinson
- 7 Sue Mendenhall, Sarah Lyles
- 8 Carol Bullock
- 14 Jeanne Maddock
- 16 Brandon Hilbert
- 20 Jerome Dines
- 23 Beverly Nicholson
- 25 Brian Wieseke
- 26 Velma Paddock
- 27 Donna Ramey, Sylvia Hoover
- 28 Linda DeVinney
- 30 Leslie Ramey



S/Central Indiana District Youth Spring Event at Kokomo CoB

Sunday, May 15 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. there will be a District Youth Spring Event held at Kokomo CoB. Activities include volleyball, ping pong, four square. Snacks and beverages will be available. **All junior and senior highs are invited to attend.** Get to know other youth in our district. For more information call Mike or Kelly at 765-998-2810.

Care Ministries Assembly to Be Held in August 11-13 in Bridgewater, Virginia

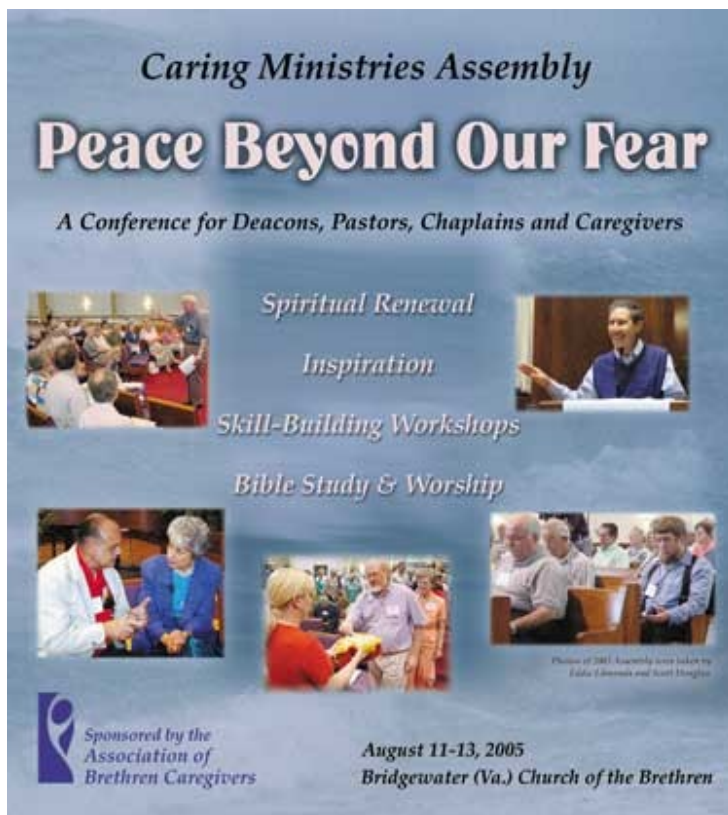
Fear has become a part of our daily reality. Yet how do people of faith respond to threats and fears that are ever present in this world? Scripture tells us to seek another Source to overcome fear:

“The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1).

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18).

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you” (John 14:27).

Conference planners invite you to join them on a journey of "Peace Beyond Our Fear" -- a journey to find meaning amid fearful times and places. Join us for this Church of the Brethren gathering, where we will explore the character of our fear and invite God to reshape it.



Speakers are:

- Opening Worship: **Robert Wicks**, a professor of pastoral care at Loyola College in Maryland. His work with clergy and first responders focuses on prevention of secondary stress and the integration of spirituality and psychology within the caregiving domain.
- Daily Bible Study Leader: **Stephen Reid**, academic dean and professor of Old Testament studies at Bethany Theological Seminary.
- Friday Evening Plenary: **Louise Baldwin Rieman**, grew up in the Nigerian mission field and has served as a missionary in Africa. She is co-pastor with her husband Phil at Northview CoB, Indianapolis.
- Saturday Morning Plenary: **Carol Yoder**, a director of STAR, a justice and peace-building program at Eastern Mennonite

University. She is a licensed marriage and family counselor and a professional counselor.

- Saturday Closing Worship: **Andrew Murray**, founder of the Juniata (Pa.) College's Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies and help found the Peace Studies Association, an organization of academic institutions with peace studies program. He has served as college chaplain, CoB consultant for peace studies curriculum.

Highlights of the Assembly will be:

- Intentional moments of silence and spiritual development.
- More than 30 workshops with tracks noted for chaplains and deacons.

Conference registration is \$100.00. Materials will be mailed in May.

Emergency Response/Service Ministries

The Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Maryland was established in 1944 as a collection site for material resources shipped to war-torn Europe. Over the years, we have worked together with denominational and private nonprofit organizations to help meet needs of people in the U.S. and around the globe. The Service Ministries Distribution Center, located on the Brethren Service Center campus, inventories, packs and ships goods routinely as well as during times of crisis and disaster. As a result, we have developed extraordinary expertise in preparing goods for emergency shipment. Utilizing our ability to pack and to document ensures that shipments reach their destination in good condition and on time.

Service Ministries offers a variety of services including:

- ◆ Warehousing
- ◆ Picking and packing
- ◆ Purchasing



- ◆ Inventory control
- ◆ Shipping & Tracking
- ◆ Clothing processing

- ◆ Long distance hauling

Gift of the Heart School Kits will be shipped soon, as the response shifts from the emergency phase to the long-term recovery phase. They are now appealing for more School Kits to meet this need and replenish their supplies. Let's get items together for school kits.



SCHOOL KIT

- ✓ One pair of blunt scissors
 - ✓ Pads or notebooks of ruled paper 8-1/2" X 11" containing 150-200 sheets of paper
 - ✓ One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
 - ✓ One pencil sharpener
 - ✓ Six new pencils with erasers
 - ✓ One large eraser
 - ✓ Twelve sheets colored construction paper
 - ✓ One box of 24 crayons
 - ✓ One 12" X 14" cloth bag with cloth handles and a closure (Velcro, snap, or button)
 - ✓ Pack these items in the cloth bag and secure contents with the closure. Or, if you prefer, a donation of \$11 per kit will allow Church World Service to buy school supplies for use in classroom settings.
- Processing/Shipping: \$1.00

The **greatest need** is for financial contributions to the Emergency Disaster Fund.

- \$10 will purchase and ship a lightweight blanket
- \$108 will provide a temporary shelter for a family in Sri Lanka
- \$400 will provide the vital medicines and medical supplies for 1,000 people for 3 months.
- \$50,000 will provide materials and shipping cost for a 40 foot container.

Services Ministries

During 2004, Distribution Center staff facilitated 2,124 shipments totaling 1,283 tons of clothing, blankets, health kits, school kits, baby layette kits, plastic sheeting, water containers and medical supplies valued at more than \$20 million to 47 countries around the world and 37 states in the USA. These shipments were on behalf of Lutheran World Relief, Church World Service, Interchurch Medical Assistance, and other relief agencies for whom services are provided. **The Church of the Brethren is part of this effort.**

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

