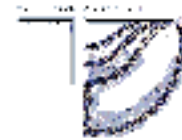


News from the Brick

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

Established 1820



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



Jodi Johnson, Secretary
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

**April
2006**

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

Carol's Comments

"Easter Focus"

***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23
Yet all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.***

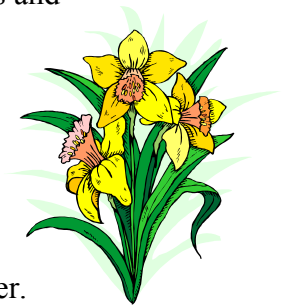
John 1:12

For every one who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13

What I remember about Easter as a little girl is the Sunrise Service. The service was held at a different church every year. It was very early I recall...like 6:00 or 6:30 a.m. The sun was just barely beginning to rise. I remember one particular Easter sitting in the little country church and looking out the window as the sun came up and thinking how beautiful it was. I remember yellow daffodils. Most likely I had a new Easter dress and shoes as was the tradition of many families to wear new clothes on Easter Sunday. I remember talk of the empty tomb and the words, "He is Risen." I remember the hymns: "Low in the Grave He Lay" and "He Lives."

Back then I don't think I probably really understood the significance of Easter as I do today. I don't think I even recollect any particular sermons. But I remember the joy of Easter and the beauty of the sunrise announcing the newness of life. Of course, as a child, I loved coloring the hard-boiled eggs and hunting for them on Easter day. I enjoyed the Easter basket of goodies that was left by the Easter Bunny on Easter morning filled with chocolate covered eggs, Reese's peanut cream eggs, and jelly beans. That's where my focus was back so many, many years ago...more on the goodies and new clothes than on Jesus.

But Easters for me now are not about colored eggs, chocolate candy, and jelly beans. I don't wear a brand-new dress or shoes. My focus has changed. I've grown up. (I hope). ☺ I think more about the meaning of Easter than I do about sweets and Easter bunnies. I think more about the Christ who was crucified on Friday and rose three days later.



Where is your focus on Easter morning? Is it on the guests that will be coming for dinner or the preparations for the meal? Or is it on the Risen Lord? Think about that first Easter morning. The disciples raced to the tomb and peered in and found it empty after it had been reported to them by the women that Jesus' body was gone. The impact of the moment must have been powerful for them as they gazed inside the crypt. Did someone steal the body? What happened? Where is he? And then there was the weeping Mary, who encountered Jesus in the garden and thought he was the gardener until she heard him speak her name, "Mary." Her focused changed from grief to joy in the blink of an eye.

Ponder the emotions when Jesus appeared in the midst of the disciples as they hovered behind those closed doors for fear of the Jews. It was only as he spoke, "Peace be with you" that they realized he was risen indeed. He told them he would rise on the third day, and now there he is standing before them with the scars of the crucifixion on his body as proof. Their focus changed from fear and grief to joy also. Jesus still had much to teach them before he ascended into heaven. They still had much to understand. They still had growing to do. *He told them, 'This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and*

repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are my witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised...' (Luke 24: 46-49a NIV)



Talk about the focus changing! Now Jesus was going to send the **disciples** to preach the Good News of God's love and forgiveness. Those words are meant for us too. He forgives our sins and loves us deeply. And...he also sends **us** to be "contagious Christians" so that others might change their Easter focus from candied eggs to Jesus Christ...so that others might know the love and forgiveness too.

I cannot pinpoint when the meaning of Easter took hold of me. I had been raised in the church and knew all the Bible stories. But I do remember a time when I decided to accept all that I had heard and read and give myself, warts and all, or rather sins and all to Jesus Christ. I wanted to commit my life to live as a new creation in him. So...my focus is on Jesus. How about you?

In Christ, for Christ,
Pastor Carol Pfeiffer

Love Feast on Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. we will celebrate Love Feast with a time of preparation, feet washing, a common meal, and communion. This year's meditations before the different parts of Love Feast will be short vignettes to help us gain a deeper meaning of Love Feast.



Community Good Friday Tenebrae Service

This year the **Nettle Creek Ministerial Association** will be trying something new. **The service will be held at night, 8:00 p.m. at the Hagerstown United Methodist Church** instead of at noon on Good Friday. The service is called a **Tenebrae Service** and the community is invited to join in this meaningful time of worship as we ponder the crucifixion.

Easter Sunrise Service

Our Easter Sunrise Service will be at 7:00 a.m. with the **Youth in charge**. Back by popular demand is the drama presentation of "I Saw Him." Don't miss this powerful message of Easter.

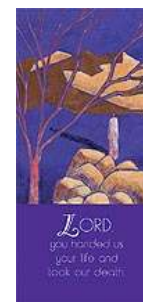


Easter Breakfast

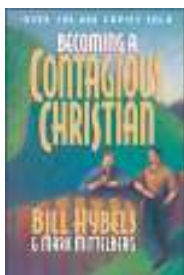
Easter Breakfast follows the Youth Sunrise Service. Stay and fellowship with food and conversation.

Offering Coin Folders for Special Easter Offering

Lenten Offering coin folders are still available. Save your quarters through the next few weeks of Lent. Each folder collects \$10.00. There is a slot for checks if one would rather give in that way. **Children and youth are encouraged to participate as well.** The offering will be sent to the Denomination and the District. We will **collect** the folders on **Easter Sunday**.



Becoming a Contagious Christian Study to Begin in April



We will begin a weekly study using the materials *Becoming a Contagious Christian: Communicating Your Faith in a Style that Fits You*. The study will be offered on two different days to accommodate people's schedules beginning: **Sunday, April 23 at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m.** Let Pastor Carol know which session you would like to attend so that materials may be purchased for study and if you will need babysitting. Times are subject to change as the group meets and decides what fits for that group. The study will last 1-1 ½ hours and run for approximately eight weeks. Each session will involve exercises, discussions, self-assessments, and video vignettes.

Prayer Ideas

Since **prayer is the lifeblood of our Christian journey**, let’s try some things to encourage us to be more attuned to praying continually. 1. Take a church directory and pray through it a page a day. 2. Make a personal prayer list of people or situations and pray for the list daily. 3. Put a dot on your watch face, and every time you look at your watch let that be a reminder to pray. 4. Pray for the church daily and the leaders as we move into the future. 5. Make a list of our youth and children and pray for them daily.

Thank You from Mark Werking on his 90th Birthday

“What a surprise.” I want to thank the people of the church for the cards and personal messages that left me without words to express my thanks to the group and the ones who furnished the refreshments. Thank You!”

The Nettle Creek Red Hatters

Our own group of the **Nettle Creek Red Hatters** will provide the **entertainment** at the community **Rural Urban Banquet at Hagerstown High School, Saturday, April 29 at 5:30 p.m.** We will sing “our Red Hat” song as well as play the kazoos and provide a Red Hat style show. All are welcome to attend the banquet. Tickets may be purchased from any Rotary member or from the Young Farmer’s group. In our congregation Pastor Carol and Steve Wieseke have tickets. They are \$5.00 a person.



<u>Worship Leader</u>	
April 2	Leland Nicholson
April 9	Julie Potter
April 16	Marcia Stout
April 23	Marjorie Briar
April 30	Brad Bowman

<u>Children’s Story</u>	
Beverly Nicholson	
Julie Potter	
Bob Pfeiffer	
Marjorie Briar	
Jodi Johnson	

<u>Chorister</u>	
Sally Schmittler	
Sally Schmittler	
Marjorie Briar	
Sally Schmittler	
Marjorie Briar	

Prayer Concerns

*Ruth Wilson	Geneva Davis	Jay Burroughs	Marcie Commons
Margaret Briar	Gratia Waskom	Bill Hall	Gene & Beth Stone
Sheila Weaver	Don Seibert	Gary Stout	
Roger Werking	Howard Davis		

Home: Mary Werking, Harriet Burroughs, Ruth Crull, Viola Nicholson, Bernetha Davis

Care Center: LuFreda Bowman

(Please let Pastor Carol or Jodi Johnson know if you want someone placed on or removed from the Prayer List.)

Church Council

April 30 is Church Council. There will be a carry-in meal following church. Be sure to put this on your calendar.



Giving For March

Average Weekly Offering needed to meet budget.....	\$1,465.29
Average Offering for March	\$1,198.44
March 5.....	\$1,056.10
March 12.....	\$1,579.00
March 19.....	\$ 620.00
March 26.....	\$1,538.67

Average Attendance for March.....47

Other giving:

Lenten Dev. Book.....\$10.00 One Great Hour of Sharing.....\$190.00

Gideons International – Giving the Scriptures

The Gideons International, founded in 1899, serves as an extended missionary arm of the church and is the oldest Christian business and professional men's association in the United States of America. A board of distinguished Christian laymen, international in makeup, supervises the worldwide Gideon ministry, ensuring an efficient, economical operation. Annually, The Gideons International is placing and distributing more than 63,000,000 Scriptures worldwide. (www.gideons.org.) Nettle Creek had an Open Bible offering and collected \$68.00. If you were not present and would like to donate to the Gideons, there are always cards and envelopes available at the church, or you may visit their website www.gideons.org. If you have any questions about the Gideons or interest, Willis Murray would be able to give you further information as he is a Gideon.

Trustee Report

At our January council meeting we voted to allow up to \$3,000 be withdrawn from our Edward Jones account to cover bills in the event our offering was too low to pay our bills. This need did arise and the \$3,000 was withdrawn. Also, council approved to have the trustees move forward with replacement of the furnace and air conditioning at the parsonage. Dungan Heating from Cambridge City has replaced the unit at the cost of \$3,662.08. And, additional \$3,700.00 (withdrawal request was made prior to having the final bill) was withdrawn from our Edward Jones account. Finally, just as an informational note, the water heater that supplies hot water to the basement restrooms and the baptistery had to be replaced the week of February 26. The old unit had a leak and was not repairable. The new water heater was \$267, and was paid from offering funds.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED is turning 65!!

Please come and help us celebrate!

**All women of the church and community are invited
to come and join us in this 65th celebration:**

May Friendship Breakfast

Sat., May 6, 9:00 a.m.

Hagerstown United Methodist Church

199 South Perry Street

**"Speak Up For A Child" will be presented by
Karen Bowen, Director, Wayne County
Guardian Ad Litem/CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)**

Child care will be provided.

**Planning Committtee: Co-Chairs - Jayne Miller, Virginia Hormel
Linda Hodson, Donna Hunsberger, Jayne Bennett, Heather Nicholson,
Joy Klein**

Newletter Hard Copies

Copies of the newsletter are on the bookcase at the rear of the sanctuary. Anyone who would like to have the Newsletter sent by mail, please give your name to Jodi Johnson.

Movin' on Mondays



The March “Movin’ on Mondays” has ended, but interest was high in continuing them. Hence, **we will continue to meet on Monday evenings in the Social Room area upstairs at 6:30 p.m.** Julie Potter gave us tidbits about nutrition and healthy eating habits. Then everyone joined in walking indoors to a video. It was a fun time for all who came to laugh, learn, and exercise. If you’ve not been part of this, all are welcome to join us. Bring your friends. Let’s get movin’ and goovin’.

Annual Smorgasbord – May 13

Our Annual Smorgasbord this year will be Saturday, May 13. Watch for more information in May’s Newsletter.

Camp Mack News

NEEDED – MORE WHITE MOUNTAIN HAND CRANK ICE CREAM MAKERS for this summer’s “Pioneer Meal.” Making homemade ice cream is always fun for campers. Having enough ice cream freezers to go around would decrease the wait and increase the fun. Can you help?



VOLUNTEER WORK CAMP IS APRIL 24-26. Can you come? Many kinds of skills are needed. Cleaning, painting and repairs are needed to prepare camp for summer. If you can do roofing, you are needed to work on the Quinter-Miller roofing project.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED to serve as volunteer counselors and support staff during the summer! Please prayerfully consider how you might help.

CIT (COUNSELOR IN TRAINING) TRAINING is April 21-23 from 7:30 p.m. on Friday night to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday for those ages 16-18. CIT’s may come to Leadership Training in addition, if they choose.

TWO LEADERSHIP TRAINING DATES: Volunteer counselors, prospective counselors, and directors, choose the date that best suits your schedule and plan to attend one of two similar trainings. Leadership Training Date choices are May 5-6 and May 12-13.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

