

# 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



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

email: [nettlecreekcob@tmcsmail.com](mailto:nettlecreekcob@tmcsmail.com)  
www.nettlecreekcob.com

**August  
2003**

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



## Carol's Comments

### Pass the Bread!

John 6:35-40 *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."*



There is an old legend about the lighthouse keeper who knew that there were poor people living nearby, in hovels, who were cold at night because they couldn't afford oil for their heaters. He pitied them greatly, so he doled out to them the oil that was meant to keep the light lit. The people were a little warmer for a while, but the great light eventually went out, and, as the result, there was a shipwreck, and hundreds died.

It is a good parable to illustrate how we don't look at the bigger picture... how we need to not only impact our church but our communities... how we need to be sure the light hasn't gone out in us... how we need to nurture our youth and children and lead them to the Bread of Life. We can be so concerned to meet people's immediate needs that we neglect their larger needs. We need oil to keep us warm, but we also need a light to show us the way. We need bread but we also need the Word of God that leads us to the Bread of Life. Are we forgetting the greater need to bring the Bread of Life to those who need it? Are we forgetting the greater need that we still need to disciple those in Christ to help them keep growing? Are we forgetting that we have children and youth that need to hear the stories of Jesus Christ and his love for them? If we forget the bigger picture, and if we don't have a goal or vision, then we are missing what Jesus called us to be and do. He is the Bread of Life. He is the One in whom the lighthouse keepers need to be plugged at all times, so that they don't snuff out the light that has been given. We have a hungry world that needs Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

**Let's get busy to "Pass the Bread."**

(Lighthouse illustration from Rev. William R. Boyer's sermon "The Bread of Life")

Blessings on the journey,  
*Pastor Carol M. Pfeiffer*

### Continuing to Pray for...

John Earl McCormack  
Barry & Laura Nicholson

Terri Dunaway  
Sandy Campbell

Ben & Donna King  
Nettle Creek Church

Homebound: Mary Werking  
Care Center: Estella Hilbert

Ruth Crull  
LuFreda Bowman

Viola Nicholson

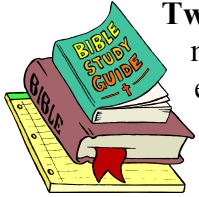


**Free Movie to be Held at Hagerstown High School**

**Sunday, August 3,** "Timechanger," a science fiction, fantasy, drama and thriller movie, will be shown at the Hagerstown High School Auditorium on August 3 with shows at 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. There is **no admission charge**. The movie is sponsored by our sister church Locust Grove CoB. Let's support our sister church by attending.



**Women's Bible Study Begins August 7**



Two opportunities for women of our church to study the Bible begins Thursday, August 7. The morning session will be a study of **Esther at 10 a.m.** with Valerie Heaton leading, and the evening study will be of **Deborah at 6:30 p.m.**, with Pastor Carol leading. We will be using the *Women of Faith* books. Contact Pastor Carol regarding books. The books have arrived for those who order. More can be ordered if you did not get them.

**Preaching Schedule**

- August 3 – Ann Bach
- August 10 – Pastor Carol
- August 17 – Rev. David Shetler
- August 24 – Pastor Carol
- August 31 – Pastor Carol



**Nettle Creek Congregation's Story**

*Christ-centered. Caring. Sharing. Serving. As the body of Christ.*

**Total Offerings for 2003**

Average Offering Needed per month to meet budget.....	<b>\$1,513.56</b>
Average Offering for June .....	<b>\$1,321.24</b>
June 1.....	\$1,776.17
June 8.....	\$1,470.18
June 15.....	\$ 935.35
June 22.....	\$ 949.25
June 29.....	<u>\$1,375.25</u>
	<b>\$6606.20</b>
<b><u>July Offering</u></b>	
Average Offering for July.....	<b>\$1,134.96</b>
July 6.....	\$ 926.85
July 13.....	\$1,181.00
July 20.....	\$ 870.00
July 27.....	<u>\$1,562.00</u>
	<b>\$4,539.85</b>



**Other Giving**

Caregiving Offering.....	\$ 32.00
Use of Tables & Chairs.....	\$ 100.00

Average attendance for July .....42

**Stewardship Thought**

God loves a cheerful giver. Let God love you.

### Lost in the 50s Drive-In

Later this summer the youth are planning to have their annual "Lost in the Fifties." Watch for signs and listen for announcements concerning the date which is yet to be determined.



**Graduates** Todd Stout, Elizabeth Bach, Ashley Beaty, and Vanessa Hilbert will be headed to college soon. Our prayers and blessings go with you as you enter this new adventure of life.

### August Birthdays

- 1 James Healton
- 6 Ronnie Hoover, Kathy Denney
- 7 Meredith Arn
- 8 Michael Reneau
- 9 Leland Nicholson, Nathan Maddock, Curtis Andrew
- 11 Ruby McCormack, Lucas Artman
- 13 Libby Andrew
- 15 Rebecca Bach
- 16 Lufreda Bowman
- 17 Dale Oakes
- 20 Rachel Reneau
- 22 Dana Flanagan
- 23 Allan Bullock
- 25 Madison Stout
- 28 Estella Hilbert, Angela Beaty
- 29 Jon Stout
- 30 Ann Bach
- 31 Dennis Nicholson, Blanch Petty



### Congratulations!

**Brian Wieseke** showed sheep at the county fair in Michigan and received four First Place ribbons. Outstanding, Brian!



**Rebecca Bach** has been accepted and will be attending the **Indiana Academy for Science, Math, and Humanities** at Ball State University. High School juniors have to apply and be accepted to attend. She begins August 9. We wish her well in her new adventure.

### Wedding Bells



Congratulations to **Missy Snyder and Shawn Jackson** who were married here on July 26. Missy is Donna and David Stout's daughter.

Congratulations to **Gloria Pearson and Andrew Pfeiffer**, Pastor Carol and Bob Pfeiffer's son who was married in Atlanta, Georgia on August 2. Andrew and Gloria will be making their home in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas.

### Upcoming Church Picnic with Sister Churches

**September 21 at noon** is being planned for us to get together again with our sister churches for food, fun, and fellowship. The picnic will take place in the park. Come and meet your brothers and sisters in Christ and enjoy who we are in Christ.



## Upcoming Spiritual Retreat in September



Make plans to attend the Spiritual Retreat on, **Saturdays September 27 and October 4 from 9:00 a.m. – noon.** We will be exploring **spiritual discernment in prayer.** Kathy Royer is a Bethany Theological Seminary graduate, an ordained pastor in the Church of the Brethren and a Spiritual Director. She is a Hospice nurse and works with spiritual education in the Cedar Grove CoB at New Paris, Ohio. **All are welcome to attend.**

**South/Central Indiana Church of the Brethren District Conference** will be held at Camp Alexander Mack, September 12 & 13. The theme of the conference will be “In Jesus’ Name.” Registration Friday begins at 6:00 p.m., Hymn Sing at 6:45 p.m., Worship at 7:00 p.m., Business at 8:10 p.m. and a Bonfire and popcorn following worship. Overnight lodging available in Sarah Major, Ulrich House, or cabins. See the bulletin board for more details. Linda DeVinney, Curtis Heulton, and Pastor Carol will be attending.



## Timebercrest Retirement Center

Timebercrest has received the coveted status of *no federal or state deficiencies* in the facility’s 2003 inspection by the Indiana State Department of Health. Every long term care facility in the State of Indiana has a “report card” score that is based on their three most recent surveys. Keep in mind that a low score is good. After this year’s survey, Timebercrest’s report card score is zero ((0)! The current average score for facilities in the State of Indiana is 125. **Timebercrest is among the state’s best facilities in providing quality care for older adults.** The report card score reflects a high level of commitment to caring for residents day in and day out. We celebrate this accomplishment of our Church of the Brethren Care Facility.

- taken from a letter to Nettle Creek from Dr. Wilbur McFadden, Secretary, Timebercrest Board of Directors

## Workshop on Conflict Transformation for Congregational Leaders

**Saturday, August 23, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. OH time,** there will be a workshop for pastors, deacons, board and committee chairs, and all people in roles of congregational leadership. This training will build and reinforce skills in communication and conflict transformation. Topics include:



- Understanding conflict dynamics
- Handling power
- Centered speaking and listening
- Transformation in a conflict setting
- Being a “non-anxious presence”

Leadership will be:

- Matt Guynn, Program Associate with On Earth Peace/Ministry of Reconciliation
- Jim Moore, Coordinator, Southern Ohio Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee
- Liz and Greg Bidgood-Enders, Co-pastors, Mack Memorial CoB in Dayton Ohio.

Cost is \$20.000 for materials and tuition, including a simple lunch.

0.6 Continuing Education Units (C.E.U.s) are available for Church of the Brethren pastors.

To register, contact:

Matt Guynn

Ministry of Reconciliation

609 W. Main St. Richmond, IN 47374

765-962-6234

E-mail:

[mguynn@myvine.com](mailto:mguynn@myvine.com)

**If you plan to attend, register before August 16, so that they can have sufficient food for all. No deposit required.**

## **“A Parable on Fishless Fishermen”**

Submitted by Bill Stout

The author is John M. Dreacher, a Mennonite pastor and author.

Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Week after week, month after month, and year after year these, who called themselves fishermen, met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing means, defended fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing is always to be a primary task of fishermen.

Continually they searched for new and better methods of fishing and for new and better definitions of fishing. Further they said, “The fishing industry exists by fishing as fire exists by burning.” They loved slogans such as “Fishing is the task of every fisherman,” “Every fisherman is a fisher,” and “A fisherman’s outpost for every fisherman’s club.” They sponsored special meetings called “Fishermen’s Campaigns” and “The Month for Fishermen to Fish.” They sponsored costly nationwide and worldwide congresses to discuss fishing and to promote fishing and hear about all the ways of fishing such as the new fishing equipment, fish calls, and whether any new bait was discovered.



These fishermen built large, beautiful buildings called “Fishing Headquarters.” The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn’t do, however; they didn’t fish.

In addition to meeting regularly they organized a board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish. All the fishermen seemed to agree that what is needed is a board, which could challenge fishermen to be faithful in fishing. The board was formed by those who had the great vision and courage to speak about fishing, to define fishing, and to promote the idea of fishing in far away streams and lakes where many other fish of different colors lived.

Also the board hired staffs and appointed committees and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the staff and committee members did not fish.

Large, elaborate, and expensive training centers were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years courses were offered on the needs of fish, the nature of fish, where to find fish, the psychological reactions of fish, and how to approach and feed fish. Those who taught had doctorates in fishology. But the teachers did not fish. They only taught fishing. Year after year, after tedious training, many were graduated and were given fishing licenses. They were sent to do full-time fishing, some to distant waters, which were filled with fish.

Some spent much study and travel to learn the history of fishing and to see far-away places where the founding fathers did great fishing in the centuries past. They lauded the faithful fishermen of years before who handed down the idea of fishing.

Further, the fishermen built large printing houses to publish fishing guides, presses were kept busy day and night to produce materials solely devoted to fishing methods, equipment, and programs to arrange and to encourage meetings to talk about fishing. A speakers’ bureau was also provided to schedule special speakers on the subject of fishing.

Many who felt the call to the fishermen responded. They were commissioned and sent to fish. But like the fisherman back home they never fished. Like the fishermen back home they engaged in all kinds of other occupations. They built power plants to pump water for fish and tractors to plow new waterways. They made all kinds of equipment to travel here and there to look at fish hatcheries. Some also said that they wanted to be part of the fishing party, but they felt called to furnish fishing equipment. Others felt their job was to relate to the fish in a good way so the fish would know the difference between good and bad fishermen. Others felt that

simply letting the fish know they were nice, land-loving neighbors and how loving and kind they were was enough.

After one stirring meeting on “The Necessity for Fishing,” one young fellow left the meeting and went fishing. The next day he reported he had caught two outstanding fish. He was honored for his excellent catch and scheduled to visit all the big meetings possible to tell how he did it. So he quit his fishing in order to have time to tell about the experience to the other fishermen. He was also placed on the Fishermen’s General Board as a person having considerable experience.

Now it’s true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of dead fish every day. They received the ridicule of some who made fun of their fishermen’s clubs and the fact that they claimed to be fishermen yet never fished. They wondered about those who felt it was of little use to attend the weekly meetings to talk about fishing. After all, were they not following the Master who said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men?”

Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who don’t catch fish were really not fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if year after year he never catches a fish? Is one following if he isn’t fishing?

What am I doing with the Gospel? What are you doing with the Gospel?

### **What is Your Hot Button?**

At our board retreat, Chris Caldwell mentioned to us about finding our “hot button” area of ministry. That is the thing you enjoy doing the most in your service to God. It is something that when you are finished doing it, you are left more spiritually energized than when you began it. For me, it is working with the youth. I still do several other things in my service to God, and I enjoy all of these things to varying degrees. However, none of these things energize me like teaching youth. By ministering where my passion lies, I can be of better service to God in other areas.

We all are willing to serve God and our congregation in whatever way is needed. We wear many hats and do many things out of our love for God. Sometimes we do this until we are so drained we simply can’t go on anymore. I have been there myself and find that it is a miserable place to be. But God does not want any of us to stay there. I don’t believe God wanted us to get there in the first place.

Wherever you are right now, up or down, enthusiastic or empty, whatever it is that brings you joy in the service to God, I would encourage you to prayerfully seek out what pushes your “hot button.”

In Christ,

Curtis A. Healton  
Board Chair