

# News from the Brick

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

Established 1820



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

January/February  
2005

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

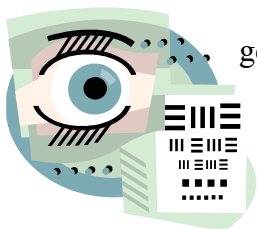
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## Carol's Comments

Read John 9: 1-41     *"One thing I do know. I was blind, but now I see."* John 9:25

"Sight for sore eyes." "Sight to behold." "Out of sight, out of mind." "I have them in sight." "Hindsight." "Foresight." All these are phrases or words pertaining to sight. We have all used them in speech. Why am I focused on "sight?" Things sort of hit me out of the blue, so to speak, or perhaps it was a God-nudging.

I started thinking about sight on the way back from Indianapolis where I went for an eye check-up. I had Lasik eye surgery nine months ago. A side effect is dry eyes. Age has something to do with it too I'm told. And since I am a tad older, I will contend with dry eye. But also medications can exacerbate the condition. Working at the computer tends to dry the eyes out also, because one tends not to blink as often. Hence, my eyes were irritated and becoming bothersome. Eye dryness, I was told, will affect how clearly one sees. That information was a relief to find out, because there are some days when I don't see quite as clearly.



During the exam the doctor checked my eyes thoroughly to make sure nothing else was going on and to see how dry my eyes were. My vision is 20/20 but the irritation was due to dry eyes. I was told that winter is the worst time for eye dryness with heat and air circulating. The doctor gave me a couple of different eye drops to lubricate the eyes—to use eight times a day and different drops at night. There are other options should these particular drops not be effective.

Armed with drops for relief, I headed home. And that's when I was hit with these sight phrases. I think about the church and how sight is involved. We could use all these phrases in some way or other to reflect about the church. Sight is vision. So I started thinking about the vision of the church. Do we have a vision for the future? Do we have a vision for reaching the unchurched in a way that will meet needs? Are we blind spiritually to our own needs as well as the needs of others? Is our church structure working? How long will we sit on our hands and just hope that things change on their own?

Jesus didn't sit on his hands. Jesus was out amongst the people teaching, healing, showing compassion. Jesus didn't just minister to the "churched", he went to the people that needed him. He had "foresight". We tend to only use "hindsight" to see what we did wrong or ineffectively. Or our "foresight" looks to the future and we're scared of what we see or scared of working toward possibilities. Or we don't want to commit to what we see it might take to become more Christ-like and reach out to others.

Read the scripture above and notice that the blind man could see clearly. He could see the attitude of the religious hierarchy. He could see their doubt, fear, control. But he also could see who made him well—who cared for him enough to give him sight. He could see possibilities. He could see the God of possibilities.

I am reminded of the song by Bob Marley, "I Can See Clearly Now." It goes like this:

I can see clearly now, the rain is gone,

I can see all obstacles in my way  
 Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind  
 It's gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright)  
 Sun-Shiny day  
 It's gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright)  
 Sun-Shiny day.

Indeed, when we have our eyes opened by Jesus, it is a bright, bright, sun-shiny day. When Jesus is our lubricant, we are able to see clearly the present as well as the future. May we have the “foresight” to reach out to the possibilities that lay before us.

In Christ, for Christ,  
 Pastor Carol Pfeiffer

**Church Council**

January 31 is Church Council. There will be a carry-in meal following church. Be sure to put this on your calendar.

|             | <b><u>Worship Leader</u></b> | <b><u>Children's Story</u></b> | <b><u>Nursery</u></b>      |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| January 29  | Leland Nicholson             | Ann Bach                       | Juli Proctor & Katie       |
| February 5  | Teresa Renaker               | Chad Bowman                    | Julie Potter & Jake Hall   |
| February 12 | Jake Hall                    | Kim Hall                       | Marcia & Steve Stout       |
| February 15 | Julie Potter                 | Julie Potter                   | Donna King & Carol Bullock |
| February 26 | Heather Nicholson            | Heather Nicholson              | Jodi J. & Carolyn Wieseke  |

**Envelopes For Your Tithe**

If you have not been receiving envelopes for your tithe, contact Richard Foulke. Envelopes help you to keep account of your giving to the church as well as a reminder of your commitment to your baptismal vows to support the church with your prayers, presence, and finances. To help defray the cost of the envelopes a special envelope is available in the front of the box if you wish to help with that cost.

**Prayer Concerns**

|                |                                  |                |               |
|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| *Marcy Commons | *Geneva Davis (upcoming surgery) | Jack Scott     | Jay Burroughs |
| Margaret Briar | Gratia Waskom                    | Barbara Foulke | Bill Hall     |
| Sheila Weaver  | Don Seibert                      | Bob Klein      | Gary Stout    |
| Roger Werking  | Carol Lang                       | Eloise Beeson  |               |

**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.)

**Thank You**

Thank you for the generous gift of money and other items given to me at Christmas time. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated. Pastor Carol



**Lighten Up Brethren! – South Central Indiana District Challenge Has Begun!**

Lighten Up, Brethren! is a program of the Wellness Ministry of the Association of Brethren Caregivers in **LIGHTEN UP BRETHREN!** The challenge is, how many times our congregation can go to conference and back as our church racks up miles and minutes in the form of exercise. It works like this. If you are a runner keep track of your miles. If you are a cyclist (bicycle) keep track of your miles. If you participate in a more stationary form of exercise, count your minutes. **Barry Nicholson is keeping a “running” total for Nettle Creek.** So, give Barry your miles and/or minutes that you exercise. **We have begun. You may give your minutes or miles weekly or monthly.**



**A Fibromyalgia Support Group Meets At Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren**

The support group formed by **Esther Mobley**, who lives in Hagerstown, continues to meet. The group meets monthly at 1:00 p.m. here at Nettle Creek. If this is a concern of yours, plan to join the group. **The next meeting is February 23. They meet the fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:00 p.m.**

**The Christian Year -Lent**

The beginning of Lent is Ash Wednesday, which falls on March 1 this year. Lent is the forty-day period preceding Easter, which excludes Sundays. *The term lent comes from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning spring, or the verb meaning to lengthen, and pertains to the lengthening of days especially noticeable at this time of year. The forty days of Lent are most frequently identified with Jesus’ forty-day fast in the desert, the forty days Moses spent on Mount Sinai, and Israel’s forty years of wandering in the wilderness. (For All Who Minister, Brethren Press, p 24).* Lent is a time of soul-searching and repentance where we reflect upon the life of Christ.



**Giving For December**

|                                                    |             |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Average Weekly Offering needed to meet budget..... | \$1,465.29  |
| Average Offering for December .....                | \$ 1,107.04 |
| 4.....                                             | 1,362.15    |
| 11.....                                            | 880.00      |
| 18.....                                            | 1,346.00    |
| 25.....                                            | 840.00      |
| Average Attendance for December.....               | 41          |
| Other giving:                                      |             |
| Advent Book.....                                   | \$20.00     |
| Christmas Achievement.....                         | \$40.00     |
| Special Offering.....                              | \$200.00    |



**January Giving thus far**

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| January 1.....          | \$1,630.00 |
| January 8.....          | 2,282.43   |
| January 15.....         | 954.20     |
| Other giving:           |            |
| Tithe envelope.....     | 30.51      |
| Global Food Crisis..... | 26.00      |
| District Support.....   | 27.95      |

**District Giving**

We did not budget any money to give to the District this year. To help the District, anyone who would like to give may give the amount of **\$27.95**. This amount was designated by our District, which was calculated across the district per member. Please mark any envelopes or giving for **S/Central Indiana District budget**, so that we may be sure your gift goes to the District.

**Calling all Men of South Central Indiana Church of the Brethren Men’s Retreat 2006**

*Pickin’ & Washin’: Brethren Heritage Down-Home Style* is the theme of the men’s retreat which will be held at Camp Mack. Frank Ramirez and Lee Krahenbuhl are the leaders for this event. Cost is \$72: by February 1 (All it takes is \$20 deposit to reserve your place. Registration forms are on their way. See Pastor Carol for a form or call the District Office toll free at 1-877-730-9315 for more information.

**Youth Alert! Come and See: The Journey to NYC**

Registration for **National Youth Conference (NYC)** opened on January 1. The registration process is entirely web-based. Youth advisors and youth are able to register for the conference at [www.nyc2006.org](http://www.nyc2006.org). In addition to basic information such as name, address, date of birth, e-mail address, advisor’s name, and emergency contact information, registrants will have the option of committing to special activities such as hiking, service

projects, choir, drama, and a 5K walk/run. Any questions about the registration process or if you do not have internet access contact the NYC Office at 1-800-323-8039 or [nyc\\_gb///2brethren.org](http://nyc_gb///2brethren.org)

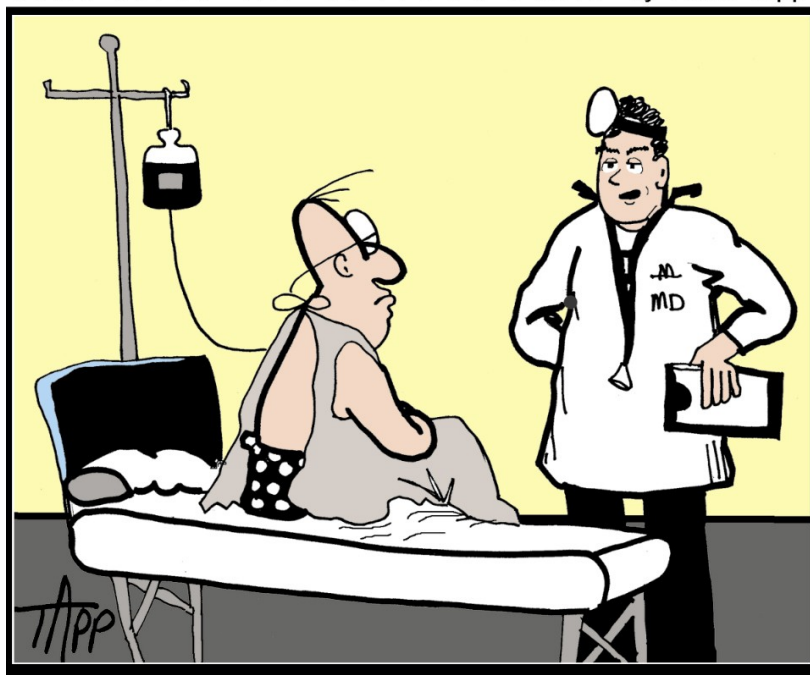
### Young Adult Conference May 26-28, 2006

The theme for the YAC 2006 is “Transformed.” **All young adults ages 18-35 are eligible to attend the Young Adult Conference** to be held at Camp Swatara, Bethel, Pennsylvania, May 26-28. Activities will include: worship, Padres, community groups, campfire, joyful noise time/hymn sing, open mic night/coffee house. Registration may be done at [www.brethren.org/genbd/yya/yac.htm](http://www.brethren.org/genbd/yya/yac.htm). **Cost:** \$80 prior to May 1, 2006. \$100 May 1 – May 25, 2006; \$110 May 26, 2006. **Scholarships** are available. At your request YAC will send a letter to your congregation asking them to provide a \$50 scholarship.

### Eternal Family Adoption Assistance Program

**America World**, an adoption association, has a program called the “Eternal Family” program to help with the expenses of families who are adopting through this agency. America World is a registered 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization; therefore **all donations are considered tax-deductible contributions in the year they are given**. The funds donated are not refundable to the donor or to the family. The maximum amount of donation money for a family’s adoption expense is determined by household income (with a cap of \$10,000). Any amount above this will be used to fund other families or America World projects. In order to fully comply with the law, America World retains a fund used to assist families with their adoption expenses. While they cannot guarantee that all funds donated by you will be made available to a designated family, America World does work to honor the wishes of donors. The expense to adopt a child from another country is quite costly. Hence, the Eternal Family Program allows friends and family to participate in **charitable giving**. Our congregation has been standing alongside **Barry and Laura Nicholson** through their journey to adopt a little girl from China. If you would like to make a contribution, you may get a form available at church or from Barry and Laura. Their cap of receivable donations is \$5,000 due to their income. Their paperwork is finally all done (mounds of paperwork), and is on its way to China. We pray that Barry and Laura will soon have their little girl.

### **CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH** by Thom Tapp



**“...and jumping up and down when you preach doesn’t count as aerobic exercise!”**