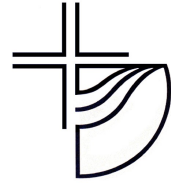


News from the Brick

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
nettlecreekcob@tmcsmail.com
www.nettlecreekcob.com



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

January
2005

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

Carol's Comments

"A New Year's Revolution"

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35 NRSV

The other Sunday I was talking with some parishioners about, what else, but diets. I stated, "That will have to be my New Year's Revolution" in regards to what I would do in my diet. (It probably had to do with chocolate.) They laughed and I realized I said, "**revolution**" instead of "**resolution**." A Freudian slip? Well, I don't know about that, but it got me to thinking.



When a new year rolls around, we make "resolutions." Some dictionary definitions for resolution are:

1. The state or quality of being resolute; firm determination.
2. A resolving to do something.
3. A course of action determined or decided on.

This is the usual sense we use when "resolving" to do something about something we want to do differently.

"Revolution has a bit of the same sense also if we consider several definitions. Some definitions for "revolution" are:

1. Organized opposition intended to change or overthrow existing authority: insurgence, insurgency, insurrection, mutiny, rebellion, revolt, sedition, uprising. *See RESIST* .
2. A momentous or sweeping change: cataclysm, convulsion, upheaval. *See CHANGE* .
3. Circular movement around a point or about an axis: circuit, circulation, circumvolution, gyration, rotation, turn, wheel, whirl. *See GEOMETRY* , *REPETITION*

Although oftentimes in the church there is organized opposition about things, I want to skip over the "organized opposition," definition and concentrate on the number two definition, "a momentous or sweeping change."

Instead of "resolving or just determining a course of action" this year, what if we decide upon "a momentous or sweeping change?" What change do we need to make in our spiritual lives? Do we need to become more open to God's voice and then obey that leading? Do we need to "revolutionize" how we approach God or others? And then there is the church. What do we need to "revolutionize," or what "sweeping change" do we need? Do we need to change our attitude? Do we need to let go of "we've always done it that way attitude?" Do we need to be open to new ideas from folks who have not been as involved in the church before? In other words, do we need to risk allowing things to be changed? Do we need to let go of corporate fear that new people and/or new ideas unsettle our comfort zones...the way things have always been? Can we encourage new ideas without grumbling?

Change is scary for all of us. We "say" we want to grow, but resist anything that is out of the norm for us. Consider the apostles. Where would Christianity be if they had not gone against the norm of Judaism and expanded their knowledge and experience of God through Christ Jesus? What if they had said, "We've never

done it that way before? We're not allowed to do that? We can't do that? We won't do that?" That gives us pause to think, doesn't it?

We ARE beginning a new year. Let's resolve to revolutionize our thinking, our behavior, our spiritual lives, our outreach, our love as Jesus commanded in John 13:34 "...love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." And that certainly IS revolutionizing!

In Christ, for Christ,
Pastor Carol M. Pfeiffer

Congratulations on 50th Wedding Anniversary



Barbara and Richard Foulke will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at the Don McCullough Bldg., 100 Main Street in Hagerstown on **Sunday, January 2, 2005 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.** No gifts – “Your love is our treasured gift.” **All are invited to celebrate with them.**

Bread and Cup Communion

January 16 will be our Bread and Cup Communion. Come join in the service of worship and communion. This is a time when we as Christians remember and renew our covenant with God and one another as we share the bread and cup. The bread and cup represent the body and blood of Christ and are not to be given or received lightly. Prayerfully prepare your hearts to receive communion and to renew your covenant.

Church Council

Our church council is coming up **Sunday, January 30**. This is our quarterly council meeting. We will have a carry-in meal after worship and then convene our meeting. All members take note of this date as we do the business of the church.

Youth Essay Contest!



What do you like best about the Church of the Brethren? If you're age 13-18, you are invited to tell the *Messenger* in 300 words or less. Up to five entries, chosen by a panel of *Messenger* staff, will be published in the July/August 2005 issue. The writer of the top entry will be invited to share his or her essay at the 2005 *Messenger* dinner at Annual Conference in Peoria, Illinois. All entries are due to the *Messenger* office by March 31, 2005. They can be sent via e-mail to messenger@brethren.org or by regular mail to *Messenger*, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 6 0120. Please include your name, age, address, phone number, e-mail (if applicable), and home congregation and district. Questions? Send an e-mail to the address above, or call 1-800-323-8039-ext. 263.

Interest Groups

We are moving forward with having interest groups. If you have **an interest in a certain area** and would like to get together with others of similar interest (with churched and unchurched folks), let Pastor Carol know. If you have a group you'd like to see started of an interest of yours but don't want to lead, also let Pastor Carol know. 765-489-3435 (parsonage phone). More information forthcoming.

Musicians Sign Up



It is time to sign up for January-March. Also, anyone interested in providing **special music**, please sign up on the **separate list**. The lists are behind the organ on the wall.

Living as a Christian in the world is to experience all of the frustration of delay and silence in the prayer requests we make. But faith, if it's really faith, lives with the limits, settles down with the silence, and keeps knocking on God's door, trusting that on the other side is the Someone who knows my name.

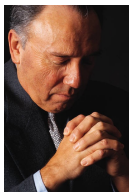
- Christy Dowdy, co-pastor of the Stone Church of the Brethren, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

January Birthdays

- 1 Janice Stout
- 2 Jean Gable
- 3 Sharon Swoveland
- 5 Gloria Goens
- 6 Ryan Howell
- 7 Jessica Flanagan
- 8 Regan Klein
- 10 Alma Werking, Marcia Stout
- 13 Dee Reneau
- 15 John Andrew, Laneal Hilbert
- 17 Monty Renau, Beth Stone
- 18 Cindy Reneau
- 19 Jeff Bach, Benjamin Reagan
- 20 Suellen Oakes
- 21 Teresa Renaker, Steven Stout
- 24 Todd Stout
- 25 Alan Briar, Glenna Conwell
- 28 Steve Stone



Continuing to Pray for...



***Jeff Bach**

Bob Klein
Cliff & Mary Jane Renaker

Home: Mary Werking , Raymond Hoover, Viola Nicholson, Ruth Crull
Care Center: LuFreda Bowman

***Katie Reneau**

Jane Briar

Eloise Beeson
Terri Schmittler

Harriet Burroughs
Jeremy DeVinney

Giving For December

Average Offering needed monthly to meet budget.....	\$1,420.29
Average Offering for December ... (3 Sundays).....	\$1,959.38
5.....	...\$4,080.40
12	873.00
19.....	922.75
26..... no church due to no heat.....	
Hometown Christmas Food Sale.....	517.00
Advent Christmas Offering.....	153.00
Average Attendance for December	62



For Your Information: 2005 District Board Members

District section and year serving are listed. Should you have concerns, you may contact someone in your section. Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren is in the South Section. Year designates when their term is up.

- Eric Braun, East, 1st, 08 etbraun@onlyinternet.net
- Gale Burkholder, North, 2nd, 08 grbab@kconline.com
- James McKinney, Central, 2nd, 06 JMcki46953@aol.com
- **Carol Pfeiffer, South, 1st, 09 peacesimply@insightbb.com**
- +Janet Reed, West, 1st, 05 rebuja@aol.com
- *Kristen Roop, West, 1st, 07 kristenroop@yahoo.com
- Ralph Royer, North, *, 06 rfroyer@earthlink.net
- **Elbert Stockberger, South, 1st, 07 elstock@earthlink.net**

- Phil Tomson, Central, 1st, 09
- Barb Wood, East, 2nd, 05 bwoody@onlyinternet.net
- David Doudt, Treasurer, XA ddke@mchsi.com
- Stan Miller, Financial Scty., XA stan@abresist.com
- Jay Carter, General Board Rep., 1st, 05 jacarter@adamswells.com
- Mike Cassidy, Standing. Cmte., 1st, 07 mjancass@hotmail.com
- Bruce Hostetler, Standing. Cmte., 1st, 06 bahostetler@juno.com
- Ed Jackson, Moderator, 05
- Pam Princell, Mod.-Elect, 06 pprincipell@onlyinternet.net
- Sally Schrock, Conference Coord., 1st, 06 schrock04@aol.com
- Helen Wenger, Secretary, 1st, 06 hwwenger@aol.com
- Allen Kahler, District Executive akahler_ds@brethren.org

Denominational News – Keeping Informed

Church Staff meet with Selective Service.

Three staff directors of the General Board met with staff of Selective Service at the agency's office in Arlington, Va., Dec. 2. The meeting followed up on an unannounced visit to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., on Oct. 8 by Cassandra Costley, director of the Alternative Service Division of Selective Service. New Windsor has a long history of being a site where Brethren have organized and gathered around issues of conscience and military service, most notably hosting Civilian Public Service workers from 1944-46. Selective Service is the federal agency that registers and maintains a database of young men as they reach their eighteenth birthday in order to maintain an accounting of those available for military service in the event of a military draft. "We went into this meeting with a clear agenda of opening a conversation with Selective Service in an effort to better understand why this visit to New Windsor occurred, and how we as a church could make clear our historic and active voice as a people of peace and nonviolence," reported Phil Jones, director of Brethren Witness/Washington Office. Also in the meeting were Brethren Volunteer Service director Dan McFadden and Brethren Service Center executive director Roy Winter.

The meeting lasted well into three hours, Jones reported. Was the New Windsor visit an indication that Selective Service was gearing up for a military conscription program, the group asked. "The answer is no, according to Costley, and her immediate supervisor, Richard Flahavan," Jones said. Costley, Flahavan, and the newly installed Director of Selective Service William Chatfield, who joined the meeting briefly, all indicated that their work was in regards to preparedness only. The New Windsor visit was made because Costley was in the area for other business and took the opportunity to make an outreach visit.



Flahavan went on to explain that **there is no draft and that none is coming as indicated by statements from the White House and Pentagon in recent months**, Jones reported. "He also pointed to the late October vote of Congress that overwhelmingly defeated a proposed draft bill" (HR 163), Jones said. "The gearing up for a draft and the sheer amount of funding and staff increases that would be necessary are reasons enough to indicate there will be no draft," Flahavan stated, indicating that a draft would cost in excess of one half billion dollars to initiate. Most of the meeting was spent in learning more about Selective Service and how its Alternative Service program would operate if there were a draft. "The fact that they were asking us a lot of questions shows that one of the things we have developed as a **peace church** is a lot of respect for our position," commented Stan Noffsinger, general secretary of the General Board. Within a week of the meeting with Selective Service, Noffsinger and Annual Conference moderator Jim Hardenbrook reported on the meeting to the Council of Moderators and Secretaries of the Anabaptist Churches. The council also includes officers of the Mennonite Church US, the Brethren in Christ, the Conservative Mennonite Church, Mennonite Central Committee US, and the Mennonite Brethren USA. Planning is underway for an Anabaptist churches' Consultation on Alternative Service, to be held at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill. Details will be announced after

the first of the year. McFadden will represent the Church of the Brethren on the planning committee along with Noffsinger. "Now's the time to talk about the issues of alternative service and its future," Noffsinger said. "To me that's the value" of the conversation with Selective Service, he added.

MutualAid eXchange (MAX)



MAX has created a Mutual Aid Ministries program to help care for the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of Anabaptists under burden, a recent release announced.

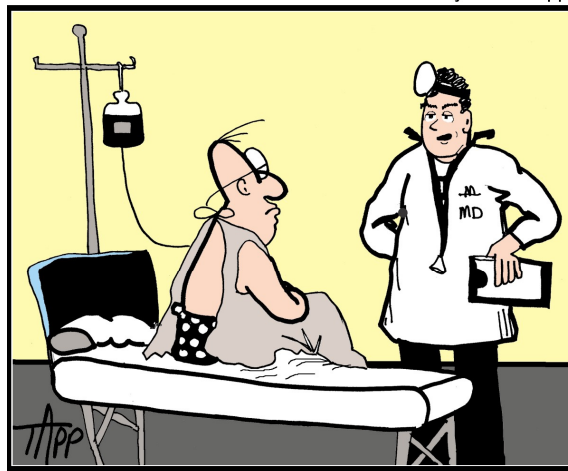
MAX began in 2001 with the mission of providing mutual

aid services to Anabaptists throughout North America, developing insurance products for the home, farm, church, or business. Objectives of the new program are to partner with the church to develop mutual aid ministries that are relevant, meaningful, and tangible, the release said. Four ministries are envisioned: Burden Bearing Ministry, Network Ministry, Financial Ministry through a "share fund," and an Education Ministry. Call 877-971-6300 or visit www.mutualaidexchange.com.

'Christian History and Biography' Magazine Features Anabaptists.

The Fall 2004 issue of *Christian History & Biography* magazine features the history and beliefs of the **Anabaptist in America**. The magazine displays the cover title, "Pilgrims and Exiles: Against persecution and prosperity, the Mennonites, Amish, and Brethren have followed Christ and their convictions." **Feature stories include "People of Conscience," by Bethany Seminary professor Jeff Bach and managing editor Chris Armstrong;** "The Germans Have Landed," by David B. Eller, director of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College; "Outsider's Guide to America's Anabaptists," by assistant editor Steven Gertz; "Pure and Simple," by Stephen Scott, administrative assistant at the Young Center; "Holy Ground," by Frank Ramirez, pastor of Everett (Pa.) Church of the Brethren; "Be Not Conformed," by John D. Roth, professor at Goshen (Ind.) College; "From Mutual Aid to Global Action," by Gari-Anne Patzwald and William Kostlevy, who serves on the Brethren Historical Committee; and "Negotiating with the Modern World," by Donald B. Kraybill, professor at Elizabethtown. "Through meeting these authors over the phone and reading their articles, I feel I have been introduced not just to a set of beliefs, but to a family of believers. Indeed, not just introduced, but invited to dinner—even to the famous Brethren 'love feast,'" wrote Armstrong in his editorial. To gain background and information for the issue, he visited Lancaster County, Pa., with hosts related to the Young Center including Eller, Scott, Kraybill, and Brethren historian Donald Durnbaugh. Armstrong also received help from staff of Brethren Press and the General Board. The magazine is published by Christianity Today. For more information see www.christianhistory.net or call 800-873-6986 or e-mail chcustserv@christianhistory.net.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"...and jumping up and down when you preach doesn't count as aerobic exercise!"