

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.



July
2006

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

Carol's Comments

"The Pathway"

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16: 11 NRSV

I love Camp Mack. I love being in nature and listening to the birds and smelling the fresh air. I don't like the bugs or the mosquitoes, but I guess that goes with the territory. They're just a reminder of how all God's creatures fit into God's created world, though when I'm bitten I'd like to wish they didn't.

Last month I had occasion to be at Camp Mack for the Women's Retreat where our own Valerie Beeson Lyles led us in how to "prayer walk" and "praying over trash." We had some free time, so I set out to check out the new addition to the camp, a labyrinth.

I found some information on the web which helps to explain about labyrinths for those who may not be familiar with labyrinths. <http://www.lessons4living.com/labyrinth.htm> A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. The Labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again out into the world. Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools. A labyrinth is an archetype with which we can have a direct experience. We can walk it. It is a metaphor for life's journey. It is a symbol that creates a sacred space and place and takes us out of our ego to "That Which Is Within." Labyrinths and mazes have often been confused. When most people hear of a labyrinth they think of a maze. A labyrinth is not a maze. A maze is like a puzzle to be solved. It has twists, turns, and blind alleys. It is a **left brain task** that requires logical, sequential, analytical activity to find the correct path into the maze and out.



A labyrinth has only one path. It is **unicursal**. The way in is the way out. There are no blind alleys. The path leads you on a circuitous path to the center and out again. A labyrinth is a **right brain task**. It involves intuition, creativity, and imagery. With a maze many choices must be made and an active mind is needed to solve the problem of finding the center. With a labyrinth there is only one choice to be made. The choice is to enter or not. A more passive, receptive mindset is needed. **The choice is whether or not to walk a spiritual path.** At its most basic level the labyrinth is a metaphor for the journey to the center of your deepest self and back out into the world with a broadened understanding of who you are.

That being said, I inquired which way it was to the labyrinth at Camp Mack. I set out with a couple other ladies. One enters the labyrinth alone with a question and open mind to be present to God. I started down the grassy path alone. I walked and walked. I've experienced labyrinths before and thought this was an

unusually long one, but I kept walking. After walking on the path, I noticed something up ahead watching me from the brush. It was a deer. When I got fairly close to it, it ran off farther into the brush and trees. I thought about that deer. The deer reminded me of how God is always watching us and then continues to move ahead of us on the pathway of life.

Walking along even farther, I thought, "This is the craziest labyrinth I've ever been on." If it was a circuitous path they were certainly quite large circles. But I settled into steady walking and meditating. Up ahead I next encountered a groundhog in the middle of the path. It scampered off into the weeds as I approached. Indeed, God in nature appeared again reminding me of his care.

Still I trudged along wondering more and more if I had indeed missed the path to the labyrinth and was just on a hiking trail. But my walk did open up my awareness to God's care. Next, I encountered some butterflies which represent new life. And so, I thought about how God continues the life cycle and how what seems like the end is the beginning. It wasn't long after that when I came into a swarm of biting insects. They were annoying. That's the way things are in life. Annoying things bite at us and distract us from the path.

I eventually found my way out of the grassy path and back to the beginning. I still puzzled about this path. When I got back to Camp I enquired about the labyrinth and discovered I had not been in the labyrinth at all. Isn't that the way life is? We think we're on the right path, and we meander along when we discover it's not the path we're supposed to be on. We've missed the true path. I learned something even though I wasn't in the labyrinth. Hence, we can take what happens in our life and learn something whether it's the path God intended for us or not. Sometimes we just miss the connection or we take a detour. We didn't hear or understand the directions well enough to find the path. Or we just stumbled onto what appeared to be the path for which we were looking. God uses all that happens in our life for good. I found inspiration on that trail despite not being on the one I intended to be. And I look forward to finding the labyrinth the next time I'm at camp, for it's a reminder of my choice to walk the spiritual path and encounter God on that pathway.

In Christ, for Christ,
Pastor Carol



Condolences

Our sympathy is extended to Beverly Nicholson and her family on the death of her mother, Ruth Wilson, on June 20 at Reid Hospital. A celebration of her life took place on June 24.



Worship Leader

July 2	Laura Nicholson
July 9	Brad Bowman
July 16	Leland Nicholson
July 23	Lucille Dilling
July 30	Heather Nicholson



Prayer Concerns

Bill DeVinney	Brenda Gillam	Glenn Bach	Geneva Davis
Jay Burroughs	Howard Davis	Gratia Waskom	Mark Werking
Don Seibert			

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

Care Center: LuFreda Bowman, Margaret Briar

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

The purpose of prayer is to leave us alone with God.

- Leo Baeck

District Conference

District Conference will be here before we know it. It is September 15-16 at the Salamonie CoB. Marcia Stout and Jeff Bach are our delegates this year.

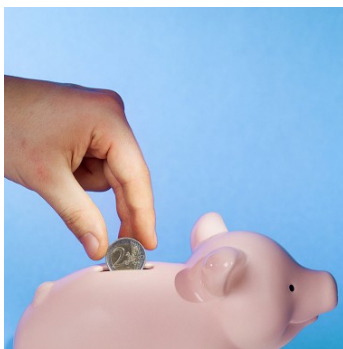
Scriptures and Sermon Titles for July

- July 2 Scripture: Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Herschel Murray – guest speaker
Sermon: “Dry Bones Can Live Again”
- July 9 Scripture: II Corinthians 12: 2-10
Sermon: “From Trauma to Growth”
- July 16 Outdoor worship – weather permitting. Bring a lawn chair if you like.
Bread and Cup Communion
Scripture: Ephesians 1: 31-14
Sermon: “Are You a Christ Look-alike?”
- July 23 Scripture: Mark 6: 30-34; 53-56
Sermon: “Just Plain Average”
- July 30 Scripture: John 6: 1-21
Sermon: “Jesus Doesn’t Use Interactive Voice Response (IVR)”



Apply yourself wholly to the text; apply the text wholly to yourself. – John Albrecht Bengel

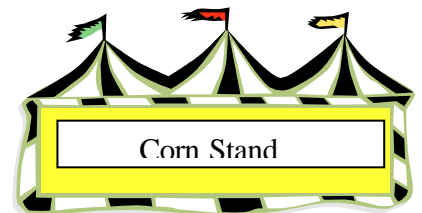
Giving For June



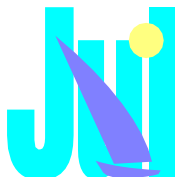
Average Weekly Offering needed to meet budget.....	\$1,465.29
Average Offering for June	\$ 1,236.08
Total Offering for June.....	\$4,944.30
June 4.....	642.00
June 11.....	1,085.00
June 18.....	964.00
June 25.....	944.00
Average Attendance for June.....	32.75
Other Giving:	
Corn Stand Money included in Total Offering for June:	\$1309.30

Thanks Bunches!

A big thanks goes to all who helped with the Nettle Creek corn stand at the Wayne County fair. Thanks to those who helped set up and tear down the stand, donated supplies and money, and worked at the stand. There was lots of fun and fellowship. Ask **Gene Beeson** what his nickname now is. J



Camp Mack News



GRANDPARENTS: One Grand Camp opportunity is left this summer for grandparents and grandchildren ages 5-10. Dates are August 13-15. Sign up today.

GOLFERS AND SPONSORS, have you sent in your registration form to play and/or sponsor the golf outing at McCormick Creek Golf Course at Nappanee on Saturday, August 12th? Proceeds are designated for camper scholarships and landscaping equipment.

Labor Day Family Camp registration is due by July 15th. Lodging is assigned on a first-come basis after health needs are considered, so the earlier you register the more likely you are to receive your lodging choice. The registration fee increases after July 15th.

Please give Beth Sollenberger-Morphew (phone 574-831-4796) a list of your Camp Mack Festival auction donations by August 15th.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Staff, for energy for the demanding ministry! Campers, that they may experience God's love! All of camp's hosted rental camps & guests

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Seekers Camps	July 30-05 and Aug. 6-11
Finders Camps	July 30-05 and Aug. 6-11
Followers Camp	July 30-05
Youth Camp	July 9-15
Eco Challenge	July 9-15
Bike Trek	July 16-22
Colony Camp	Aug. 19-21

ALEXANDER MACK FESTIVAL – Oct. 7th



Quiet Place Quote: God does not love us because we are valuable. We are valuable because God loves us.
– Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Denominational News

PBS to feature Civilian Public Service on 'History Detectives.'

An episode of the television series "History Detectives" featuring the **Church of the Brethren and Civilian Public Service (CPS) will air on PBS stations on Monday, July 10, at 9 p.m. eastern (check local listings).**

The show was filmed with the help of research done by Church of the Brethren archivist Ken Shaffer, who was contacted in Nov. 2005 by the production company's staff as they were tracking down the history of a Brethren Service Committee certificate. The Brethren Historical Library and Archives and Shaffer provided background information, photos, and film. The archives is a ministry of the Church of the Brethren General Board.



The giving of Brethren Service Committee certificates and stamps was among several methods used by Brethren to raise funds to support CPS camps and the conscientious objectors who worked in the program during World War II. The certificates and stamp cards indicated the amount of the donation and stated that the donation was to be used for CPS.

As World War II neared, the Church of the Brethren along with the other historic peace churches worked with the US government to establish Civilian Public Service as an alternative service program for conscientious objectors to war. While CPS was under the authority of the government, it was organized, administered, and funded by the churches.

The Church of the Brethren was responsible for 33 CPS camps and special projects. Responsibility included funding, and the Brethren donated over \$1,300,000 plus large amounts of food and clothing to support CPS.

The Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., hosted the cast and film crew of "History Detectives" on Feb. 24-25 when they interviewed Harry Graybill, a CPS worker who served four years in the program. "History Detectives" staff also did filming and interviews at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College and other locations.

Brethren leader Thurl Metzger to be honored by Heifer International.

A new Thurl Metzger Education Center will be dedicated at 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 4 at Heifer Ranch near Perryville, Ark. A **Church of the Brethren member**, Metzger served Heifer International for some 30 years as executive director, director of International Programs, and senior consultant, beginning in 1953. The Church of the Brethren started Heifer Project in 1944.

Previous to his service to Heifer, Metzger was director of the Polish farm-youth exchange program of the Church of the Brethren Service Commission.



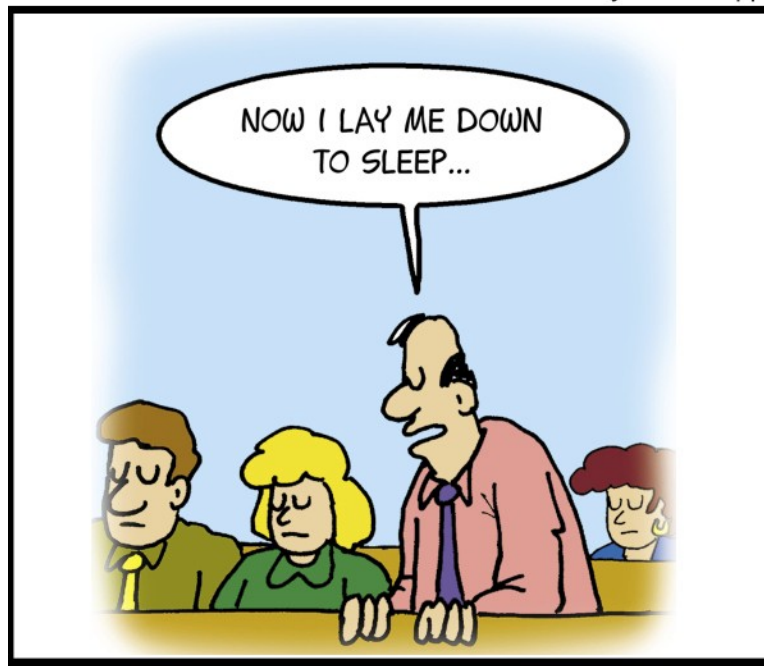
The new building will include "green" features, classrooms, and office space for the Ranch education team and the Volunteer Department team. It will be equipped with handicap accessible trails to accommodate wheel chairs, and will serve as a severe weather and tornado shelter.

The National Council of Churches (NCC) has participated in or made statements on several current political issues. General secretary Bob Edgar was one of 27 religious leaders who signed a statement calling for the elimination of torture as a part of US policy (to endorse the statement go to www.nrcat.org). The NCC renewed a call to close the US



Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba following the suicides of three prisoners; as of June 15, more than 10,500 people had signed a petition at FaithfulAmerica.org calling for the facility to be closed (FaithfulAmerica.org is a program of the NCC; for more see www.nccusa.org/news/060_216gitmo.html). The NCC also urged Congress to raise the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour from \$5.15 an hour, joining the Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign. "A raise to \$7.25 an hour is the least we can do now for minimum wage workers who have gone without a raise for nine long years," the NCC said (for more go to www.letjusticeroll.org).

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



How pastors know its time for a study on prayer . . .