

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.



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*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