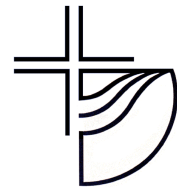


News from the Brick

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
pastor@nettlecreekcob.com
www.nettlecreekcob.com

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



June
2006

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

Carol's Comments

"On the Run"

The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. Jonah 1:1-3a NIV

Not that I have already obtained all this or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3: 12-14 NIV

When I was a teenager, we got our mail at the small post office down the street. I would have to walk down to the post office to pick up the mail for my mother. Nothing particularly exciting about that. But there was one house I had to walk past that had a mean Pekinese dog. It's one of those dogs which had what I call a scrunched up face, which made this dog even more mean-looking. He would chase anyone up or down the street if he was outside and nip at your heels, legs etc. I envisioned this dog mauling me.



This dog was not that big, but for some reason, its scrunched-up mean-looking face chasing after me, put the fear of God in me. I dreaded going to get the mail. I had to run to keep away from him, which probably just excited the dog even more. I always felt like I was "on the run." It wasn't long that I went off to college, but every time I came home, this dog would chase me clear up to my own porch upon getting out of the car. The neighbor just thought it was funny. But it wasn't funny to me.

One time when I arrived home from college during break, I put out my watchful eye for the dog. I didn't see it, so I thought it safe to make a run for the house. I soon learned that the dog had gotten hit by a car. I was elated. No more running from the dog, though I did feel a tad guilty over my elation. I had grown tired of being "on the run."

On the way back from Atlanta from the Festival of Homiletics, I noticed one of those signs that stands way above the highway. It was a Mobil gasoline sign in Tennessee. Its tagline was on a blue background and was written in bold yellow script letters. It read, "Mobil: On the Run". It's a sign that caught my attention, because it reminded me of being "on the run" from the Pekinese.

My first thought was, "On the run from what?" There are many ways we can be on the run. We can be on the run from dogs...ourselves...things we don't want to face about ourselves that we need to address. On the run from our problems...things we **could** change but don't or things we don't **know** how to change. On the run from others...not wanting to repair fractured relationships. On the run from making decisions...fearful of making decisions when, in fact, no decision IS a decision. And, of course, on the run from God...not taking the

time to deepen the relationship because we don't want to take the time or make the time. Sometimes we don't like what we sense God is asking us to do or who God is asking us to be. So, we run from God like Jonah.

Remember Jonah? God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach to the Ninevites, but Jonah ran in the opposite direction. He was "on the run." He even hid out on the ship until the seas were raging. When it was discovered that he might be the problem for the possible demise of the ship, because he was running from the Lord, the crew threw him overboard per Jonah's suggestion, and he was swallowed by a whale. His problems swallowed him up, so to speak. One cannot outrun God, but Jonah tried. Sometimes it seems that our problems have to swallow us up, before we turn to God. And so there in the belly of the whale, Jonah prayed to God. God heard his prayer, and the great fish vomited Jonah onto dry land. This time the prophet obeyed the word of the Lord to go and preach to the Ninevites. After hearing the message from the Lord, the Ninevites gave up their evil ways. God, in his mercy, spared Nineveh from destruction. There was no more running from God.

I have stated examples of being on the run "from." But suppose that we look at that phrase as being on the run "to." Many of us are on the run to something...another job...a new beginning...a marriage...an opportunity...better health...a deeper relationship with God...a new friendship or deepened one...a new future...a new hope. I would imagine that the Mobil phrase was more in line with "on the run to" someplace or in the process of going somewhere rather than "on the run from."

There is so much more positiveness in running "to". When we are on the move toward something or toward someone there is that sense of possibility, hope, courage, and strength. We are energized by the opportunities and possibilities that lay before us. God doesn't always reveal what those are, but can be trusted to be there as we move toward the future event or person.

I wonder about the church. Is the church today "on the run from" or "on the run to?" Are we looking at fears or possibilities? One thing I do know is that the God of Creation is "on the run"...to us. God is never on the run "from" us. The Scriptures are full of examples of God running to...the story of the Prodigal Son where the father runs to greet his prodigal son who squandered all his inheritance. God "runs to" Jonah to rescue him from the belly of the whale. And God was "on the run" when Jesus was resurrected. Hence, wherever we are in our life; wherever we are headed, God is there "on the run" to embrace us, to dry our tears, and guide our steps. So why don't we turn and be "on the run" to God as he seeks us.

In Christ, for Christ,
Pastor Carol



Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Mark and Mary Werking who celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary in May.

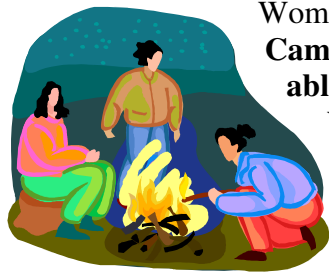
Congratulations Graduate

Congratulations to **Robert Burns**, son of Inga and Denny Burns who graduated from Hagerstown High School on May 27.

Congratulations!

Steve Stout, son of Jon and Marcia Stout, who will be competing at the State level in the discus throw June 3.

Have You Signed up for Women's Camp? June 8-10



Women's Camp is always a fun time as well as a time to learn. This year's **Women's Camp will be June 8-10 at Camp Mack. Though the deadline is past, you may still be able to go.** It is sponsored by South Central Indiana District Church of the Brethren

Women's Cabinet. **All women are invited!** Pre-registration is required. **Valerie Beeson Lyles** is the key leader. Her theme is "Prayer in Motion" through prayer walking, prayer rooms, prayer driving. She will share how God has changed and encouraged her life. Bible Studies are included. Valerie is the daughter of Eloise and Gene Beeson. **Registration deadline is May 12.** Cost is: fulltime, \$82.00; part-

time, (1 night, 2 days) \$50.00; one day, \$30.00. **See Kathy Denney or Pastor Carol for registration forms, which are available at church.**

Wayne County Fair Corn Booth – June 17-24

We will be having our corn booth at the fair again this year. We need lots of helpers. Setup will be on the evening of Friday, June 16. Volunteers may sign up at church or contact Juli Proctor at twosisters101@msn.com. **Volunteers are needed to:**

- Set up on the evening of June 16
- Pick up corn and supplies at Meijer each day
- Open the booth each day
- Run the booth
- Donate cases of canned drinks: only those listed, please
 1. Sierra Mist
 2. Mountain Dew
 3. Regular Pepsi
 4. Diet Pepsi
 5. Water, 9 oz. bottle



Tim and Juli will be available to close the booth and cleanup at the end of each day.

	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Children's Story</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
June 4	Teresa Renaker	Teresa Renaker	Leland & Beverly
June 11	Beverly Nicholson	Beverly N.	Brad B. & Billy Hall
June 18	Chad Bowman & Billy Hall	Chad/Billy	Kathy D. & Steve S.
	<u>Special Music: Dr. Dan and Lisa Schrock</u>		
June 25	Kim Hall	Kim Hall	Marcia S. & Jodi J.

Prayer Concerns

*Bill DeVinney	*Brenda Gillam	Ruth Wilson	Glenn Bach
Jay Burroughs	Howard Davis	Gratia Waskom	
Gene & Beth Stone	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.)			

Giving For May

Average Weekly Offering needed to meet budget.....	\$1,465.29
Average Offering for May	\$1,741.75
April 30 giving not reported last month.....	\$2,020.00
May 7.....	\$ 851.00
May 14.....	\$ 920.00
May 21.....	\$ 1,680.00
May 28.....	\$ 1,496.00

Average Attendance for April.....40

Other Giving:

Disaster Relief: 36.20	Roger Werking Memorial: \$45.00
Lenten Gifts: \$57.75	
From Women's Fellowship: Smorgasbord to General Fund: \$500.00	



Smorgasbord Thanks

Thanks to all those who donated food and helped with the Smorgasbord. We cleared \$1,100.

Pastor Attends Festival of Homiletics

Pastor Carol attended the Festival of Homiletics in Atlanta, Georgia from May 14-19. Many well-known speakers preached and gave lectures. Some of those speakers and musicians were Barbara Brown Taylor, Thomas Long, Peter Gomes, Barbara Lundblad, Anna Carter Florence, Ysaye Barnwell (Sweet Honey in the Rock), James Forbes, David Lose, Donald Davis, William Willimon, Frank Thomas, Don Saliers, Marilyn Hauser Hamm, Adam Hamilton, Kenneth Samuel, Victory UCC Choir, Zan Holmes, and Grace Imatuhui. Pastor Carol thanks Richard and Valerie Beeson Lyles who so graciously provided a place for her to stay.

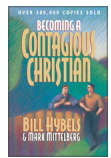


Nettle Creek Ministerial Association

The Nettle Ministerial Association reorganized due to the upcoming retirement of Ray Armstrong. Sue Cartee is the new president, Bob Fannin, treasure, and Pastor Carol, secretary. The Ministerial Association meets the third Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. We will begin meeting at the United Methodist Church in July.

Contagious Christian Study

There has been a good turn out for our *Becoming Contagious Christians* study. There are sixteen participants. There has been a video vignette and discussion regarding the subject presented each night. June 4 we will meet for two hours combining two sessions. We will begin at 5:00 p.m. with (what else) food.



Camp Mack News

Nature Cabin Becomes a Reality: It used to be in the W1-W4 cabin circle. Who knows how many campers slept in it throughout its long history! At the first Camp Festival, this cabin was one of four sold at the auction. After serving the buyer's purpose, this particular cabin found its way back to Camp Mack where it was hidden away as a storage shed. Until . . . its resurrection!

And what a resurrection it has been! Rebirth in a new, somewhat remote area! Four real windows – no more banging of shutters! Paneling inside – a lovely interior and no graffiti! Cabinets and display areas for nature teaching items. A ridge sky light in the new roof! A spacious deck for meeting outside and a ramp as well as steps to make the cabin accessible to all!

Rex has applied for grants to provide teaching equipment and hopefully a wind powered source of electricity for the building.

This summer's campers will have opportunity to experience God's creation under the guidance of naturalist, Jessica Kreider. Jessica is excited about the possibilities the new Nature Center offers! The Nature Center itself presents a great recycling lesson!

Camp theme: *Peace Talks . . . Change Your World* is the theme for this summer's programs at Camp Mack! Special daily words bring to mind different aspects of peace. For example, Discovery 1 is *Peace Talks: Aloha*, based upon Genesis 18:1-8. *Aloha* and the first day's lesson emphasize the importance of welcoming – and what camper does not want to feel welcomed? This Hawaiian word is used as a greeting upon both arrival and departure. It means peace and emphasizes a welcoming spirit. In the framework of relationship, peace may be experienced. When the word *Aloha* is spoken, the barriers that separate stranger from host are broken down. Other themes are as follows:

Discovery 2 – Peace Talks: *Shalom* based upon
Discovery 3 – Peace Talks: *Be Still* based upon
Discovery 4 – Peace Talks: *Agape* based upon
Discovery 5 – Peace Talks: *Ubuntu* based upon
Discovery 6 – Peace Talks: *Heiwa* based upon

Genesis 1:1-2:3
Mark 4:35-41
Luke 6:27-36
Acts 2:41-47
Luke 4:16-21



Counselors Needed! Persons with a love of the Lord and a love for children are invited to consider serving as volunteer counselors at Camp this summer. Nearly 50 counselors are still needed. Most camps have openings for both male and female counselors. Quality counselors provide quality experiences – often life-changing experiences – for campers. Counselors are responsible for a cabin of girls or boys for 24 hours each day. A cabin of girls and a cabin of boys form a family group. Working with a co-leader, (and CIT, if available) and their family group, counselors plan daily activities for Bible Study and family time. Counselors also help to plan total group activities such as Morning Watch, Vespers, Recreation or Campfires assigned to their family by their volunteer director/team leader. If you are reading this and know of someone who would make a great counselor, please encourage him or her to apply. Reference and background checks are done on all persons at Camp Mack who work with children.

Summer Project at Camp Mack: Summer campers are raising funds to pay for seeds and fertilizer for fields of soybeans planted at Camp Mack. The beans will be harvested in the fall and proceeds sent to the **Foods Resource Bank**, a Christian response to world hunger. The FRB provides food relief to starving persons around the world. The amount raised by the sale of the beans will be matched by USAID – United States Agency for International Development. Take time to look for the Foods Resource Bank sign and the growing soybeans when you are in the Camp area.



Indy 500 Winner

Sam Hornish Jr., a Church of the Brethren member from Ohio, earned the pole position for the Indianapolis 500 on May 28. He averaged 228.985 mph in four-lap qualifications for the race, and started first on the inside of the front row, according to a "Sports Illustrated" website. Hornish is a two-time IRL IndyCar Series champion and drives with Marlboro Team Penske. The 500-mile race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway track was held on Sunday, May 28. HE WON!

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



“Growing in grace” isn’t the ONLY growth taking place in the church!