

News from the Brick

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

Paula Ulrich, Pastor
Home: 765-935-7438
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Office Hours:

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. -- 3:30 p.m.

Established in 1820
Celebrating 190 Years
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Worship: 10 a.m.



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

June/July
2010

From Pastor Paula's Desk:

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose . . . for we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. I Corinthians 3:6-9

Thanks to your generosity, I attended an *amazing* class and conference on church growth and church planting in May! Although it may take me awhile to process everything I learned, I know it will forever change who I am as a pastoral leader. And I'm not saying that to scare you, or to make you think that now I'm going to ask you to do all manner of uncomfortable, weird, evangelistic things! It won't be like that at all!

One of the things that kept coming up, though, whether it was during a key-note speech, workshop, or class discussion, was the power of prayer. Over and over, I heard from totally different people about the critical importance of prayer for our relationship with God and for *everything* we do together as a congregation. So instead of focusing on strategies that we might try, or programs we might begin, the focus, instead, was on something that all of us in every congregation know about and can do – if we're willing!

At a workshop, the pastor of a very small congregation in Miami, Florida, shared that he can't seem to get his congregation out to pray, no matter what he tries. But the Haitian congregation, a daughter of his own congregation, gathers regularly for huge prayer meetings every week. Amazingly, while the mother church remains at only thirty members, the daughter congregation has grown to three-hundred! And the daughter has been busy planting other congregations in the United States and in Haiti!

I know that some of you are “prayer champions” for our congregation, its members, and our community. But I want to invite us – *challenge* us! – to begin praying *together* more often. Praying together had been on my mind and heart for our congregation for some time. And while I don't believe prayer guarantees phenomenal growth like the Haitian congregation has experienced, I know that praying together will indeed bring us closer to one another *and* closer to God's heart. I hope, together, that we will begin listening more carefully to what God has to

say. For we really need God's vision for us. *I* can have a vision for us. And *you* can have a vision for us. But really, we need to ask together, what does God envision for us? Where is God leading us as a congregation? What does God want us to be doing? And how will we know the answers to those questions if we don't begin listening to God together?

I know that some of us may feel like we don't know how to pray. Or perhaps we don't feel comfortable praying aloud in front of others. You will not be asked to do anything with which you feel uncomfortable during our "Prayer Together." But yet, your *presence* is important! Please come and join me as we plant and water seeds together. For working and praying together, we are God's field. And who knows what God will grow within us and around us?! Who knows?!



Upcoming meetings of "Prayer Together" Thursdays, June 10; July 8; July 15; July 22; and July 29 at 6:30 p.m. -- in the pastor's

study, or in the fellowship hall if we outgrow the study! (*If those attending would prefer a different meeting time, we can talk about changing the day, etc.*)

A note about Pastor Paula's office hours:

I have stream-lined my office hours to **Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** But, I continue to work four days each week in addition to Sunday mornings, sometimes in Hagerstown and sometimes at home. Please do not hesitate to call me if you would like to set up another time for conversation; if you would like a visit in your home; or if you would like to share lunch together sometime. I love spending time with you!

Congratulations to Vivek Solanky and Shefali Thakor! who were married on June 9, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. in Valsad, India. Vivek is a current student at Bethany Theological Seminary. He's been joining us for Sunday School and worship this past year. He returned to India in May for

research and to prepare for his marriage to Shefali! He kindly included our congregation with an invitation. May we continue to hold Vivek and Shefali in our prayers as we also prepare to give them a warm welcome when they return together.

Congratulations to Doug Veal!

Doug begins an interim pastorate at Lafayette Church of the Brethren on July 11. We're going to miss he and Tasha here at Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren. In addition to worshipping with us on Sunday mornings, Doug has been leading the Upper Room Sunday School class and preaching from time to time. May we continue to hold Doug and Tasha in our prayers as he begins interim ministry, and as they continue to discern God's direction.



Our Calendar and Upcoming Events for June and July:

Sunday, June 13: Special Offering for Camp Mack. Remember the food pantry, too!

Tuesday, June 15: Deacons meet with leadership by Brad Bowman.

June 18 – 19: Wilbur Wright Festival

June 20: Pastor Paula on vacation. Mike Cassidy brings the message.

June 27: Pastor Paula on vacation. Doug Veal brings the message. *Special Offering for Neighbor's Helping Neighbor's.*

June 28 – July 2: NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS – a “work camp” in our own backyard!

July 3 – 7: Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren in Pittsburgh, PA. Please keep us in your prayers as our denomination gathers to make decisions and hear reports; and as members from all over the country visit with one another, learn together, and worship. Beverly Nicholson will represent our congregation as delegate. Others in our congregation who will be attending: Pastor Paula; Dan Ulrich; Leland Nicholson; Jabani Adzibiya; Doug and Tasha Veal.

Thursday, July 8: “Prayer Together” in the Pastor's Study at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 11: Special Offering for Brethren Caregivers.

Thursday, July 15: “Prayer Together” in the Pastor's Study at 6:30 p.m.

July 17 – 22: National Youth Conference in Colorado. Please keep the youth and leadership of our denomination in your prayers as they travel and gather from all across the country to have fun together, and grow in Jesus Christ.

Thursday, July 22: “Prayer Together” in the Pastor's Study at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 25: Council meeting. Please plan to attend since we will be voting on changes to our committees and constitution. We are trying to make our committee structure function more efficiently.

Thursday, July 29: “Prayer Together” in the Pastor's Study at 6:30 p.m.

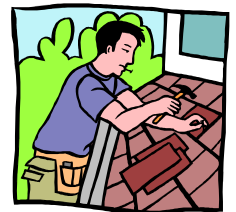
July 30 - 31: District Conference in Anderson. Delegates: Beverly Nicholson, Marjorie Briar, Leland Nicholson, and Pastor Paula.

September 18 -- (third weekend in September) We will be celebrating the **190th Anniversary of the Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren.** Saturday afternoon (Sept. 18) there will be a **tour** of Brethren church and cemetery sites in the Nettle Creek area. A **picnic** will be held at 5 p.m. (including ice cream sundaes). At 7 p.m. there will be a “back in time” **worship service** with a special guest. Please put these dates on your calendar and plan to join the celebration.

Neighbor's Helping Neighbor's Week, **June 28 – July 2, Hagerstown**

Both of our children have participated in Church of the Brethren work camps for youth -- one in Los Angeles with Gilbert Romero; and the other in Chicago. They've both had great experiences!

I often find myself wanting to go on one of these work camps -- or even wanting to take the whole family on one. But, attending a work camp can get a little pricey by the time you pay the work camp fee and travel expenses. If that's been an obstacle for you, too, we have a terrific opportunity right here in our own backyard! The Jefferson Township Trustee's Office is sponsoring a “work camp week” in the Hagerstown area. You may volunteer as little or as much time as you have to give – whether it's all day every day, or only an hour. There are always things to do – even if you have no special skills – everything from sweeping to gathering construction trash to painting to putting on a



new roof. Our congregation will collect a special offering for Neighbors Helping Neighbors on Sunday, June 20 (if I'm remembering correctly, everything for this program is donated by members of the community). We also will provide a meal one day for the workers. If you would like to help with the meal, please contact Julie Potter. And if you would like more information, call Joe Smith at the Jefferson Township Trustee's Office. As with all things, many hands make light work! Plus, it's just plain fun to do something like this *with* our neighbors *for* our neighbors! ~
Pastor Paula

Please don't forget our Nettle Creek Ministerial Association Food Pantry. You may bring items to the church anytime, dropping them off in the grocery cart, which is located in the foyer. Below is a list of needed items.

Ramen Noodles
Breakfast Cereals
Tea, Coffee
Canned Vegetables: Peas, carrots, sweet potatoes, etc.
Brownie or Cake mixes
Instant Jello and Pudding mixes, regular and sugar-free
Hamburger Helper
Chili ingredients
Canned Soup
Rice
Canned Fruit
Pancake mix & Syrup
Pork and Beans
Flour
Crackers
Peanut Butter
Tuna
Cooking Oil
Ravioli
Canned Spaghetti
Instant Potatoes
Corn Muffin mixes
Shampoo
Toothpaste

Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, July 3 – 7, 2010

Anyone who has ever gone to Annual Conference knows that it's like a big family reunion – even if you've never attended before – and even if you come from another country! Brethren gather from all over -- with representatives from Florida to California; the Dominican Republic; Brazil; Puerto Rico; Haiti; Nigeria; and sometimes even India. Worship is amazing! The singing is fabulous! Even reports, which you might expect to be dry and boring, are often spiced up with interesting videos or dramas. And Annual Conference is full of activities for every age -- from the very youngest conference goer to the very oldest! (Believe me when I say that! Several years ago when I decided that we wouldn't go to Annual Conference with Dan, our children were extremely upset and disappointed that we wouldn't be going! It's that good!)

This year, one of our youngest moderators ever, Shawn Flory Replogle, will lead us with the theme, "Taking Jesus Seriously," based on John 14:15: If you love me, you will keep my commandments." And of course, we know that the greatest commandments are to love God and to love one another! Sermon titles that week will be: "When Heaven and Earth Touch;" "Expectant Living," "Measurably New" (by Earle Fike who is well into his retirement years); "All We Can Be;" and "In It for the Long Haul." I'm feeling excited to hear some great preaching!

Conference goers will be able to select from 63 Insight Sessions (special one-hour workshops for personal and congregational growth) with titles like: Original Brethren

Songs; Seven Biggest Mistakes People Make with Their Money; Earthquake 2010 – Rebuilding Haiti; and Stories of Congregational Vitality and Hope. Believe me, it's tough to choose! And besides insight sessions, there are breakfasts, luncheons, and dinners with special speakers; interesting exhibits; ice cream socials; and more! For a first time conference goer, it can all seem overwhelming – but it's totally worth it!

This year, the seminary will be webcasting worship services from Annual Conference. In fact, congregations may project the Sunday morning service onto screens in their sanctuary if desired, with prelude music beginning at 10:00 a.m. and worship beginning at 10:20 a.m. If you are interested in watching some of the services on-line during conference, please go to www.bethanyseminary.edu/webcast/annualconference2010 for more information.

Please keep us in your prayers as we gather for this 224th recorded Annual Conference!
~ *Pastor Paula*

Simple Ways to Partner with God in Caring for the Earth

God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. Genesis 1:31

*Americans toss out enough paper and plastic cups, forks, and spoons every year to circle the equator 300 times.

Bring your own utensils in your lunch, and use silverware and real plates and cups at home whenever possible.



*The average American office worker goes through around 500 disposable cups every

year. Leave a real cup at the office and refill it whenever you need to quench your thirst. And, if your favorite coffee shop will allow you to use your own refillable cup, remember to take it with you whenever you stop by.

*Every year, Americans make enough plastic film for grocery bags to shrink wrap the state of Texas. Buy reusable grocery bags and take them back to the store with you.

From Richmond Power and Light's Municipal Power News, Volume 16, Issue 1, edited.



June Birthdays

- 1 Carolyn Wright
- 3 Beverly Amick
Kate Hoover
- 7 Ella Nicholson
- 9 Zsanelle Hoover
- 13 Matthew Beaty
- 18 Kim Hall
- 20 David Reneau
- 24 Margaret Briar
- 30 Moriah Stout

July Birthdays

- 2 Ashley Beaty
- 3 Sara Renaker
- 5 Evan Hoover
- 13 Valerie Lyles, Heather Stout
- 14 Kirby Stout
- 17 Beth Bowman
- 25 Betty Hoover
- 27 Jodi Johnson
- 31 Joshua Briar



KID'S KORNER

Father's Day – June 20, 2010



About Father's Day

Many people of the United States and Canada celebrate Father's Day as a day to express gratitude and appreciation to their fathers by giving them presents or greeting cards. Father's Day comes on the third Sunday in June.

Father's Day was started in 1910 by Mrs. John Dodd of Spokane, Washington. The custom spread throughout the United States and in 1936 a national Father's Day committee was formed. Headquartered in New York City, the committee annually selects a Father of the Year. Some of the fathers who have won this title are Douglas MacArthur, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Harry S. Truman.

Daddy, I love you

Daddy, I love you
For all that you do.
I'll kiss you and hug you
'Cause you love me, too.
You feed me and need me
To teach you to play,
So smile 'cause I love you
On this Father's Day.

FATHER'S DAY ACTIVITIES

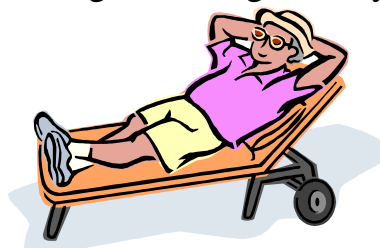
BRUNCH: Why not take Dad and the rest of the family out for brunch on Father's Day?

PICNIC: Another great idea is to take Dad out for a summer's picnic. You could go out to a local recreation center or a park and have a picnic lunch or supper. Fried chicken or sandwiches are a classic picnic treat. Don't forget the watermelon!

FISHING: Many Dads like to fish and spending the day as a family fishing could be lots of fun. Rent or use the equipment your family already has. If you have a good day at fishing, you could wind up catching your supper for tonight! Remember to take pictures to capture the memories of today.

HIKING: A great idea for lots of families is to go on a hike. You could hike through scenic outdoors or mountains. Check your route ahead of time and wear protective gear. This would be a fun family adventure!

REST AND RELAXATION: Some families are just too busy; they never take time to relax. The perfect activity for them can actually be no activity. Spend a day just relaxing and doing literally nothing. Get



takeout food for lunch or dinner. Watch movies on television. Just enjoy the day and celebrate the wonderful Father that you have in your life!



KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

We Love You Dad

Pancakes

- 2 C of baking mix
- 2 tbsp instant chocolate drink mix
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 egg
- 1 C of milk
- 1/2 C of sour cream
- 1/4 C of miniature semisweet chocolate chips

Preparation:

1. Place the baking mix into a large mixing bowl.
2. Add the chocolate drink mix and baking powder and toss to combine.
3. Carefully break the egg into a separate bowl.
4. Whisk in the milk and sour cream until well blended.
5. Pour the mixture into the dry ingredients and stir until just moistened.
6. Fold in the chocolate chips.
7. Grease a griddle or skillet well and place over medium heat.
8. When the griddle is hot, pour one quarter cupfuls of the batter onto the griddle.
9. Cook the pancakes for 4 minutes or until bubbles begin to appear around the edges.
10. Flip and continue cooking 3 minutes or until the bottom is nice and brown.
11. Serve with butter and maple syrup.



About the Fourth of July

Independence Day is the birthday of the United States of America and is celebrated on the Fourth of July each year. Independence Day is the anniversary of the day on which the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

John Adams, one of the founders of our new nation, said, "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward for evermore." Independence Day was first celebrated in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776.

In 1941, Congress declared July 4 a legal public holiday.



The Fourth of July is day to celebrate the various blessings that we have as a nation. It is a day to remember the freedoms that we enjoy and to be thankful. Americans have been blessed to live in the greatest nation on the planet, and we need to celebrate it.

Firework Safety Tips

The 4th of July is a time of celebration. Undoubtedly you may have fireworks at your 4th of July party. Adults should be in charge of any type of fireworks display. In order for you to enjoy the days' festivities, the National Council on Fireworks Safety recommends the following:

- Always read and follow label directions
- Always have an adult present
- Only buy from reliable fireworks sellers
- Only ignite fireworks outdoors
- Be sure to have water handy
- Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks
- Light only one at a time
- Never reignite malfunctioning fireworks
- Never give fireworks to small children
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place
- Dispose of fireworks properly
- Never throw fireworks at another person
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers

Quick Kids 4th of July Recipes and Ideas for Fun

1. Make biscuits or homemade rolls and cut out with a star cookie cutter.
2. Make blue or red popsicles. To make a double layer, fill half full with one color and freeze. Then add another layer, refreeze.
3. Make red or blue punch with Kool-Aid. Top each glass with sliced strawberries.
4. Place a raspberry in each hole of an ice cube tray. Fill with lemonade. Freeze. Add to blue punch.
5. Make a vegetable dip and pour into hollowed out red peppers. Serve with cut vegetables and crackers for dipping.

