

# News from the Brick

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

**Established 1820**



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Dee Reneau, Interim Secretary  
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.  
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

**June/July  
2005**

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

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## ***Carol's Comments***

## **Directionally Challenged**

*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7: 24*

I am directionally challenged. I can get lost going around the block. I can lose my way in a department store or hospital. When I worked at the Brethren's Home for ten weeks during my seminary training, I started out from my office to make a visit. I ended up back where I started somehow without finding the resident. Now I can use the excuse that it is a confusing building, which it is, but I remember wondering how on earth I could have made a circle. So I tend to ask for directions wherever I am. I'm not too proud to do that, for it saves time wandering around in circles.

You may have heard the story of an elderly Scottish woman who was making her way through the countryside. Each time she came to a crossroads she would toss a stick into the air. Whichever way the stick came down was the direction she went. At one intersection, however, an old man saw her toss her stick into the air not once, not twice, but three times before resuming her journey.

The old man was curious. "Why are you throwing your stick like that?" he asked.

She squinted and replied, "I'm letting God direct my journey by using this stick."

"Then why did you through it three times?" asked the curious old man.

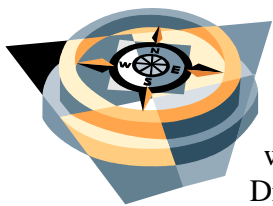
"Because," she said, "the first two times He was pointing me in the wrong direction."

Sometimes we feel like throwing the stick up in the air over and over like the old Scottish woman. We don't like the direction of our lives. We don't like the direction of our jobs. We don't like the direction of our church. You name it. We become frustrated and feel like throwing a stick especially when things don't seem to be going the way WE want it to. Oftentimes we even want to force the direction...determine which way things will go. And, many times that means we are even leaving God out of the picture. Oh, we say we're following God, like the old woman, but we're following our own way and wants and not what God says we need.

Direction can be hard to determine, of course.

So how do we discern the direction God wants us to go? It takes a lot of prayer. Individual and corporate prayer. When we say we are a praying church, we ought to see people getting together to pray together. For "where two or three are gathered together, there am I in the midst," says Jesus. There is power in numbers. There is power in prayers.

Debra K. Farrington says in *Hearing with the Heart: A Gentle Guide to Discerning God's Will for Your Life* that "If you're more comfortable making the decisions, you might try to rush God or tell him what to do rather than listen patiently and attentively. And if you're a person who likes open options, you might find it hard to settle on a course of action that eliminates other possibilities, even when you've heard God clearly with your heart" (p. 175). Discernment also comes from being in the Word...really study God's message to us...testing our decisions with God's Word.



The question we need to ask ourselves is whether we are building our house on the sand or on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. The wise man in the parable built his house upon solid rock, and when the storms came, his house stood firm. But the foolish man built his house upon the shifting sand. And when the storms of life came, his house went splat. It didn't hold firm, because his foundation or the direction of his life was not built upon Christ. The way we find our direction is to ask the way from God and to listen attentively. Seeking out someone to guide us or direct us is an additional way. Spiritual Directors can help us listen to God's presence within us individually. District persons can help us find direction as a church.

Are you feeling directionally challenged? Then seek the mind of Christ. He is the One who holds the compass for our lives and gives us directions. He is the solid foundation for our direction. He's the one who holds the future. Ours is to listen and obey.

In Christ, for Christ,  
Pastor Carol M. Pfeiffer

### **Newsletter**

Due to the busy summer schedule, the newsletter for June and July is combined. The next newsletter will come out in August.

### **Important Congregational Meeting June 1!**

Wednesday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. the congregation will meet with our District Minister, Allen Kahler. All are invited to be present to explore options and receive District direction and input.



### **Lincoln High School Graduation**

Lincoln High School graduation will be June 4 at 6 p.m. The choirs will be performing. Beth Bowman is choir director.

### **Combined Adult and Youth Sunday School Classes – June 12**

There will be combined S.S. classes for adults and youth on **June 12 at 9:00 a.m.** Pastor Kelly Burk, a Congregational Visitor for Bethany will share a video or DVD updating us on Bethany and thanking the congregation for our support of Bethany.

### **Bible School June 20-24**

Bible School will be held June 20-24 starting at 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Round up children that you know and bring them to Bible School. Teachers are still needed. Contact Carol Bullock or Kathy Denney. The theme this year is "One, Two, Three Bible Adventure: Buckle Up For the Ride of Your Life."



### **Prayer Group**

A prayer group continues to meet on Thursday mornings at 7:45 a.m. Anyone is welcome.

### **Worship Leaders and Small Talk**

Never worship led or given a children's story before? Why not prayerfully consider if God is calling you to give of your abilities in this area? Worship aids are provided if you need them. We are always looking to give others the opportunity to use his or her gifts. Contact the worship team: Brad Bowman, chair, Beth Bowman and Rita Hilbert.

### **Music**

If you would like to participate with your gifts in music, be it special music, playing an instrument or participating as chorister, let the worship team know.



### **Billy Hall Heading to Spain**

Billy Hall is a participant in the Indiana University Honors program Foreign Languages. He was chosen from among 600 applicants for the program, which offers foreign language study in France, Germany, Spain and Mexico. Billy will spend part of June and July in Ciudad Real, Spain, immersed in the language and culture living with a no-English policy. We wish Billy a safe passage and enjoyable experience.

### **Sending Out for Ministry**

Nettle Creek has the privilege of sending out one of our licensed ministers, Bill House. Bill has been called as pastor to Marion Church of the Brethren, Marion, Indiana. Bill graduated from Bethany Theological Seminary last May. He has pastored some other churches before coming to worship with us and awaiting another call. So it is with mixed emotions that we send Bill and Sue out to the Marion congregation. Bill will begin June 1, and they will move sometime in July. We wish them both well as they make the transition and begin ministry at Marion. This is not farewell but “until we meet again.” Blessings on the journey to Bill and Sue.



*It takes all kinds of men and women, all kinds of churches and ministries, all kinds of circumstances to get God's message into our world.*

-Wes Roberts and Glenn Marshall

### **South Central Indiana Women's Camp June 9-11**

If you would still like to go to Women's Camp at Camp Mack, see **Kathy Denney**. The theme is “Which Path Do I Take?” Key leader is Sara St. Clair.

### **Brethren Press**

Brethren Press has their new 2005 Spring Book and Gift Catalog out. Check out the bulletin board for some nifty gifts including books, music, clothing and jewelry, gifts for moms, dads, and grads, and gifts for children and family. You can also go to [www.brethrenpress.com](http://www.brethrenpress.com) for items.

### **Annual Conference Briefing**

**June 26** is the briefing for Annual Conference at Kokomo Church of the Brethren at 2:30 p.m.

### **Annual Conference July 2-5**

Annual Conference is in **Peoria, Illinois** this year. The theme is *Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus*, Hebrews 12:1-4. The Church has always been in need of a call to remember Jesus. Sometimes the need came about because of persecution; sometimes there was heresy; sometimes there were distractions; always there was/is the temptation to focus on ourselves. It is not uncommon to hear the question, “What would Jesus do?” Or among the Brethren, “What is the mind of Christ?” Those are very legitimate questions.

### **Artist's Statement About Logo**

I wanted Jesus to be central to this logo—both conceptually and graphically. I chose light as the symbol which illustrates where we should fix our eyes: in a dark place (no matter how large) we look to light (no matter how small) as if our lives depend on it. Our Christian lives depend on being able to see the Light in the darkness. But this is not just any light, and it is not just for Christians; it breaks the bounds of darkness and goes out into the world in the form of the cross. The barbed wire has several levels of meaning: when used as a fence for animals, its purpose is to hinder and entangle—like the sins and distractions which Paul calls us to throw off. When barbed wire is used for people, its purpose is to restrict and exclude—it becomes a symbol of injustice and oppression. Finally, the form of the barbed wire suggests the crown of thorns—when used on Jesus its purpose was to wound and shame. It is this shame that Jesus scorned so that he could take a seat at the right hand of the throne of God. The Light overcomes sin, injustice, and shame, and by grace transforms them for the glory of



God. We have not endured nearly what Jesus did, but we also must persevere on the path before us; we draw encouragement and inspiration from our sisters and brothers in faith, but look to Jesus, who for our sake overcame his suffering, and gave us grace to transform our own. - Rosanna Eller McFadden

**Roasted Corn Stand at Wayne County Fair July 8-16**

“Get your roasted corn right here.” You may be hearing a lot of that at the Wayne County Fair this year. Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren will be having a roasted corn booth. So we will **need lots of volunteers**. The suggested time for opening the stand is **noon each day**. Hurry. Hurry. Hurry. Be the first to volunteer! See Tim and Juli Proctor to sign up.



**Bread and Cup Communion**

Bread and Cup Communion will be **July 17** during worship service. Come to remember our Lord and commemorate his life, death, and resurrection. “Do this in remembrance of me,” Jesus says.

**Church Council – July 31**

Be sure to be present for our Church Council to be held July 31. All members are urged to be there for the business of the church.

**Prayer Concerns**

<b>*Rose Overholt</b>	<b>*Roger Werking</b>	<b>*Geneva Davis</b>	Otis Johnson	Beth Stone
John McCormack	Eloise Beeson	Harriet Burroughs	Linda Stearns	Bob Klein
Carl Lang				

Homebound and Care Centers: Mary Werking, LuFreda Bowman, Bernetha Davis

**June/July Birthdays**

**June**

1	Lori Artman, Carolyn Wright
2	Mary Davis
3	Beverly Amick, Al Chapman, Kathryn Hoover
4	Jace Burroughs, Betty Miike
7	Donna Hollenberg, Ella Nicholson
9	June Kendrick, Zsanelle Hoover
10	Aleesa Drennen
12	Erica Hoover
13	Matthew Beaty
16	Randy Werking
17	Paula Sue Blair, Lee McIntire
18	Kim Hall
20	David Reneau
24	Margaret Briar
29	Lorna Peele
30	Moriah Stout

**July**

1	Paul Pfeiffer
2	Ashley Beaty
3	Sara Renaker
4	Jeanette Stout
5	Evan Hoover
13	Valerie Lyles, Heather Stout
14	Kirby Stout
17	Beth Bowman
20	Samuel Reagan
24	Derek Williams
25	Betty Hoover
26	Lindsay Artman
27	Jodi Johnson, Ray Hoover, Joe Williams, Heather Nicholson
31	Joshua Briar



**Giving for May**

Average Offering needed monthly to meet budget.....	\$1,465.29	
Average Offering for the month of May....(4 of 5 Sundays).....	\$1,206.02	
May 1.....	\$ 908.09	
May 8.....	\$ 1,755.00	
May 15.....	\$ 966.00	
May 22.....	\$ 1,195.00	
Smorgasbord: \$695.00	Rummage Sale: \$649.29	Disaster Relief: \$36.95



## Camp Mack



Summer campers will share the theme, “Explore God’s Calling!” Daily themes will include “Are You Seeking?”, “What Do You Hear?” “What Are You Waiting For?” “What Do You Make of It?” “Will you Share?” and “Will You Follow?”

**Grandparents:** Here are two great opportunities for you to create special memories with your grandchildren ages 5-10 at Camp Mack. Grand Camps: July 22-24 and August 7-9. Sign up today.

**Labor Day Family Camp** registration is due by July 15. 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 15.

**Interested in Camps?** Check with **Kathy Denney** for camp applications and other camp possibilities.

## Camp Alexander Mack Festival – October 1

**Mark your calendar for the Festival on October 1.** It’s a fun day for the whole family. There will be food and crafts. The Auction includes antiques, furniture, quilts, craft items, and other cool stuff. Churches can sign up for a food or craft booth. Items are always needed for the auction. The **fundraiser proceeds go to Camp Mack to provide Camper Scholarships and furnishings for lodges.**

## Caring Ministries Assembly: A Conference for Deacons, Pastors, Chaplains and Caregivers

Caring Ministries Assembly is sponsored by the Association of Brethren Caregivers. It will be held at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren in Virginia, August 11-13, 2005. The theme is “Peace Beyond Our Fear.” A brochure for the Assembly is on the bulletin board. Registration fees: \$100 regular (before July 29); \$125 late (after July 29); \$65 daily rate. Also, check out [www.brethren.org/abc/](http://www.brethren.org/abc/) information. We had five people from Nettle Creek attend last year. Why not get another group together this year. Check it out!

## **CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH** by Thom Tapp



**Church growth in the 21st Century.**