

News from the Brick

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

Established 1820



Paula Ulrich, Pastor
Home: 765-935-7438
ulrich.paula@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Tuesday: 1:30 p.m. -- 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 1:30 a.m. -- 4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. -- 12:30 p.m.



Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Worship: 10 a.m.

June/July
2009

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

From Paula's Desk

"Why We Do the Things We Do"

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13, King James Version)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen. (updated version from our Hymnal: A Worship Book)

Someone asked me recently why "The Lord's Prayer" is printed in the back of our hymnal. She asked why the wording has been changed, and why we're using it during worship (rather than saying it from memory). I have answers for those questions, but at first, caught a little off guard, I found myself kind of stuttering around. I've been thinking, though, that these questions are *great questions!* They urge us to think about the reasons that we do things. And, we *should* have reasons! Do we do something because that's the way we've always done it? Or do we do something because that's the way we *feel* like doing it? Or do we do things with *intention, purpose, and meaning?*

I have several reasons for using "The Lord's Prayer" as it's printed in our hymnal. One reason is that some of us grew up using different words. In the Church of the Brethren, most people learn to say "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." I grew up in the United Methodist Church, though, where I learned to say, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Those with a Catholic background end the prayer at "but deliver us from evil." I know *that* from personal experience. Saying it from memory during a Catholic Mass once, I kept speaking after everyone else stopped. Even if I had wanted to, there was no way that I could have pretended I was Catholic by going forward for communion after that!

So, people of different backgrounds say the prayer differently. I rather like the version we have in the hymnal. It avoids the confusion over what "debts" or "trespasses" mean by saying, "Forgive us