

News from the Brick

Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren
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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 and July ***2011*** ***Newsletter***

From Pastor Paula's Desk

*“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned. . . . In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. . . . On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?” Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” **John 14:14-23***

Pentecost, when we celebrate the ***spirit-breathed birth of the church***, is June 12. It's one of my favorite days, and I really wish we would make a bigger deal out of it than we do! Jesus ascended to heaven after the resurrection. A twelfth disciple was chosen to replace Judas. And the disciples were sitting in Jerusalem together when “*suddenly, from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.*” (Acts 2:2-4)

Perhaps the reason we don't celebrate Pentecost the way that we celebrate Easter and Christmas is that it's so much more confusing. And scary. Jesus promised, in his physical absence, that he would send an Advocate to us. But this Advocate seems to be even more mysterious, unpredictable, and difficult to explain than our invisible God and the Jesus we can no longer see or touch. We might even feel wary about what this Advocate will do – given that it comes to the disciples like a rushing wind and divided tongues of fire! But David Lose, one of my favorite commentators, helps us to get a better handle on the Advocate. He says that the scripture gives us two clues about what the Holy Spirit looks like. He writes, “The Holy Spirit looks like a friend who stands up for you when you need it, who lends you a helping hand, who takes your side, and who won't leave you while

you're down.” And here's clue number two: Lose says, “The Holy Spirit looks like Jesus.” We might say that Jesus was the Word (God) made flesh. And the Holy Spirit is the Word that is not flesh.

Even after Jesus is no longer physically present, anyone who believes and who has eyes to see will still see him. And not only that! The Trinity will be within those who believe and follow Jesus. A religious word that we sometimes use for that is *abiding*. We live in one another! I don't know about you, but I am struck by the fact that not only does Christ live within us, but we live within him, too! Frankly, this isn't only Trinity – it's *Quadrinity*! Every person who loves Christ is part of a Quadrinity! That's not saying that we are worthy of worship like the Trinity, or that we are equal to the Trinity. Yet, we are an essential partner in a Quadrinity. It's not heretical or disrespectful or even arrogant to claim this. It doesn't make us God. But we are in an *intimate community relationship with God*. And this relationship spiritually charges us to love others like Jesus did.

So what does the Holy Spirit look like? Of course, it's bigger and more than we can begin to describe. But maybe the Spirit sometimes looks like you. Or like one of your neighbors, or someone else you know. Whenever anyone loves like Jesus, we see the Holy Spirit. Whenever anyone stands up for someone, we see the Holy Spirit. Whenever anyone bears the love of Jesus to someone else through the things that they do, we see the Holy Spirit. The world might not notice or recognize it. They might think someone is simply being nice. But the world doesn't know and isn't looking for Jesus. We will notice him, though, because we have eyes for seeing him.

So where have you seen the Holy Spirit this past week? What did the Spirit look like? Did it look like you? *Come, Holy Spirit! Give us eyes – and open our hearts – to see you!*



June Calendar

- 5 Short Council Meeting before Worship to vote on Accepting and Supporting Claire Flowers-Waggener as a Ministry Formation Student for the 2011/12 Academic Year
- 7 Board Meeting at 6:30
- 9 Women's Fellowship at 6:30
- 12 Pentecost Sunday and Puppets; Refreshments between Sunday School and Worship; Special Offering for Camp Mack
- 18 Wayne County Fair begins
- 19 Happy Father's Day!; “Exploring Your Call” teenagers with us for worship!

- 21 Deacons Meeting at 6:30 (working on October ballot & shepherding groups)
- 26 “Exploring Your Call” teenagers with us again!; “Fill the Cart” Sunday
- 27 Cambridge City's 175th Anniversary Week of Celebration

July Calendar

- 2 – 6 Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 5 Board Meeting, 6:30
- 10 Refreshments between Sunday School and Worship; Special Offering for Brethren Caregivers
- 24 “Fill the Cart” Sunday and Puppets; Faith Night at the River Rats!
- 31 “Red Hymnal” Sunday

Birthdays!

June 7 Ella Nicholson

July 17 Beth Bowman



Teenagers in our Worship!

Two teenage girls will be joining us for worship on June 19 and on June 26! They will be participating in “Exploring Your Call” at Bethany, which is a program designed for high school students who are considering ministry. They will shadow Pastor Paula on Saturdays, June 18 and 25. Then they will participate in worship with our congregation the next morning. **We still need a host family for both girls (together) on Saturday night, June 25.** This includes an evening meal, a place to sleep, giving them breakfast the next morning, and bringing them to Sunday School and worship. Also, if you would like to take the girls out for lunch, the meal on Sunday, June 19, is still available. If you would be interested in providing hospitality that weekend, please let Pastor Paula know.

Upcoming Scriptures for Worship

You are invited to prepare for worship each week by reading the following scriptures.

- June 5: Acts 1:1-14
June 12 (Pentecost!): Acts 2:1-21
June 19: Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a
June 26: Genesis 22:1-14
July 3 (Annual Conference with guest preacher)
July 10: Genesis 25:19-34
July 17 (Pastor Paula on vacation)
July 24: Matthew 13:31-33
July 31: Genesis 32:22-31



Nettle Creek Faith Community Night

Benefiting Habitat for Humanity of Greater Richmond



Sunday, July 24th

A unique night for the Nettle Creek Faith Community to bring faith and baseball together.

Tickets: \$5.00

50% of ticket sales will be donated to Habitat for Humanity

Game Day:

- 4:00 pm: VIP Entrance
4:30 pm: Inspirational Message
Christian Music
6:00 pm: National Anthem
First Pitch By Special Guest
6:05 pm: Richmond River Rats vs. Chillicothe Paints

Kids, After The Game:

- Run the bases
Pictures with Ribbie, the River Rats mascot
Meet the players and get their autographs

For Further Information: Contact Hagerstown First United Methodist Church

(765) 489-4558 www.firsthagerstown.org

Faith Community Night at the Richmond River Rats to Support Habitat

Join the Nettle Creek Community for some fun, faith, and baseball on Sunday, July 24. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time. Please speak with Pastor Paula if you would like a ticket.

Habitat Volunteering

Habitat work days are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The work day begins at 8 a.m., and ends at 4 p.m., with lunch served

from 12 to 1. You must be at least fourteen years old to work on-site. Everyone is welcome to volunteer as you can. For more information, you may contact Carol Bullock at 489-5862 or 489-4372.

Inquirers' Class

Have you thought about becoming a member of our congregation? Are you living here temporarily, and you'd like to become an associate member while you're worshipping with us? Are you a member, but you'd like a refresher course on our denomination's values and practices and what they mean? Have you ever tried to explain what the Brethren are about, and found yourself saying, "Well, we're kind of like the Mennonites?" If you've answered yes to any of those questions, then this class might be for you.

Please let Pastor Paula know if you are interested. Once we have a group, we will plan together when and how often to meet (*for example: we could have a one-time, longer conversation, or we could have weekly conversations for a certain number of weeks*). Also, you are not committing to membership by coming to class. Simply come and explore!

Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, MI – July 2-6

From Brother Robert Alley, 2011 Moderator of AC: For over 250 years, Annual Conference has served a valuable role in the life of the Christian movement known as the Church of the Brethren. We have gathered to seek the mind of Christ on matters of common concern, mission, and service. Much of this history informs how Brethren live out God's presence in their families, congregations, districts, and the world. However, that history extends beyond the minutes of business to the more prayerful manner in which

Brethren enter into the gathering of Conference.

Our Annual Conference theme this year is **“Gifted with Promise: Extending Jesus' Table.”** Please keep everyone traveling to and from Annual Conference in your prayers. Also pray for our delegate body and all those present as decisions are made that we will indeed enter our time together prayerfully and with love for one another. Beverly Nicholson will attend as our delegate. Others from our congregation who will be attending are Leland Nicholson, Pastor Paula, Dan Ulrich, Vivek and Shefali Solanky, and Claire and Keegan Waggener. If you have something you want to share, a concern, or a question about Annual Conference, please feel free to speak with Beverly or with Pastor Paula.

Brethren Disaster Relief Update from Newline

The Church of the Brethren's Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) has distributed \$362,500 in grants for disaster relief and rebuilding in Haiti, Japan, Libya, and Tennessee and other areas of the South and Midwest affected by tornadoes and flooding. An allocation of \$300,000 continues support for the Church of the Brethren's work in Haiti following the devastating earthquake of January 2010. This year, our work in Haiti has the following goals: to build 25 new homes; repair 25 damaged homes; provide safe drinking water in locations with clusters of Brethren-built homes; support sustainable agricultural in communities impacted by the earthquake or receiving survivors; build a hospitality center to house US guests/volunteers and to provide a national office for the Haitian Church of the Brethren; support partners in improving health care for all Haitians; and support pastors and church members in emotional and spiritual recovery from the trauma of disasters.

Brethren again affected by violence in Nigeria

Nigeria mission staff Nathan and Jennifer Hosler have provided the following update (this is an excerpt) on post-election violence in Nigeria; how it has affected Brethren congregations there; and how Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN--the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) is responding. The Hoslers are teaching at EYN's Kulp Bible College and working with the EYN Peace Program.

Nigeria held a presidential election on April 16. The winner, Goodluck Jonathan, is a Christian southerner. A Muslim northern candidate, General Buhari, won in the north. Goodluck Jonathan was able to get at least 25 percent of the vote in northern states and he held the entire south. When Buhari lost, rioting erupted all across northern cities in Nigeria. Small Mubi and Michika (towns close to Kulp Bible College and EYN Headquarters) also experienced violence. There was an allegation of corruption by the loser but all the international observers concurred that the election was relatively free and fair (a huge step for Nigeria). In total, five EYN churches were attacked. Four were burnt in Biu and one damaged in Kaduna. Other denominations were also affected; the targets of attack were anything Christian, or Muslim supporters of the Christian candidate. In the aftermath of the violence, EYN will press forward. Much of its ministry will continue as normal, while also picking up the pieces, rebuilding, and trying to heal from the trauma of burnt homes, shops, and churches. While prevention work can be done, the long-term circumstances of the conflict have not changed. The next crisis could be just around the corner. Yet the church is not standing still, waiting for crisis to break out. Jesus commanded his followers to be "as wise as

serpents and as harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16, KJV). Peace work will press forward, cautiously. Trust has been broken--and there was not much trust between Muslim and Christian communities to begin with. A needed initiative is a conflict monitoring system, a communication structure in place that involves paying heed to warning signs, rumors, and alerting authorities before violence occurs.

KID'S KORNER

Father's Day – June 19, 2011



What Makes a Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad

Author Unknown

FATHER'S DAY ACTIVITY

One of the top 10 father's day movies is the Lion King. This story takes place in Africa in a place called the Pride Lands. The powerful King Mufasa is a lion trying to teach his young cub, Simba, the secrets to being a good leader so that one day he may inherit the throne. However, Simba's jealous uncle has other plans and soon Simba's whole life is turned upside down. Why not fix your Dad his favorite snack and watch the movie together.

A Pocket Card for Dad



You'll need:

Light and dark blue paper
3 more pieces of any color paper
3 Craft sticks
Markers and glue

To Make:

1. Using the dark blue paper make a picture of a back pocket (as on a pair of jeans). You'll want it to be large enough to hold the craft sticks.
2. Fold the light blue paper in half, to make a card.
3. Glue the sides and bottom of the dark Blue pocket onto the card, leaving the top open.
4. Make three shapes out of the other colors.
5. On each shape write something you would like to help your dad with i.e. rake, mow, wash cars, cook laundry etc. Or you can write messages like: Give a hug, massage, breakfast in bed etc.
6. Glue the shapes onto the sticks.
7. Place the sticks into the pocket and write your loving message inside!

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Planning the perfect Father's Day starts with a special breakfast in bed or with the family gathered around the breakfast table.

Crispy French Toast

6 bread slices
1/2 cup milk
2 eggs, beaten
1/4 teaspoon sugar
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1 tablespoon oil

Beat eggs. Add milk, sugar, and cinnamon and mix together. Use a fork to dip each bread slice into the mixture one at a time. The key here is to dip it in the mixture long enough to soak well, but not too long so you avoid it breaking apart.

Cook bread on a hot griddle or skillet over medium heat for 2 to 3 minutes on each side. Use a potato masher to gently press down so your French toast is crispy and golden in the center without burning the crust.

Suggested toppings: pure maple syrup, powdered sugar, creamed honey, cream cheese.



Kids love to create. Food is no exception! Here are some fun treats to make this Fourth of July. Help your kids surprise your family and friends with these delicious additions to the dessert table.

Pretzel Sparklers

long rod pretzels
white chocolate, melted
sprinkles (red, white and blue) or star cake decorations

Melt the white chocolate. Dip the pretzel rod halfway into the melted chocolate then sprinkle the sprinkles over the wet chocolate. Lay on waxed paper or place in a cup to dry.

FAMILY FUN ON THE 4TH OF JULY

Everyone typically concentrates on fireworks and barbecues. This year, why not concentrate on making the Fourth of July fun for the kids in your life?

Things You'll Need

- 4th Of July Party Supplies
- Fourth Of July Party Favors
- Crayons
- Construction Paper
- Tents
- red, white and blue kites

Dress the kids in red, white and blue to help set the mood. Make sure they're wearing comfortable play clothes.

Read a children's story about Independence Day and teach the kids songs like "Yankee Doodle Dandy," "America the Beautiful" and "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Help the kids with some Fourth of July crafts. You can make wooden firecrackers, a construction paper flag and a fireworks celebration on paper.

Find some Fourth of July coloring books or print some coloring pages from a children's Web site. Make sure each child has red and blue crayons.

Set up a tent in the yard. It can serve as a fort, a hideout and a convenient place for afternoon naps.

Encourage the kids to help decorate your Fourth of July dinner table. They can gather flowers for a bouquet, sprinkle the table with stars and confetti, and even help set the places.

Purchase some sparklers and pop-its for older children if they're available in your area. With proper supervision, these small fireworks can help kids feel like they're part of the party.

FLAG TAG

Each member of a group of kids is given a paper ribbon that is tied around his waist and dangles behind him to his knees. The ribbon is red, white or blue and is prominently marked with the names George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. The significance of the founding fathers is explained to the children. The kids then stand in a large, loose circle of adults and are given one of the names as the one they are to collect from the other players. The kids then chase one another. The first child to pull all of the ribbons from the waists of the others bearing the name he was assigned wins the contest.

