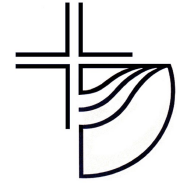


News from the Brick

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
nettlecreekcob@tmcsmail.com
www.nettlecreekcob.com



Eloise Beeson, Secretary
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

March
2005

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

Carol's Comments

"Vanilla or Tiger Paw With Sprinkles"

John 10:10 ...*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

I am thinking about ice cream. The ice cream shop in town just opened again under new management. Yes, I've been there already. But I didn't get chocolate, my favorite. I got vanilla. Actually, vanilla is the number one selling ice cream according to polls. Chocolate comes in second place. I like ice cream. My personal favorite, though, is probably chocolate almond or mint chocolate chip. (Are you surprised?) When Bob and I go to an ice cream parlor that has lots of flavors, I usually stick to my favorites though it may take me a long time to decide. Vanilla just doesn't seem to have enough flavor for me.

I thought I'd take a look at some different flavor names on the internet, and I found these "conservative" flavors from Star Spangled Ice Cream website. There I discovered such names as KerryBerry, Choc & Awe, Iraqi Road, Government, Prale to the Chief and others. On another site I found Wisconsin Cherry Cheesecake and Cherry Almond. Kids tend to like Superman or bubble gum flavors. Not me. I never did like those exotic flavors. Give me a chocolate cone or one that has some chocolate in it any day. Cherry Cordial will do just fine too. (It has chocolate in it). We even have different types of cones in which to put our ice cream: cake cones, sugar cones, waffle cones. Or you can just get your ice cream in a dish.



Going to an ice shop can be an adventure in itself in trying to decide what flavor to choose—so many choices. I've often changed my mind from one chocolate choice to another. And then I still have to choose the kind of cone! You might say that I play it safe with flavor—the familiar.

What does ice cream have to do with God? When we walk into an ice cream parlor we are confronted with so many choices. In our life of faith we are confronted with the challenge or adventure to grow in Christ. It can be daunting to figure out how to go about strengthening our faith. Some of us take our growth in Christ seriously and are open to different experiences to stretch us. Others of us like to play it safe with the same kind of services, programs, or devotional life. Or we could say we like to play it safe with just having a vanilla or chocolate cone faith.

In this Lenten season, we need to reflect upon what kind of spiritual people we are: vanilla in a plain cone or double-scoop tiger paw in a waffle cone with sprinkles. Does Christ, our Lord, bring "life" to us or not? Are we playing it safe in our faith not thinking about our experience and not exploring opportunities to grow in new ways? I pray that during this season of Lent that we will each examine our lives and see if we are indeed living the "abundant life." Jesus came so that we might have *life and have it to the full* (John 10:10). If faith feels dull, lifeless, plain like vanilla, then maybe it's time to let God surprise us with a new "flavor" to life. Maybe we need to review our life of faith and notice where God has put in some sprinkles of life but we were too busy to notice. Or maybe we need to open ourselves up to receive a burst of the Holy Spirit in each of us.

The spiritual life can be contagious when we allow God's spirit to enliven us, to stretch us, to meet us in those holy encounters each day. So, what will it be: vanilla or double-dip tiger paw in a waffle cone? In Christ, for Christ,
Pastor Carol M. Pfeiffer

A Thank You from the Youth

The youth of the church would like to thank everybody for their attendance to the **Valentine Banquet**. They **served 112** meals and made a profit of \$873.00. Your support was greatly appreciated.



World Day of Prayer

Church Women United is sponsoring the World Day of Prayer on **Saturday, March 5 at the UCC church at 9:30 a.m.** Rev. Sue Cartee will speak on "Let Your Light Shine." Nursery provided. Everyone welcome.

Mennonite Mutual Aid

The Mennonite Mutual Aid Sharing Funds provided \$50.00 in matching funds to support special needs in our church last year. Dee Reneau serves as the MMA advocate in our congregation. Brochures are available on the table in the East Sunday School Classroom.

Opportunities for Growth

- **Mission Alive 2005**, a national missions conference, will take place **April 1-3, 2005** at Goshen, Indiana. "This will be a gathering of a broad cross-section of the church, including pastors, young people, congregational and district board members, Sunday School teachers, both former and prospective missionaries, and mission supporters. It would be great to have every congregation represented," says the Steering Committee. Sharing God's Good News has both local and international dimensions. The conference seeks to empower both the congregation's role in its community and the whole denominations' role in international mission. See **Dee Reneau or Pastor Carol** for a brochure. Registration cost is \$50.00 until March 15, and \$60.00 after this deadline. Participation in segments of the program is also invited. On-line registration is available at the Mission Alive 2005 page of www.brethren.org.
- **Building Healthy Congregations: Equipping Conflict Transformation Teams** is a Ministry of Reconciliation Workshop for Pastors and Shalom D & R Team Members. The workshop will take place at New Windsor Conference Center, New Windsor, Maryland, **April 3-8**. Registration fees varies depending on the sections of the workshop that people will be attending. Brochures are available on the bulletin board.
- **Brimming With Worship: Celebrating Music and the Arts in Worship** is a part of Bethany Theological Seminary's centennial celebration. This conference is for church leaders who are interested in enhancing the worship experiences of their congregations and their own understanding of the role of music and the arts in worship. Keynote speakers are Sally Morgenthaler, "Is There Worship After Contemporary?" James Abbington, "Worship as Ritual and Lifestyle" Dena Pence Frantz "Birds and Flames: Occasions for God's Presence" Other leadership includes: Melissa Delman, Zach Noffsinger Erbaugh, Nancy Faus, Karen Ander Francis, Charles H. Goehring, Matt Guynn, Joseph Helfrich, Judy Hollandsworth, Tara Hornbacker, Brian Messler, Joyce Petry, Frank Ramirez, Mary Ellen Sellars, Jonathan Shively, and Rebecca Slough. The conference will take place **Friday-Sunday, April 8-10 at the Richmond Church of the Brethren, Richmond, Indiana. Registration is \$99.00 for commuters, the first person in the congregation to register.**



Additional persons are \$69.00. If you would like to attend see **Brad Bowman or Pastor Carol** for a registration form. Late fee of \$30.00 charged after March 8.

- **Cross Cultural Worship, Saturday, April 23, 2005** will be held at the



Eaton Church of the Brethren, 6:30 p.m. located at 1407 N. Barron Street, Eaton, Ohio. Join for prayers, music, testimonies from the faithful heritages of our Haitian, African-American, Indian, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Dominican and Anglo Brothers and Sisters. Special Guest is the Gospel Choir, First Church of the Brethren, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. For further information contact Duane Grady, Congregational Life Team 1-800-505-1596 or dgrady_gb@brethren.org .

Friends of Timbercrest

If you would like to join “Friends of Timbercrest” (formerly the Auxiliary), dues are \$3.00 annually or \$40.00 for a lifetime membership. Timbercrest is our Retirement home located at North Manchester, Indiana. The dues are used for non-budgeted items at Timbercrest. Past projects include rocking chairs for the health care, VCR projector, courtyard gazebo just to name a few. See Dee Reneau to be a member of “Friends of Timbercrest.”

Lenten Suppers Continue



Our Lenten Suppers will continue on these dates: March 2, 9, and 16 at 6:00 p.m. We will have a soup and fellowship and then move into a time of informal worship. If you have not attended one, there is still time to come and share together.

Baby Dedication, Baptisms and Transfer of Membership

Palm Sunday, March 20 Ella Nicholson will be dedicated by her parents, Heather and Dennis Nicholson. Immediately following worship we will receive by letter of transfer Laura Nicholson and Geneva Davis. By baptisms we will receive into our congregation, Howard Davis, Heather Nicholson, Barry Nicholson, and Joy Klein.

Community Good Friday Service to be Held at Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren

The Nettle Creek Ministerial Association is holding the Community Good Friday Service at Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren. It will begin at **noon**. **Pastor Tom Triggs** from Sugar Grove Community Church will bring the message. Scripture and song will help us reflect upon the day Christ was crucified.



Love Feast

Our Love Feast will be held on Maundy Thursday, **March 25 at 7:00 p.m.** In Love Feast we examine our hearts and confess our sins, participate in footwashing, share the common meal, and receive communion. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to observe, feel free to come and worship with us in this meaningful service of remembering our Lord.

Easter Sunrise Service



The Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren Youth will present “Easter...the Mystery and the Promise” for our Sunrise service beginning at 7:00 a.m. Come share in this inspiring service and remain for breakfast afterwards.

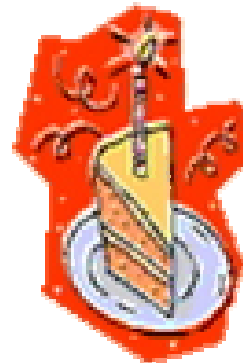
Congratulations on 65th Wedding Anniversary

Ruby and John McCormack celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on February 17.



March Birthdays

- 2 Lisa Briar
- 7 Otis Johnson
- 7 Jeff Stout
- 8 Charles Paddock, Chris Tremps
- 9 Amy Meyer
- 12 Bob Bullock
- 13 Mark Werking, Matthew Beeson, Helen Wieseke
- 14 Linda Patterson, Richard Lyles
- 17 Pastor Carol Pfeiffer
- 18 Jason Schmittler
- 26 Danny McMillian
- 27 Kaitlyn Lyles
- 28 Claire Lester, Cybil Homes



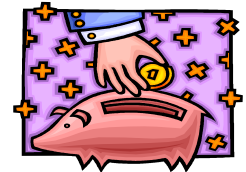
Continuing to Pray for...

***Linda Stearns (Sue House’s daughter) *Ruby House (Bill House’s mother)**

Eloise Beeson Harriet Burroughs Bob Klein Jane Briar
 Jonah Schmittler Cliff & Mary Jane Renaker
 Home: Mary Werking , Raymond Hoover, Viola Nicholson, Ruth Crull,
 Care Center: LuFreda Bowman, Bernetha Davis

Giving For February

Average Offering needed monthly to meet budget.....	\$1,465.29
Average Offering last four (4) Sunday's	\$1,075.76
Jan 30.....	\$1,679.26
Feb 06	\$ 873.00
Feb 13	\$1,240.00
Feb 20	\$ 510.77
Feb 27.....	Not available at press.....
Health Kits offering (above & beyond offering)	\$ 525.00
Pennies from Heaven (above & beyond offering) sent to Emergency Disaster Relief.....	\$ 256.80
Average Attendance for February	57



Denominational News – Keeping Informed

- **Unique workcamp joins Don Vermilyea on his walk**—Still looking for a workcamp? Senior high youth and advisors are encouraged to join Don Vermilyea on his Walk Across America as he spreads the church’s message of continuing the work of Jesus—peacefully, simply, together. This workcamp takes place June 27o-July 2, ending in Peoria, Illinois. For more details contact the Youth/Young Adult Ministries office at 800-323-8039 or cobyouth_gb@brethren.org
- **Young Adult Conference set for Memorial Day weekend**—The 2005 Young Adult Conference will be held at Camp Woodland Altars in Southern Ohio, May 27-29. the theme, “Provoking One Another in Love and Good Deeds,” is based on Hebrews 10:34. the weekend will be filled with worship, music, and fellowship. Shawn Kirchner and Joseph Hilfrich will lead music. Becky Ullom and Walt Wiltschek will coordinate worship. Preachers include Margo Miller and Cliff Kindy. For information call the Youth/Young Adult Ministry office, 800-323-88039, ext. 289.

Camp Mack

- Don't miss the April 1 Discount date for registering for summer camp. Please turn in your completed registration forms and your share of the fee to your Camp Representative by Easter Sunday, March 27. The \$20,00 discount offered for many camps ends April 1. After that date campers will be accepted for the full fee.
- **Volunteers are needed!** All available adults are invited to our Volunteer Work Camps: March 21-23 and April 25-27. Call the Camp at 574-658-4831 to volunteer. No charge.
- **Mother/Daughter Weekend is April 9-10.** Together you may make soap, create soy candles, make church dolls, weave baskets, make a windowsill garden and enjoy many other activities. Fee: \$120 for mother and daughter, \$55 each for additional daughters or grandma.
- **80th Anniversary Celebration:** The grand celebration event for Camp's 80th year in ministry is **May 1**. All congregations are invited to join together that day for worship in Quinter-Miller Auditorium at 10:30 a.m. Joy Young Switzer, new President of Manchester College will be the guest speaker. **The restored Rose Window will be dedicated**. Activities for all ages will follow a soup and sandwich luncheon. The day will culminate with a 3:00 p.m. campfire, including kettle popcorn, and vespers at 3:30 p.m. We hope all Indiana congregations will fill Quinter-Miller on May 1.
- **Quite Place Quote:** *God is always at home. It is we who have gone out for a walk.* – Meister Eckhart



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

