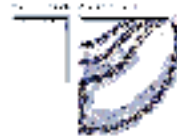


# News from the Brick

**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  
[pastor@nettlecreekcob.com](mailto:pastor@nettlecreekcob.com)  
[www.nettlecreekcob.com](http://www.nettlecreekcob.com)



Jodi Johnson, Secretary  
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.  
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

**March 2006**      *Continuing the Work of Jesus.  
Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

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## Carol's Comments

### "Come"

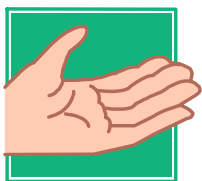
1 "Come, let us return to the LORD; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up.<sup>2</sup> After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.<sup>3</sup> Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth."

Hosea 6: 1-3 NRSV

<sup>28</sup>"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:38 NRSV

The other morning I was not quite fully awake, and I remember that I was praying. The word "come" floated across my mind. It was just that one word, "come." As I aroused more fully awake, I pondered that word. Of course, I believe it was God speaking that word to me. I thought about looking up the word in the concordance. I spoke to my spiritual director about it, and she encouraged me to spend time with the word, "come." What was it that God was inviting me to?



I thought about my dog, Schnickelfritz, and his non-response to the word, "come." I took him to obedience school. We had practiced giving the command with a treat as a reward when he came to me. He was very eager to "come" when there was a reward. But most times now when I call, "Come Schnickelfritz," he just stretches and looks at me. Having no treat in my hand, he doesn't come. He tends to hang back just out of my reach. He's not the only dog we've owned that didn't respond to the word.

So I wonder about myself. And I wonder about all of us. What is God inviting us to do or to be? When do we come to God? Do we need some sort of assurance of a reward before we will come to God? Do we hesitate to see if God has an ulterior motive if we do come? Will God ask us to do something we're just not that thrilled about? Will God stretch us? Will God ask us to forgive someone we just don't want to have anything to do with? Will we be challenged to give up some habits that are standing in the way of our Christian discipleship and growth? Will we be asked to change in some way or to change things at church that we're least excited about?

"Come" is a word of invitation. I suppose it depends on the tone of voice whether the word feels very inviting or not. When I get exasperated at Schnickelfritz's non-response, I tend to use a more harsh-sounding, "Come!" Perhaps that is the way God's "come" feels to us at times. But when we look to scripture, we hear the love not the harshness. "Come, let us return to the Lord..." "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Both of these "comes" are invitations to come to God...to draw near...to get to know the Lord...to receive rest from our heavy burdens.

When I called, "Come," to my pet, I wanted him to come closer...be nearer to me. The same goes for God's call of "come." God invites each of us to draw nearer to him. It is a grand invitation to be called into his presence. It is love that summons us...always love.

So...ponder that word for yourself. How do you feel when you hear, "Come?" And are you ready to respond joyfully or reluctantly? Come, let us worship the Lord together. Come.

In Christ, for Christ,  
Pastor Carol Pfeiffer

### **World Day of Prayer**

This year the World Day of Prayer will be held at **Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren** on **March 4** at 9:30 a.m. with the Rev. Sue Cartee, the United Methodist pastor, as the speaker. She recently returned from a trip to Africa.

### **Church Growth Feedback**

**March 5 after worship**, we will enjoy **soup and sandwiches** while giving feedback concerning our meeting with Markle Church of the Brethren folks, who came to share with us their journey of growth. We "meet, eat, and share." Come and bring your ideas and questions regarding the church's future and how you can be a part. All are welcome whether you attended the previous meeting or not.



### **Every Monday -- Movin' on Monday's in March.**

Here's a chance to move (just a little) and learn (just a little) about healthy eating. Join me on Mondays in March, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall for a 1-2 mile indoor walk and a nutrition tip. Wear walking shoes! See you then!- Julie Potter

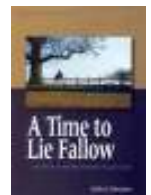
### **Rank of Eagle Scout to be bestowed on March 19**



**Please join Troop 1832 as we honor Allan Michael Bullock** as he receives the rank of **Eagle Scout**, Sunday, **March 19, 2006, at 2 p.m.** at the **Church of the Nazarene**, 630 East Main Street, Hagerstown, Indiana. A reception follows the ceremony. We are proud of Allan and his accomplishments.

### **Lenten Devotional Booklets**

Lenten Devotional Booklets are available at the rear of the sanctuary. You may place a \$2 offering in a brown envelope marked "Lenten Booklets" to help with the cost if you wish. Lent began March 1.



### **Lenten Offering Coin Folders**

**Lenten Offering coin folders** are also available. Save your quarters through the six weeks of Lent. There is a slot for checks if one would rather give in that way. Children and youth are encouraged to participate as well. The offering will be sent to the Denomination and the District. We will **collect** the folders on Easter Sunday.

### **Prayer Groups**



Anyone who wants to be committed to and involved in church growth may join together at **8 a.m. each Sunday morning** for focused prayer. Every Thursday morning at **7:45 a.m. is another Prayer Group meeting. Come join us for prayer on Thursdays.**

### **90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**March 13 Mark Werking will be 90 years old.** Congratulations to Mark! Mark continues to teach an adult Sunday School class. That just goes to show that one is never too old to serve the Lord. We appreciate Mark and all he has done at Nettle Creek through the years.



**Thank You from the Youth**

The Youth would like to thank everyone for their support at the **Sweetheart Dinner**. We hope you enjoyed a nice evening and good food. We greatly appreciate those who brought outside guests to enjoy the evening. Thanks to all of you we made a net profit of \$715. Thanks again.



**Thank You to the Youth**

Those who attended the Sweetheart Dinner, Sunday, February 26, would like to thank the youth for a wonderful dinner. If you did not get to attend, don't miss next year's event. The decorations were just beautiful and set the mood for all the sweethearts in our lives. Good job, kids!

**Worship Leader**

March 5 Otis Johnson  
 March 12 Sally Schmittler  
 March 19 Linda DeVinney  
 March 26 Heather Nicholson

**Children's Story**

Otis Johnson  
 Sally Schmittler  
 Pastor Carol  
 Heather Nicholson ?

**Nursery**

Beverly & Leland Nicholson  
 Teresa Renaker & Drew C-Proctor

**Chorister**

March 5 Marjorie Briar  
 March 12 Marjorie Briar  
 March 19 Sally Schmittler  
 March 26 Sally Schmittler



**Prayer Concerns**

<b>*Betty Hoover</b>	Philip Pfeiffer	Bob Pfeiffer (back)	Ray Wood
Ruth Wilson	Margaret Briar	Geneva & Howard Davis	Jack Scott
Marcy Commons	Gratia Waskom	Bill Hall	Sheila Weaver
Jay Burroughs	Bob Klein	Gary Stout	Roger Werking
Eloise Beeson	Don Seibert		

**Home:** Mary Werking, Harriet Burroughs, Ruth Crull, Viola Nicholson, Bernetha Davis

**Care Center:** LuFreda Bowman

(Please let Pastor Carol or Jodi Johnson know if you want someone placed on or removed from the Prayer List.)

**Giving For February**

<b>Average Weekly Offering needed to meet budget.....</b>	<b>\$1,465.29</b>
<b>Average Offering for February.....</b>	<b>\$1,214.11</b>
5.....	\$1,241.00
12.....	\$1,187.00
19.....	\$1,028.41
26.....	\$1,400.00
<b>Average Attendance for February.....</b>	<b>43</b>



Other giving:

Manchester College	\$	5.00
District Dues	\$	55.90
Offering Envelopes	\$	10.00
Lent Devotionals	\$	15.00

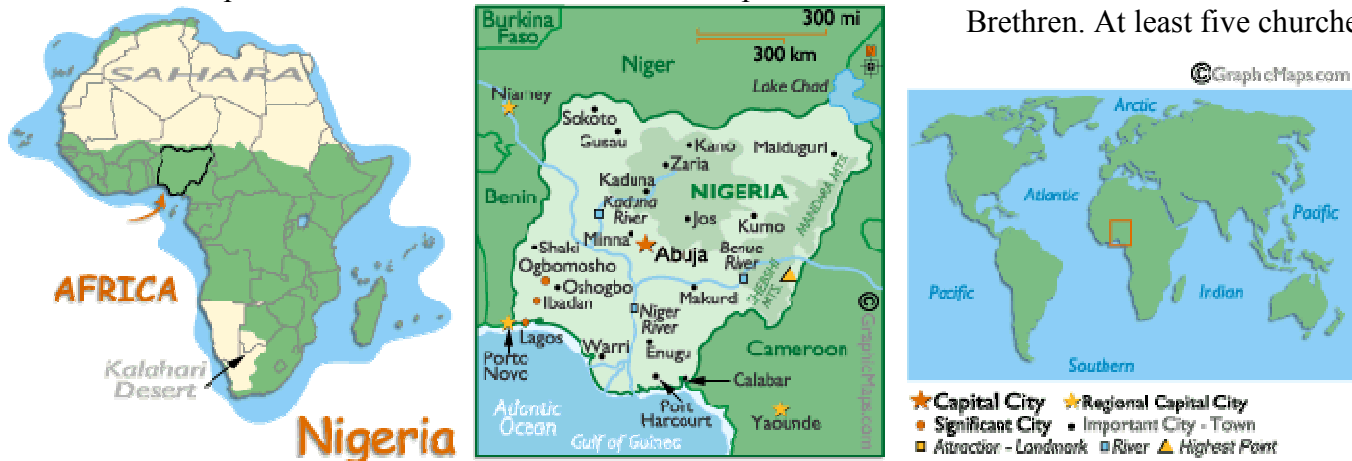


## Habitat for Humanity of Greater Richmond, Inc. 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Habitat for Humanity is holding a 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Fund Raising Celebration on **March 10 at 6:00 p.m.** At the Fourth Floor Blues Club. The speaker is Sally Hutton, Mayor. There will be a catered Dinner and Silent Auction. For Tickets Call: 765-962-5986. Tickets can be delivered. You are invited to see what this dynamic organization is doing for the Richmond Community, and how you can be a part of it.

## Nigerian Brethren Injured, Churches Burned

The Church of the Brethren in Nigeria is in a part of the country with a long history of Christian-Muslim tension. Riots in protest of the Danish cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed have caused trouble for the Nigerian Brethren. At least five churches of



Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN--the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) were damaged or destroyed in Maiduguri, Nigeria, according to an e-mail report from Robert Krouse, Nigeria mission coordinator for the Church of the Brethren General Board.

Five EYN members were seriously injured in the rioting on Saturday, Feb. 18, in addition to the damage to buildings. The Associated Press reported that at least 15 people were killed as Muslims attacked Christians and burned churches In Maiduguri, 15 churches, including those of EYN, were burned as thousands of rioters held a three-hour rampage.

The five EYN churches that have been damaged are EYN Farm Center, which was completely destroyed; EYN Polo, which was burned but not completely destroyed; EYN Gomarigana, which was burned but not completely destroyed; EYN Bulunkutu, which has steel beams that could not be burned, "so all the pews and other furniture were put in a pile and burned," Krouse said. EYN Dala, which was destroyed in similar violence in 1996, also was completely destroyed, Krouse said.

"There is no (loss of) life involved in the crises in Maiduguri in EYN churches, but many people died from other denominations," reported Markus Gamache, a business manager for EYN.

"Unfortunately there may be additional things to report," Krouse said, adding that the rioting may have affected more EYN churches. "As of late afternoon, Monday, Feb 20, the situation had not been contained," he said. There is the potential for similar episodes of violence in other places in northern Nigeria, Krouse said. "At this point all Church of the Brethren staff are safe and secure," he reported. Krouse asked for prayers for peace in Nigeria. "*Pray that leaders within the Muslim community will call for peace among their people. Pray that the violence will not continue to escalate. Pray that Christians in Nigeria won't react to the acts of violence that have been committed against them by going on a rampage themselves.*" – from Church of the Brethren Newsline

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**Quote: We don't need fasten-your-seatbelt signs in our pews because we no longer fly. We're like a group of geese attending meetings every Sunday where we talk passionately about flying and then get up and walk home. - Tim Hansel**



### **Bigger Opportunities– Travel and Learn**

David Radcliff's organization, **New Community Project Learning Tours**, will take you to places where God's people and God's creation are struggling. Whether it's the rainforest, the arctic, or places where people live in poverty and despair, you will have first-hand experiences of troubling situations as well as the resilience and faith of those who live there.

Learning Tour goals:

- gain understanding of the challenges facing our neighbors and God's earth
- grow personally and spiritually
- build community with other participants and with those we visit
- return home better equipped to be a voice for justice and peace in our world

Be prepared for very basic living conditions--and plan to grapple with very basic questions of faith, lifestyle, justice, and what it takes to keep hope alive in seemingly hopeless situations. While visits often provide much-needed solidarity for those visited, participants typically feel that they've gained more than they've given. They come home challenged and renewed, seeking ways to live more faithfully. Some upcoming tours:

- Honduras June 19-29 \$625 + airfare
- Denali Nat. Pk (Alaska) August 12-21
- Arctic Nat. Wildlife Refuge August 22-31
- Nepal October 16-27 (tentative)
- Sudan January 8-24, 2007 (tentative)

More information about all of these trips and others is available at [www.newcommunityproject.org](http://www.newcommunityproject.org)

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



**The more things change the more they stay the same!**