

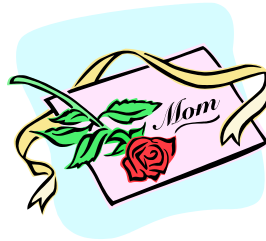
# News from the Brick

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

Established 1820



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

May  
2005

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

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## Carol's Comments

### Faith Escapes A Rebel

*There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. I John 4:18*

Faith Escapes A Rebel. **F-E-A-R. Fear.** What an acronym! There is probably something better, but this is what came to me. I've been noticing a lot of fear lately. Yes, fear in the church has been observed. We all are prone to it. No one escapes fear at some point. If you sit down and reflect about how much fear there is, you won't have much trouble finding any. We hear fear all the time in the news. Fear over our safety in the neighborhood and the world. Fear for our loved ones who are in the military. Fear over a difficult exam approaching. Fear about making decisions. Fear about being alone. Fear about aging. Fear about ending a relationship. Fear about our health. Fear about a diagnosis. Fear about death. Fear about lack of church growth. Fear over our church finances. Fear about our future. Attend any church board meeting or council meeting and you will hear fear. Fear lurks everywhere. It drives us. There is healthy fear, of course, to protect us when we are in danger, but mostly fear zaps our energy and our faith. Hence, I came up with the acronym: **Faith Escapes A Rebel.**

What am I talking about? When we are in the midst of fear we are not exercising faith. Faith escapes us. We rebel, so to speak, at circumstances or situations, and so we are rebels. Often times we cannot control what is going on in our lives, and so we become anxious and fearful. But also, there are things we can control but find ourselves enveloped in fear. Fear of what others will think, fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of criticism. Fear of risking new opportunities or programs.

Where is faith during this time? Faith and fear are at opposite ends of the

