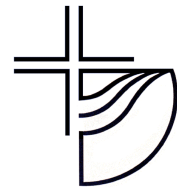


# News from the Brick

**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.

**May  
2006**

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

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## ***Carol's Comments***

### **"Watching for the Signs"**

**Matthew 16: 1-4a** *The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah."*



Every spring I tell myself that I am really going to pay attention to the trees and not miss their buds bursting into leaves. Or I'll watch the flowering trees so as not to miss them or the crocus pushing their way through the soil. I want to "catch" them renewing the earth. And each time it seems that I wake up one morning and they are in full bloom. When did that happen without my noticing? It depends on the weather and the warmth of the sunshine whether they are slow or fast in bursting forth with color or leaves. I keep wondering when this miracle took place without my watchful eye. Was I not watching closely enough? It does seem at times as if these budding trees and flowers sneak up on me when I thought I was being very observant. But alas, each year, I am surprised and delighted to see the beauty that bursts forth.

In the scripture passage above, the Pharisees and Sadducees try to watch for the signs of God. In fact, they practically demand a sign from Jesus. They have been right smack dab in the middle of Jesus' ministry and yet want a sign from heaven. Wasn't it enough that Jesus has been coming and going in their midst healing and preaching and bringing hope? Like watching for the buds on the trees or the flowers, the religious leaders wanted to "catch" God in the act in order to figure out what was going on. How did he do it? It didn't seem to be enough to have Jesus in their presence doing God's work. It didn't seem to be enough to rejoice in the healing and teaching that was taking place. It didn't seem to be enough to see lives changed.

Jesus' response was the sign of Jonah. He foretold his death and resurrection, but they didn't understand that at the time. They were too busy trying to be observant so as not to miss anything. Yet they did miss it, because they were looking in the wrong direction. They were being too critical to notice. They were looking for change and yet they were in the midst of it and didn't see it!

As I observe Nettle Creek and ministry taking place, I am reminded of springtime. It reminds me of the buds pushing out of the hard ground. All at once they arrive. All at once the earth has been changed. We are in the midst of change and yet we may not be fully aware. It is happening in small subtle ways. People are working together in planning for events. People are volunteering to work or are attending studies. People are praying. We may not be fully aware, but it is happening. But most of all, let's not miss the sign of Jonah...the





resurrected Christ in our midst who is as alive as we are present to him. He is alive as we take his presence to all we encounter.

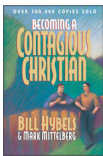
Watch for the signs of God, but don't forget that he is already here in our midst.

In Christ, for Christ,  
Pastor Carol

**Condolences**

We send our condolences to **Mark and Mary Werking** upon the passing of their son, **Roger Werking** in Churchton, Maryland. Anyone who would like to send a contribution to be sent to Roger's congregation in his memory may send it to University Park Church of the Brethren, 4413 Tuckerman St., Hyattsville, Maryland 20782-2148

**Becoming a Contagious Christian Study Continues**



We began our weekly study using the materials *Becoming a Contagious Christian: Communicating Your Faith in a Style that Fits You*. The same material is offered on two different days: **Sundays at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesdays, at 6:30 p.m.** The study lasts 1-1 ½ hours and run for approximately eight weeks. Each session involves exercises, discussions, self-assessments, and video vignettes.

**Worship Leader**

May 7 Robert Pfeiffer  
May 14 Jodi Johnson  
May 21 Ann Bach  
May 28 Carol Bullock

**Children's Story**

Robert Pfeiffer  
Jodi Johnson  
Ann Bach  
Allan Bullock

**Chorister**

Marjorie Briar  
Marjorie Briar  
Sally Schmittler  
Sally Schmittler

**Nursery**

May 7 Julie Potter & Jake Hall  
May 14 Kim Hall & Carolyn Wieseke  
May 21 Teresa Renaker & Drew Proctor  
May 28 Jodi Johnson & Chad Bowman

**Prayer Concerns**

<b>*Ruth Wilson</b>	<b>*Glenn Bach</b>	Mark Pfeiffer	Geneva Davis
Jay Burroughs	Marcie Commons	Howard Davis	Gratia Waskom
Bill Hall	Gene & Beth Stone	Sheila Weaver	Don Seibert
Betty Hoover	Gary Stout	Harriet Burroughs	

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

**Care Center:** LuFreda Bowman, Margaret Briar

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

**Cleaning the Church**

We do not have a paid custodian for the church. Therefore, we **count on volunteers** from the congregation to keep things spic and span. The work load has been split between various sections of the church so that one may clean a certain area and not be responsible for the whole building. Please consider helping to keep our building looking nice. If you've not taken a turn, please see the sign-up sheet in the east entrance. Signups are for a month at a time.

**Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better.** - Sydney J. Harris

**Giving For April**

Average Weekly Offering needed to meet budget..... \$1,465.29  
 Average Offering for April for of 5 Sundays..... \$1,111.19  
 April 2.....\$ 655.21  
 April 9.....\$1,054.50  
 April 16.....\$1,585.05  
 April 23.....\$1,150.00  
 April 30 ...not available at time of press.....  
**Average Attendance for April.....46**



**Other Giving:**

District Dues: \$25.00      Timbercrest : \$19.62  
 Lenten Gifts: \$130.00      Fence: \$38.00  
 In Memory of Roger Werking to Nettle Creek: \$70.00

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED is turning 65!!**  
**Please come and help us celebrate!**  
**All women of the church and community are invited**  
**To come and join us in this 65th celebration:**

**May Friendship Breakfast**  
**Sat., May 6, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Hagerstown United Methodist Church**  
**199 South Perry Street**

**"Speak Up For A Child" will be presented by**  
**Karen Bowen, Director, Wayne County**  
**Guardian Ad Litem/CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)**

**Child care will be provided.**

**Planning Committtee: Co-Chairs - Jayne Miller, Virginia Hormel**  
**Linda Hodson, Donna Hunsberger, Jayne Bennett, Heather Nicholson,**  
**Joy Klein**

**Annual Smorgasbord – May 13**

Our Annual Smorgasbord will be **Saturday, May 13 from 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.** Laura Nicholson is chair. There are signup sheets for food and work times. See Laura if you have any questions or for signing up to help. Freewill donations will be accepted for the meal. **Bring your friends and appetite!**

**Graduation Dates**

Hagerstown: 2:00 p.m., May 27 at Hagerstown High School; Lincoln High School: 6:00 p.m., May 27 at Lincoln High School; Centerville: 2:30 p.m., June 4 at the High School.

**Our Graduates**

**Steven Stout, son of Jon and Marcia Stout** graduates from Hagerstown High School.



**Josh Briar, son of Brett Briar and Lisa Briar** graduates from Hagerstown High School.

**Chad Bowman, son of Brad and Beth Bowman** graduates from Lincoln High School.

**Billy Hall, son of Bill and Kim Hall** graduates from Centerville High School

**Samantha Carman, daughter of Andrew and Tammy Carman** graduates from Centerville High School

### South Central Indiana District Youth Event

**May 21, 1:30 -5:30 p.m. there will be a District Youth event** to be held at **Salamonie Church of the Brethren**. Bring baseball gear (if weather permits). Dress for outside events (volleyball). Come for food and fellowship, games and music, NYC update information. RSVP and questions to Rosemary Harvey: email: [trkharvey@fwi.com](mailto:trkharvey@fwi.com) RSVP by May 14.

### S/C Indiana Women's Camp



Women's Camp is always a fun time as well as a time to learn. This year's **Women's Camp will be June 8-10 at Camp Mack**. It is sponsored by South Central Indiana District Church of the Brethren Women's Cabinet. **All women are invited!** Pre-registration is required. **Valerie Beeson Lyles** is the key leader. Her theme is "Prayer in Motion" through prayer walking, prayer rooms, prayer driving. She will share how God has changed and encouraged her life. Bible Studies are included. Valerie is the daughter of Eloise and Gene Beeson. **Registration deadline is May 12**. Cost is: fulltime, \$82.00; part-time, (1 night, 2 days) \$50.00; one day, \$30.00. See Kathy Denney or

Pastor Carol for registration forms, which are available at church.

### Camp Mack News

**TWO LEADERSHIP TRAINING DATES:** Volunteer counselors, prospective counselors, and directors, choose the date that best suits your schedule and plan to attend one of two similar trainings. Leadership Training Date choices are May 5-6 and May 12-13.

**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR YOUR BOOTH AT THIS YEAR'S CAMP MACK FESTIVAL?** This year's Festival is October 7. Can't have a booth of your own? -- Why not consider teaming up with a neighboring congregation to provide a booth? Planting a garden? Why not plant some extra for the Festival Produce booth? E-mail one of the Foods & Crafts Co-Chairs, Pam Hollenberg ([phollenberg@excite.com](mailto:phollenberg@excite.com)) or Karen Rowland ([ckwagonwheel@maplenet.net](mailto:ckwagonwheel@maplenet.net)) with your booth plans or booth questions.

**SUMMER CAMPERS** may still register at the regular price (no discount). Please check with the camp office to see if there are openings for your preferred date.

**CLIMBING TOWER BELAY TRAINING** is Saturday, June 3, for those 18 years and older who are willing to learn to serve in summer program by belaying campers at the climbing wall.



**GOLFERS:** Register for the **Camp Mack Golf "Fun"draiser to be held at Sycamore Golf Club at North Manchester on June 10**. Times: 12:00 noon registration and 1:00 p.m. shotgun start! The \$65 per golfer cost includes fun-filled golf, snacks, prizes and a delicious evening meal. Individuals, churches and businesses are invited to sponsor a hole as an Eagle (\$1,000), a Birdie (\$400) or a Par (\$200) donor. Contact the Camp office for registration forms. Door prize donors and volunteers are also needed.

**ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS! CROSSWALK** - for all young adults, single or married, 18 years of age and older- is June 2-4. Fee is \$51.00.

## **Brethren Hurricane Response – Volunteer Alert!**

Over 400,000 homes were destroyed in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas by 2004 and 2005 hurricanes. Many thousand more were severely damaged. Come join the vital mission. Together we can build one new home and repair three homes each week.

### **Be a Volunteer Leader:**

- Long term project leadership
- Cooks and Cook Assistants (Stipends are available for project leadership staying 3 or more months)

### **Locate or Donate Equipment:**

- 2 or More Heavy Duty Trucks
- 2 or More Vans
- Tool Trailer and tools

### **Raise Funds for Building Materials**

Sign up to help or for more information: 800-451-4407 or [ersm\\_gb@brethren.org](mailto:ersm_gb@brethren.org)

### **Volunteer for a Week or More:**

- 75 Volunteers – Skilled and Unskilled – each week!

Please contact your District Disaster Response Coordinator to participate as a weekly volunteer.

**John Bunch is South Central Indiana District's Coordinator: 765-651-0655**

## **Nigerian Brethren hold 59th annual church conference**

Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN--the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) held its 59th annual "majalisa" or assembly meeting of its legislative body on March 28-April 1, with some 1,000 church delegates in attendance. The theme of this year's majalisa was "Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus," which was also the theme for the 2005 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference. Guest speaker for each evening worship session was Robert Krouse, Nigeria mission coordinator for the Global Mission Partnerships office of the Church of the Brethren General Board. Krouse also supplied this report from the majalisa.

Messages for worship focused on the first three groups to first fix their eyes on Jesus (the angels, shepherds, and wise men); the foot washing passage in John 13; and fixing our eyes on the cross from 1 Corinthians 2:2. "Sharing the good news, and an attitude of worship will continue to be the experience of those who fix their eyes on Jesus," Krouse said. "Jesus washed...feet to illustrate four important activities in the life of a believer: walk humbly, live as a servant, love your enemies (Jesus wash Judas' feet knowing that he would betray him), continue the work of Jesus.... The power of God is conferred upon those who deny themselves, take us the cross and follow Jesus," he said.

Delegates took up a love offering of about 40,000 Naira (\$300) to express their support to the churches in Maiduguri that were damaged and destroyed in inter-religious violence in March. The majalisa received with gratitude the letter of support and solidarity penned during the March meeting of the Church of the Brethren General Board. **Filibus Gwama, EYN president**, read the letter to the delegate body. [Filibus was in Bethany Seminary with Pastor Carol]

- Church of the Brethren *Newsline*



