

# News from the Brick

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

Established 1820



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

May  
2004

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

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## Carol's Comments

### "Who's Blind?"

He also told them this parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher." Luke 6: 37-40 NIV

Bob and I recently attended Pastor Sabbath at Camp Mack. It is a twenty-four hour Sabbath time of prayer, reading, reflecting, and fellowship with other pastors. It is a time to recharge one's batteries for ministry. I took a walk on Friday morning enjoying the breeze and the bright sky. Walking down the road admiring the wild flowers, I happened upon a corral with a horse. I mused that it must be the place where some pastors had encountered some horses that got loose the day before. They had tried to get them back into the corral, but not knowing horses, didn't succeed. The owner came out and rattled the feed bucket and the horses followed the sound. I laughed to myself as I visualized all this.



One horse was in the corral that morning. I noticed that he had a blue covering over his ears and eyes that stopped at his nose. I reflected upon this "blind" horse. I knew that they put these "things" to keep the flies out of a horse's eyes. I thought it unusual that though it had its face totally covered, it seemed to be following me along the fencerow. In fact, it even walked between the fence and the tree without running into it to follow me. Ah...a perfect metaphor upon which to reflect...the blind following the footsteps of a passerby. Since my upcoming sermon title was "The Voice of the Shepherd", I thought about how this horse was following the sound of my footsteps. We follow the voice of the Shepherd, Jesus Christ. We are the blind following the Savior. Yes! An illustration to use for Sunday.

At sharing time about our Sabbath experience, I mentioned that I had come up with this perfect metaphor from an experience I just had. I told about this horse with the covering. The pastor who had been chasing the horses the day before said, "You know, they have a mesh over the eyes through which they can see, don't you?" Well, that blew my metaphor. We all had a good laugh. Then one pastor said, "Turn it around. Who was the blind one?"

Indeed, who was the blind one? It wasn't the horse, though I thought it was. I was the one blind to the situation. I was sure the horse was blinded by the covering. (I hadn't seen that type of covering before). But instead, I was the one who "couldn't see."

Aren't we like that? We are so sure someone is wrong about something. We insist that something has to be done a certain way. We refuse to consider other possibilities. We insist the scriptures say one thing to support our point. Yet it is feasible that we might not be getting the whole picture. We might not be "seeing." We are blinded by our own agendas...our own stubbornness...our own fears. When we are blinded, we cannot see hope or possibilities.

The horse had his vision clouded by the covering even with the mesh eyeholes. And sometimes our vision is clouded by all the circumstances or situations in which we find ourselves. So who's blind? The one who thinks he/she can see or the one with partial vision? Perhaps it is both. It is both when we insist that we have all the answers...when neither person can see clearly. That's why it is so important to immerse ourselves

in Scripture and interpreting them together. Luke tells us: *“but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.”* How do we become like Jesus, our Teacher? We need to learn what it truly means to be a disciple. That’s why community is so important...so that we don’t become blinded to each other and especially so we don’t become blinded to God. What about you? Are you blind? Then come to Jesus who makes the lame to walk and the blind to see.

In Christ,  
Pastor Carol Pfeiffer

### **Thank You**

**Catherine Stout** sends her thanks for prayers and support as she traveled to Juarez, Mexico and helped build a house for a family. She lived in a poverty filled town and experienced poverty. She is grateful for the opportunity to live in another culture and to help others.

**Allan Bullock** would like to thank the church for the contribution of \$145.00 toward his trip as a People to People Student Ambassador.

### **Pennies From Heaven**



Each of us has been challenged to **save two pennies per day for a year**. The money will be collected periodically to see how we are doing. The money will go to outreach. What a wonderful way to see how much two cents a day can help others. Encourage kids and youth to participate. If you need a container, there are some available in the back of the sanctuary.

### **Vacation Bible School**

It won’t be long till our **Vacation Bible School June 14-18** begins. Teachers and helpers are needed. Please see Kathy Denney or Carol Bullock if you can help. If you have a neighbor child, invite them to come and/or bring them.

### **Annual Church Smorgasbord – 4:00 -7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 15** is the date for our **Annual Church Smorgasbord**. This is a church event. We need your help as well as your attendance in support of this event. **Let this be a time of fellowship and fun** as well as providing the Smorgasbord. There is a sign-up sheet in the east classroom. Salads, desserts, meat loaf, help and/or money is needed. **Get involved and enjoy the fun!!**

### **Gideon Speaker**



**Sunday, May 23** we will have a Gideon speaker, Jeff Huffine, to give us a brief update on the Gideons.

His daughter, Amanda will bring us special music. Donations will be accepted that day to support the Gideons’ work in distributing Bibles. Willis Murray and Fred Dilling are Gideons. There is a Gideon display in the sanctuary for memorial gifts, birthday gifts, etc. What a wonderful way to spread the Word of God by donating Bibles in someone’s name.

### **Ethics Meetings**

There are two opportunities to attend an Ethics meeting regarding the Church of the Brethren. Tuesday, May 11 meeting will be at Camp Mack from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 22 there will be another Ethics meeting at Anderson CoB from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Anyone may attend. Pastor Carol will be attending May 22. If you’d like to attend you may ride with her.

### **Church Mowing**

Volunteers are needed to mow the church lawn. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the east classroom or call one of the Trustees: Jon Stout, Dan Goar, Darrel Briar, or Dave Reneau.



**Church Cleaning**



Have a hankering to clean? Then we need you. There are several opportunities for volunteers to help us keep the church clean. See the sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board by the east entrance. We appreciate those who have already volunteered!

**Worship Opportunities**

Calling all persons who would like to **worship lead, tell a children’s story, or provide special music.** Take advantage of using your spiritual gifts and serve the Lord with gladness. See Brad Bowman, Julie Wieseke, or Pastor Carol to be a participant. There are plenty of open spots from which you may choose. Beat the rush. J Sign up soon.

**Continuing to Pray for...**

*Wilda Helms	Cliff & Mary Jane Renaker	Shirley Root	Jeremy DeVinney
Bob Burroughs	Carol & Phyllis DeVinney	Fred Dilling	

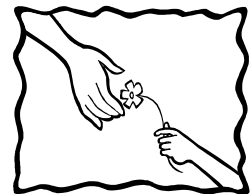
**May Birthdays**

- 1 Sally Schmittler
- 3 Diane Andrew, Stacie Mendenhall
- 6 Jacob Burroughs
- 8 Darin Briar
- 10 Mary Jane Dye
- 16 Brent McCormack
- 17 Gene Beeson, Krista Swoveland, Joy Jaske
- 18 Cinda Howell
- 21 Marjorie Briar
- 23 Krista Hollenberg
- 31 David Stout



**Giving for April**

Amount needed Monthly.....	\$1,420.29
Average Weekly Offering.....	\$1,173.83
<b>Total for month.....</b>	<b>4,695.35</b>
April 4.....	1,090.26
April 11.....	1,161.87
April 18.....	812.81
April 25.....	1,630.36
Special offering.....	245.00
 Average attendance.....	 <b>64</b>



**Upcoming Board Retreat – August 6-7**

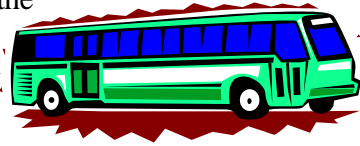
Board members put the retreat on your calendar. We will meet at Bethany Theological Seminary with Dr. Gary Newton from Huntington College, who will lead us in our retreat. Dave and Dee Reneau, our Moderator, Mike Cassidy, and Pastor Carol had the opportunity to participate in the “Redefining Normal” mini-conference recently. Dr. Newton will give the morning worship message on August 8 also.

**New Members**

**Allan Bullock and Jake Hall** were baptized on Palm Sunday. **Bill and Sue House** transferred their membership on April 18 to Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren.

## Orientation Meeting at Timbercrest Home at North Manchester for Brethren History Tour

**May 18**, there will be an **orientation meeting in the Assembly Room of the Timbercrest Home at 7:00 p.m.** Nettle Creek congregation has been invited to attend. The meeting will present the details and information for the upcoming **“Brethren History Tour.”** This tour will be **hosted by Glen and Ruth Landes, and Lloyd and Opal Fullmer** of the Miami Valley area, near Dayton. Brother Glen has done extensive work in Brethren History, and has conducted several of these trips in the past, including one which is coming up July 13-17. The July trip is sold out.



But there is another upcoming tour. Lyle Gish will be the tour coach driver. This will be a 49-passenger tour coach, clean, comfortable, air conditioned with a restroom. The trip is planned for **Monday, September 17 – October 2**. The fall color should add much charm to this interesting tour.

Places of Brethren Heritage, old meetinghouses, the Goods Store in Ephrata Pennsylvania are scheduled points of interest as well as others. The cost of the tour, not yet determined, will include all lodging, and two meals a day. There will be no night driving.

The Landes' and the Fullmer's will be at the Timbercrest meeting with pictures and the itinerary, and complete details. Questions will be addressed then. Reservations will be accepted at the meeting, on a "first come, first served" basis, until the coach is full. No reservations are needed to attend the orientation meeting. The tour is not limited to Brethren people. If you have other questions, contact Lyle Gish at 1-800-982-4691 or e-mail him at [travelwithlyle@kconline.com](mailto:travelwithlyle@kconline.com)

## 5 Finger Prayer

1. Your **thumb** is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the **pointing finger**. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the **tallest finger**. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our **ring finger**. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our **little finger**; the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

Submitted by Marjorie Briar

## Denominational News

**Gather 'Round: Hearing and Sharing God's Good News**, was chosen as the name for a new Brethren and Mennonite Sunday school curriculum by an advisory group that met April 14-17 in Elgin, Ill. The group discussed goals for the curriculum as well as theological and educational foundations, a theme scripture, Bible outlines, print pieces, printing technology, electronic media, and marketing. The name implies "wholeness and heart," said Gwen Gustafson-Zook, a representative of Mennonite Church USA. The group envisioned the



name as a **call to Christians to gather around the Word, around the table of the Lord, at church and at home, and around the world in service and evangelism**. The name also calls up images of Jesus gathering children to him.

**OPE – On Earth Peace** -The On Earth Peace (OEP) Board of Directors and staff met April 16-17 at New Windsor, Md. With the theme "Sown, Grown, and Living," the group took time to reflect on how they, as individuals and as an organization, sow the seeds of peace while reaping the fruits of reconciliation.

**Global Food Crisis Fund supports projects of Heifer International.**

In recognition of the **60th anniversary of Heifer International** (HI--formerly Heifer Project International) and the role that the Church of the Brethren played in its formation and continues today, the General Board's Global Food Crisis Fund (GFCF) has **allocated \$60,000** to HI-supported projects in Armenia, Zimbabwe, and Albania. The grants engage the fund in three new countries, according to GFCF manager Howard Royer, and bring the total of grant monies issued in the first four months of 2004 to a quarter of a million dollars.

**"Messenger" awarded for conference coverage, design.**

The Church of the Brethren magazine "Messenger" **received two "Best of the Christian Press" awards at the Associated Church Press convention April 20 in Toronto, Canada, in the categories of convention coverage and design.** A first-place "award of excellence" went to editor Fletcher Farrar and author Walt Wiltschek for the Annual Conference preview in the May 2003 issue, and for coverage of the conference in the August issue. In the category of design, Messenger received a second-place "award of merit" for the October 2003 issue designed by Paul Stocksdale of The Concept Mill and cover design by Debbie Noffsinger.

**Brethren Volunteer Service is in need of help.**

BVS is looking for past BVS unit pictures and name lists. Check the BVS website, [www.brethrenvolunteerservice.org](http://www.brethrenvolunteerservice.org), to see if your unit picture or name list is missing. Please send missing unit photos and lists to Samuel Bowman, Brethren Volunteer Service, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120-1694 or e-mail [sbowman\\_gb@brethren.org](mailto:sbowman_gb@brethren.org). Be sure to write your name and address on the back of the photo so that it can be returned, and identify the unit number and names of members. - CoB *Newsline*

**South Central Indiana District Conference**

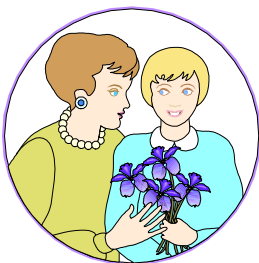
Date: September 10-11, 2004

Site: Mexico Church of the Brethren

Theme: John 13:34-35

Speaker: Chris Bunch

This conference will focus more on worship and less on business, making for a more spirit-filled conference.



*"Happy Mother's Day" means more  
Than have a happy day.  
Within those words lie lots of things  
We never get to say.*

*It means I love you first of all,  
Then thanks for all you do.  
It means you mean a lot to me,  
And that I honor you.*

*But most of all, I guess it means  
That I am thinking of  
Your happiness on this, your day,  
With pleasure and with love. Copyright by Nicholas Gordon*



### Snippets on Friendship Evangelism

1. Remember that a conversion is usually a process. Think of yourself as influencing another person toward faith in Jesus Christ.
2. Begin with those who are closest to you: family, friends, and business associates.
3. Pray continually.
4. Be yourself.
5. Ask leading questions that will take the conversation deeper. Ask your friends what they think about God, about what they think is wrong with the world and human nature, how they find the resources to deal with crises or manage their stress, or what they see as their purpose in life.
6. Listen for openings and possible contact points with the gospel.
7. Ask for permission to speak about your faith. No one likes to be coerced or forced into a conversation they really don't want to have.
8. Don't start the conversation by trying to convince people of their sin. The Christian perspective on guilt and sin is one of the most misunderstood topics in the world.
9. Invite your friends to a social event.
10. Remember to stress the relational aspect of Christian faith.

Excerpted from *Net Results Magazine* by Harold Percy

### A Little Humor for Mother's Day



- A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a written test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is. I pick up things. What am I?" When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word Mother.  
– Unknown

- In one church, when a Bible is presented to a third-grade child, the child recites a passage of Scripture. On one occasion, everything was going well until the minister came to one little boy who couldn't remember his name, much less a Bible verse. The little boy's eyes frantically searched for his mother, who was seated very near the front. When he finally spotted her, he was greatly relieved when she whispered, "I am the light of the world," to which he immediately bellowed, "My mother is the light of the world."  
- Rodney Wilmoth, Minneapolis, Minnesota

- **Job Description For A Mother**

Erma Bombeck's job description for motherhood: "Wanted: Woman to raise, educate and entertain child for minimum of 20 years. Be prepared to eat egg if the yolk breaks, receive anything in hand child spits out, and take knots out of wet shoestrings with teeth. Must be expert in making costume for 'bad tooth' and picking bathroom locks with shish kebab skewer. Seven days a week, 24 hours a day, including holidays. Comprehensive dental plan, vacation, medical benefits and company car negotiable."

Erma, Bombeck, *I Want to Grow Hair: I Want to Grow Up, I Want to Go to Boise: Children Surviving Cancer* (New York: Harper and Row, 1989), 56-57.