

# News from the Brick

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

Established 1820



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



November  
2005

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

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## Carol's Comments

### "The Sign of the Cross"

*. <sup>1</sup>The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test Jesus they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. <sup>2</sup>He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' <sup>3</sup>And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. <sup>4</sup>An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." Then he left them and went away.*



On our way to Tennessee for vacation, we came upon a huge cross sitting up on a bank along the highway. You couldn't miss it. It towered high above everything around it. This was much, much larger than the crosses you normally see along the interstate. This particular cross was set amid commercial signs and everyday life. Close to the cross was a very large Adult World store, which of course, was about pornography. At least the signs enticing you to the store were not what a Christian would want to frequent.

I thought about this cross standing there, setting as a reminder that the cross is bigger than the call to materialism or self-gratification. It stood majestically above everything else but yet was planted in the middle of life. It's a reminder that while all around us are things to draw us away from Christ, God's presence can be seen—is seen.

Also not too far from this huge cross was another much smaller cross. Perhaps the smaller cross was there first and then the huge one was constructed. This gigantic white cross stood there as if casting its shadow over the Adult World store. The smaller cross, which was not very far from the large one, somehow seemed to demonstrate how little we make God's presence known in the world. It was overshadowed by the commercial signs and Adult World establishment.

As I pondered those two crosses, I wondered where most Christians are today: standing tall and firm knowing the power of the cross or standing small and puny in the surroundings of the world and being less effective for Christ. We have a great God who gave us Jesus Christ, who suffered and died on the cross and rose to new life. The cross is a reminder to us of the power of God's redemption and love for us. It is a sign that can loom large and powerful in this broken world or small and helpless. It all depends on how we let the presence of Jesus Christ live in us.

The Pharisees and Sadducees went to Jesus asking for a sign from heaven. They weren't able to see that Jesus was the sign because he, like Jonah, would beat death. Jesus would be resurrected and through his death and resurrection show us the way to God...to claim our belovedness in him. We too live in an adulterous generation and many are asking for a sign to be given them. They want hope. They want love. They want acceptance. They are empty and need to have the love of God demonstrated to them. We, who are Christian, need to re-evaluate our Christian presence in our world and communities, so that our Lord and Savior's cross "draws all humankind to him." And may it be so.

The cross we saw along the interstate looked much like the one in Groom, Texas which Bob and I visited a few years ago. (See the picture above. <http://crossministries.net/>) This huge steel cross is 190 feet tall and can be seen up to 20 miles away. It lights up at night and is located on the side of I-40 in Groom, TX, approximately 40miles east of Amarillo. It is known as the largest cross in the Western Hemisphere.)

In Christ, for Christ,  
Pastor Carol Pfeiffer

### Wilbur Wright Birthplace Christmas Walk & Festival of Trees

**Friday, Nov. 4 from noon to 8:00 p.m. and Sat., Nov. 5 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.** the walk and Festival of the Trees will be held. Admission is free. Chili or Vegetable Soup (all you can eat), crackers or corn bread, applesauce & drink, \$5.00. Hot dogs & desserts available. The Birth of Christ will be narrated in a walk-through scene. From Mt. Summit 7 miles east on 36 to Wilbur Wright Rd. or from New Castle 7 miles. Phone: 765-332-2495. [www.wilburwrightbirthplace.com](http://www.wilburwrightbirthplace.com)

### Women's Community Tea



The Women's Community Tea is sponsored by Church Women United for women of all ages. The tea will be **November 5, 2005 – 9:00-10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church, Hagerstown.** The program is "The Separation of Church & Medicine" by Mark Linderman. See Marjorie Briar for more information.

### Church Council

Church Council will be held **November 6** after worship and the carry-in meal. The 2006 Budget will be discussed. All members' attendance is encouraged. Mike Cassidy, our moderator, will chair the meeting.

### Harvest Dinner – November 12

The Harvest Dinner will again be a joint collaboration of **Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren and the Congregational Christian Church, UCC.** It will be hosted by Nettle Creek and begin at **4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m., November 12. Free will donations will be accepted.** Come join in for some good food and fellowship. If you would like to help with the dinner see Kathy Denney. Helpers are needed.



### Lincoln High School Play

Beth Bowman will be directing a play "**Revenge of the Snerd,**" which will be at the Lincoln High School cafeteria on **November 12 at 7:00 p.m.** Go out for dinner at our Harvest Dinner and then go to Lincoln for some entertainment. Chad Bowman is in the play. See Beth or Chad about tickets.

### Continuing to Pray for...

\***Blanche Petty**      Glenn Bach (Jeff's father)      Bob Klein      Gary Stout  
Sheila Weaver (Jodi Johnson's friend)      Carl Lang      Roger Werking  
Bill Hall      Don Seibert  
Home: Mary Werking, Harriet Burroughs, Ruth Crull, Viola Nicholson, Bernetha Davis  
Care Center: LuFreda Bowman



### Speakers for November 6 and November 20

Jerry Pokorney, a Bethany student will be speaking November 6 and Jeff Bach will preach on November 20 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Jeff will preach on Deuteronomy 7:6-11, and Luke 17:11-19, "Because the Lord Loves You."

**Thrift Shop –Church Women United**

If you are going to Richmond, consider **transporting four or five bags of clothes** from the Thrift Shop to Goodwill. This will be a great help. You might call the Thrift Shop before you go. Call 765-489-4372. Business hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 12:00-4:00 p.m.; Thursday, 4:00-7:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 12:00-4:00 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome. So give it some thought and offer a helping hand.

**Congratulations on 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

The Nicholson children, Barbara Beard, Jay Nicholson, Leland and Beverly Nicholson threw an open house for Viola Nicholson for her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was held at the church on October 23. Many people stopped by to wish her a happy birthday.

**Nettle Creek Ministerial Food Pantry**

The Nettle Creek Ministerial Food Pantry is bare and needs to be restocked. They are low on all supplies. Suggestions are chili, pasta and sauces, cold/hot cereals, salmon, pork and beans, peanut butter, crackers etc. Please bring your items to church **now**. The pantry serves over 40 families. As the weather gets colder, the needs get greater. Monetary donations are also needed as the Ministerium helps those in need in other ways besides food.

**November 20 Worship Service – Bring Food**



We will be gathering food during the November 20 worship service that day. You will be invited to bring your food and other items forward during the time of offering. But don't wait till November 20, start bringing items for the NCMA food pantry and then bring more for November 20. Let's be generous in helping those who are in need.

**Community Thanksgiving Service in November**



A community Thanksgiving Service is being planned for November 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the New Testament Church on Route 38. Sally Schmittler will be providing special music from Nettle Creek.

**Women's Prayer Group**

Yes, we're still meeting. At 7:30 a.m. on Thursday mornings women of the church are meeting for prayer. Join them as they prayer for the church and others.

**Giving For October**

Average Weekly Offering needed to meet budget.....	\$1,465.20
Average Offering for October...(4 out of 5 Sundays)...	\$1457.58
2.....	2,255.33
9.....	1,291.00
16.....	1,024.00
23.....	1,260.00
30.....unavailable at time of press.....	
Missions Offering.....	66.00
Average Attendance for October (4 Sundays).....	41



**Worship Leaders and Children's Story for November and December**

<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	
6 Kim Hall	4 Leland Nicholson	Beverly – children's story
13 Pastor Carol	11 Lucille Dilling	
20 Jeff Bach	18 Sally Schmittler	<b>*If you cannot worship lead, please find someone to take your place that Sunday.</b>
27 Billy Hall	24 Special program	
	25 Pastor Carol	

### Community Advent Service

The Nettle Creek Ministerial Association will not be providing a community Advent service this year due to all the activities at Hometown Christmas and closeness to the Thanksgiving Community service.

### Hometown Christmas

Hometown Christmas will be December 2 and 3. Watch the bulletin for more information. We will have another booth this year and sell pies or pieces of pie. Get your baking materials ready!

### Angel Tree

The Witness Team is collecting names for the Angel Tree. When we have the list of names, we will put the names on the Christmas Tree for you to pick to help a prisoner's provide a gift at Christmas for their child/children.



### Neighbors Helping Neighbors at Christmas Time

The Nettle Creek School Corporation, the Jefferson Township Trustees Office, and local churches are joining together to provide assistance for families at Christmas. This year close to 50 families have requested assistance! This year's gift giving theme will be **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**. To follow this theme and thus guarantee that **equal care** is given to all of our neighbors in need, three goals have been recognized for this year's gift giving partnership :

1. Goal #1: **All families are helped equally so that no particular family is provided with a more favorable edge over another family.** With that said, the following guidelines should be followed when it comes to gift giving:

A. Your Church/Church Group Chooses to Sponsor a Family

- One outfit per family member (i.e. pants and a top)
- A pair of shoes per family member
- Socks and undergarments for each family member
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste for each family member
- Choose only one special Christmas wish per family member (as outlined on their form)
- \$5.00 gift certificates to McDonald's or Subway per each family member (gift certificates at the Thrift Shop is another suggestion in \$5.00 increments)
- School supplies
- Favorite recipes (the recipe card attached to a bake ware item.)
- Collection of cash donations (To be used strictly for paying utilities this winter.)
- Christmas card (Signed by your class)

B. Your Group Chooses To Sponsor All 50 Families

- Your group simply works on bringing in only toothbrushes.
- OR**
- Your group simply works on bringing in \$5.00 gift certificates.



**OR**

- Your group simply works on bringing in favorite recipes attached to bake ware items (cookie sheets, cake pans, etc.) needed.

**OR**

- Your group simply works on bringing in cash donations to go towards funding these needy families' utility bills this winter or to go toward buying specifics for any family.

2. Goal #2: **All potential community organizations come together on one united front so to ensure no “double dipping” on the part of families.**
3. Goal #3: **Family privacy is held to the utmost importance.** Discretion on how gifts are distributed to families, especially by those individuals associated with the school, is vital to the self worth of such families.

**Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren** will be sponsoring at least one family as well as doing the Angel Tree. If a S.S. class or other group within our church would like to sponsor a family for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, contact the Jefferson Township Trustees Office: 765-489-4824 or email Joe Smith at [jeffersontwpwayne@insightbb.com](mailto:jeffersontwpwayne@insightbb.com) . The Township Trustees Office will be the central drop off place and provide the list of families needing assistance with sizes for clothing and other items requested. **Deadline for the gifts is the first week of Dec.4-9<sup>th</sup>.** There will be a call go out for volunteers to wrap gifts at the Trustees office when the time draws closer. Some items on the list may be covered by Nettle Creek School classes, so check with the Trustees office to see if the items on the list are covered.

**Hagerstown Faith Housing Inc. Seeks Persons for Waiting List**



Hagerstown Faith Housing Inc. provides 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments in Hagerstown. The apartments are for persons 62 years of age and over or disabled/handicapped persons of any age. If you or someone you know may be interested in living in a well-maintained apartment community, please contact our community manager Floyd Sanders at 765-489-4898 for more information, and an application. You need not live in Hagerstown to apply.

**Other Christmas Gift Opportunities**

**Started your Christmas shopping?** Give the gift that keeps on giving way beyond Christmas. **Heifer Project International**, an organization started by our own Brethren, Dan West, has gift opportunities that also help those in need around the world. **Instead of material gifts, choose gifts from the Heifer International Catalog.** You can use the catalog to make a regular charitable gift. Order online: [www.catalog.heifer.org](http://www.catalog.heifer.org) 24 hours a



day, 7 days a week. You can download beautiful print and email honor cards and pass along interactive email cards to friends. In other words, you can give a gift in someone’s name. **A hardcopy catalog is available at church.** You can buy shares of animals or pay for a whole one. Some examples are: gift of a Heifer: \$500, or a share for \$50; Goats, sheep or pigs are \$120 or a share for \$10; Chicks, ducks, or geese are \$20 or a flock for \$60; Llama for \$150 or a share for \$20; Tree Seedlings \$60 or share of seedlings for \$10; gift of Honeybees is \$30; Water buffalo for \$250 or a share for \$25; Trio of rabbits for \$60 or a share for \$10; fill an ark for \$5,000. Again, individuals, families, or S.S. classes or groups can give the gift that keeps on giving. What better way can help spread the love of God by providing life to others.

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



**“Dear Brother Eli, I have been out of town on vacation, and I would have sent you my tithe, but I already sealed the envelope.”**