

# 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.

October  
2005

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

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## Carol's Comments

### "Searching for a Home"

*Matthew 6: 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

House hunting. What a chore that can be. Our youngest son, Paul, recently got a job in computer engineering after a long wait. He wanted to look for a house, so Mom and Dad took three days of vacation to help him look around the area. His brother, Philip, had bought a house after college, and so I tracked down his realtor to help us with Paul. Since Paul's job is in Ft. Wayne, we started out looking around that area. We scoped out the area. We searched on the internet and then went out to see where these "dream" homes were located. We must have been up and down about every road around Ft. Wayne. We also scoped out the Columbia City area. Some houses were immediately eliminated because they were just too big—too much house and price. Others were eliminated because the area wasn't appealing. Still others were too far from work or needed too much fixing up. We searched and searched on the internet, driving through subdivisions, driving in the country and through the towns. Even our dog, Schnickelfritz, would look up at me with his head on my arm with a, "Aren't we done yet?" look because it was a long process.



Finally, after deciding on some possibilities, our realtor set up the showings. I lost count, but I think it was at least ten houses that we went through. There are so many things to consider when house hunting. Paul finally had a couple that piqued his interest and decided to "sleep on it." He is pursuing one house and will know by the time the newsletter goes to print what the outcome of his search will be.

Searching. We all are searching for something whether it be a house, a car, a job, a new red hat, or just hunting for our car keys. Searching is something we all do. We have a certain criteria that we use depending on what it is that needs to be found. Today many our searching for meaning in their lives though they may not think they are. We try all sorts of things to bring meaning to our lives. We try to fill a void that we just don't understand or realize is there. Some try to find meaning in the wrong places i.e. wild living. Some try to find it in drugs or alcohol. Some try to find it in keeping busy or stuffing themselves with food or buying everything under the sun such as cars, boats, jewelry, clothes, gadgets.

God put this "hunger" for him inside us. It's as if a computer chip were implanted in us. We are connected to God because we have his very breath in us—his imprint is upon us. We are searching for something to make us feel accepted, whole, loved, appreciated, worthwhile, of use to humankind. Though we don't say so, in so many words, our actions demonstrate that we are "in search." We're hunting a place to come home to—the house of God.

What I notice today is that people are still searching for a true home not just a house. Sometimes I think that we get so busy "searching" that we don't really see what is there all along. We don't see that God has really been searching for us from the very beginning. In Christ we come home to God. Isn't it interesting that WE think that we're searching for God when it is God who is drawing us toward him? His "homing" device

draws us. In a sense God is the original search engine, to use computer language. But many are trying all kinds of other “search engines” and surfing the world for fulfillment. It’s a lot like house hunting. Sometimes in our house hunt we found ourselves going over the same terrain—areas we’d already explored. The same can be said of our lives. We try the same thing over and over whether it is something chemical to pacify us or keeping ourselves so busy we don’t notice or hear God at work within us.

What does it take for us today to realize that our search for God needs to be more than a wish? Recently I saw this quote on an outdoor Richmond church bulletin board: **“One good wish changes nothing. One good decision changes everything.”** We can wish and wish for things to be different. But, wishing changes nothing. It is making a good decision that changes everything like making a good decision in the choice of a house. It is action that changes everything. If one just wishes for the house, nothing is accomplished. If one just wishes for a better relationship with God and others, it changes nothing. Making a good decision about a particular house, changes everything, because life moves forward. Making a decision to allow God to change us...to grow us up, is forward movement in our relationship with God. We don’t remain “stuck” in one place. We don’t remain stuck in our relationship with God when we “let” God find us...when we open ourselves up to receiving his will for our lives. It is in coming home to God that we find fulfillment.

Matthew 7:7 states: *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened (NIV).*

God is faithful. He desires for us to come home and to be committed. He desires for us to make a good decision and ask, seek, and knock. The door will be opened when we truly commit to follow the way of Christ. When we do we don’t have to surf the world-wide net for fulfillment any longer. Christ IS our fulfillment.

Let’s allow God’s homing device to bring us home. And may it be so.

In Christ, for Christ,  
Pastor Carol Pfeiffer

**Church Directory**

We are in the process of bringing our church directory up-to-date for 2006. If you have any additions or changes in the addresses, new class officers, please turn them in to the office or e-mail Jodi at [jodi-john@insightbb.com](mailto:jodi-john@insightbb.com).

**Speaker for October 16**

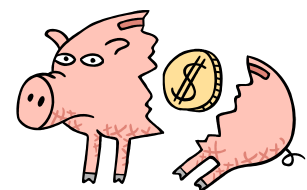
Ann Bach will be speaking October 16 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

**Continuing to Pray for...**

Jeff Bach’s father      Duane Crownover (Marcia Stout’s brother)      Bob Klein      Gary Stout  
 Sheila Weaver (Jodi Johnson’s friend)      Carl Lang      Roger Werking  
 Bill Hall      Don Seibert      Wilma McCary (Beth Bowman’s aunt)  
 Home: Mary Werking, Harriet Burroughs, Ruth Crull, Viola Nicholson, Bernetha Davis  
 Care Center: LuFreda Bowman

**Giving For September**

<b>Average Weekly Offering needed to meet budget.....</b>	<b>\$1,465.20</b>
<b>Average Offering for September.....</b>	<b>\$1,162.89</b>
<b>Offering for Aug. 28.....</b>	<b>\$1,260.70</b>
4.....	1,260.00
11.....	1,050.50
18.....	1,372.32
25.....	968.00
Bethany Seminary Offering.....	24.00
<b>Average Attendance for September .....</b>	<b>47</b>



### Church Women United Thank You

The Hagerstown Church Women United want to thank everyone who donated items to the Henry County Center. We can never know how much that means to these young people and how many lives we have touched through our gifts.

### Thrift Shop –Church Women United

Carol Bullock is the Manager of the **Thrift Shop**, and Donna King works part-time. Other church women volunteer their time such as Marjorie Briar and Carolyn Wieseke. **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.** Others can always use volunteers. So give it some thought and offer a helping hand. Call 765-489-4372.

### Friendship Sunday



September 18 was “Friendship Sunday”. We had a good turnout and a delicious carry-in dinner following worship as well as fellowship with everyone. Don’t stop inviting friends just because that Sunday is over. Every Sunday should be Friendship Sunday. So keep on inviting friends and neighbors. Let’s share the Spirit of Christ.

### Women’s Prayer Group

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.

### Internet Updates

Those of you who have Internet access can check the calendar of events online. They are updated frequently. New information is placed on the Home Page. You can look ahead as you plan your schedule to see what is upcoming at church.

### World Missions Offering October 9



The focus of this October’s World Mission Offering” entitled “Alive to Mission...Together.” There has been a renewed call for extending God’s grace beyond ourselves and our borders at the Mission Alive held in April 2005. We can keep mission alive through District, Vacation Bible School, and Sunday School projects. We need to continue efforts to reach out in faith across national and cultural boundaries to share God’s love in fresh ways. Please support the General Board by participating in the **World Mission Offering October 9, 2005.**

*Jesus said, I came that they might have life...(John 10:10).*

### Christian Education Putting Out a Spread for Breakfast

The Christian Education Team is providing a breakfast for the congregation on Sunday, **October 9 at 8:00 a.m.** You don’t have to prepare your own breakfast that morning. Just hop out of bed and come eat. Yum!

### Church Council Meeting

The Church Council Meeting is **Sunday, October 30** after a carry-in meal. All members are encouraged to be present for the business of the church. Be in prayer for the meeting.

### 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.

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God doesn’t COMFORT us to make us COMFORTABLE, but to make us COMFORTERS.

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God has been telling us all along that there is no shortage of people who say, believe, or stand for the right things. There have always been people who say, believe, or stand for the right things. There have always been plenty of those in the world. What God is short of is people who will go where God calls them and do what God gives them to do—even, say, when it goes against their beliefs. To quote Søren Kierkegaard, Jesus wants followers, not admirers.

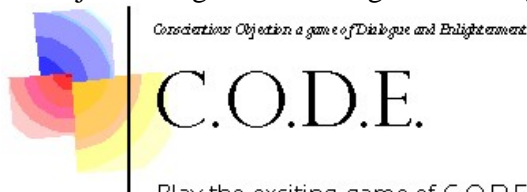
- "The Yes and No Brothers", Home By Another Way, p. 191. Cambridge: Cowley Publications, 1999

### Upcoming Harvest Dinner

Watch the November newsletter for information on this year's Harvest Dinner.

### Peace on Earth offers Game – C.O.D.E

Conscientious Objection a game of Dialogue and Enlightenment



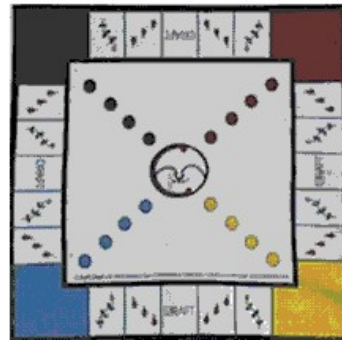
Play the exciting game of C.O.D.E. where you are a citizen of a peaceful world. Your goal is to enlighten other citizens through dialogue. Global issues of economics, international relations and current events make this a game that is never the same twice.

#### PLACE ORDERS

1516 South Water Street  
Kent, OH 44240

Phone: 330-673-7768  
Fax: 330-673-7929

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



The Church of the Brethren has been known for its alternative service opportunities. The information below was taken from <http://www.brethren.org/oepa/CounterRecruitment.html>

## **Counter-Recruitment** *Alternatives to military recruitment*

The U.S. government is hard-pressed to recruit all the personnel it needs to continue pre-emptive war in Iraq, Afghanistan, and beyond. As a result, there is a growing push for military recruiters to secure recruitment of folks up to even age 39. This recruiting disproportionately affects poor communities and communities of color.

On Earth Peace supports a national network of people who are reaching out to youth and young adults to provide alternatives to military service and help reveal the untruths that recruiters offer. Let's recruit for the forces of life, not death!

There is a growing national effort to provide real alternatives to the military for youth and young adults. Would you like to get involved? If you would like to get connected, contact Matt Guynn at [mattguynn@earthlink.net](mailto:mattguynn@earthlink.net) or 765-962-6234.

**How You Can Help the Hurricane Clean-up - Church World Service requests donations of Clean-Up Buckets.**

Church World Service (CWS) has requested the donation of Clean-up Buckets, one of the Gift of the Heart Kits that are warehoused and shipped from the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md. These supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado, or other disaster here in the US. Because of the volatility of the contents, Clean-up Buckets are not shipped internationally. The value per bucket is \$45.

Bucket contents are: one 5 gallon bucket with resealable lid; five scouring pads; seven sponges, assorted sizes; one scrub brush; eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes ®); one 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent; one 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol ®); one 25 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn ®); fifty clothespins; clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.; five dust masks; two pairs latex gloves; one pair work gloves; one 22-27 count box heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon); one 6-14 oz. bottle of insect repellent (drops or lotion, not aerosol). Purchase all liquids in plastic bottles. Send only new, unopened materials. Put all items in the plastic bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape. Place each bucket in a separate box. Buckets may be taken directly to the warehouse in New Windsor, Md., or shipped prepaid to Church World Service, Brethren Service Center Annex, 601 Main St., New Windsor, MD 21776-0188.

Please add \$3 per Clean-Up Bucket for processing and shipping. Do not include these funds in the box but send by check, earmarked for processing/shipping, to Church World Service, 28606 Phillips St., P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515.

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



“You can always tell when he’s going to preach from the book of Romans!”