

# The Visitor

A publication of  
Elkhart City Church of the Brethren

Office:  
1716 Benham Ave.  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
574/ 293-0886

Worship location:  
Seventh Day Adventist  
23818 CR 10  
Elkhart, IN

website:  
[www.eccob.com](http://www.eccob.com)

e-mail:  
[info@eccob.com](mailto:info@eccob.com)

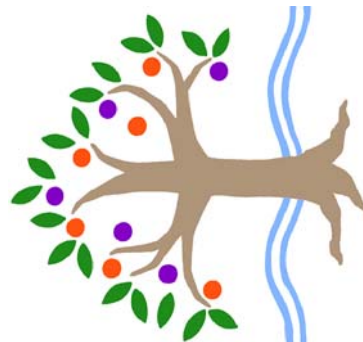
David Bibbee  
Pastor

Ginny Haney  
Administrative Assistant  
& Editor

Jean Mann  
Director of Nurture  
& Education

*The Visitor* is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of church programs and to report news about the people of Elkhart City Church

Elkhart City Church of the Brethren  
1716 Benham Avenue  
Elkhart, IN 46516



• Rooted in God • Growing in Jesus • Bearing Fruit in the Spirit

February 2004

## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Elkhart City Church will be observing Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent on February 25, 2004. The Ash Wednesday service will be held in the sanctuary of the SDA church, and will begin at 7 pm. It will include prayer, reflection, music, and the imposition of ashes for those wish to participate in this traditional symbol of humility and repentance. The service will last about 45 minutes. Lent is the forty days (not including Sundays) leading up to Easter. Historically, it is a time of prayer, fasting, and contemplation of the suffering and sacrifice that Jesus underwent in his journey to resurrection. It is the most solemn season of the Christian year, but it is necessary preparation and prelude to the celebration of Easter. We hope you will use Ash Wednesday as a portal through which to begin on the path toward resurrection and new life. Consider preparing for Ash Wednesday by reading Psalm 51. Verse 10 Begins, "Create in me a clean heart . . ." May this be our prayer for Ash Wednesday and throughout the season of Lent.



Lent

### LENTEN STUDY SERIES

*Traveling the Prayer Paths of Jesus* by John Indermark is the text chosen for our 2004 Lenten series. The studies will take place during the six weeks between Ash Wednesday, February 25, and Easter. This study will examine some of the settings in which Jesus prayed. The opening chapter (*Out of Solitude*) explores prayers of Jesus for which we have no words. Another chapter (*By the Roadside*) takes up individual, recorded prayers that occur during Jesus' itinerant ministry. The rest of the chapters look at more extended teachings and times of prayer in Jesus' life.

The participant will be encouraged to use suggested daily readings, reflect on the reading and perhaps do some journaling. Meetings will take place in host homes on various weekday evenings or on Sunday evening. During the next couple of weeks you will have opportunity to sign up to participate in the Lenten studies.

# February 2004

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

## RESPECT, Show Me What It Means To Be...by Mark Arnold

Reverence. R-E-V-E-R-E-N-C-E. We've all heard the word before, but do we actually know what it means? According to the American Heritage Dictionary, "reverence" is defined as "an act of showing respect." Ok, now that the word "reverence" has been clearly defined, where can it found?

A common place where reverence is found is at a sports game, whether it be baseball, football, or tennis. Before any of the players are allowed to start, team members as well as the spectators remove their hats and face the American flag while the national anthem is played. As soon as this task is completed, game time begins. However, for those few minutes, people gave reverence to this great country and everything it has given them.

Another common place where reverence can be found is in a church. It is this location that I want to particularly focus on. It has come to my attention that many individuals believe reverence to be an act of absolute silence. A few other individuals also believe reverence to be complete seriousness. While all of this could be true, is it not possible to continue to show "an act of respect" and still smile and have fun? If Jesus walked up to you today and asked you about the Cubs, would you respond? Or would you sit there and stare at him in silence? You're being reverent, right? WRONG. According to the beliefs of Christianity, God created everything on this earth. Every bird, every human, every sport, every car, every success as well as every failure is a product of his will. While the argument exists that humans physically created sports, cars, and other material possessions, remember who was standing behind the person that created it.

During a church service is often when the subject of reverence comes into question. The time for "Joys and Concerns", also known as sharing, is a big controversy for some people. They feel that it is impolite for people to be discussing their blessings right after a person has expressed that he or she is going through a rough spot in their life. It is unclear to me how is that irreverent. The comments are not meant to be thrown into someone's face. Remember, God allows both good things as well as the bad ones. Church is about giving reverence to God, not to the people around you. While it is polite, it is not why people show up every week. People attend church to give reverence to God. So thanking him for *everything* he has done is entirely appropriate and deserves everyone's prayers, regardless of the particular subject.

So next time you feel like raising your voice at someone who in your opinion is being disrespectful, ask yourself, "Are they really being irreverent, or am I just irritated?" The difference between those can seem so small yet make a world of difference.



## Newsline

The following articles appeared in "Newsline" and have been edited to fit this page. To view them in their entirety, you may receive Newsline by e-mail, by calling 1-800-323-8039, ext. 263, or write CoBNews@aol.com. Newsline is also available at [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) and is archived at [www.wfn.org](http://www.wfn.org). Also see Photo Journal at [www.brethren.org/pjournal/index.htm](http://www.brethren.org/pjournal/index.htm) for photo coverage of recent events. Newsline is produced by Walt Wiltschek, manager of the General Board's News Services.

**Emergency Response/Service Ministries (ER/SM)** staff at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., packed and shipped a container-load of medicines, medical supplies, and health kits to survivors of an earthquake in Bam, Iran. The emergency shipment was airlifted to Iran to arrive Friday, Jan. 9.

"Our partners, Interchurch Medical Assistance and Church World Service, have been working with the Service Ministries staff as they prepared this urgent shipment of IMA medical boxes and CWS health kits for the people of Iran," said Roy Winter, executive director of the Brethren Service Center. Winter also serves on IMA's board of directors.

"Whenever there is great tragedy, I always have a moment of profound sadness. While this lingers, I also find myself experiencing a sense of awe at the willingness of people to respond so very quickly to human need," Winter said. "When we work together, it is amazing what is accomplished. These supplies, along with a \$35,000 grant from the Church of the Brethren Emergency Disaster Fund, are great examples of the church continuing the work of Jesus in the world."

Bam was leveled Dec. 26 by a 6.6-magnitude earthquake. Unofficial estimates of the death toll are as high as 60,000. In the surrounding area, 200,000 people were affected. CWS anticipates the relief effort in Bam will be at least a five- to seven-year commitment.

Brethren staff gave the shipment a quick turnaround, anticipating the need for extra work over the holidays as they saw reports of the earthquake on the news.

**\*The Annual Conference Denominational Name Study Committee** notes that it is still receiving response forms online through the first week of February. Earlier technical issues with the committee's web page have been resolved, and the form can be accessed on the Annual Conference website, at [www.brethren.org/ac](http://www.brethren.org/ac).

### Church of the Brethren General Board Prayer Calendar

#### Week of Feb. 1

Pray for the denomination's district executives as they work in varied settings to place pastors, coordinate ministries, and provide vision and leadership to groups of congregations large and small.

#### Week of Feb. 8

Spend some quiet time in prayer, pondering what it means to be the church in this time and listening to what God may be calling it to do and be.

#### Week of Feb. 15

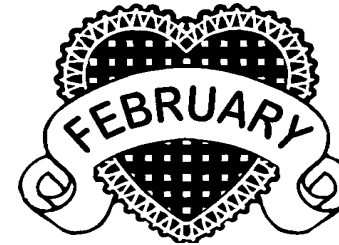
Pray for the young adults, the older adults, and all those in between who answer God's call to share the cup of cold water through Brethren Volunteer Service.

#### Week of Feb. 22

Kneel before God in an attitude of forgiveness in this week of Ash Wednesday, confessing those times in which we have not been fully faithful in our walk.

#### Week of Feb. 29

Thank God for the ministry of the many congregations in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, and for all those working to make them vital centers of outreach and worship.



### Birthdays

2	John Zerbe
5	Janet Berkebile
7	Bill Marcin
7	Andrew Gordon
8	Ray Bloom
10	Bill Birr
11	Micah Swigert
13	Kate Christian
18	Connie West
21	Mike Soucie
21	Cody Vance

### Anniversaries

21	Tim & Shelly Randall
26	Bruce & Cathy Barwick

## Witness Commission



### Blanket Sunday

This year the Witness Commission has designated **February 22nd** as Blanket Sunday (Now called Tools of Hope and Blanket Program).

Our gifts of money help to provide warmth and shelter to those whose world has been torn apart by war, earthquakes, floods and other disasters that have left many homeless. Thanks to our gifts, Church World Service is able to provide comfort and warmth, something to hold on to along with hope for our neighbors around the world.

Our congregation has always been a strong supporter of the CWS blanket program. Let's see this continue as we share with others. Envelopes for this offering will be in the February 15 church bulletin and also on the hospitality table. Please return the envelopes on February 22nd. Remember to make checks payable to Elkhart City Church of the Brethren designated for Blanket Sunday. Contributions will be accepted through March 21.

### Witness Special Giving

(as of December 31, 2003)

2¢ a Meal	\$ 986.37
Baldwin Missionary	\$ 1045.00
Church Community Services	\$ 1495.00
Church World Service	\$ 1436.25
COB General Board	\$ 180.00
DISMAS	\$ 100.00
Soup of Success	\$ 170.00
Heifer International	\$ 636.75
Total above budget giving	\$ 6049.37

## Stewardship Commission

### Financial Statistics through: December 31, 2003

#### General Fund

Year to Date Income	\$ 164,645.55
Expenses	\$ <u>162,659.49</u>
Net Gain	\$ 1,986.06

#### Average Attendance

Worship: 93      Church School: 58

#### Building Fund Donations (To-date)

Walk by Faith (w/Interest)	\$411,998.41
Bldg. Sale proceeds (w/interest)	\$ <u>95,367.28</u>
Total New Location	\$ 507,365.69

## District *Connection*



A **ministry team** is made up of a small group of people who feel “called” to serve at a particular task that fits our church’s mission and vision. When God is “calling” you to serve, the task is something that brings you joy, it feels natural to you because your own unique gifts are being used.



Abraham extends gracious hospitality to three men who appear near the entrance to his tent in Genesis 18: 1-15. He offers hospitality without being aware of the divine presence and in return received God’s blessings.

In Acts 2: 46-47, “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people.”

continued next page

**Nurture Commission and Hospitality Committee are looking for several individuals for each of these ministry teams listed below, who feel called to serve in this way.** Being on each Ministry Team does not mean that you do all the work. It means that your team “does what it takes” to make your “service” happen. The more people you find who feel “called” to help with your particular task, the better.

You may have prior experience with the activity involved on the team you sign up for, but this is not necessary. We have an experienced mentor available to get each team started, serve as a resource person and help with monetary needs. Details of each team’s tasks are written out, but exactly how you carry forward is up to your team.

**FELLOWSHIP TIME MINISTRY TEAM:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 for persons who have the gift of planning and enjoy working with food.

**“ALL CHURCH” EVENTS MINISTRY TEAMS :**  
**FOOD TEAM:** \_\_\_\_\_

for people who welcome the challenge of planning for and serving large group meals. This team would function throughout the year as needed, in coordination with the activities teams.

**ACTIVITIES TEAM:** for creative dreamers who enjoy hosting large groups and have the gift of organizing. These team members would each be in charge of one “All Church” event a year. Each event leader would form their own team of workers.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE FAIR ACTIVITIES TEAM** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SUMMER PICNIC & FUN FEST ACTIVITIES TEAM** \_\_\_\_\_  
**GOLF OUTING ACTIVITIES TEAM** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADVENT ACTIVITIES TEAM** \_\_\_\_\_  
**?????????ACTIVITIES TEAM** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOSPITALITY TEAM:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 for folks whose ready smiles and friendly greetings are easily shared with people of all ages whether they’ve known them all their lives, or just met them for the 1st time. This team includes **Greeters and Follow-up Visitors** (who drop notes to visiting family members from out of town and make a personal contact with local folks who visit).

\*\*\*\*\*

Please pray about these fellowship and hospitality teams and where you might become involved. Sign your name by the team for which you feel called to serve and turn this paper in to one of the Nurture Commission Folders in the mail box file crate to the left.