

The Visitor

A publication of

Elkhart City Church of the Brethren

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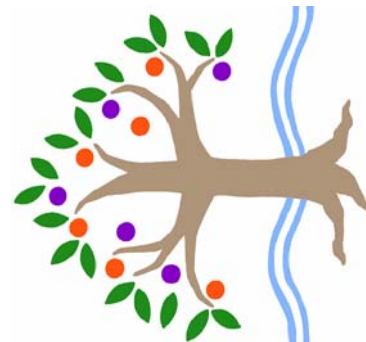
*David Bibbee
Pastor*

*Ginny Haney
Administrative Assistant
& Editor*

Elkhart City Church of the Brethren

1716 Benham Avenue

Elkhart, IN 46516



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

Page 6

“Called by a New Name”

Calling for a Ministry Team to recommend a “New Name” for our Church

The Church Board is calling 5 persons to serve on a short-term Ministry Team to bring a recommendation to the congregation for a New Name for our church. This opportunity to serve is suggested for persons who feel they have a gift of creativity, a gift of visioning and/or the gift of knowledge concerning the church.

Participants should be able to make a commitment of approximately 6 months. Response forms can be found on the table in the foyer on Sundays at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, or you can also find the form on the Elkhart City website at www.eccob.com or from the church office.

Also from the Board...

At the Church board meeting on Sunday, April 18 the Church Board approved the preliminary framework for the new structure to accomplish the work of the church. Focusing on



our mission and vision and supporting the six marks of discipleship a structure was created that will support the functions required to achieve our mission. The staff would be a resource or liaison to the long-term ministry teams, which are identified at the next level

below the staff. Communication will flow both ways. Church Board and the long-term teams will create whatever short-term teams they need to accomplish their functions and responsibilities. For a comprehensive view of this plan as laid out by the board, please see pages 8-9 of this publication.

APPEAL FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FACILITATORS FOR ELKHART CITY

Ephesians 4: 11-16 says: gave some to be apostles, to be evangelists, and teachers, to prepare God's vice, so that the body of until we all reach unity knowledge of the Son of attaining to the whole Christ.



It was he (Christ) who some to be prophets, some some to be pastors and people for works of ser-Christ may be built up in the faith and in the God and become mature, measure of the fullness of



The Nurture Commis-appealing for Chris-tators, persons who people understand the life Christ everyday life at every



sion of ECCOB is tian Education Facili-will serve at "Helping what it means to live challenged us to live in stage of life."

From tiny on up School Classes include: Middlers, Junior High, woven (young adult), ers, Onward, and Quarter, Fall Quarter Bible School.



Elkhart City Sunday Preschool, Primary, Senior High, Inter-New Life, Thee Seek-Overcomers, Summer and June Vacation



Continued on page 3

In the Life of Elkhart City MAY 2004

2	9:00 a.m.	WORSHIP	
	10:45 a.m.	Church School for all ages	
4	4:30 p.m.	Overcomer's @ MCL	
5	9:00 a.m.	Volunteer Fellowship @ Myrtis Justiniano's	
	6:30 p.m.	Children's Choir @ Seventh Day Adventist	
6	7:00 p.m.	Witness Commission @ Vardaman's	
	7:00 p.m.	Cornerstone Committee @ Kathy Royer's	
9		MOTHER'S DAY	
	9:00 a.m.	WORSHIP	
	10:45a. m.	Church School	
12	6:30 p.m.	Children's Choir @ SDA	
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir @ SDA	
18	9:00 a.m.	Worship	
	10:45 a.m.	Church School	
	12:00 p.m.	Nurture Commission Service Fair @ McNaughton Park	
19	6:30 p.m.	Children's Choir @ Seventh Day Adventist	
	7:00 p.m.	Cornerstone Committee @ Zerbe's	
20	7:00 p.m.	Ministry Commission @ Vardaman's	
23	9:00 a.m.	WORSHIP @ Seventh Day Adventist	
	10:45 a.m.	Church School for all ages	
	12:00 p.m.	"Making Disciples" mentors meeting—lunch provided	
	7:00 p.m.	District Worship Gathering at Union Center COB	
30	9:00 a.m.	WORSHIP	
	10:45 a.m.	Church School for all ages	
31		Memorial Day—Church Office Closed	



Church of the Brethren 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 and is archived at www.wfn.org. Also see Photo Journal at 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. Newsline stories may be reprinted provided that Newsline is cited as the source.

*Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has issued a call for recipes for a new "More-with-Less"-style cookbook. The advisory group for the project includes Church of the Brethren ordained minister Sue Wagner Fields. Recipes can be submitted at www.morewithless.org or request a recipe submission form by calling MCC at 888-563-4676. Priority will be given to recipes that use primarily ingredients that are ripe in one season. Recipes will be tested by volunteers who will give feedback, following the model of the MCC's World Community Cookbook series. Personal reflections on eating with the seasons also are invited. Target date for publication is April 2005. "This is something Brethren will be proud to be a part of, and it's a way of putting our faith and values into action in our daily lives," said Fields.

* Three grants from the General Board's Global Food Crisis Fund (GFCF) totaling \$32,900 will be directed at food needs in Sudan. A grant of \$20,000 from the board's Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) will support earthquake recovery in the city of Bam, Iran.

The grants for Sudan will be given through the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC), which is based in the south of the country. Sudan has suffered from a decades-long civil war between the mostly Muslim and Arab north and the mostly Christian and African south.

Responding to a Church World Service appeal, the EDF grant will fund psycho-social assistance to the needy--especially children--in Bam, as well as pre-fabricated housing and earthquake-resistant housing for families outside the city

*Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind., has broken ground for a new recital hall. The \$1.2 million project on the north end of Otho Winger Hall is expected to take just five months. To get construction underway, the community was invited to "dig in" at a March 30 ground-breaking accompanied by the A Cappella Choir, just returned from a peace tour of Italy.

Church of the Brethren General Board Prayer Calendar

Week of May 2

Pray that our youth would be blessed in their journey as they seek the mind of Christ and offer their gifts to the church.

Week of May 9

Ask God's blessings on those newly called to ministry and those who are considering such a call, that they would remain attuned to the Holy Spirit's leading.

Week of May 16

Praise God for those who carry a passion for planting churches and finding new ways to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Week of May 23

Remember in prayer the congregations of the West as they carry out the work of Jesus in Arizona, Idaho, and all along the Pacific Coast.

Week of May 30

Lift up the many youth and young adults who will be participating in Church of the Brethren workcamps this summer, ministering in word and deed.

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. Please give prayerful consideration to your gifts and calling. If you feel led to share your talents in Christian Education, please complete fill in what classes you would like to work with and turn this form in to Judy DePue, Nurture Commission Chair, by **Sunday, May 9th, 2004.**

_____ Yes, I feel God has blessed me with a gift that would be useful as a Christian Education Facilitator with class or classes:

_____, _____, _____
Quarter Preference _____ Winter _____ Spring
_____ Summer _____ Fall

The gift I feel called to share is _____

My gift would contribute to this or these class(es) in the following ways:

My name: _____

Ephesians 3:17-19 And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.



Birthdays

- 2 Jim Buchanan
- 10 Mary Hall
- 10 Myrtis Justiniano
- 10 Twig Bibbee
- 13 Dave Eis
- 13 Rosanna McFadden
- 15 Ralph Schrock
- 18 Gary Arnold
- 20 Jeff Vance
- 20 Rick Rodgers
- 24 Crystal Rodgers
- 26 Roger Griffith
- 26 Larry Ehret
- 27 Eileen Rohrer
- 30 Colleen Weaver

Anniversaries

- 14 Gary & Pauline Arnold
- 17 Alex & Donna Anderson

Health Notes:

Connie West had emergency heart surgery on Monday, April 19 when a catheterization revealed a large clot. She is recovering at Elkhart General Hospital.

Eileen Rohrer had a heart catheterization on Tuesday, April 20. Although some blockage was found, medication will be used to treat the problem.

Claudette Emmons was admitted to Elkhart General Hospital on Wednesday this past week. She is being treated with IV antibiotics for an infection. She was released on April 28.

Evelyn Heeter was scheduled to begin a six-week series of radiation treatments on April 28.

Helen Crussmeyer is also a patient at Elkhart General hospital.



DISMAS

11th Annual Salad Luncheon

Thursday, May 13
 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
 \$5.00 donation per person
 First Presbyterian Church
 333 W. Colfax Ave., South Bend, IN

Thanks in advance to all who are furnishing a salad. Carpooling will be available on the day of the luncheon. Please see Carolyn Colver.

Grace Notes

A Northern Indiana District

WORSHIP GATHERING

Sunday, May 23, 2003—7:00 pm

UNION CENTER CHURCH of the BRETHREN

70535 county road 11 @ county roads 11 and 50 Nappanee, IN

Worship has only one object—GOD!

Worship has one purpose—TO GLORIFY GOD!

Worship is our gift to God for the GRACE God lavishes upon us.

Worship transforms us into the image of the ONE whom we adore.

You are invited to join other Church of the Brethren congregations for an uplifting time of worship focusing upon the theme of God's transforming grace.

Grace Notes will feature District music ensembles that will lead worshippers in singing a variety of songs that are making an impact on the church.

SELECTIONS WILL INCLUDE:

Time-honored hymns

Emerging church hymns

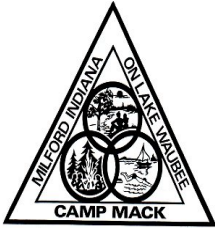
Praise and Gospel music

Contemplative hymns

You will also be blessed by stories from three people whose lives have been dramatically changed by the wonder of God's grace.

Childcare and refreshments will be provided

Corner Camp Mack



P.O. Box 158,
Milford, IN 46542
phone: 574-658-4831
fax: 574-658-4765

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR YOUR BOOTH AT THIS YEAR'S CAMP MACK FESTIVAL? This year's Festival is October 2nd. Late booth registrations will still be accepted. If your congregation is unable to have a booth of their own, why not consider working with a neighboring congregation to provide a booth? Or volunteer to help with parking, entertainment, children's activities, etc. Plan to be a part of this year's CMF!

SEASONED CITIZENS always have lots of fun, laughter, great food, inspiring Bible study and relaxation at their retreats. Hurry to sign up for May's Seasoned Citizens retreat to be held May 10-13. Cost is \$85 per person. Or you may sign up for both the May and October retreats for the reduced price of \$160.00 each.

ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS!: CROSSWALK (formerly Young Adult Retreat) is June 4-6. This is for all young adults, single or married, 18 years of age and older. Plan to attend. Fee is \$48.00

MORE IMPORTANT DATES:

Birdwatchers' Retreat May 6-8
Fishing Camp June 4-6



Heifer International 60th Anniversary Event Schedule:

Friday, June 25

1:00—3:45 p.m. Educational Forums at the Midwest Regional Center, 66300 US Hwy 33, Goshen, Indiana

4:30 p.m. Midwest Center Dedication

7:30 p.m. Ken Medema Concert at the Goshen College Performing Arts Center. (\$10.00)

Saturday, June 26

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Speakers from Heifer Projects around the world in the Home & Family Arts Bldg at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Animal exhibits, cowboy hospitality room, displays, cottage industry exhibits, children's activities, quilt displays, third world craft items... Sheep/Swine Arena at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds.

2:00 p.m. Quilt Auction at the Fairgrounds

6:30 p.m. Celebration Banquet at the Green-croft Senior Center honoring the past WW-2 cowboys. Keynote speaker is Heifer CEO Jo Luck. (\$15.00)

Sunday, June 27

Many churches in the Goshen area will recognize Heifer for its work during their church services. Information will be available in the display area on Saturday.

Registration forms for special event tickets are available from the church office.

Witness Commission

Witness Special Giving

(as of March 31, 2004)

2¢ a Meal	\$	228.79
COB General Board	\$	130.00
Baldwin Missionary	\$	345.00
Church Community Services	\$	320.00
Heifer Project	\$	17.25
Blanket Sunday	\$	1052.50
School Kits	\$	125.12
Health Kits	\$	44.62
Soup of Success	\$	45.00
Total above budget giving	\$	2308.28



Fill the Ark

This year the "Fill the Ark" campaign will start April 25 and will continue through the third week in May. The arks will be collected on May 23rd during worship. All proceeds go to Heifer Project International.

Heifer Project supplies many species of animals to families in need throughout the world. Some of these are listed below with their cost. Every family who receives livestock agrees to pass one or more of its animals' offspring to another neighbor in need. Because we want to concentrate our efforts on Heifer Project during May, the Hunger Offering (2 ¢ a Meal) will not be collected in May.

A Note for the Children—Please bring one or two Beanie Babies or other small stuffed animals for the worship center on the Sunday we collect the arks, May 23rd. You may place them on the worship center before the worship service begins.

Your animals will represent the animals that will be purchased with the "Fill the Ark" money collected.

Gift List for the World

Heifer	\$500
Water Buffalo	\$250
Llama	\$150
Goat, sheep or pig	\$120
Rabbits or trees	\$ 60
Fish fingerlings	\$ 50
Bees	\$ 30
Chicks, ducks or geese	\$ 20

Doris Walters, Witness Commission Chair

Stewardship Commission

Financial Statistics through: March 31, 2004

General Fund

Year to Date Income	\$	39,016.96
Expenses	\$	43,742.09
Net Loss	\$	(4,725.13)

Average Attendance

Worship: 95 Church School: 74

Building Fund Donations (To-date)

Walk by Faith (w/Interest)	\$	419,240.83
Bldg. Sale proceeds (w/Interest)	\$	95,666.06
Total New Location	\$	514,906.89

ECCOB SERVICE OPPORTUNITY FAIR

SUNDAY MAY 16TH
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SUNDAY SCHOOL
AT MC NAUGHTON PARK PAVILION

SPONSORED BY WITNESS COMMISSION & NURTURE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES TEAM

When Jesus was on the Mount of Olives and his disciples came asking him about the second coming he told them about separating the righteous from the unrighteous by explaining that the Son of Man would sit on his throne and say:

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father;
take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.
For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you came to visit me.”

When the righteous ask when they had done these things for the Son of Man,
“The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did
For one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”
Because of this teaching, we serve others.

One of our MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP is to SERVE IN AND BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION.

During our SERVICE OPPORTUNITES FAIR each of us will have a chance to learn more about how we as individuals and Sunday School Classes or Small Groups, can help people who are in need in our local community and the world outside Michiana. We plan to have information available for you on the following SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| ADEC | BASHOR HOME | CAMP MACK |
| CCS | DISASTER RELIEF | DISMAS |
| FAITH MISSION | GOSHEN COLLEGE | HABITAT FOR HUNMANITY |
| HEIFER PROJECT | TIMBERCREST | HOSPITAL AUXILIARIES |
| HOSPICE | KIWANIS | MEALS ON WHEELS |
| SALVATION ARMY | CROP WALK | HISPANIC HEALTH COALITION |

Many of you will be asked to help present material and answer questions at the SERVICE OPPORTUNITY FAIR related to volunteer activities that you have experience with.

Plan to come....Sunday, May 16th...We will eat finger food while we walk around the table displays and learn from each other, and will close with hot bowls of Stone Soup cooked during the Service Opportunity Fair from ingredients that we each bring to share.

Sandy Gordon's Rhubarb Custard Pie

Rhubarb is not my favorite pie, but when I eat a slice or three of Sandy's designer rhubarb custard pie (rcp), no other variety can touch it. Like fresh cranberries, rhubarb is an unbearably tart fruit; so tart that no amount of sugar can eliminate the pucker. The mark of a superb rcp is the initial taste. It must first be sweet, followed immediately by tart. A tart-sweet taste indicates an inferior, mass-produced, chemically enhanced imitation.

Sandy has perfected a delicate balance of contrasting flavors that is a benchmark for all great pies. The rhubarb/sugar interplay symbolizes the tensions inherent to the human condition-- sadness and joy, law and grace, doubt and faith. The crust that cradles the filling is also a work of art. I am not certain, but I believe that lard is the foundation of her delicate and flaky, yet robust crust that possesses a robust character. The union of crust and filling is a delightful marriage of textures.

Sandy Gordon is a wonderful cook whose ability to feed the masses great food on a shoestring budget is legendary. Working with Mennonite Volunteer Service, she fed lots of people at disaster cleanup sights from Georgia to California. On nights when Sandy didn't cook for Wednesday community dinners, I overheard whispering, "I hope Sandy's cooking next week." A reason the first Christians ate together after worship is because there was a Sandy in the kitchen. People in our church who have been hospitalized or have gone through difficult times have been the recipients of Sandy's home-delivered meals (pie included). Her food for the stomach is medicine for the soul.

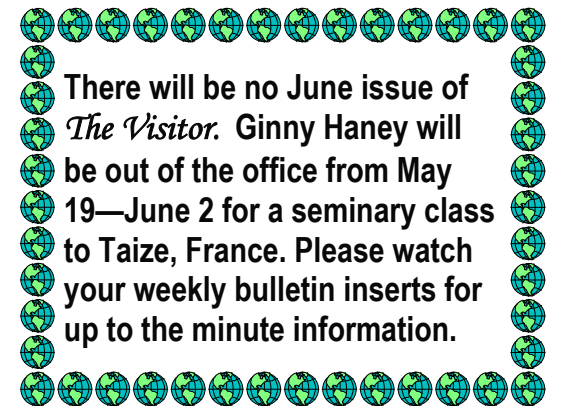
Sandy Gordon's rcp isn't just a pie. It represents

her concern for others. It says that she is always available and ready to do what she can. Whether I sit to eat a slice of Sandy's pie or a mess of fried morels, its comfort food that tells me where I came from, who my people are, and brings to life all the departed good cooks who fed me and loved me. Like rhubarb custard pie, Sandy is sweet and tart. She loves God, the church, God's people, and she loves to smile. Sweet. She speaks her mind, she is passionate in her opinions, and she means business. Tart. Get to know Sandy and you'll see both sides. Stick around long enough and you might get some pie.

Think of someone who has been is a culinary minister to you. Name the favorite dish they prepare. What do you appreciate about the person? How have they ministered to you or to others? Tell us about them with words from your heart. Send your **Culinary Minister** article to the church office by the newsletter deadline. Remember, food and faith go together.

Bon appetite in Christ,

Pastor David



There will be no June issue of *The Visitor*. Ginny Haney will be out of the office from May 19—June 2 for a seminary class to Taize, France. Please watch your weekly bulletin inserts for up to the minute information.

The Culinary Minister

In the kitchen of most homes is a cookbook collection. Many of these collections contain at least one church cookbook. Now and then, recipes appear in church newsletters, but I've never seen a "recipe review" feature. Potluck veterans often seek the cook who made a particularly delectable dish, asking for the recipe and sweet-talking the cook into bringing it to the next potluck, and the next, and the next. We have added a "Focus On..." feature in **The Visitor** as a way of learning more about each other. In April we got the scoop on Gary "The Webmeister" Arnold, and this issue features Mary Lou Martin. I propose a monthly article about a favorite food prepared by someone in the congregation.



Food is more than food. It is a gift. *"For health and strength and daily food, we give thee thanks, O Lord."* It reminds us that we are dependent upon God for all the necessities of life. Eating together is a facet of building community in the church. Acts 2: 46 describes daily life of Christians in the early church: *"They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God."* In the sermon on April 25th, I said that nearly all of Jesus' resurrection appearances are related to food. It is a way of saying that food is to the body what Jesus is to the soul. Food is also a comforting connection to our past, which is why

we call it, "comfort food." It brings to mind wonderful associations whenever we eat it.

I loved my Grandma Bibbee's brown sugar pie. Attempts by family members to duplicate it failed. Some came close, but close didn't cut it. I can taste it still in my mind. I always said that if I ever tasted it again, I would know it immediately. I tasted brown sugar pie imposters for thirty-five years, then, at a church potluck, I found it. One bite, I was back in my Grandma's kitchen. Betty Yoder made the pie. She had no way of knowing that it would minister someone.

Elkhart City is a church with exceptional cooks (of both genders), who bless us with their culinary gifts. Think about a favorite dish prepared by someone in the congregation. Describe the dish.

What makes it special? How is it a reflection of the cook's personality? What makes the cook a minister?

You may think I'm spending entirely too much time watching the Food Channel, that I am just kidding about the proposal, or, that I've taken leave of my senses, which you've known for a long time. To give you an idea of what I'm talking about, I've written the first edition of, **The Culinary Minister**.

Continued on next page

Spotlight on...Mary Lou Martin

Mary Lou Martin loves to count money, and each Monday you will find her at the church office doing just that. For fourteen years she has faithfully showed up each week to help count the offering that is collected on Sundays.

Mary Lou has been attending Elkhart City Church for 41 years. She has participated in the church in a number of ways during that time. Some of the ways she has been active are:

- ✦ Sunday School Superintendent
- ✦ Church Board
- ✦ Stewardship Commission
- ✦ Secretary of the Overcomer's Sunday School Class
- ✦ Worship Leader
- ✦ Nursery attendant during Sunday worship.



- ✦ Representative for Elkhart City to Church Community Services
- ✦ Faithfully delivers tapes of the Sunday Services to shut-ins
- ✦ Collects Sunday School offerings each week.
- ✦ Conducts her own card ministry for church members and others.
- ✦ Sees to it that persons without transportation get to church each week.

Mary Lou and Ronnie Martin will celebrate their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on September 4th of this year. They have three grown children: Billy, Tom and Paula. They also have six grandchildren.

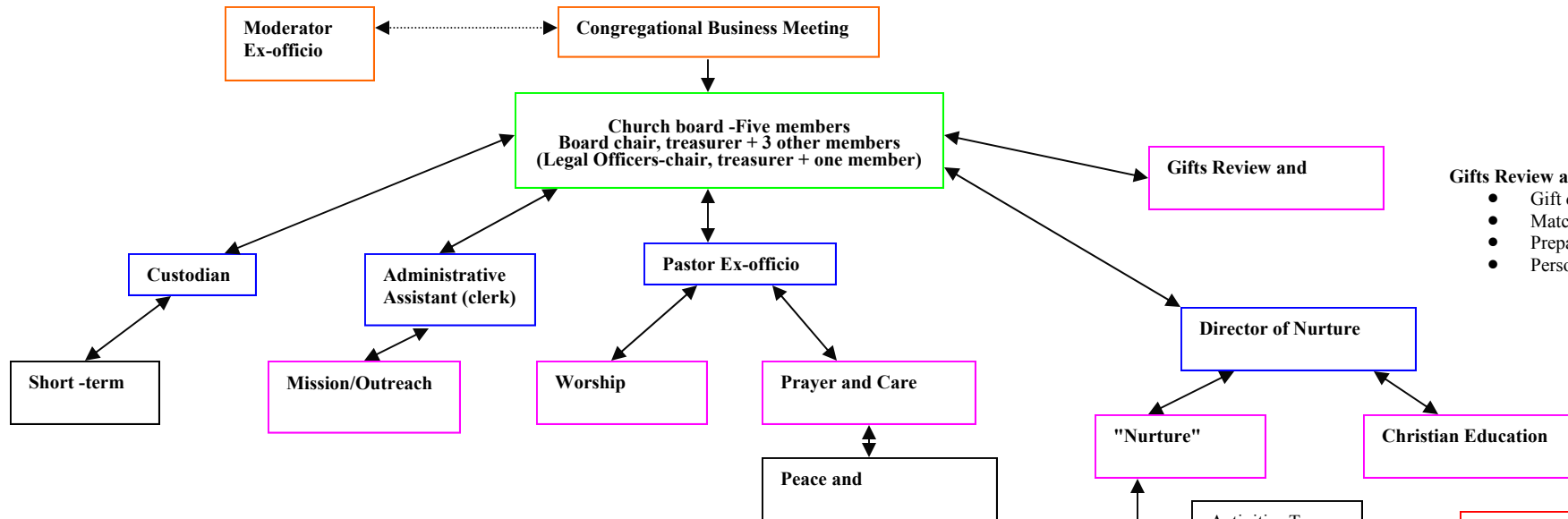
Mary Lou is also a member of the Red Hat Society. She enjoys walking for exercise and you will find her faithfully attending "The Spa" for aerobics three times a week.

News From the Church Board

At the Church board meeting on Sunday, April 18 the Church Board approved the preliminary framework for the new structure to accomplish the work of the church. Focusing on our mission and vision and supporting the six marks of discipleship (Red boxes) a structure was created that will support the functions required to achieve our mission. The staff (blue boxes) would be a resource or liaison to the long-term ministry teams (purple boxes), which are identified at the next level below the staff. Communication will flow both ways. Church Board and the long-term teams will create whatever short-term teams (black boxes) they need to accomplish their functions and responsibilities. For example, the Church Board for visioning and planning of the new church building called the Cornerstone Ministry Team. Staff would be attending the Church Board meetings and can assist in the coordination of activities and share information. The long-term ministry team members will not be required to attend board meetings on a regular basis. The small reorganization team will be meeting to define the responsibilities of each of the long-term teams and to determine the details of operation, after which we will implement a trial. Watch for more information and opportunities to discuss the information, as details are determined. Note the following structure and listed functions.

Church board Functions

- Visioning
- Ministry consistent with Mission and Vision
- Grow leaders
- Initiate hiring procedures/Staff evaluations
- Coordination of Staff calendars
- Resource allocation
- Coordination of ministry teams
- Legal Officers



Gifts Review and Placement Functions:

- Gift discernment
- Match gifts with needs
- Preparation of ballot for elected roles
- Personnel committee duties

Custodian Functions

- Building maintenance
- Grounds
- Facilitate use of building grounds

GIVING & SERVING

- Mission/Outreach Functions**
- Mission money allocations
 - Service Projects
 - Evangelism
 - Special Community needs

WORSHIP

- Worship Functions**
- Planning of worship
 - Sacraments
 - Audiovisual
 - Music
 - Seasonal worship

PRAYER & RELATIONSHIP

- Prayer/Care Functions**
- Prayer needs
 - Care needs—ex. Meals
 - Assist Pastor—anoointing
 - Assist with visitation—ill and shut-ins
 - Emergency response
- Peace and Reconciliation**
- Facilitate conflict resolution
 - Listener

RELATIONSHIP

- Nurture Functions**
- Social events
 - Food for events
 - Welcome visitors
 - Fellowship times

READ THE BIBLE

Christian Education Functions

- Sunday School curriculum
- Lent/advent devotional materials
- Materials for Small groups
- Mentor teachers
- Library?