

# The Visitor

A publication of

**Creekside  
Church of the Brethren**

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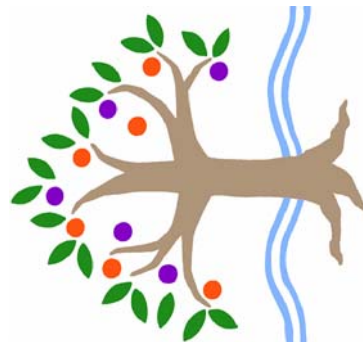
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*The Visitor is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of church programs and to report news about the people of Creekside Church.*

Creekside Church of the Brethren

1716 Benham Avenue

Elkhart, IN 46516



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

May 2005

## Many Blessings...

The deadline for my final *Visitor* as editor is fast approaching. The words really aren't coming to convey my feelings, but I cannot let this opportunity pass.

I wish to share with the entire congregation my heartfelt thanks for allowing me to be part of first, the Elkhart City family, then the Creekside family. Although they are really one in the same, the changes that have taken place over the past 2 3/4 years tell quite a story.

The Creekside Church of the Brethren is not the same as when I began as the Administrative Assistant in August of 2002. Some individuals have died, others have graduated from high school or college; and still others have moved on to other places in their lives. But the core of this family is as strong as it ever has been. If the physical foundation for the new church building is as strong as the

foundation of the body of believers in it, I feel certain that both will last a lifetime and beyond.

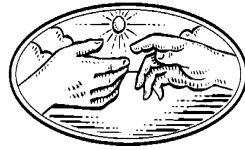
I, too, am not the same as when I first met all of you. I have traveled the path that God has laid out for me and I am eternally grateful that this path has allowed me to cross paths with all of you. You all have helped me grow in my faith. Because of this growth, in spite of my sadness at leaving this position, I eagerly await what God has in store for me as I move on to the next phase of my life.



Because I have become part of the family, I desire only God's richest blessings for Creekside. Follow your vision: Seek. Celebrate. Share. As disciples of Christ, may your mission be evident to all you meet. God be with you till our paths cross again.

In Christ, Ginny Haney

## WHAT IS ENCOURAGEMENT?

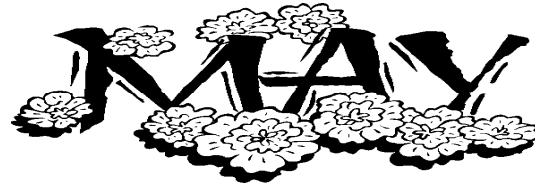


Encouragement is the work of the HOLY SPIRIT in the human heart. Causing us to truly care. To desire the very best for one another. Inspire with courage, hope, and confidence.

### Ways to Encourage:

1. A STRONG ARM—My arm alone will not bring healing to you. But together as our arms are tucked into the Lord's arm hope becomes reality and a real possibility.
2. A LOUD CHEER—Don't sit idly by, respond! HIP-HIP HURRAY!!!! WAY TO GO!!!!
3. A WARM HAND—Grab a hand. DON'T LET GO!! Our hands are emblematic of the hands of Jesus!
4. GENTLE PROD—It motivates . Push and move others ever so gradually. GENTLY.
5. AN UNDERSTANDING SMILE ☺
6. A KICK IN THE PANTS—It hurts. When rebuke is sponsored by the HOLY SPIRIT it will bear fruit.
7. A WARM EMBRACE—Hugs cost you nothing to give, but are a blessing to others.
8. SILENCE—Knowing when to keep silent.
9. A SOFT VOICE—Close your mouth, listen with your heart. Respond gently and with love.
10. PRAYER—Seek GOD's wisdom, in everything you do or say.

Submitted by Karen Eis



## Birthdays

- 2 Jim Buchanan
- 7 Danielle Rohrer
- 10 Myrtis Justiniano
- 10 Twig Bibbee
- 13 Dave Eis
- 13 Rosanna McFadden
- 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
- 26 Lynn & Grace Bollinger
- 27 Roger & Anne Griffith

numerical decline with a net loss of 217 members (1.44 percent).

The number of full congregations decreased by one to 1,024, but the number of fellowships and projects increased from 37 to 44, suggesting a burst of new church plants. Total reported average worship attendance remained nearly steady from a year earlier, at 67,591 per week.

"Yearbook" figures are based on data provided by congregations that turn in updated statistical reports; 71 percent did so for 2004. Denominational membership has declined every year since 1974, and has been on a downward trend since the early 1960s.

### Writers for New Curriculum Needed

Experienced freelance writers are sought for the Gather 'Round curriculum. The forthcoming (Fall 2006) curriculum is accepting applications from people interested in writing for the second curriculum year. The curriculum is being produced jointly by the Church of the Brethren, Mennonite Church Canada, and Mennonite Church USA. Curriculum units are designed for preschool, kindergarten to grade 2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8, youth grades 9-12, multi-age (for children from grades K-6), and parent/caregiver. Writers must be able to attend a writers' conference Aug. 2-6, and be able to commit to a writing schedule averaging one session per week (includes teacher's guide, student resource, and classroom material). For an application packet contact Anna Speicher, project director, at the Church of the Brethren General Offices, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120; 800-323-8039 ext. 209; [gatherround@brethren.org](mailto:gatherround@brethren.org). See [www.gatherround.org](http://www.gatherround.org) for more information. Application deadline is May 27.

## Church of the Brethren

### General Board Prayer Calendar

#### MAY PRAYER FOCUS: YOUTH / YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

##### Week of May 1

On this National Youth Sunday, thank God for the youth in our midst and pray for openness to all the lessons they can teach.

##### Week of May 8

Celebrate and say thanks for the regional youth conferences held around the denomination through the spring, and for the impact these events have each year.

##### Week of May 15

Lift up in prayer the National Youth Cabinet and coordinators Cindy Laprade, Beth Rhodes, and Emily Tyler as they work on plans for next summer's life-changing National Youth Conference.



##### Week of May 22

Pray for the Church of the Brethren Young Adult Conference occurring this week in Ohio, asking for the Holy Spirit's leading in the lives of each of the youth adults gathered there.

##### Week of May 29

Remember the six Brethren colleges and Brethren Colleges Abroad, and praise God for the many opportunities they offer young adults. Pray for the campus chaplains, faculty, church relations staff, and others who help students along their faith journey

## Church of the Brethren Newsline

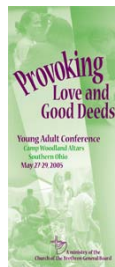
### Emergency Disaster Fund disburses six grants totaling \$232,500.

Six grants totaling \$232,500 have been given from the General Board's Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) for tsunami relief and work in Sudan, Arizona, Mexico, and China. Giving to the EDF in 2005 has now topped \$1 million, totaling \$1,036,024.

An allocation of \$150,000 continues Church of the Brethren support of a Church World Service appeal for work in southern Asia following the tsunami Dec. 26. The money will provide emergency food, medical support, drinking water, and shelter, along with mental health interventions and income-generating programs. Another \$30,000 will go to Service Ministries' tsunami relief efforts. As a result of this disaster, the program based at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., has received 330,000 pounds of Gift of the Heart kits and over 327,000 pounds of aid. The funds will help cover additional staff and volunteer expenses needed for this large response effort. Including these two grants, to date the EDF has given a total of \$360,000 toward tsunami relief.

### Young Adult Conference May 27-29

at [Woodland Altars](#) in Southern Ohio still has space available for young adults who wish to register. The Memorial Day weekend conference will be filled with fellowship, workshops, worship, singing, an outdoor campfire, an indoor coffeehouse, and more. For more information call Chris Douglas at 800-323-8039 ext. 297. Registration is available at [www.brethren.org/genbd/yya/yac.htm](http://www.brethren.org/genbd/yya/yac.htm).



### Church of the Brethren membership falls again in 2004.

Overall Church of the Brethren membership continued to decline in 2004, according to year-end figures collected by the "Church of the Brethren Yearbook," published by Brethren Press. The denomination reported a net loss of 1,280 members last year, down just under one percent from the previous year. It is, however, a smaller decline than in 2003, when the Church of the Brethren had a net loss of 1,363 members.

Reported membership for the Church of the Brethren in the US and Puerto Rico is now 131,201. The figure does not include membership of Brethren bodies in other countries, including Nigeria, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic.

In the US, seven districts reported a net increase in 2004, while 16 saw a decrease. Atlantic Southeast District had the largest percentage increase, up 2.3 percent (a net gain of 44 members). Mid-Atlantic District had the largest numerical gain, with a net increase of 57 members (0.57 percent). The districts of Idaho, West Marva, Michigan, Northern Ohio, and Oregon/ Washington also reported gains.

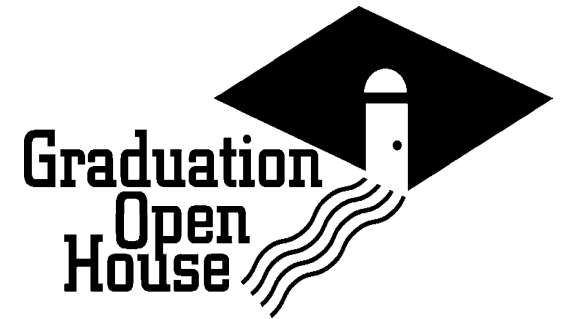
The middle and western parts of the denomination reported the biggest declines, with Missouri/Arkansas District down a net 12.9 percent, Southern Plains down 8.62 percent, and Pacific Southwest down 5.17 percent. All four Pennsylvania districts and both Indiana districts also reported declines, however, some exceeding 2 percent. Atlantic Northeast, the denomination's largest district, had the largest reported

The Adult Choir will celebrate the end of the choir year with a Picnic Practice at the home of Janet Berkebile Wednesday, May 25 6:30 p.m.



Bring a salad or dessert to share

Meat, tea, coffee, lemonade will be provided



For Mark Arnold

Saturday, May 28

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

58865 Runway Road, Elkhart

Mark will graduate from Concord High School on Friday, May 27.



Frances Billet became a great-grandmother on Monday, April 18. Her granddaughter, Janette gave birth to a girl, Gweneal Elizabeth Metzler. Grandparents are Jon and June Ulery.

Gweneal was a bit premature and spent a day in the NICU at Elkhart General but was released from the NICU the following day. She was then released to home, but after 2 days was readmitted to the hospital. As of April 28, she was still in the hospital. We pray for God's healing touch.

**We are saddened by the death of Isaac Marlin Breidenbach** who was born to James and Beth Breidenbach in Texas on April 16. Grandparents are John and Janet Berkebile Due to a difficult delivery, Isaac did not receive enough oxygen at birth and suffered brain damage. Isaac died on April 20.

If anyone is interested in memorials, they request donations be given to the NICU unit Isaac lived in. They were great and also faithful people. His death hit them very hard too.

**Memorials may be sent to:**

In memory of Isaac Marlin Breidenbach  
Neonatal Intensive Care Memorial Hermann  
The Woodlands Hospital  
9250 Pinecroft  
The Woodlands  
Texas 77380



Address for Beth and James:  
22043 Willow Downs Drive  
Tomball, TX 77375  
Phone: 281-251-4171  
E-mail: bethnjames@hotmail.com

**From Jan and John:**

We are so grateful we are a family of faith, and on both sides. We have felt all your support, the prayers of our churches, workplaces and families all around us. Praise God in whom ALL blessings flow.

**Mission Outreach**

**Special Giving**  
(as of March 31, 2005)

2¢ a Meal	\$	205.71
Baldwin Missionary	\$	385.00
Church Community Services	\$	330.00
Disaster Relief	\$	900.00
Heifer Project	\$	6.75
Soup of Success	\$	<u>165.00</u>
Total above budget giving	\$	1,992.46

**Financial Statistics**

**Financial Statistics through:**  
**March 31, 2005**

**General Fund**

Year to Date Income	\$	37,697.35
Expenses	\$	<u>43,187.49</u>
Net Loss	\$	( 5,490.14)

**Average Attendance**

Worship: 83 Church School: 68

**Building Fund Balance (To-date)**

Walk by Faith (w/Interest)	\$	455,039.00
Bldg. Sale proceeds (w/Int)	\$	<u>71,054.16</u>
Total New Location	\$	526,093.16

**Camp Mack**  
**Corner**

P.O. Box 158  
Milford, IN 46542  
phone: 574-658-4831  
fax: 574-658-4765  
campmack@npcc.net  
[www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org)

**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR YOUR BOOTH AT THIS YEAR'S CAMP MACK FESTIVAL?**

This year's Festival is October 1st. Booth registrations are still being accepted. If your congregation is unable to have a booth of your own, why not consider working with a neighboring congregation to provide a booth? Or volunteer to help with parking, entertainment, children's activities, etc. Planting a garden? Why not plant some extra for the Festival Produce booth?

**SUMMER CAMPERS** may still register at the regular price (no discount). Please check with the camp office to see if there are openings for your preferred date.

**GOLFERS:** Don't miss the **June 4th Camp Mack Golf "Fun" draiser** at Honeywell Golf course at Wabash! Times: 12:00 noon registration and 1:00 p.m. shotgun start! The \$65 per golfer cost includes fun-filled golf, snacks, prizes and a delicious evening meal. Individuals, churches and businesses are invited to sponsor a hole as an Eagle (\$1,000), a Birdie (\$400) or a Par (\$200) donor. Donate a door prize or volunteer to help. Please contact the Camp office for information and registration forms at 574-658-4831.

**ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS! CROSSWALK—** for all young adults, single or married, 18 years of age and older is June 3-5. Fee is \$40.00.

Volunteer counselors, prospective counselors, C.I.T.s and directors: plan to attend the **LEADERSHIP TRAINING**, May 6-7. Pick up your counselor materials, meet other counselors and receive creative ideas for Bible study and other camp activities. C.I.T.'s will continue in training through Sunday.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray daily for:  
Camp staff, especially arriving summer staff,  
Leadership training & counselors, Campers.

**MORE IMPORTANT DATES:**

Birdwatchers' Retreat May 6-8  
Seasoned Citizens Retreat May 9-12

**A Quiet Place Quote:** "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."  
*Pablo Picasso*





# The 7th Annual Camp Mack Festival

October 1, 2005 - Camp Mack

## Things to do - May 2005

10. Send graduation cards
9. Plant the garden. Be sure to plant a little extra!
8. Clean up the attic, garage, and basement but don't throw anything away just yet!
7. Attend volunteer counselor training at Camp Mack (Hint! Hint!)
6. Send out invitations for Memorial Day Picnic
5. Sign up for a craft class. It's so much fun. You could make dozens!
4. Compare/contrast Nascar and IndyCar racing.
3. Spend some special time with your mom.
2. Try those new pie and cookie recipes. You never know when they'll come in handy!

*And the number one thing to do in May is:*

1. Sign up your church group for a food or craft booth at the 7th Annual Camp Mack Festival to be held on October 1, 2005!

*Don't wait! Participate!*

**FOOD - CRAFTS - THE HARVEST MARKET**

*How will you join the fun that benefits Camp Mack?*



Call the Camp Mack office at 574-658-4831 to register!

Don't forget to keep looking for CMF AUCTION items!  
Antiques - Furniture - Quilts - Craft Items - Cool Stuff  
Be creative and be involved!

*All CMF fundraiser proceeds go to Camp Mack to provide  
Camper Scholarships & furnishings for lodges.*

Excerpts From...

### Monique's Mission Memo

Dear Prayer partners,

Thank you faithful prayer warriors for lifting me before the Lord. I have enjoyed being able to pray for you as you make your needs known.

I am pleased to report that my current partnership level is 81%. Please continue to pray that God would increase this to 100%, and that the upcoming speaking events would be glorifying to God.

Please join me in praising God for providing several spiritual growth materials. I am partway through a set of three books. I ask for continued prayers for dedication to finish them before I leave for Oregon this summer.

I also request that you lift before Him my preparations, academic and otherwise, for this summer's teaching assistantship in Oregon. Pray that He would be the consuming desire of my heart and my life.

Thank you for partnering with me in prayer. Please send me any praise/concerns you have so that I may join you in prayer.

Serving with you,  
Monique

Personal  
Correspondence:  
1403 N. Clay  
Hoisington, KS 67544  
620-786-9132  
Monique\_depue@sil.org



## District Connection

### Celebrate Community!



District Celebration  
June 12, 2005  
6:00 p.m.  
Bethany CoB  
Theme is "Celebrate  
Community!"  
Scripture text is Acts  
2:42-47

More information coming soon

**Annual Conference Briefing** for delegates and other interested persons will be held June 12 at the Bethany Church of the Brethren at 4:30 p.m. The briefing will be led by our Standing Committee delegates: Jim Davis and David Wysong.

**Disaster Response** Volunteers from Northern Indiana are needed for Tornado Recovery work in Hallam, Nebraska, May 29-June 4. Contact

### Northern Indiana District Prayer Calendar

May 1-7	Goshen City
May 8-14	La Porte
May 15-21	Lincolnshire
May 22-28	Little Pine
May 29-June 4	Iglesia Manos de Cristo

# May 2005



<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>1</b> <b>Youth Sunday</b> 9:00 Worship 10:45 Church School	<b>2</b> 7:00 Cottage Meeting—Fritz	<b>3</b> 4:30 Overcomer's @ MCL 7:00 Cottage Mtg—Harroff	<b>4</b> 9:00 Volunteer Fellowship	<b>5</b> 7:00 Cottage Mtg—Zerbe	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 9:00 Worship 10:45 Church School  <i>Children's choir singing</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:30 Adult Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00 Cornerstone Team
<b>15</b> <b>Pentecost</b> 9:00 Worship 10:45 Church School  <i>Adult Choir singing</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30 Cornerstone Team	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 Worship 10:45 Church School	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:30 Choir Picnic & Practice @ Berkebile's	<b>26</b> 6:30 Cornerstone Team	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 11-2 Mark Arnold Graduation Open House
<b>29</b> 9:00 Worship 10:45 Church School  <i>Adult Choir singing</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Looking Ahead: <b>JUNE 12—GROUNDBREAKING</b> More details to follow			