

The Visitor

A publication of

**Creekside
Church of the Brethren**

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Elkhart, IN 46516
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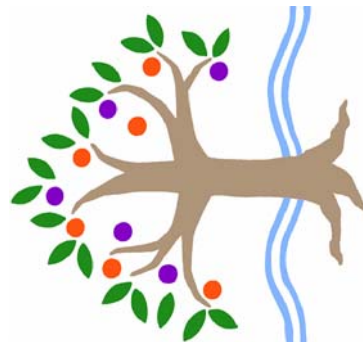
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The Visitor is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of church programs and to report news about the people of Creekside Church.

Creekside Church of the Brethren

1716 Benham Avenue

Elkhart, IN 46516



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



The Visitor

APRIL 2006

The Pastor's Ponderings

The lady who lives in the apartment next to me has a decorating addiction. At Halloween her window was trimmed in orange lights, and three-foot figures of Frankenstein, Dracula, and the Wolf Man were on the windowsill, menacing passers by and frightening my dog, Libbee. At Christmas it was lights, Santa, and snowmen. For Valentines it was illuminated hearts and cupids, and for St. Patrick's Day it was shamrocks and leprechauns. With Easter approaching, rabbits are everywhere. In the window are two blinking rabbit silhouettes. *Above the door* is a rabbit in an egg wreath that says, "Think Spring!" On the door is a flying trapeze with five bunnies on it. To the side of the door is a rabbit holding a welcome sign in one hand and an Easter basket in the other. The rabbits have evidently been reproducing in her apartment all winter. For safety sake, I'll stay away on July 4th.

We are at a decided disadvantage when it comes to conveying the central, defining event of our faith in a concrete, comprehensible way. Easter is about emptiness. How do you represent that? On the first Easter, grief turned to bafflement when the women arrived early to properly prepare Jesus' body for burial. The tomb was opened and empty. "Where is he? Where did you take him?" they asked the strangers standing nearby. The only straight answer they got was, "He's not here." They were not given specifics. "We don't know what to tell you-- just don't waste your time looking here."

It's no wonder that over the ages people have come up with other things to convey the mystery of Easter morning, especially things associated with spring and the renewal of the earth. Eggs. Bunnies. Green grass. Cocoons. Butterflies. Fragrant flowers. The return of the swallows, or, if you live near Hinckley, Ohio, you wait for buzzards. It's easy to understand the association of the emergence of new life from winter's grip and Jesus' release from the grip death.

Continued on Page 12



**Greetings from the
Cornerstone
Committee**

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE -

Ancon and all Sub-Contractors are working very diligently to get everything installed and put in place. All the carpet will soon be put down and painting completed. Some of the bathroom fixtures are in and the kitchen equipment has been delivered and will be installed soon. The French type doors have been hung between the narthex and sanctuary and the classroom doors will all be hung by the first of April. The plumbing for the baptistry is being installed. The platform in the chancel area has been started and will be finished once the baptistry is in place and ready to function. Stone in the chancel area will be installed once the platform is complete. One remaining furnace needs to be installed. Most of the light fixtures along with the chandeliers in the sanctuary are almost installed.

Final grading by Ancon has started and it will also be completed by the end of this week.

Judy DePue has started the landscaping with the placement of 5 large trees she has donated from her business, New Vistas. Several volunteers helped with this large task and we want to thank all of those who volunteered. A BIG thanks to Judy for the many donated hours she has already given to our church in designing our landscaping.

As we approach the month of April, there is still much more to be done before we will be ready to Worship in our church on May 14. Plans are being made by Church Board, Worship Team and Property Team to coordinate moving by the end of April. Just as a reminder, possession of our new church will not be until after May 1. Ancon is graciously allowing us to move earlier than May 1 and it is important we allow Ancon to complete their work without interruption.

Thank you for your continued patience and prayers.

Maryann Zerbe

**Color Easter Eggs
the Natural Way**



Here's a fun way to color Easter eggs using all natural ingredients. The longer the eggs are in the coloring the darker they will become.

(NOTE: Some of these colors need to be heated on a stove or in a microwave oven. Be sure to get an adult to help you.)



Golden Brown

Simmer the brown outer skins of onions for 5-10 minutes. The more skins you use, the darker the color.

Blue

Mash blueberries – fresh, frozen or canned – in a pan with a little water. Simmer 5-10 minutes.

Lilac

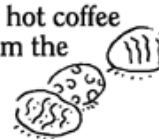
Dip eggs in cold grape juice. For a darker shade simmer the juice for 5-10 minutes.

Pale Green

Chop and simmer the green tops of carrots.



Chocolate-colored

Dip eggs in hot coffee straight from the coffeepot.



An Easter Message

Mary went to the tomb and found it empty! Find the words that an angel spoke to her. Write the name of each picture on the lines. Transfer the letters to the other spaces to find the verse.

		31	32	33	34
1	2	3	4	5	
	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	
	15	16	17	18	19
	20		38	39	40
	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27			
	28	29	30		42
					43
					44

“ _____
 18 42 14 31 3 14 17 7 13 3 17 34 15 17 20

 8 42 10 16 25 38 25 23 30 36 35 3 23 29

 44 42 19 31 27 43 31 ? 42 19 25 4 23 3 9

 42 10 24 19 ; 42 28 42 36 5 24 25 5 27 23 !”

Luke 24:5

Answers: cross; butterfly; flower; sunrise; egg; duck; man; vine; hat. “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!”

Elkhart Area Ministerial Association



GOOD Friday
**Community
 Service**

April 14, 2006
 12:10–12:55 p.m.

200 E. Beardsley Avenue, Elkhart
 (Just east of Main St. Bridge)
 264-3109 www.presby.net



April Birthdays

- 2 Elizabeth (Beth) Breidenbach
- 3 Laurie Mastic
- 4 Tim Randall
- 6 Kate Schrock
- 12 Maryann Zerbe
- 12 Darcy Fritz
- 15 Kristina Cooper
- 16 Bonnie Neal
- 22 Mark Arnold
- 24 Xavier Rosales
- 26 Kenny West
- 26 Angi Marcin
- 27 Cary Kelsey
- 29 John Yoder



April Anniversaries

- 4 David & Lodema Hoke
- 6 Denny & Colleen Weaver



We are in need of people who would be willing to help with Fellowship Time. Help would only be needed occasionally. If you are able to help, please see Paulajeane Ritzmann.

If you wish to make a financial donation to the Fellowship Time, you may include the amount in your offering envelope and mark it as such.

THANKS!

Manchester College Chamber Singers join Vesper Chorale and Chamber Orchestra for a complete performance of Handel's "Messiah"

Sunday, April 23, 2006
 4:00 p.m.

Holy Family Church
 56407 Mayflower Road
 South Bend, IN
 Tickets are \$15

For more information see Vesper Chorale website at
www.vesperchorale.org

Media Personnel Needed

The Media Team is looking for volunteers to help with the church's media needs both now and for our new church. Time requirements would be 1 or 2 services per month as assigned, but could also include rehearsal times if needed. If you would like to volunteer to help please see Gary Arnold.



Sound System Operators are needed now to set up microphones and other equipment as needed, operate the sound system during worship services, and record services on tape or other media.

Computer/Video Projection System Operators will also be needed for our new church to compile needed resources (hymn words, scripture, videos, etc.) into computer software for Worship Services and operate at appropriate times during Worship Services. Demo software is available now for training.

Gary Arnold
Media Coordinator

**MMA Advocate Dinner
Thursday, March 23rd
Greencroft Senior Center**

Deana Markley, Creekside MMA Advocate, along with Lee Markley, David Bibbee and Ted Noffsinger, attended the Spring MMA Advocate Dinner. It is always a special time when MMA recognizes the advocates and shares about the new offerings that MMA is making available to the churches. Not only the matching grant dollars that are shared for emergencies and other hardships, but also scholarship monies are available for young people, whose parents participate in the various MMA programs, pastoral continuing education, etc.

If you have questions, please see Deana and she will get you connected to the proper person(s) at MMA.



Thank you so much to the Adult Choir and Thee Seekers Class for their donation to our church in memory of my father.

And again I thank all of you for your support and prayers during this time.

In God's love,
Janet Berkebile

Thanks to the church family for the prayers and cards during my recent illness and hospital stay. Also, a special thanks to the junior high class for the silk rose, butterfly and handmade card. The card gave me a good laugh at a time when I especially needed to laugh. Thanks a bunch!

Claudette Emmons

We would like to take this time to thank our caring church family for the many cards, visits, food, and expressions of sympathy to us at the recent loss of Don's second brother, Paul. Both Ralph and Paul's death, as well as our nephew Norm's death, were so sudden and being just 3 months apart were an extra heartache for the family to carry. Your love, prayers, support, and faith in Him certainly eased the grief.

We are so blessed to be a part of this wonderful family of God.

Don & Sandy Gordon

Pastor's Ponderings—Continued on Page 1

The trouble with these analogies is that they are things that occur *naturally*. Plant a bulb in the fall and come spring you get a tulip. Resurrection, however, is an *unnatural* phenomenon—as unnatural as can be. When a loved one is planted in the grave you don't wait for them to emerge in spring. We cannot bring back our dead. We can't hold on to them in the ways to which we were accustomed.

Analogies are all we have, and every analogy for the resurrection and life hereafter is inadequate—*especially* those associated with pearly gates and golden streets. The gospels agree on two things: 1) *No one* expected Jesus' resurrection, and, 2) *No one* recognized him after he was raised. Jesus' and his followers did not pick up where they left off before he was crucified. Things would be different now. Easter changed *everything*.

In his first letter to the Corinthians Paul addressed the matter this way:

Some skeptic is sure to ask, "Show me how resurrection works. Give me a diagram, draw me a picture. What does this resurrection body look like?" If you look at this question closely, you realize how absurd it is... You plant a dead seed; soon there is a flourishing plant. There is no visual likeness between seed and plant. You could never guess what a tomato would look like by looking at a tomato seed. What we plant in the soil and what grows out of it don't look anything alike. The dead body we bury in the ground and the resurrection body that comes from it will be dramatically different (1 Corinthians 15: 35-41).

I have never been good at answering questions about the particulars of Jesus' resurrection, or what it will be like for us. I've learned not to speak of things I do not know. As far as Jesus' resurrection is concerned, the question can't be answered. No one saw it. The Roman guards were there, but they apparently slept through it.

As for us, Paul said, "We are sown a physical body. We are raised a spiritual body." Our analogies for it pale in comparison. You will still be you, but you won't look the same. Faith tells me we will know each other and all those we have loved and lost. I also believe that since we are created in God's image, our spiritual bodies will reveal the wonder of all that this means with incredible clarity.

On Easter Sunday when Mary discovered that the gardener was Jesus, she wanted to embrace him. But he told her, "Don't hold on to me." There would be no holding on to either him or the way things were before. He had a new body. He had places to go. He had work to do. There is no holding on because he has work for us to do, too. Barbara Taylor says, "Better we should let him hold on to us, perhaps. Better we should let him take us into the white hot presence of God, who is not behind us but ahead of us, every step of the way."

The journey continues,
David

TIMBERCREST SPRING FELLOWSHIP DAY

Saturday, April 29, will be Spring Fellowship Day at Timbercrest. The morning coffee hour will start at 8:30 a.m. followed by the program at 9:45-10:00 a.m. The highlight of the morning will be a presentation by Jo Young Switzer, President of Manchester College.

The Food Market will be open at 8:30 a.m. I will be accepting donations for the Food Market any time the week prior to the 29th. Residents at Timbercrest and visitors may purchase items from the Food Market. Residents really appreciate the homemade goodies.

I will be accepting donations for membership to the Friends of Timbercrest through the month of April. If you are already a member, please renew your membership before the 29th. Welcome also are new members. The annual membership dues are \$3.00. Also lifetime memberships are available for \$40.00.

Timbercrest Key Leader,
Doris Walters

NEW OFFICES—MOVE

We are scheduled to move the church offices on Saturday, April 22. The new phones will be working at the new office as of April 14. Because of getting things ready for the move, during the week between these dates (April 17-21) the phones will be forwarded to Cindy's cell phone. If you would like to call her direct, the number is 574-612-3206.

GOOD EATING AHEAD!

It's salad luncheon time again and your chance to support the wonderful program at DISMAS House in South Bend.

If you can donate a salad contact Myrtis Justiniano or Carolyn Colver.

DATE: April 27, 2006
TIME: 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
PLACE: First Presbyterian Church
333 W. Colfax Avenue
South Bend, IN

Tickets are only \$5.00 and you can call 233-8522 to reserve or see me when I return from Florida on April 10.

Thanks so much,
Carolyn Colver

CAMP MACK



P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542
 Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax: 574-658-4765
 E-Mail: campmack@npec.net Website: <http://www.campmack.org>

PASTORS* SABBATH: Please encourage your pastor to experience a Sabbath time after Easter as a guest of Camp Mack. The Spring Sabbath is April 25th -26th beginning with 11:00 a.m. registration on Tuesday and ending with lunch on Wednesday. Pastors should call Camp Mack to pre-register.

NEEDED - MORE WHITE MOUNTAIN HAND CRANK ICE CREAM MAKERS for this summers "Pioneer Meal." Making homemade ice cream is always fun for campers. Having enough ice cream freezers to go around would decrease the wait and increase the fun. Can you help?

VOLUNTEER WORK CAMP IS APRIL 24-26.

Can you come? Many kinds of skills are needed. Cleaning, painting and repairs are needed to prepare camp for summer. If you can do roofing, you are needed to work on the Quinter-Miller roofing project.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED to serve as volunteer counselors and support staff during the summer! **Please prayerfully consider how you might help.**

CIT (COUNSELOR IN TRAINING) TRAINING is April 21-23 from 7:30 p.m. on Friday night to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday for those ages 16-18. CIT's may come to Leadership Training in addition, if they choose.

TWO LEADERSHIP TRAINING DATES:

Volunteer counselors, prospective counselors, and directors, choose the date that best suits your schedule and plan to attend one of two similar trainings. Leadership Training Date choices are **May 5-6** and **May 12-13**.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Quilting Retreat April 21-23
Birdwatchers⁴ Retreat May 4-6
Seasoned Citizen's Retreat May 8-11

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray daily: For the Camp Mack Staff and Volunteers.

A Quiet Place Quote: "Time is a precious gift of God, so precious that God only gives it to us moment by moment" - Amelia Edith Barr

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

This year's Festival is October 7th. Can't have a booth of your own? — Why not consider teaming up with a neighboring congregation to provide a booth? Planting a garden? Why not plant some extra for the Festival Produce booth?

E-mail one of the Foods & Crafts Co-Chairs, Pam Hollenberg (phollenbcrgffixcite.com) or Karen Rowland (ckwagonwheel@maplcnet.net) with your booth plans or booth questions.

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.

CLIMBING TOWER BELAY TRAINING is Saturday, June 3rd, for those 18 years and older who are willing to learn to serve in summer program by belaying campers at the climbing wall.

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The 8th Annual Alexander Mack Festival October 7, 2006 - Camp Mack

WHAT SPECIAL FOODS OR CRAFTS
COULD YOU SELL AT THE
CAMP MACK FESTIVAL?

Share Your Talents!!!

Craft booth ideas -
 Christmas gifts
 Wreathes
 Crocheted Items
 Candles
 Ceramic pieces
 Wooden items
 Needlework
 Canned items
 Homemade candy
 Your specialty

Food booth ideas -
 Ham and beans
 Pancakes/sausage
 Kettle corn
 Barbequed Chicken
 Vegetable stew
 Elephant ears
 Candied apples
 Fresh fruit
 Chili
 Your specialty

Contact Food & Crafts chairs:
 Pam Hollenberg - phone: 574-674-6759, phollenberg@excite.com or
 Karen Rowland - phone: 574-685-4027, ckwagonwheel@maplcnet.net

Festival proceeds are divided between camper scholarships and a camp need.

Please sign up by the end of May!

The Promise of Easter



The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc.

Center for Hospice to Offer Living With Loss Group

The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. will begin a Living With Loss Group on Wednesday, April 12, 2006 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Elkhart General Health Education Center - Goshen Campus, 2222 Rieth Boulevard, located on US 33 just south of Lowe's behind Applebee's. This small group, which will meet for eight weeks, provides grief education and caring support to adults dealing with the death of a loved one.

There is no charge to attend the group, which is open to the general public. Registration is requested by calling The Center for Hospice at (574) 264-3321 or (866) 264-3321.

In addition to this group, CHAPC also provides other grief services, including individual counseling, to anyone experiencing grief related to a death. Bereavement services, provided by licensed counselors, are open to the general public and are free of charge. If you need more information about our services, please contact our Elkhart office at (574) 264-3321 or (866) 2664-3321.

Thank you for your time. If I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,
 Ryan Trzaskowski
 Director, Community & Provider Relations
 (574) 243-3711

ryan@centerforhospice.org

Continued from page 8

Christian Education Directors, Teachers and Pastors

Northern Indiana District would like to invite you to come and explore the possibilities available to your church by the use of the newly developed curriculum called *Gather 'Round*. *Gather 'Round* is a joint project of Brethren Press and Mennonite Publishing Network. It is a Bible-based curriculum nurturing children, youth and adults in becoming followers of Jesus.

Meeting Dates & Locations:

April 18, 2006

7:00 to 9:00

Middlebury COB

507 W. Bristol Ave.
Middlebury, IN
574-825-2955

May 4, 2006

7:00 to 9:00

Bethany COB

19003 S.R.6
New Paris, IN
574-831-4993

Come and Explore the Possibilities

**gather
'ROUND**
hearing & sharing God's good news

Explore

Explore

Church-Home Connections

Gather 'Round not only offers curriculum for children, it is also available for Junior High, Youth and Parent/Caregivers. They too study the same Bible stories.

Having the Parent/Caregivers study the same material as their children helps them grow in their own faith, while giving them practical ways to nurture their children's faith.

A helpful resource call the **Talkabout** gives the families a tool to facilitate discussions about the weekly lessons.

Explore

Creative Teaching Methods

Every child has his/her best way of learning. The *Gather 'Round* curriculum has been developed to include a variety of activities conducive to eight learning styles (intelligences). Each lesson includes at least three ideas for you to use to meet the needs of the students in each class.

The multiage curriculum provides some new opportunities when setting up the flow of your program. Since the multiage and grade based curriculum study the same material, you can have part of your time spent together as a group (storytime) and part in individual class settings.

Alternative Programming

Sunday School size is not an issue for *Gather 'Round*. Developed with diversity in mind, *Gather 'Round* provides curriculum for small, medium and large programs.

For those with small programs the multiage curriculum can meet your needs.

For those with medium size programs the individual age curriculum (Pre-school (ages 3-4), Primary (grades K-2); Middle (grades 3-5) are available to support the classes with an interactive group size.

For those with large programs, using the combination of individual age and multiage materials can allow for a very flexible Sunday morning program.

Are you interested in exploring the possibility of a specialist based volunteer structure rather than a generalist? You can with this curriculum.

N. Indiana District Office
Email: distcob@bnin.net
ann@nidcob.org

Address
357 East Market St.
Nappanee, IN 46550

Phone Number
574-773-3149
Fax: 574-773-2815

Training Coordinator
Beth Bender
Middlebury COB
Children's Ministry Director

Want to find out more? Contact the District Office. Please phone or email the District Office to register to attend one of the FREE training events listed above!

GOLFERS: Register for the **Camp Mack Golf "Fundraiser to be held at Sycamore Golf Club at North Manchester on June 10.** 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. Contact the Camp office for registration forms. Door prize donors and volunteers are also needed.

ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS! CROSSWALK - for all young adults, single or married, 18 years of age and older- is June 2-4. Fee is \$51.00.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please Pray daily for: Camp Staff, especially arriving summer staff, Counselors, Campers.

MORE IMPORTANT DATES:
Seasoned Citizens Retreat May 8-11
Quiet Place Quote: "Creativity is one of the great privileges of being human. You touch the universe with your own unique personality and somehow at least a little corner of the universe is changed." - Thomas Kinkade

OPPORTUNITY:

The District Personnel Committee recently sent packets of information to each congregation regarding the important opportunity you have to recommend persons for various leadership positions in the District. These positions include Moderator-elect, District Board, Program & Arrangements Committee, Personnel Committee and Standing Committee. Do you feel God may be calling you to serve in one of these positions? Or, is there at least 1 person you could recommend who you feel has the gifts and skills to serve? Please complete one of the forms sent to your congregation or contact the District Office. Thank you! If you need any additional information, please contact a Personnel Committee member: Ann McNeerney- Staff Liaison, Paul Nye-Chair, Chuck Morris, Joe Long, Linda Garber, Jan Nicodemus, or Janet Kagerise.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings from Manchester College!

I hope that this note finds you well.

Regional Youth Conference (RYC) will be held on the Manchester College campus, April 29-30, 2006. All Church of the Brethren youth in grades 9-12 and their youth advisors are invited to attend. Chris Douglas, director of youth and young adult ministry for the Church of the Brethren General Board, is the keynote speaker. RYC includes lots of opportunities for fellowship with other youth from the Midwest region ... it's a great way to prepare spiritually for this summer's National Youth Conference! The RYC weekend includes a variety of workshops, a coffeehouse, free time to play frisbee, and of course, the highlight is the 3 worship celebrations! Cost is just \$50 for youth and \$30 for advisors. Hurry! The registration deadline is April 10.

New this year ... district youth cabinets are invited to attend a leadership development workshop on Friday evening, April 28. Christ Douglas will lead this event. There is no additional charge for those serving on district youth cabinets to attend this workshop. Plan to arrive on Friday evening between 7 and 8 p.m.

For more information, please contact Wendi Hutchinson at wahutchinson@manchester.edu or 260-982-5232.

APRIL 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School 10:45 a.m.—Discipleship Orientation 5:30 p.m.—Lenten Study—Mastics Registration for NYC Deadline	3	4 3:00 p.m. Christian Ed Mtg. 4:30 p.m. Overcomer's MCL 6:30 p.m. Church Board	5 9:00 a.m.—Volunteer Fellowship 6:30 p.m.—Lenten Study	6 7:00 p.m.—Lenten Study	7	8
9 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m. - Church School 10:45 a.m. Discipleship Orientation 5:30 p.m.- Lenten Study—Mastics Youth Drop In—Rodgers—work on Sunrise Service	10 7:00 p.m.—Fellowship Team	11	12 6:30 p.m.—Lenten Study	13 7:00 p.m.—Lenten Study	14 7:00 p.m.—Love Feast Communion Tennebrae	15
16 6:45 a.m.— Sunrise Service—at new building location 9:30 a.m.— Easter Service NO CHURCH SCHOOL NO EASTER BREAKFAST	17	18	19 6:30 p.m.—Lenten Study	20 7:00 p.m.—Lenten Study	21	22 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.— Youth Portapit— Tractor Supply, Goshen
23 9:00 a.m.— Worship 10:45 a.m. - Church School HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY 10:45 a.m. Discipleship Orientation	24	25	26 Practice for Youth Sunday	27	28	29 MOVE ITEMS FROM STORAGE Regional Youth Confer- ence—Manchester Col- lege
30 Regional Youth Conference— Manchester College						