

The Visitor

A publication of

**Creekside
Church of the Brethren**

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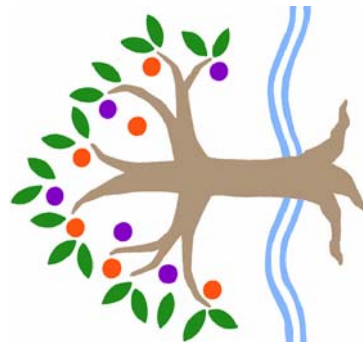
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The Visitor is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of church programs and to report news about the people of Creekside Church.

Creekside Church of the Brethren

1716 Benham Avenue

Elkhart, IN 46516



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



The Visitor

FEBRUARY 2006

The Pastor's Ponderings

I have devoted considerable "pondering time" to an important matter. As a result, I have made an executive decision for which I did not seek permission, and am not seeking forgiveness.

Effective immediately, we will no longer seek or accept new members into the Creekside Church of the Brethren. On the annual statistical reports filed with the District and denominational offices where it asks for the number new members by baptism and transfer of membership, I will put, "None." Where it asks for total membership as of January 31, 2005, I shall write in a big fat zero. When people ask, "How many members do you have at Creekside?" I shall say, "We've done away with our members. We don't have a single one."

Of course, I haven't done such a thing, but sometimes I am tempted. If you've paid attention over the past two years, you have realized that we have not emphasized the "marks of membership." When you become a member of an organization, you get something in return—your name in a book, a membership card, a jacket with an embroidered insignia that you wear as an emblem of honor. You enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded people and get a free meal on the third Tuesday of the month. You receive the rewards of belonging. When you become a member, you are the, "beneficiary of all the rights and privileges pertaining there unto."

The key to a flourishing church is not gaining members but growing disciples. The official policy of many churches states that one is considered a member if they attend worship once or twice a year and/or make a financial contribution. I doubt this is what Jesus had in mind when he told people pick up our crosses and follow him. Jesus had no desire to build an institution. He came to initiate a relationship between God and people. He came to fill their lives with his love and forgiveness. He sent them out to spread the word and invite people into a community that made new creations of them.

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**Greetings from the
Cornerstone
Committee**

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE -

We continue to make progress and Ancon is moving swiftly to get the construction of our building completed. The siding on the outside of our building will be completed by the end of January. Indiana and Michigan Power was out and placed our wiring from the church to the pole along the private driveway. Many things have been happening on the inside as well:

1. Three of the six furnaces have been put in place and heat duct is being placed throughout the building.
2. Approximately 75% of the wiring has been placed.
3. Preliminary sound wiring will be placed next week.
4. The sound mezzanine is being built.
5. Drywall has been placed in all the outer perimeter rooms. Taping will soon be done as well as the sanding.
6. Our drinking water well is in and they will be putting the irrigation well in soon.

In the next month, we can look forward to the ceiling tile grid being placed in the outer perimeter rooms. The ceiling in the sanctuary will be drywall and that will take some time to complete. The chancel platform will be the last to be constructed.

It may sound like we are close to completion, but there are many, many other details yet to be completed. Thanks to everyone who have supplied or will supply goodies to the workers. They are very much appreciated. We appreciate your continued patience and support.

Maryann Zerbe
Cornerstone Committee

**UPCOMING DATES TO BE
MARKED ON YOUR
CALENDAR**

- 3/1—Ash Wednesday Service
- 3/19—All Church Fellowship—
Hubbard Hill
- 4/14—Love Feast—Communion—
Tenebrae
- 4/16—7:00 AM—Sunrise Service
9:30 AM—Easter Service
- 8/13—All Church Picnic



Cody Vance:
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Darren Vance:
purplehaze_2012@yahoo.com

Coming . . .

Next LIFEKEYS RETREAT

**When: March 3-4, 2006, Friday
evening through Saturday
afternoon**

**Where: Waterford Crossing
conference room
(just south of Goshen)**

Sign-up sheets will be available!



In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul writes about love. He tells us what love does and does not do. Let's find out about love!

Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
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

LOVE IS
16 1 20 9 5 14 20

LOVE IS
11 9 14 4

LOVE WITH THE TRUTH
18 5 10 15 9 3 5 19

LOVE
16 18 15 20 5 3 20 19

LOVE
20 18 21 19 20 19

LOVE
8 15 16 5 19

LOVE
16 5 18 19 5 22 5 18 5 19

... THESE THREE REMAIN: FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.
BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS

12 15 22 5

ANSWER: PATIENT, KIND, REJOICES, PROTECTS, TRUSTS, HOPES, PERSEVERES, LOVE

Continued from Page 1

In Matthew 28: 19-20, which is called, "The Great Commission," Jesus said, "Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you."

We aren't going to do away membership, at least not at this time. But we do need to change the way we see it. A relationship with an institution won't appease our deepest needs. Church membership causes us to think in terms of what we like or don't like about it. It creates an expectation of *getting something from it* rather than *giving something to it*. It creates jealousy and depression over other churches that boast of having so many members while we, in comparison have few.

A relationship of discipleship, however, is very different. It radically reorients us. The issue is not numbers, but the quality of disciples a church creates. When we understand that Christianity is about establishing a life-giving relationship with Jesus, and making spiritual friendships that last forever, our whole perspective changes.

I am convinced that our numbers will grow as we realize that growth is not as a statistical matter, but a spiritual one. If our main concern is helping each other

grow to be more like Jesus, and seek creative ways to invite others to join us on this spiritual journey, numerical growth will take care of itself.

Let the journey begin!

Pastor David



Dan's Fish Fry

SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 25, 2006
SERVING: 4 PM - 7 PM



DINE IN:

ADULTS: \$ 7.50 EA

CHILDREN 6 thru 12 yrs: \$ 4.50 EA

CHILDREN UNDER 6 yrs: FREE

All the fish and/or chicken strips you care to eat. Side dishes, drink & choice of a dessert included.

ALL CARRYOUT: \$ 7.50 EACH

Includes: fish and/or chicken strips, coleslaw, chips, dessert (piece of cake or cookie).



WEST GOSHEN
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
1200 BERKEY AVENUE - GOSHEN IN

Proceeds go to Mission and Outreach projects.

Discipleship Classes Offered

Beginning in February, Pastor David will teach an eight-week series of adult discipleship / membership orientation classes. The classes will explore basic Christian beliefs and how these beliefs are expressed in the Church of the Brethren. Included in the study will be Creekside's core values as they relate to practicing the six marks of Christian discipleship – worship, prayer, Bible study, service to others, caring spiritual relationships, and giving. An invitation letter has been sent to prospective participants.

If you have questions about the class, are interested in joining, contact Pastor David by the end of January.

WANTED—



greeters

Would you be able to give 30 to 45 minutes of your time, once a month or less, to greet the people that come to worship with us every Sunday morning?

The only requirements are that you have a friendly smile, and hand shake, and a hug. You need to have visitors sign the guest book with their complete address so that a note can be sent to them.

Please contact Judy De Pue or Norma Miller if you would be interested.

A gift of planning and creativity is needed!

The board is calling a Décor team of five persons to assist in the decorating of the new church facility in the common areas. This team will work very closely with Cornerstone Team. Work will include determining decorations and furnishings that are in storage and how they may be used and what additional items will be required to create an inviting environment. They will coordinate all wall hangings and decorative furnishings. We anticipate the timeframe to be: beginning mid-February for approximately 6 months. Sunday School classes will be able to determine the décor in their rooms.

A designated account has been established for anyone who would like to donate money to assist this team in making any purchases that will be required.

Anyone interested in sharing their gifts with the church should drop a note in Pauline Arnold's mail file, send her an email, parnold0514@verizon.net or phone 875-8672 by February 5.

LENTEN STUDY 2006

Exploring the Way, An Introduction to the Spiritual Journey, by Marjorie Thompson, will be the text used for the Lenten studies. The studies will focus on spiritual disciplines and help us grow in our walk with God. In our groups, issues and questions of faith will be discussed to help us better understand the language of spirituality. Issues to focus on are, scriptural meditation, prayer, daily examen, listening, and journaling. Week 1 is titled, Beginning the Journey. Thomas Merton says, "We do not want to be beginners. But let us be convinced of the fact that we will never be anything but beginners, all our life!" Week 2 is called, Sharing the Adventure. "For those blessed souls who are able to let go, to float free, a new and mysterious world is revealed. It is a world more mysterious, more exotic and, initially, more threatening than the new world Columbus and Magellan stumbled upon."-Thomas H. Green. In week 3 the focus will be on reading the Bible, Bread for the Journey. Gregory the Great (540-604) said this about the Bible. "Scripture is like a river, broad and deep, shallow enough here for the lamb to go wading, but deep enough there for the elephant to swim." Week 4, Drink for the Journey, is about prayer. Marjorie Thompson says, "Perhaps our real task in prayer is to attune ourselves to the conversation already going on deep in our hearts. Then we may align our conscious intentions with the desire of God being expressed at our core." Week 5 is titled Companions on the Way. "The spiritual life is not only a life of relationship with God, but it's also facilitated, encouraged, and shaped by the people we journey with. In other words it's not a privatized journey. It happens in community," writes Wendy Wright. Our final week in this series is Reaching Out in Love. Timothy Jones says, "Helping one another reminds us that the goal of Christian growth is greater than our own warm feeling. It reminds us that God cares deeply about a whole world of people....Our growth should be shared with others."

Sign up sheets for leadership and participants are available near the mail tubs and/or in your classrooms for you to indicate which day and time will suit your schedule so you can be a part of this Lenten study.

Limited Fishing



A boy was asked by his Sunday school teacher if he thought Noah did much fishing off the ark?

"How could he?" replied the lad. "He only had two worms and there were only two fish."

GodSpace – Part 2

Follow-up to HeartSpace

Time: Feb. 19, 6:30 pm at Kelsey's

Theme: PRAYING WITH CLAY

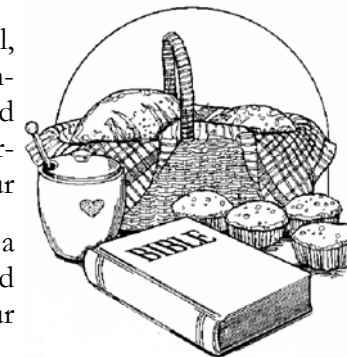
Another hands-on window to prayer, Praying with Clay offers a question or phrase from a passage of Scripture, allowing space to reflect and listen for God's words or images to us as our fingers quietly work the clay. Some amazing insights can come this way.

Mark your calendars now.

FEED THE BODY....FEED THE SPIRIT

All Church Fellowship Meal, March 19th at the Sailor Cement Community. Bring food Meaningful Prayers, and Per-Your Spirit and Nourish Your

We will endeavor to create a that you bring to be printed members and guests of our



following Sunday School, on ter in the Hubbard Hill Retirement to Share & Favorite Scriptures, sonal Worship Aides that Feed Soul.

book of scriptures, prayers, etc., up and then later available to congregation.

February



2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 AM— Volunteer Fellowship Mtg DEADLINE FOR NYC	2	3	4
5 9:00—Worship 10:45 - Church School	6	7 4:30 PM Overcomer's MCL 6:30 PM Church Board	8 6:30 PM— Worship Team—Gilliland's	9	10	11
12 9:00—Worship 10:45 - Church School Lincoln's BD	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19 9:00— Worship 10:45— Church School 6:30 PM—GodSpace—Part 2 DISCIPLESHIP ORIENTATION Youth Drop In	20 7:00 PM— Fellowship Team—De Pue's	21	22 Washington's BD	23 6:30 PM— Mission/Outreach Team— Randall's	24	25
26 9:00— Worship 10:45 - Church School DISCIPLESHIP ORIENTATION Noon-4:00 PM— Jr. High—get together w/Elkhart Valley—Sledding/Bowling	27	28				