

# The Creekside Connection

A publication of

**Creekside  
Church of the Brethren**

*Office:*

60455 C.R. 113

Elkhart, IN 46517-9183

574-875-7800

574-875-7885 fax

*website:*

[www.creeksideconnected.com](http://www.creeksideconnected.com)

**David Bibbee**

*Pastor*

*E-mail: [pastordavid@creeksideconnected.com](mailto:pastordavid@creeksideconnected.com)*

**Cindy Harman**

**Administrative Assistant  
& Editor**

*E-mail: [office@creeksideconnected.com](mailto:office@creeksideconnected.com)*

**Jean Mann**

**Director of Nurture & Education**

*E-mail: [jmann@creeksideconnected.com](mailto:jmann@creeksideconnected.com)*

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



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60455 C. R. 113  
Elkhart, IN 46517-9183

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

# The Creekside Connection

## “PLOTTING THE RESURRECTION”

### Flowers for Easter and Beyond

This time last year, the Creekside congregation was meeting in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and planning for our move to our new building on CR 113. You were invited to expand your concept of Easter flowers to include a variety of shrubs, trees, and other plantings for the landscaping around the building. The response was overwhelming! Many of the mulched beds and plants that we enjoyed last year and are looking forward to seeing this spring are a result of your generous donation of time, muscle, and money. Several people have asked if we're going to do something similar with Easter flowers in 2007: the answer is “yes, and . . .”

There are several parts to this year's garden plan, and some are still in process. Part 1 is **Easter Flowers**. Worship Team would like to have potted Easter lilies and daffodils for the chancel on Easter morning. Both of these can be planted on the property after Easter. There are also three beds along the driveway near the road entrance to be completed as part of the landscape design. They are mulched but not yet planted, so you will once again have the opportunity to purchase some shrubs to be used on the property. The cost of this will be approximately \$100 for the lilies and daffodils, and \$430 for the blooming shrubs and \$655 for the evergreen shrubs. See the pictures of the plants on the insert.

A **Cross Garden** is being planned which will feature a large, metal cross, evergreen bushes, white lilies and dwarf daylilies enclosed by a low stone wall. Except for the lilies—from our Easter service!—this garden will be paid for by donations from memorials.

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Finally, plans for a **Creekside Prayer Garden** on the property to the northwest of the church building are underway. Entrance to the garden will be through an arbor and there will be seating spots and paths that wind through informally planted herbs and perennials. Central to the garden is a rock-lined creek bed with flowing water beside a tree that will flower and bear fruit (does this sound familiar?). The initial stage of the water and the tree, two special characteristics of the garden is being planned in recognition of two special people for their service to Creekside Church. This May marks the fifteenth year that David Bibbee has served as pastor of Creekside/Elkhart City Church. He has been asked to work with Judy DePue to suggest ideas for the water feature of the garden. Water splashing over rocks seemed to be the most important to him- but if there are fish, they will have to be sculptural, and not actual. We also want to express appreciation for Janet Berkebile and her gifts of music and leadership which she so graciously shares with us. Janet has been asked to suggest what would be meaningful to her in a prayer garden in addition with a tree. Flowers with scent, grasses that blow in the wind, and large rocks with varying textures were on her list.

It is exciting to think of the possibilities of a garden for prayer and meditation which can be used not only by members of our congregation, but by people in the neighborhood, as well. As you might imagine, it is a big task for Judy DePue to develop plans and estimate costs for this garden. She is already working with the volunteers who have expressed interest in helping with the planning to gather ideas and suggestions, and she will soon begin on the design. The gardens will need contributions of money, but gifts of time and labor are equally important. There will be opportunity to sign up to work a weekend a month or so, beginning in April or May.

The Prayer Garden is being designed to be planted in stages—the water feature and tree will begin the first stage, and other parts will follow as funds and workers are available. Sunday, May 13 is the day we have set aside to express our appreciation to David and to Janet, to thank God for the gift of these leaders, and to celebrate our first year of worship in the Creekside church building.

Plans and estimated costs for the Prayer Garden will be forthcoming. On Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, plans will be shown to the congregation following worship, so you can envision what the garden will look like. In the meantime, we will be collecting money in the flower-covered box labeled “Garden Projects” which will be in the gathering area beginning February 25 and continuing through May 6. (Easter flower and shrub donations will need to be in my Palm Sunday, April 1.) There will be a paper on which you can indicate your giving toward Easter flowers and shrubs,

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### A PRAYER REMINDER

Many times we fold our hands together to pray. Here is a “handy” craft that can help you remember what to include in your prayers.

**What you need:**

- 2 sheets of 8½" x 11" construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Crayons
- 1 piece of ribbon, yarn or string about 6-12 inches long
- Glue (white or glue stick)

**What to do:**

1. Trace your hand on one sheet of paper.
2. Cut out the traced hand.
3. Tie the ribbon, yarn or string around the pointer (index) finger.
4. Write a message on each finger:  
*(Pointer finger)* God's guidance (pray for help to follow God's ways)  
*(Middle finger)* Leaders in my life (teachers, pastors, etc.)  
*(Ring finger)* Sick and old people  
*(Pinky finger)* Myself  
*(Thumb)* My family
5. Glue the hand onto the other sheet of paper.
6. Start with the ribbon finger and pray for God's help. Then pray for all the people on each finger.

**Just for KIDS**

## Remember to Pray

There are many verses in the Bible that talk to us about prayer. Solve the puzzle below to see the lesson Paul teaches about prayer in Philemon 1:4. Think about your own life and your prayers.

Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks, and then read Paul's message.

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

\* R \_ Z \_ O \_ D \_ Z \_ B \_ H \_ G \_ S \_ Z \_ M \_ P \_ N \_ B

\_ T \_ L \_ W \_ Z \_ H \_ R \_ I \_ V \_ N \_ V \_ N \_ Y \_ V \_ I

\_ B \_ L \_ F \_ R \_ M \_ N \_ B \_ K \_ I \_ Z \_ B \_ V \_ I \_ H \_ \*

... Philemon 1:4, NIV

Answer: I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers ...

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### March Birthdays

Mar. 1 Pauline Arnold  
 Mar. 2 Mary Lou Martin  
 Mar. 3 Ted Noffsinger  
 Mar. 4 Lee Markley  
 Mar. 4 Darren Vance  
 Mar. 8 Marjorie Kirkdorffer  
 Mar. 8 Mandy Chris  
 Mar. 8 Missy Zimmerman  
 Mar. 8 Katy McFadden  
 Mar. 10 Miriam Erbaugh  
 Mar. 16 Frances Billet  
 Mar. 18 Stephen Berkebile  
 Mar. 19 Alex Harney  
 Mar. 21 Betty Yoder  
 Mar. 23 Norma Pletcher  
 Mar. 23 Walt Gilliland  
 Mar. 27 David Hoke  
 Mar. 29 Jeff Cripe  
 Mar. 30 Laurie King



### March Anniversaries

Mar. 8 Dick & Eileen Rohrer

## ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

DATE	Sunday School	Worship
Feb. 4	68	68
Feb. 11	88	123
Feb. 18	78	106
Feb. 25		

### ADDRESS CHANGES FOR NEW DIRECTORY:

Kate Schrock  
1801 Greencroft Blvd., Apt. 141  
Goshen, IN 46526

Trisha Hoke  
7321 Sageport Pl.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

### OTHER CHANGES FOR NEW DIRECTORY:

John & Sabrina Hoke  
ANNIV DATE: 2/14/03

Saebrina Hoke's Email  
[kuuipohoke@msn.com](mailto:kuuipohoke@msn.com)

Jonathan Hoke's Email  
[hokeohana@verizon.net](mailto:hokeohana@verizon.net)

Margaret Risdén's Email  
[marisden39@peoplepc.com](mailto:marisden39@peoplepc.com)

## CROSSES, BOOKS, AND BOOKMARKS

Cross necklaces, devotional books, and bookmarks will be available from the ushers during Lent. Please help yourself and share with a friend.

Thanks to Bill Birr for making the crosses and to Jan Berkebile for assembling the



**ARE THE WINTER BLUES GETTING YOU DOWN?**

**ARE YOU FEELING SOMEWHAT BLAH?**

**ARE YOUR COMPETITIVE JUICES BURNING?**

Then bring your friends and family and join us on  
Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. for the 1<sup>st</sup> annual

**“BRETHREN BLARNEY BASH”**

Expect an evening of food, fun, games and plenty of  
laughter. Whether your specialty is euchre, board games  
or ping pong, we will have it all. Whether you are young or

## EASTER FLOWERS AND PRAYER GARDEN

Tax deductible contributions for Easter flowers and the Creekside Prayer Garden  
( in recognition of Pastor David and Janet Berkebile ) may be placed in the box in  
the gathering area labeled ( Garden Projects ” or designated “Garden ” on your

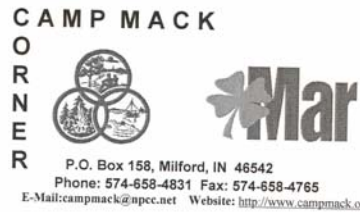
## DON'T MISS THE APRIL 1 DISCOUNT DATE FOR REGISTERING SUMMER CAMPERS!

Please turn in your completed registration forms and your share of the fee to your Camp Representative by Sunday, March 25 . The \$20 discount offered for many camps ends April 1. After that date campers will be accepted for the full fee.

If you need a form contact Jan Birr at 293-7307.

### CHILDREN & YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES:

<b>BEGINNERS</b> (completed 1 <sup>st</sup> grade)	June 10-12
<b>SAMPLERS</b> (completed grades 2 or 3):	June 17-19 June 21-23 August 5-7
<b>SEEKERS</b> (completed grades 3 or 4):	June 10-14 (4 days) July 29-August 3 (5 days) August 5-10 (5 days)
<b>FINDERS</b> (completed grades 5 or 6):	June 10-16 July 29-August 3 (5 days) August 5-10 (5 days)
<b>FOLLOWERS</b> (completed grades 7, 8, or 9):	June 10-16 July 29-August 3 (5 days)
<b>WORSHIP ARTS</b> (completed grades 7-10)	June 10-15
<b>BIKE Trek in Michigan</b> (grades 6-9)	July 15-21
<b>SAILING</b> (grades 7-10)	August 5-10
<b>YOUTH</b> (completed grades 9, 10, 11, or 12):	July 8-14
<b>WILDERNESS CAMPS:</b>	
<b>ECO-ADVENTURE</b> (Finders)	June 17-23
<b>ECO-CHALLENGE</b> (Followers)	June 17-23 June 24-30
<b>ODYSSEY</b> (Youth)	July 15-21



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! All available adults are invited to our Volunteer Work Camps: March 19-21 and April 23-25.** Call the Camp at 574-658-4831 to volunteer. No charge.

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR MOTHER DAUGHTER WEEKEND, March 31-April 1?**

Mothers and daughters, ages 5 and up, are invited to spend quality time together at Camp Mack. This year's theme is "Woven Together." Together you may create baskets, weave a bookmark and potholder, enjoy afternoon tea and weave memories with your mother or daughter. Fee: \$125 for mother and daughter; \$58 each for additional daughters or grandma.

**WHY NOT SPEND A DAY AT A QUIET PLACE DURING LENT?** The Quiet Place is located at 891 E Shady Banks Lane. To schedule a personal retreat or spiritual direction, please call A Quiet Place Prayer Center at 574-658-3342 or the director, Norma Miller, at 574-831-2423.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for: Children making summer camp decisions  
Camp's staff and volunteers

### **I Am Grateful!**

I have seen the announcements in church newsletters hundreds of times. There is little difference from one to the other. Change the names and the message is the same. Now that it's my turn to offer such a statement, I am no different. I am saying the same things as all others who have experienced the death of a loved one.

I thank you for the cards, calls, prayers, meals, and expressions of sympathy and encouragement shared with my mother Ruth and me during the time leading up to and following her death. To walk with my mother during the final months of her life was difficult, but growth happens through the hard times, and there is nothing about it that I regret. Jesus told us that our deepest calling is to serve and not be served, and for the chance to learn that lesson in a dramatic way, I am grateful.

I thank God that I have been blessed to work with and belong to Creekside. Thank you for the beautiful floral arrangements from the church and individual Sunday school classes. Thank you to all who wrote to and visited Mom during her stay at Hubbard Hill. Thank you for you the kind words and incarnate expressions of Jesus' love you offered during visitation at the church. Thanks to the wonderful folks who made the long drive to Ohio for Mom's funeral. It felt good to "show you off" to the folks back home.

Thank you for your understanding when the challenges of work and caring for Mom "complicated" things. Thank you to everyone who stepped forward and helped with worship services on short notice in my absence.

Thanks to you, and thanks be to God who gives us the victory through all things in Jesus Christ—especially his victory over death.

In Jesus' love,  
Pastor David



Your Fellowship Team has asked me to be your Hospitality and Greeter Coordinator. It is always a joy to be greeted by a smiling face when we arrive at Creekside. I want to thank each of you who have greeted in the past and who will say "yes" when asked to greet in the future. New smiling faces at the front door are always welcome. Please volunteer to help greet on Sunday mornings by calling me at 574-294-1881 or tell me at church when you can help.

Rosemary Pletcher



- April 1-2—Youth 30 Hour Famine
- April 4—Volunteer Fellowship
- April 4—Love Feast & Tennebras
- April 5—Maundy Thursday
- April 6—Office Closed—Good Friday
- April 15—Holly Humor Sunday
- April 17—Church Board Meeting
- April 19—Worship Team Meeting
- May 6—Honoring our Fathers & Mothers Dinner—Fellowship Team
- May 19—Blessing of the Bikes
- July 15—Ice Cream Social—Fellowship Team
- August 12—All Church Picnic—Worship/Fellowship Teams
- September—Annual Golf Outing
- October—Dinners for 8—Fellowship Team
- December 2—Advent All Church Gathering—Fellowship Team



Dear Church Family,

Only those of you who have been on the receiving end of things can really know what it feels like to be thought of at crucial times in your lives. Our congregation is very good at helping us all feel cared for and loved. Thank you again for the greetings at my birthday time this year. Each day is such a precious gift to me and knowing you are all there with me is such a blessing.

In God's Love. Janet

## FRESH FROM THE WORD

The year 2008 has special significance for the Church of the Brethren: it is the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of our denomination. There many special activities and resources being planning as a part of this celebration. Brethren Press is publishing a book titled "Fresh from the Word" with 366 days of scripture, prayer, and meditation by members of all the Brethren bodies (Church of the Brethren Brethren Church, Grace Brethren, Dunker Brethren) which will be available July 1, 2007. Worship Team will place an order before March 15 in order to save on the individual price. This means that instead of buying your own copy for \$15, if you see Rosanna McFadden to reserve a copy before March 15, your cost will be \$12. You can pay for your copy when it arrives in July.

This is an historic opportunity, and a book which you will want to have as a keepsake, as well as a devotional resource. Please see or contact Rosanna to reserve your copy (or copies) before March 15th.

Rosanna McFadden  
Worship Team

**Christian comedian Ken Davis** invites you to raise the roof laughing at Greencroft Foundation's Gala 2007 benefit, at the Goshen College Music Center, Friday, March 16, at 7 p.m. One night only. Proceeds will support programs and services for older adults at Greencroft Senior Center, Goshen. Ticket prices range from \$20-\$40 and are available by calling the Goshen College Welcome Center at 574-535-7566. Tony Campolo has said, "Ken is more than an entertainer; he communicates a gospel message with profound content." For more information visit [www.greencroft.org](http://www.greencroft.org).

## 221<sup>st</sup> Recorded Annual Conference of the Church, of the Brethren in the Cleveland Convention Center Cleveland Ohio June 30-July 4, 2007

This is an opportunity to meet other Brethren and experience the annual meeting of the denomination when it is in your area.

### Conference Highlights

#### Saturday

Opening worship - Jeff Carter, Pastor, Manassas Virginia, preaching  
Bible studies, informational sessions on key business items, ice cream social

#### Sunday

Morning worship - Belita Mitchell, Moderator, preaching  
Consecration of delegates and opening business session  
Bible studies, insight sessions, ice cream social

#### Monday

Business sessions  
Evening worship - Duane Grady, Congregational Life leader, preaching  
Bible studies, insight sessions, ice cream social

#### Tuesday

Business sessions  
Evening worship - Tim Harvey, Pastor, Roanoke, Virginia, preaching  
Bible studies, insight sessions, ice cream social

#### Wednesday

Closing worship - Ataloo Woodin, Pastor, Fresno, California, preaching

#### All week

Organized programs for all age groups  
*Early Evening with the Arts* - features concerts or drama each evening  
Cash buffet for lunches & dinners in the Exhibit Hall; daily ice cream social  
A variety of nearby restaurants and shopping malls  
Seven downtown hotels, university housing and camping opportunities

For more information, call the Annual Conference Office toll-free 800-688-5186

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and toward the Prayer Garden water feature and flowering tree, plus other features if money is available. Any contribution you make toward garden projects (either in the Garden Projects box or as a designation on your regular giving) is tax deductible. This is the only contribution you will be asked to make for recognition of Janet and Pastor David.

Thank you again for your generosity; without your support, this vision could not become a reality. Like Christians, gardeners are people of faith who not only see what *is*, but imagine what *will be*. We are like Kathryn White, wife of E.B. White, and an avid gardener. E.B. noted that his wife would pore over catalogs and spend hours outside on her knees "plotting the resurrection." May we, too, celebrate the promise of new life at Easter and beyond.

Rosanna McFadden, Worship Team  
Judy DePue, Landscape Designer  
Cary Kelsey, Shalom Team



8 Dwarf Mugho Pines



2 Dwarf Forsythias



4 Annabelle Hydrangeas



2 Dwarf Goldflame Spireas



4 Low Junipers



1 Red Variegated Red Twig Dogwood Shrub

**This note was received from Church of the Brethren General Board**

THANK YOU for your generous spirit and loving hearts!

This past year the Church of the Brethren General Board, its staff, and volunteers extended an invitation to "come walk with us" as we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world today.

With your congregation's help, in 2006 the ministries of the Board received and transformed over \$10 million and many thousands of volunteer hours into significant ministries and acts of Christ-like service.

To paraphrase our African brothers and sisters: "If you want to travel fast, walk alone, but if you want to travel far, walk together." Your shared gifts represent one expression of the loving and sustained "together" that we so cherish as a church.

So again, THANK YOU for your thoughtful gifts and choosing to walk with us on this long journey to spread Christ's light and love.

**Coming in April.....**

Our congregation has always been so generous in the past to CCS in Elkhart and will continue to be. With our move in May we decided it would be a good opportunity to reach out to "The Window" in Goshen. The Window, Goshen's Community Volunteer Center, was established in 1967 by a group of businessmen led by a pastor. The following year Church Women United of Goshen, Inc. began to sponsor The Window. It remains a multi-denominational effort with more than twenty churches participating. It provides services to help meet basic needs of the elderly and anyone with limited income. Some of their services include free meals, emergency groceries and clothing.

As we prepare for Spring one of the first things everyone seems to do is clean out closets. If that sounds like you then this event will be for you. Our plan is to do a clothing drive along with money to help with their food needs. Start that cleaning now and look for more information in the future.

**NOTES FROM THE BOARD . . . . .**

ALL teams, including short-term teams, youth advisors, and project leaders need to submit minutes to Cindy to be distributed to the board on a monthly basis to keep our board updated as to their progress.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—MAY 20, 2007**

The spring congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 20, during the Sunday school hour. There will NOT be a lunch provided. ALL teams, including short-term teams, youth advisors, and project leaders need to submit team reports to Cindy to be included in the report to the congregation.

# MARCH

# 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Choir Practice	1	2	3
4 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School  CHOIR SINGS	5	6	7 9:00 a.m.—Volunteer Fellowship	8	9	10
11 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School	12	13	14  Choir Practice	15 7:00 p.m. - Worship Team	16	17 5:00 p.m. - Blarney Blast
18 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School  CHOIR SINGS	19	20 6:30 p.m. - Church Board	21 7:00 p.m. - Shalom Team	22	23	24
25 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School  Youth Drop In—McFaddens	26	27	28 Choir Practice  <b>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER</b>	29	30	31