

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

David Bibbee

Pastor

E-mail: pastordavid@creeksideconnected.com

Cindy Harman

*Administrative Assistant
& Editor*

E-mail: office@creeksideconnected.com

Jean Mann

Director of Nurture & Education

E-mail: 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.

Creekside Church of the Brethren

60455 C. R. 113

Elkhart, IN 46517-9183

Creekside
Church of the Brethren

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

The Creekside Connection

MAY 2007

Rooted and Growing

Report on

Easter shrubs and Prayer Garden



Signs of spring are all around us, and garden projects are underway at Creekside. Thanks to individuals and groups from our congregation who have helped to make this possible. The majority of money for these projects have come from memorial gifts; this is a wonderful way for people who have been rooted in our community of faith to continue to have a spiritual presence which we can remember and celebrate, and which will grow each year. The plants and flowers in our gardens are a tangible sign of the resurrection which is ours in Jesus Christ, and a meaningful way to celebrate not only the gifts of Janet Berkebile and Pastor David, but the gifts of those who have been or continue to be a part of our family of faith.

The Easter shrubs and flowers have been planted in the landscaped beds along the drive from the road. They include 8 daffodils, two junipers, two dwarf pines, two goldflame spireas, two white hydrangeas, and two dwarf forsythias, and a variegated dogwood. A flowering tree, an evergreen tree, and a viburnum shrub have been planted in the Prayer Garden.

An arbor has been placed to mark the entrance to the Prayer Garden, and blossoming tree which bears red fruit was planted in honor of Janet Berkebile on Monday, April 2nd. On April 21st, a fragrant viburnum and an ornamental pine were added. You are welcome to visit the Prayer Garden, located in the northwest corner of the Creekside property out the door by the adult Sunday School classrooms at any time. Gary Arnold has a video of the planting of Janet's tree which he would be happy to lend out

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

The Cross Garden, a separate bed with a low stone wall which will surround a large metal cross, is already underway along the driveway in front of the church. Easter lilies from our Easter worship service will be planted in this garden. This memorial gift is a witness to the community outside the walls of our building, and we plan to dedicate it to the glory of God on Sunday, May 20th.

Judy DePue presented plans for the Prayer Garden after worship on April 15th. A scale drawing of those plans is on display in the gathering area, and will be there through Sunday, May 13th for your reference. The Prayer Garden has been planned in stages. Judy is spending only the money which has been donated; **this is not coming from any budgeted funds.** The tree for Janet and a creek bed with holding ponds are the priority for Stage 1. The creek will need to be installed in its entirety to make the best use of equipment and labor. About 2/3 of the funds needed for the creek are currently available, as well as about 2/3 of the funds for the proposed plants and paths for Stage 1. Fewer plants will be planted if we need to use that money to complete the creek bed. The box labeled "Garden Projects" will be in the gathering area through Sunday, May 13th. You may put donations in that box, or designate a line "Prayer Garden" on your regular giving envelope. If you want to sponsor something from the garden plan in memory of someone, contact Judy De Pue to make your selection. Checks should be made out to Creekside Church. You may continue to make donations or memorial gifts after May 13th by designating such on your giving envelope. All donations are tax deductible.

Several workdays have been scheduled for installation and planting. You are invited to participate as you are able. Work times are planned for 9:00am until 3:30pm, but you may come for a part of the day. Please let Judy know when you can work and for how long so that she can plan to have appropriate supplies and tools available. You may bring your own shovels, rakes, or wheelbarrows—please label them if you want to take home your own tools at the end of the day—many tools look alike once they leave your garage!

The Saturday workdays are as follows:

May 5 Upper and lower ponds and stream for Prayer Garden dug and underlayment and liner set in place.

May 12 Rock work on water garden (in preparation for recognition on May 13)

June 2 Rock work completed along ponds and stream, paths dug out for Stage 1 plantings.

June 9 Paths and edging will be completed and the perennials and shrubs planted. This is a great day for kids to work with adult supervision.

June 16 Mulch, mulch, mulch; set benches and scripture plaques.


A dedication for the Prayer Garden with thanks for the work and commitment which it represents will be planned for the end of June. These gardens have been ambitious projects to undertake; we hope they will have lasting meaning for the lives of those they celebrate, and the lives of those whom they will touch. Please support those who plan and work to make this a reality with your encouragement and prayers. May all our plans prosper and bear fruit!

Rosanna McFadden

Cloud Cookies


Jesus was "lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9, NRSV).

When you make these cloud cookies, remember what the angels said to his apostles: "This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (verse 11).




What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1 white cake mix
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 container (6 oz.) of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 3 cups powdered sugar



What you do:

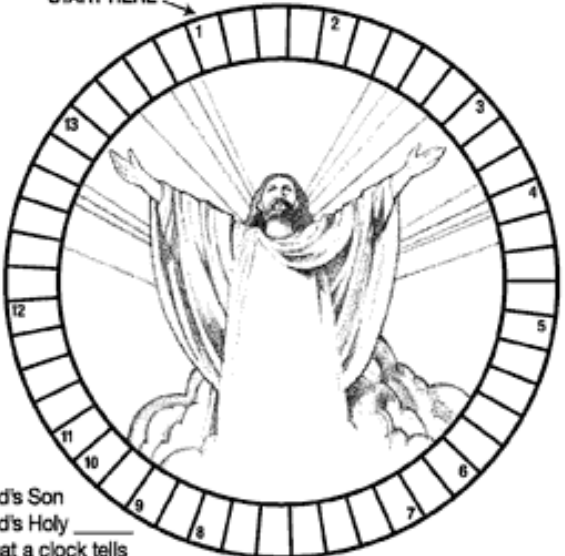
1. Combine cake mix and egg.
2. Fold in whipped topping.
3. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto powdered sugar and coat well.
4. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until tops are firm.



Ascension of the Lord

On the day Jesus left his disciples and went up in a cloud to heaven, he said to them, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (John 14:18, KJV).

Read the clues below. The last letter of each word is the beginning of the next word.



START HERE →

1. God's Son
2. God's Holy _____
3. What a clock tells
4. Our planet
5. Where Jesus is now
6. Opposite of Old Testament
7. An onlooker
8. Place to see clouds
9. Modern word for thee
10. Opposite of down
11. Authority or strength
12. Comes back
13. Searches for

Answers: (1) Jesus; (2) Spirit; (3) time; (4) Earth; (5) heaven; (6) new; (7) witness; (8) sky; (9) you; (10) up; (11) power; (12) returns; (13) seeks



ARE YOU REGISTERED TO PLAY AND/OR SPONSOR THE MAY 12th GOLF OUTING? This Spring's event is at Sycamore Golf Club in North Manchester with registration at noon and a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m.

SIGN UP NOW FOR YOUR BOOTH AT THIS YEAR'S CAMP MACK FESTIVAL? This year's Festival is October 6th. 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 (phollenberg@gmail.com) or Karen Rowland (ckwagonwheel@maplenet.net) with your booth plans or booth questions.

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

HYBRID POWER SYSTEM: Last summer Camp staff recycled a cabin, moving it to a low traffic, "high nature" area for

use as a Nature Cabin. This cabin currently has no electricity. We are in the process of building a hybrid power system consisting of a wind generator and solar panel to light the cabin and to power pumps for aquariums and heat lamps for keeping small animals. Camp has received a grant from the Indiana Department of Environment and Defense Development to cover about half of the \$20,000 cost of this hybrid power system and a grant of \$1000 from the Outdoor Ministries Association of the Church of the Brethren. The hybrid power system is scheduled to be operational by this June providing an eco-education example. You are invited to send a donation designated for the hybrid power project.

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

IMPORTANT DATE:

CIT Training—June 1-3

Quiet Place Quote: "Music is God's best gift to man. The only art of heaven given to earth. The only art of earth we take to heaven." - Letitia Elizabeth Landon

MAY Birthdays

LOOK WHO'S HAVING A BIRTHDAY!

May 2 Jim Buchanan
 May 7 Danielle Garcia
 May 10 Myrtis Justiniano
 May 13 Dave Eis
 May 13 Rosanna McFadden
 May 18 Gary Arnold
 May 20 Jeff Vance
 May 20 Rick Rodgers
 May 24 Crystal Rodgers
 May 26 Roger Griffith
 May 26 Larry Ehret
 May 27 Eileen Rohrer
 May 30 Colleen Weaver

MAY Anniversaries

May 14 Gary & Pauline Arnold
 May 26 Lynn & Grace Bollinger
 May 27 Roger & Anne Griffith



ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

DATE	Sunday School	Worship
April 1	75	100
April 8		147
April 15	60	88
April 22	64	101
April 29		



Home Bible Study

Monday Nite Bible Study

On April 23 there were 14 persons attending at the home of Bill and Rosemary Pletcher. We are studying the book of Romans and finding new challenges. There was a returned missionary from Dagestan, Russia. He challenged us and overwhelmed us with his fascinating story of living out the Great Commission with a people who had never heard. This fits in with a study in Romans 15:20. We hope to have a politician with us soon to discuss Romans 13 about all government appointed by God. We had persons from 5 different churches with us last nite. You might check with the church office or the Pletchers if you would like to join us. We meet each Monday at 7PM.

Creekside Blessing of the Bikes
Saturday, May 19, 2007
Starting at 9:00 a.m.

Have any of you been to a large gathering of motorcycle riders? I had not until last Sunday April 22nd. It was an experience which I will remember for a long time. There were only 40 or 50 people with bikes when Rick Rodgers and I arrive at the Blessing of the Bikes in Nappanee at 9:30. The crowd grew to 800 and more by 11:00. It was amazing to see them come in groups and "Convoys".

Initially I was not sure I wanted to be there and when I saw the riders for the first time, I was not comfortable. I felt out of place, even though I was fortunate enough to have worn black. My mental picture of bikers dates back to the days of Hell's Angels, etc. Today's bikers are of a different era and type.

As time went on and I walked around, trying not to be conspicuous as a non biker, I started to view the riders as individuals. Even in the black leather apparel, they can cause one to be concerned until one reads the patches, sayings and names they wear. They come from all walks of life; teachers, doctors, attorneys, accountants, newspaper journalists, factory workers, military background, business people, retired people, and grandparents too. Some are eloquent speakers and others are less polished in their speech, but they each exhibit a heart of gold.

As Christian bikers, they promote Christianity in a way we often do not. The love of Jesus and their reverence for God is apparent on their clothing. When we host the Blessing of the Bikes on May 19th, look at the riders, their outfits, how they greet each other and the polite manners they have with each other. They greet each other with hugs and welcoming handshakes. It is like one big happy family on an outing. And their reverence for God is apparent as they ride through "Gods Cathedral", our great outdoors.

I encourage each of you to come and help with the Blessing of the Bikes which we will be hosting. I think each of you will have a new appreciation of Bikers and their life style. And just maybe understand a different way of professing Jesus and God to those around us.

I know I will not look at a motorcycle rider in the same way from now on.

Stephen De Pue
Member of the Creekside Blessing of the Bike's Team.

HONORING FATHERS AND MOTHERS

Come one, Come all!

When: Sunday, May 6th after Sunday school

The dinner will be cooked for you.

A short program will follow in the sanctuary.

New Format For Summer Sunday School

For twelve weeks this summer, beginning June 3, we will replace our usual adult church school schedule with a different format. This new model is motivated by both practical issues and the desire that members have expressed for hearing the perspectives of others, which our current class structure does not allow. Instead of having four adult classes, we will offer two.

Our summer schedules create a great deal of fluctuation in worship and church school attendance. Summer is a time for vacations, family reunions, and other important events. Summer allows for an enjoyable change of pace, but it also presents challenges for our church programs. For teachers, lesson planning is difficult because some Sundays the class may be full, but other times only a handful of people are present. Continuity is necessary for thematic studies, and when lessons cannot build upon each other, learning is diminished. Some who teach from September to May are not available in summer months, and deserve a break.

The two classes will be "Following Jesus Without Embarrassing God," and "Saving Jesus: A Revolutionary Exploration of Jesus Christ for the Third Millennium." These learning opportunities will use different formats. Each Sunday's topic will be a lesson unto itself. You may choose to remain in one class, or make your decision based upon the topics that interest you.

Following Jesus is by Tony Campolo. He says that we mess things up so badly that it is hard for listeners to get a good idea of what Jesus is all about, and some of the things we say must embarrass God, because they make God look ridiculous. Selected topics we will discuss include:

- Protecting Yourself from Technology Without Becoming Amish
- Talking About Prayer Without Saying Things That Make God Look Bad
- Being Involved in Your Church Without Letting It Eat You Up
-

Figuring Out the Will of God Without Hearing Voices From Heaven

Saving Jesus will examine the changes that must be made if Christianity will be relevant in the 21st century, and will discuss the negative impact of fundamentalist Christianity. The class will be taught by Pastor David and two others, and will use a 20-minute DVD and discussion format. The DVD will feature leading theologians, biblical scholars, and religious leaders. Themes covered in the series will include:

- The World Into Which Jesus Was Born
- What We Can Know About Jesus
- Who Killed Jesus?

Following the fellowship time, our regular classes will meet together for prayer and class business, and then dismiss for the study options. *Following Jesus* will meet in the gathering area and *Saving Jesus* will meet in the worship center. We are currently seeking facilitators for these studies. Contact Pastor David or Jean Mann if you have questions about the series.

In 1922, the popular preacher, Harry Emerson Fosdick said: "Stagnation in thought or enterprise means death for Christianity as certainly as it does for any other vital movement. Stagnation, not change, is Christianity's most deadly enemy, for this is a progressive world." Your participation in our summer studies is an affirmation of your desire to be on the growing edge of faith and witness.



You Are Invited to an OPEN HOUSE for Fred Lesakale, AMBS graduate on Sunday afternoon May 20, 2007, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the home of Bill and Rosemary Pletcher, 350 Hiawatha Dr., Elkhart, IN



- June 2—9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.—Landscaping
- June 3—Recognize Jean Mann for her years of service
- June 6—9:00 a.m.—Volunteer Fellowship/carry in
- June 9—9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.—Landscaping
- June 15 & 16—Jr. High Conference
- June 16—9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.—Landscaping
- June 17—Father's Day
- June 19—6:30 p.m.—Church Board at Marcin's
- June 21—7:00 p.m. Worship Team Meeting
- June 22, 23, 24—Youth Dunes Camping
- 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

MISSION OUTREACH NOTES

Thanks to all who contributed for our collection drive for "The Window".

There are so many needs in our community and this is a great way for Creekside



I can't tell you how excited I was when I came in and saw the card and flowers for Administrative Professionals Day! It was very much appreciated. May God bless each and every one of you for your thoughtfulness!

Cindy

AMEN SUNDAY, MAY 13TH

On **Sunday, May 13th**, Creekside will be celebrating the service of some special individuals and groups. We will be recognizing Pastor David for his 15 years of service to our congregation, and Janet Berkebile for her ministry of music and the many ways she has blessed our congregation. This is the final Sunday of the Children's Choir season, so we will have a chance to share our appreciation with Angi Marcin, Maryann Zerbe, and the Children's Choir members. It is also Mother's Day, and we will remember those people who have nurtured and helped us to grow in our physical and spiritual lives.

This is a lot of appreciation for one service to hold! There are so many gifted and generous people in our congregation that we don't want to limit recognition to any single group or any single Sunday. Here's where you can help: a white Amen! card has been placed in your church mailbox. Worship Team would like to challenge each person or family to fill out a least one of these cards for someone in our congregation. You could use it as a postcard and mail it to one of our shut-ins; or better yet, deliver it in person. Try to think of people whose gifts may get overlooked, and seek them out and let them know that they are appreciated. These cards can go to people of all ages. There are plenty of extra cards in the gathering area, so you are limited only by your time and imagination.

Thank you for your encouragement! We look forward to proclaiming a corporate "Amen!" on May 13th.

Rosanna McFadden
Worship Team



Sunday, May 26th

Pentecost is the day of the church year when we remember and proclaim the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles, as recorded in the second chapter of Acts. As part of our service at Creekside that Sunday, you are invited to wear red, yellow, or orange to symbolize the tongues of fire which rested on the apostles, and to affirm the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us.

Worship Team



NEWS

MAY—Gathering as a group on May 12th to work at the church on the Prayer Garden. Will plan to work from 1:00 till 3:30.

JUNE—1st Ever.....National Jr. High Conference to be held June 15-17 at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. We have a carload of 5 that will be going to enjoy this awesome experience.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

ALL teams, including short-term teams, youth advisors, and project leaders need to submit updates to Cindy to be included in the packets handed out at this meeting. If you have recently submitted a report and want that included in the packet, just let Cindy know.

Sabrina Fritz will be the alternate delegate for Annual Conference Delegate.

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.



GRADUATING



This year Katy McFadden will be graduating from Goshen High School. Katy is ranked in the top ten of her class. She is also a National Merit Finalist and a Regional Academic All-Star. While in high school some of Katy's favorite extracurricular activities have been soccer, choir, and musicals. This fall she will attend Manchester College and probably study psychology. Katy's open house will be on Saturday, June 9, from 1-4 p.m. at the McFadden's house in Goshen.

GRADUATING



Valerie Rodgers will be graduating on May 4th at the Century Center, at 6 p.m. She will be graduating with an Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education, from Ivy Tech Community College in South Bend and graduating with honors. Her open house will be at the Church from 2-4 p.m. on Sat. the 5th.

She is taking the summer off and then will start this fall at Ferris University for her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. She will also be working towards her Small Business Management Certificate. She will be taking some classes at Ivy Tech in South Bend, some at Southern Michigan in Dowagiac, and the last of the classes at Ferris in Niles, Michigan.



2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00 a.m.—Volunteer Fellowship 7:00 p.m.—Shalom Team	3	4	5 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Landscaping 2:00-4:00 p.m.—Valerie Rodgers Graduation Open House
6 YOUTH SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School HONORING FATHERS &	7	8	9	10	11	12 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Landscaping
13 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School “AMEN” SUNDAY Recognize David & Jan 1st ANNIVERSARY OF NEW BUILDING	14	15 6:30 p.m. - Church Board at church	16 6:30 p.m.- Mission/Outreach Choir Practice	17	18	19 8:00-11:00 a.m.—Blessing of the Bikes
20 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Congregational Meeting NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR SINGS	21	22	23 <div style="border: 3px double black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER</div>	24	25	26
27 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29	30 Choir Practice & Picnic	31		