

# The Creekside Connection

A publication of

**Creekside  
Church of the Brethren**

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

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

# The Creekside Connection

## Pastor's Ponderings

I enjoy creative advertising. Years ago the Episcopal Church conducted a national ad campaign that drew considerable attention. I recall one ad in particular. It had a large, winsome picture of Jesus. Below him it said, "You'll never meet the man of your dreams in a single's bar." I enjoy *intentionally* creative church advertising. Sometimes, creativity is accidental. Years ago, there was a used car dealership in South Bend owned by a Christian businessman. As a witness to the community, he put a Bible verse on the car lot sign each week. I got a chuckle from an unintentional incongruity between the sign and scripture. It read, "Bill's Quality Used Cars: 'Behold! I make all things new.'" Finally – the answer to auto depreciation.

Today, while driving on State Road 19, I saw a church ad on a billboard. It is done in a "pop culture" style-- probably targeted at younger generations. Before I tell you what it said, I must ask forgiveness for what I am about to say. We should not be critical of other churches. We are, after all, disciples of the same Lord. But it is tempting to make comments about the evangelistic methods that some churches employ. We puff-up with pride and pat ourselves on the back, knowing we wouldn't do anything tacky to promote our church. It is especially tempting to look down our noses at successful, growing churches. There's nothing like jealousy to hone criticism to a fine, sharp edge.

Now that I've apologized, let me tell you about the sign. On it is a silhouette of a bull and this question: "Tired of the same old bull?" The name of the church is at the bottom of the billboard. My first thought was to call the church and tell the pastor what I think of the sign. I decided to wait and cool down a little. Something tells me I am not the only pastor in town considering a call. When I do I'll ask, "What exactly is *the same old bull* you're talking about?" He may say it has to do with the way churches share the greatest story ever told in boring, banal, uninspiring ways. I would agree with him on this point. Boring people with the gospel is a sin. Keeping traditions long after they have served their purpose is stifling.

I hope this is what he will say, because it's not how I interpreted the question. The question implies, "The menu at our church is strictly spiritual meat – not the bull served in other churches." I wonder – are the time-honored hymns we sing that go back five hundred or one thousand years, bull?

(Continued on Page 2)

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Are interpretations of the Bible that differ from yours, bull? What about worship that isn't always upbeat, feel-good, and praise-filled? Is it bull, too? What about churches with liturgical worship where people pray the same prayers and recite the same affirmations as Christians did 1,600 years ago? Is this what the billboard question means by "old bull?" Are churches that speak against the same old bull of injustice, poverty, the war, the environment, our violence-permeated culture and other great moral issues considered purveyors of the same old bull?

The writer Anne Lamott asks, "What is there to do in such difficult, violent times? You can always begin by lighting a candle. Since the United States went to war in Iraq, I've been thinking about A. J. Muste, who during the Vietnam War stood in front of the White House night after night with a candle. One rainy night, a reporter asked him, 'Mr. Muste, do you really think you are going to change the policies of this country by standing out here alone at night with a candle?' "Oh, Muste replied, "I don't do it to change the country, I do it so the country won't change me."

The prophet Elijah told the people, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, follow him." 1 Kings 18 recounts the contest between Elijah and 450 Baal prophets. Each side got a bull, cut it to pieces, and stacked it on top a pile of wood. They couldn't set it on fire. Each was to call on their god to set it on fire. The god who won would be the one true God. The Baal prophets cried from morning till noon to Baal. No answer. They were in a frenzy all afternoon, cutting themselves with swords till the blood gushed. Still no answer.


Then came Elijah's turn. He built a stone altar and dug a deep trench around it. He stacked the wood, put the butchered bull on top, and to make the contest more interesting, he doused the whole thing with water—three times! There was so much water it filled the trench to the top. Elijah called upon the Lord to turn the people's hearts to him. Then came a tremendous WHOOSH, and nothing was left but sizzle and smoke. No water, no stones, no wood, no dust, and no bull.

When we pray, let us call upon the name of the Lord to better distinguish between the true God and false gods. Pay that the world will not succeed in pressing us into its mold of conformity. Pray that while in this world, we will not be of it. Pray that God will ignite a fire beneath us to do His will, and resolve to let go of the old bull.

In Jesus,  
Pastor David

**NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN**—We greatly appreciate the food items that are donated for the various church functions. However, sometimes we find food items in the kitchen that we do not know what they are for. It would be a big help if the food item would have a note on it indicating what the item is to be used for, the date, and who donated the item. Also we had an inspection visit from the Elkhart County Health Department this past week. We were told all food items need to be dated.. Thank you for your help, Paulajean Ritzmann, Fellowship Team.

**Hands That Give**



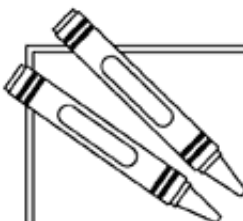
There are many ways you can give to others. All you have to do is lend a hand!

**What you need:**

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Yarn or heavy string
- Clothespins or paper clips

**What you do:**

1. With your parents' help, think of seven (or more) things that you can do for seven (or more) people. For example, you could clean out closets and donate the items to charity, help a neighbor bring in her trash, and so on.
2. Trace your hand on the paper seven times. Cut out each hand.
3. On one side of each hand, write a person's name. On the other side, write how you will help him or her.
4. Cut a long piece of yarn (or heavy string) and hang it in your room — like a clothesline.
5. Use the clothespins or paper clips to hang each hand on the "clothesline."
6. When you've completed each act of service, take the hand off, but keep it to use another time.
7. Do this activity over and over again by "giving a hand" to someone.



**Just for KIDS**

**THE POWER TO GIVE**

In the New Testament, Jesus emphasizes the importance of giving and doing for others. In the Old Testament, Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tells us what not to do.

Cross out ALL of the following letters to reveal Proverbs 3:27.

..... **B J K Q X Z** .....

Write the remaining letters (in order) on the spaces below.

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

"DO NOT \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_"  
 \_\_\_\_\_

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act."

### CREEKSIDE PRAYER GARDEN UPDATE

Since the garden dedication, a ten foot hemlock tree has been moved in by tree spade in honor of several individuals. The curving bench by the sycamore tree has been sponsored. Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, more donated plants and edging are being added to the garden.

I hear about folks both from within our congregation and from the community, visiting the garden. All three brochures, the one on how "The Creation of the Garden", the one on "Meditating in the Garden", and the one describing "How to Use the Labyrinth" are all on their second printing.



Our son-in-law, James Arritt (Monique's husband), walked the labyrinth Monday evening, asking God to help them find a way to afford graduate school. The next day, James received a call that both he and Monique were going to receive a 50% tuition scholarship for which they could reapply each semester. What a significant help this will be!

Sometimes answers to prayer come right away, sometimes we have to wait to see how God will work things out. Turning things over to God, rather than trying to solve them by myself, has worked out to be a far better choice in my life. If the garden and labyrinth can help anyone in that process, then it is worth every hour that so many of our congregation and friends have put into it.

Nearly all of the outstanding bills for the garden have been paid with the Prayer Garden donations that have been received during the past two months. As donations continue, drip hoses and mulch can be afforded for the recently donated plants and some day soon, we may be able to put in a water line from the church to the pond so that the float can fill as needed without a hose. While the water garden will be off in the winter, we would like to keep it operating even when the irrigation system for the lawn and landscaping is not needed in the late fall and early spring. Praise God for the way the garden has developed and spread the word to your friends and neighbors to come and use the Prayer Garden and Labyrinth to God's glory.

Judy De Pue



### OCTOBER Birthdays

- Oct 1 Jan Weaver
- Oct 3 Michaela Hoke
- Oct 3 Gail Vance
- Oct 6 Vanessa Arritt
- Oct 7 Marcia Blanton
- Oct 8 Denny Weaver
- Oct 9 Ron Fritz
- Oct 10 Doris Walters
- Oct 15 Sabrina Fritz
- Oct 16 Nan Davis
- Oct 17 Erika Toops
- Oct 18 Joyce Gordon
- Oct 19 Jim Vance
- Oct 20 Keith Vardaman
- Oct 22 Jill Brenneman
- Oct 23 Vicki Ellis
- Oct 24 Sandy Schrock
- Oct 24 Henry Schmucker
- Oct 24 Luis Davila
- Oct 25 Gary Lesch
- Oct 29 Marcia Sowles
- Oct 31 Jeanne Brandon



### OCTOBER Anniversaries

- Oct 1 Paul & Norma Pletcher
- Oct 19 Louis & Jeanne Brandon

### ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

DATE	Worship
9/2	75
9/9	98
9/16	84
9/23	115
9/30	

### What now?

God: "Whew! I just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth."

Angel: "What are you going to do now?"

God: "Call it a day."

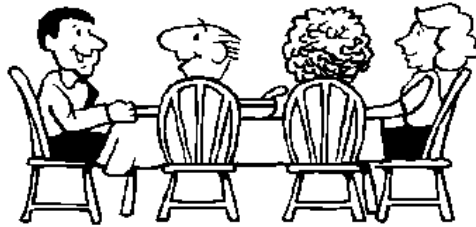
### 300th ANNIVERSARY

Most of the 300th Anniversary calendars have been distributed to members. If you have not received yours, please see a Worship Team Member. If you would like an additional calendar for your home, office, family or a friend, they are available for \$5.

We also have the devotional book "Fresh from the Word", for \$12. This devotional has many Church of the Brethren contributors such as Frank Ramirez, Stanley Noffsinger, William Eberly. Ralph McFadden, Wendy McFadden, Anna Mow and many, many others. This devotional book is a very nice commemorative of our 300th anniversary!

## ***Creekside Church of the Brethren***

### ***Friendship Dinners***



***Planned by the Fellowship Team***

***Groups of 3 to 5 households  
who sign up to participate will  
meet to share meals together  
three or more times beginning  
in the middle of October.***

***Sign up with Linda DeGeeter at a table in the Gathering Area during coffee time on Sunday, or call Paulajean Ritzmann at 293-6194 to get your name on the list. Sign up from now until Sunday Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. The Fellowship Team will meet on Oct 10 to arrange groups from the folks who have expressed interest.***

***Friendship dinners are an excellent way to get to know each other better. Folks can meet in each other's homes or apartments, or go out to eat together.***

***Each one of the eight groups will be started by a member of the Fellowship Team for their first meal.***

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

**FALL BIBLE STUDIES**

**BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

1200 N. MICHIGAN STREET  
ELKHART  
9:00 A.M. COFFEE TIME

OCTOBER 8, Mark Kloess, Redeemer Lutheran Church.  
OCTOBER 15, Steve Wise, Bethel UM Church.  
OCTOBER 22, Catherine Koziatek, Pastor, Bethel UM Church  
OCTOBER 29, World Community Day,  
"Embracing Justice Under Gods' Tent"

We are collecting pencils for CHURCH WORLD  
SERVICE SCHOOL BAGS  
and we will need 1200 pencils, brand new, never used.

**The Center for Healing and Hope** is seeking applicants for the following paid positions:

**Medical Director:** A part-time position (10 - 12 hours per week) to coordinate medical services for the clinics.

**Clinic Nurse:** A part-time position (flexible: 12-20 hours per week) to coordinate the day-to-day operation of the Goshen clinic and supervise volunteer nurses.

Call 534-4744 for additional information or send resume to Center for Healing and Hope, PO Box 195, Goshen, IN 46527.



How is being a Christian like being a pumpkin?

God sees us, picks us out of the dirt, cleans us off, takes the yucky material out of us by forgiving us, puts a smile on our faces and places a shining light within us for others to see.

Jesus said: "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16, NRSV).

## CAMP MACK

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Oct

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

**CAMP IS NOW IN RETREAT SEASON!**

Your Sunday School class, church board, choir, youth or other group is invited to schedule a retreat to worship the Creator and enjoy the serenity of this sacred place.

**UPCOMING RETREATS:** Camp Mack's Fall **Seasoned Citizens' Retreat** is October 15-18 followed by the fall **Quilting Retreat** on October 26-28. These retreats offer lots of fun, fellowship and inspiration, so check out our web site or call Camp today for registration forms.

**FATHER SON WEEKEND:** Fathers, sons and grandpas, too — you are invited to a Father-Son Weekend at Camp Mack on Saturday and Sunday, October 20-21. The weekend theme is *Finding Our Way*. From compass reading and treasure hunts to the woodshop, this event will help you to build those memories that last a lifetime. The cost for a father and son is \$87. Additional persons are \$40 each.

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER:** 2007 counselors and support volunteers are invited to be camp's guests at a recognition dinner on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Registration and hors d'oeuvres begin at 4:30 p.m. with the dinner at 5:00 p.m. Enjoy musical entertainment by Luanne Harley & Brian Kruschwitz.

**ENCOURAGE YOUR PASTOR(S)** to be the guests of Camp at the fall **Pastors' Sabbath** at Camp Mack. The Sabbath begins at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 13 and concludes at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Camp Board, staff, guests.

**A Quiet Place Quote:** "Just living is not enough," said the butterfly. "One must have sunshine, free-dom, and a little flower." Hans Christian Anderson.

## The Comforter is here

Six-year-old Becky was asked to take the trash outside after dark. Dutifully, she started on the mission but quickly returned without completing the task because she heard frightening noises. Becky asked her dad, San Diego pastor Jim Standiford, to accompany her on her job.

Jim put aside his reading material, and off they went. As they made their way on the sidewalk, their feet crunched dried leaves, making loud noises. Becky then said something her father has never forgotten. Feeling confident and brave with her father as her companion, she said, "Daddy, it's not scary to hear noises in the darkness when someone is with you."

When you're afraid, remember that the Comforter, God's Holy Spirit, is as near as a prayer. That's what the psalmist affirmed when he wrote, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4, KJV).

## ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO DIRECTORY

John Berkebile (new e-mail address)  
[johnberkebile@comcast.net](mailto:johnberkebile@comcast.net)

**JR HIGH PLANNING SESSION**

Join us Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, after Sunday School, for Sub Sandwiches and a planning session. Bring money to purchase your own lunch from Subway and lots of ideas to talk about. Transportation will be provided home if needed. We will plan to be together from noon till about 3:00 p.m.

Tim & Shelly Randall  
 Jr. High Advisors

- November 3—Youth Lock In—church
- November 6—6:30 p.m.—Church Board at Angi Marcin's
- November 7—Volunteer Fellowship
- November 8—7:00 p.m.—Worship Team
- November 11—Congregational Business Meeting
- November 11—Youth Drop In—Mastics
- November 18—Stewardship Sunday
- November 18—Youth begin candy sales
- November 22 & 23—OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING
- December 2—Advent All Church Gathering—Fellowship Team
- December 2—Youth end taking candy orders
- December 5—Volunteer Fellowship
- December 8—Youth Make Candy
- December 9—Youth Deliver Candy
- December 18—Church Board at Angi Marcin's
- December 24 & 25—OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS



- Go outside to see if your street number is clearly visible from the road. If not, paint it on the curb or install house numbers to ensure that responding emergency personnel can find your home.
- Have everyone memorize the emergency phone number of the fire department. That way any member of the household can call from a neighbor's home or a cellular phone once safely outside.
- If there are infants, older adults, or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and in the event of an emergency. Assign a backup person too, in case the designee is not home during the emergency.
- If windows or doors in your home have security bars, make sure that the bars have emergency release devices inside so that they can be opened immediately in an emergency. Emergency release devices won't compromise your security - but they will increase your chances of safely escaping a home fire.
- Tell guests or visitors to your home about your family's fire escape plan. When staying overnight at other people's homes, ask about their escape plan. If they don't have a plan in place, offer to help them make one. This is especially important when children are permitted to attend "sleepovers" at friends' homes. See NFPA's "Sleepover fire safety for kids" fact sheet.
- Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately. Residents of high-rise and apartment buildings may be safer "defending in place."
- Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the fire department dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.

#### **Putting your plan to the test**

- Practice your home fire escape plan twice a year, making the drill as realistic as possible.
- Make arrangements in your plan for anyone in your home who has a disability.
- Allow children to master fire escape planning and practice before holding a fire drill at night when they are sleeping. The objective is to practice, not to frighten, so telling children there will be a drill before they go to bed can be as effective as a surprise drill.
- It's important to determine during the drill whether children and others can readily waken to the sound of the smoke alarm. If they fail to awaken, make sure that someone is assigned to wake them up as part of the drill and in a real emergency situation.
- If your home has two floors, every family member (including children) must be able to escape from the second floor rooms. Escape ladders can be placed in or near windows to provide an additional escape route. Review the manufacturer's instructions carefully so you'll be able to use a safety ladder in an emergency. Practice setting up the ladder from a first floor window to make sure you can do it correctly and quickly. Children should only practice with a grown-up, and only from a first-story window. Store the ladder near the window, in an easily accessible location. You don't want to have to search for it during a fire.
- Always choose the escape route that is safest - the one with the least amount of smoke and heat—but be prepared to escape under toxic smoke if necessary. When you do your fire drill, everyone in the family should practice getting low and going under the smoke to your exit.
- Closing doors on your way out slows the spread of fire, giving you more time to safely escape.
- In some cases, smoke or fire may prevent you from exiting your home or apartment building. To prepare for an emergency like this, practice "sealing yourself in for safety" as part of your home fire escape plan. Close all doors between you and the fire. Use duct tape or towels to seal the door cracks and cover air vents to keep smoke from coming in. If possible, open your windows at the top and bottom so fresh air can get in. Call the fire department to report your exact location. Wave a flashlight or light-colored cloth at the window to let the fire department know where you are located.

**Concord Twp.**

23625 Co. Rd. 18  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
Fire Chief Lewis R. Austin

**Fire Department**

Phone (574) 875-9644  
Fax (574) 875-7687  
EMERGENCY 9-1-1

Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13 and with your help we can make a difference.

This year's topic is "Escape Planning". I am including a bulletin from NFPA that you can include with yours if you wish. The more households we get the information to, the safer the community will be. According to NFPA, only 23% of households have actual developed an escape plan and practiced it.

Also, we are scheduling tours of our station. If a group from your Church would like to come in and have a fire prevention demonstration/discussion we would be more than happy to have you. We have handouts and coloring books for the kids and their parent(s). To schedule a tour or you have any questions; please contact the Concord Township Fire Department at 875-9644.

**Basic fire escape planning****Facts & figures\***

- Only one-fifth to one-fourth of households (23%) have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan to ensure they could escape quickly and safely.
- In 2004, there were an estimated 395,500 reported home structure fires and 3,190 associated civilian deaths in the United States.
- One-third of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only 8% said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!

\* Source: Harris Interactive Survey, Fall 2004, conducted for NFPA (PDF, 759 KB).

Your ability to get out depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.

- Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm. For easy planning, download NFPA's escape planning grid (PDF, 634 KB). This is a great way to get children involved in fire safety in a non-threatening way.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code® requires interconnected smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Everyone in the household must understand the escape plan. When you walk through your plan, check to make sure the escape routes are clear and doors and windows can be opened easily.
- Choose an outside meeting place (i.e. neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan.

*May His hand lead you to laughter and His love dry every tear, as you sense His presence in your life more deeply every year.*

Happy Birthday

*Join Joyce Gordon and her family as they celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 14, between Worship and Sunday School (our regular fellowship time) for cake.*



# October

# 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 9:00 A.M. - Volunteer Fellowship 7:00 P.M. - CHOIR	4	5 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.—Fiber Friends	6
7 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School 8:15 a.m.—CHOIR CROP WALK	8	9	10 7:00 P.M. - CHOIR 7:00 P.M. - Fellowship Team	11 7:00 P.M. - Worship Team	12	13
14 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School Love Feast & Communion 8:15 a.m.—CHOIR Youth Drop In—Bowen's 12:00-3:00 p.m.—Jr. High Planning Meeting	15	16 6:30 p. m. - Board at Church	17	18	19	20
21 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School	22	23 7:00 P.M. - Property Team	24 <b>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER</b>	25	26	27
28 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School	29	30				