

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

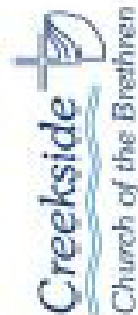
E-mail: office@creeksideconnected.com

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



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

The Creekside Connection

SEPTEMBER 2007

Pastor's Ponderings

The Brethren movement began three hundred years ago on the banks of the Eder River in Schwarzenau, Germany. A number of observances are planned for the 2008 tri-centennial by the six Brethren communities that trace their origins to Alexander Mack and his vision of a church founded upon radical obedience to Jesus. Creekside will join hundreds of Brethren congregations in the coming year by focusing on our common biblical and historical heritage.

Our worship team has planned two such events in September. On Sunday, September 9th we will welcome Casey Drudge who will bring the morning message through his portrayal of Alexander Mack. The following Sunday our worship will be led by the Church of the Brethren Youth Heritage Team.

The first public act of the Schwarzenau Brethren was baptism. By professing their faith in Jesus and their desire to live in obedience to his teachings, the Brethren became the targets of criticism and persecution. In our experience, Christians are not subjected to the ill treatment experienced by the first Brethren. Yet, the call to follow him remains constant. On September 23, we will welcome new citizens into God's kingdom and graft them into the ministry of Creekside community. Our worship will focus on the meaning of membership, or stated a better way, the meaning of discipleship.

Membership is a not an appropriate model for the church. Membership is the process of being initiated into a group or organization. The new member receives a copy of the organization's charter and by-laws. They may pay an initiation fee and subsequent monthly "dues." In exchange, the member receives services provided by the organization. This is fine if you are joining Rotary or the Kiwanis Club, but not the church. Someone said of churches with a membership model, "If the member's perceived needs are met, if they are happy with the services of the pastor and staff, and conflict is avoided or minimized, the members can be counted upon to keep the offerings flowing." Churches with this culture eventually turn in on themselves. The mission is no longer the Great Commission (Mt. 28: 19-20). The mission is the members.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

In churches that practice infant baptism, the parents make promises *for* the infant. As the children grow into adolescence they “confirm” those early promises by entering the process of confirmation, after which they stand before the church and declare their desire to live the Christian life. It is the first major decision the young people make for themselves. But as I heard an Episcopal priest say, “Too often their next decision is not to attend church anymore, and they spend the rest of their lives as ‘spiritual twelve year olds.’”

Having your name on a membership role does not make you a disciple. Membership that means something is not about rights and privileges. It is about the responsibilities we willingly accept because we believe that life lived in harmony with Jesus and his people is the best of all possible ways to live. The early Brethren understood that their mission was to produce *disciples*, not members. They were “other focused.” They took seriously their call to graft people into the community of God’s love.

Just before we were “plunged” into the baptismal waters, the pastor asked us three questions: 1) Do you believe that Jesus is God’s Son and do you receive and trust him as your Savior and Lord? 2) Will you repent of sin, accept God’s forgiveness, and live by the teachings of Jesus? 3) *Will you be loyal to the church, upholding it by your prayers and your presence, your substance and your service?* We said yes and came up sputtering with water running out of our ears and noses and a new identity. In the Church of the Brethren we believe that baptism is our ordination into ministry.

As we celebrate the decisions of the new disciples who join us in ministry, we will be given the opportunity to reaffirm our own baptismal vows. C. S. Lewis said that everyday; Christians must start all over from the beginning. Our lives as Christians began with promises-- to serve Jesus, be committed to his body the church, to serve and not be served, and everyday we ask God for the grace to keep those promises.

Yours in Jesus’ ministry,
Pastor David

Easy Applesauce Muffins


This healthy recipe will make a great start to your day, a great snack or a great gift for your teacher and classmates.

What you need:

- 6 tablespoons butter
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 1½ cups chunky applesauce
- Baking cups

What you do:

1. With an adult’s help, heat the oven to 375 degrees. Line a 12-cup muffin tin with baking cups and set aside.
2. In a small, microwave-safe bowl, melt the butter on high for about 30 seconds; set aside to cool slightly.
3. Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt in to a large mixing bowl.
4. In another large bowl, whisk together the eggs and brown sugar. Stir in the applesauce and melted butter until the mixture is smooth.
5. Pour the apple mixture over the flour mixture. Stir with a wooden spoon just until the flour disappears. (This will produce muffins with a nice, crumbly texture.)
6. Fill the baking cups about two-thirds full with batter. (For mess-free muffins, use an ice-cream scoop to spoon batter into the baking cups.)
7. Bake for 20 minutes or until light brown. Test for doneness by inserting a toothpick in the middle; if it comes out clean, the muffins are ready to eat. Makes 12.



Apple of Your Eye

When something is said to be the “apple of your eye,” it means it’s precious to you and you would protect it as you would your own eye. With school starting up again, we should remember God’s instructions in Proverbs 7:2: “Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye” (NIV).

Find and circle the word “apple” 13 times in the puzzle below. It can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal and even backward.

e	a	e	e	a	p	e	l		
l	a	p	a	p	p	l	e	l	a
a	p	p	p	a	l	e	p	p	
l	p	l	p	a	p	l	p	e	p
a	l	e	l	l	a	l	p	p	l
e	e	a	e	p	e	a	e	p	e
l	l	e	a	p	p	l	e	p	l
a	p	p	a	p	p	l	e		
l	a	p	p	l	e	p			
e	a	a	e	a					

God Spoke You Into Existence

by Jon Walker

"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my spokesman to the world." (Jeremiah 1:5, NLT)

Dear one, you were started as an idea in the mind of God! Wow! You exist because the God of the universe thought you up.

The God who spoke the world into existence, the God who hung the moon and the stars, the God who set the sun in the sky – this creative Creator thought about you, was pleased by his thoughts and so he spoke you into your mother's womb in the same way that he spoke the world into existence.

As my friend, Rick Warren, says in "The Purpose Driven Life," you are not an accident. You were created by God at just the right time, in just the right place, with just the right SHAPE to serve God in this moment ("... For such a time is this ..." Esther 4:14, NIV).

You are NOT a product of God's *assembly line*; rather you are a unique creation, like a priceless painting from a grand master: "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)

So what?

• **God's selection** – You were made unique by God. He carefully and lovingly selected your eyes, your hair color, your nose, your intellect, your personality. None of that is an accident. If you have been rejecting God's design (of you), talk to him about your concerns, disappointments, or confusion. And when you are ready, thank God for his design of you.

• **Not an after-thought** – You were not an after-thought of God's; in fact, you were a fore-thought of his infinite love and grace. God accepts you; he even likes you.

• **Just in time** – You have been born at just the right time to fulfill your unique role in human history. There will never be anyone else like you, and no one else is competing with you for God's will for your life.

• **What will be your life?** -- Ask God to give you a clear and present vision of your purpose in life, and then ask him to be your strength and wisdom as you live it out.



Birthdays
This Month

SEPTEMBER Birthdays

Sept 4 Samantha Cooper
Sept 4 Kaitlyn Harney
Sept 9 Bill Pletcher
Sept 14 Stacey Rodgers
Sept 15 Lynn Bollinger
Sept 16 Sandy Miller
Sept 17 Kathy Royer
Sept 21 Walt Harroff
Sept 22 Paulajean Ritzmann
Sept 26 Jan Swigert
Sept 28 Annamae Hoke
Sept 29 Bruce Barwick



This
Month's
Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER Anniversaries

Sept 4 Mary Lou & Ronnie Martin
Sept 15 Miranda & Eric Chris
Sept 17 David & Elizabeth Gilliland

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

DATE	Worship
8/5	91
8/12	PICNIC
8/19	92
8/26	

SPECIAL MMA MEETING

On September 11 from 5:00-9:00 P.M., there will be a special MMA Training Meeting in the Gathering Area. We would ask and appreciate it if you would not enter the church at that time through the main doors. If you need to enter, please use one of the other entrances.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Monday night Bible Study will begin again Monday September 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Bill and Rosemary Pletcher, 350 Hiawatha Dr., Elkhart, IN. You are invited to join us and bring your Bible. Anyone interested in regular Bible Study should come.

Please call 294-1881 with any questions.

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."

CAMP MACK

O
R
N
E
R

Sept

P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542

Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax: 574-658-4765

E-Mail: campmack@npcc.net Website: <http://www.campmack.org>

THANKS to all summer leadership and support staff volunteers! If you volunteered in any capacity at Camp Mack this year, watch your mail for an invitation to the **Volunteer Recognition Dinner on Saturday, November 3, 2007.** If you volunteered, but forgot to sign in, you are still invited.

CAMP MACK FESTIVAL: For a day of family fun, plan to attend the 9th Annual Camp Mack Festival on October 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Food booths and rides will be open until 3:00 p.m. The main benefit auction begins at 2:00 p.m. Festival proceeds will be used for camper scholarships and technical upgrades.

QUILTING RETREATS are popular at Camp Mack and usually fill quickly. Register now for the fall retreat, October 25-28. The cost is \$118 if you arrive Thursday evening, \$105 if you arrive Friday morning, and \$95 for those coming on Friday evening. Those who attended the April, 2007 Quilting Retreat, receive a \$20 discount. Call or

e-mail Camp (see above) for more information.

LAUGHTER, FUN, INSPIRATION, GREAT FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP describe **Seasoned Citizen's Retreats.** Register now for the October 15-18, 2007 Seasoned Citizens Retreat. This Monday afternoon through Thursday noon retreat costs just \$95 each. If you attended the May, 2007 Seasoned Citizens Retreat, you may attend this one for just \$80 per person.

"Finding Our Way" is the theme of the FATHER/SON WEEKEND, OCTOBER 20-21.

Learn to use a compass, explore GPS tracking, whittle a walking stick, hunt for buried "treasure," work in the wood shop, create picture frames, work on survival skills, make a mouth bow, sing around campfire and enjoy morning watch! Registration fee: \$87 for father and son (\$40 for each additional person).

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for: The Camp Director and Staff, The Indiana Camp Board

A Quiet Place Quote: The reason we are not able to see God is the faintness of our desire. Meister Eckhart

HERITAGE CELEBRATIONS



There are some special events to look forward to at Creekside as the Church of the Brethren prepares for its 300th anniversary in 2008:

Sunday, September 9 special guest Casey Drudge, of Fort Wayne, IN will join our worship service. Casey portrays Church of the Brethren founder Alexander Mack, and will share personal insights and history of the Brethren in character. Casey has offered to stay for the Sunday School hour and meet with Jr. High age and older to answer

questions as Alexander Mack, and to talk about his experience of portraying Mack at churches, retreats, and camps throughout the denomination.

As part of that service, we will be invited to some traditional practices of Brethren worship: men and women will be seated on separate sides of the worship center (children may sit with whatever adult they are with), singing will be a cappella (unaccompanied), and you may choose to kneel for prayer.

Sunday, September 16 our worship will be led by the Youth Heritage Team of Nate Freeze (Middlebury CoB) and Krista Mevis (Elkhart Valley CoB). Krista and Nate have received training through the denominational offices in Elgin, and are representatives of N.

Indiana District who will be traveling to congregations throughout the area.

In addition, Worship Team will be providing a free 16 month 300th anniversary calendar to each family at Creekside. They will be labeled with your name and set out on a table in the gathering area for you to pick up after worship on September 9 or on September 16th. Additional calendars are available for a \$5 donation. You may want extras to share with other family members, or to have as a souvenir. Brethren Press has compiled a devotional of 366 meditations from Brethren authors titled, "Fresh from the Word." We have 20 copies available for \$12 each. They will be on sale September 9 and 16th. If you wish to reserve a copy before then, please see Rosanna McFadden or Sue Noffsinger.

Rosanna McFadden
Worship Team



The first practice for the Creekside choir is Wed., August 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the church. All singers are welcome; no previous choir experience is necessary, but enthusiasm is required. The choir sings twice a month on the first and third Sundays, and rehearses on the Wednesday evenings before the first and third Sunday. We will sing in worship for the first time on September 16th. If you have questions please see or call Rosanna McFadden 537-8726.

300th

Anniversary

Church of the Brethren 300th Anniversary calendars and devotional books will be available beginning September 9th. Each family will receive a free calendar; additional copies are available for \$5 each. If you wish to reserve a copy of the 366 day devotional "Fresh from the Word" before September 9, see Sue Noffsinger or Rosanna McFadden. We have twenty-five copies on hand and can order more, if necessary. They are \$12 each. Worship on September 9 and September 16th will focus on our Brethren heritage and future as we look toward our 300th anniversary in 2008.

Big dreams

During lunch, a group of Christians noticed that their young waiter was particularly helpful and kind. His service was so adept that one diner asked if he was working to achieve some future goal elsewhere. The waiter responded that he was preparing to be a missionary.

"Where?" someone asked.

"In Africa, I hope," he answered.

"And if that doesn't work out, what then?" another diner asked.

"I just want to live for God," he said. "I want to live so as to put a smile on God's face."

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO TEAMS FOR 2007 (pink sheet)

PROPERTY TEAM—add John Berkebile & remove Tim Randall

MISSION/OUTREACH TEAM—add Jim Vance, Sabrina Fritz, & Colleen Weaver

GIFTS AND PLACEMENT TEAM—add Angi Marcin

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO DIRECTORY

Angi Marcin (new e-mail address)
tiasismon@verison.net

Bryce Metcalf
57792 Pendleton
Elkhart, IN 64517

Tim & Diane Lund
50870 Coventry Ct.
Elkhart, IN 46514
333-2369

Eileen Sharnowske
2601 Oakland Ave.
Elkhart, IN 64517
296-6909

Sabrina Fritz sabfritz@yahoo.com
(change for directory, Gary's list is OK)

Kristen Vance (new e-mail)
funperson40@yahoo.com

Myrtis Justiniano (new e-mail)
happystitching@maplenet.net

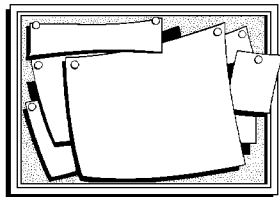
- October—Dinners for 8—Fellowship Team
- October 3—Volunteer Fellowship
- October 7—Love Feast & World Wide Communion
- October 14—Youth Drop In—Bowen's
- October 16—6:30 p.m.—Church Board
- November 3—Youth Lock In—church
- November 6—6:30 p.m.—Church Board at Angi Marcin's
- November 7—Volunteer Fellowship
- 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
- November 25—Advent Begins
- December 2—Advent All Church Gathering—Fellowship Team
- December 2—Youth end taking candy orders
- December 5—Volunteer Fellowship
- December 7—Youth Make Candy
- December 8—Youth Deliver Candy
- December 18—Church Board at Angi Marcin's
- December 24 & 25—OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS



IF YOU LIKE KIDS, AND YOU WANT TO SUPPORT MOMS, WE NEED YOU!

Soup of Success - a Church Community Services job and life skills training program for women - hosts a monthly reunion night attended by SOS graduates, current SOS participants, and volunteer mentors. This gathering is an important part of a continuing support network for SOS women, and a chance for all women who attend to renew, connect, and be encouraged in the midst of challenging life transformations. Providing on-site childcare during this event is critical to making it happen.

We are looking for responsible, caring, energetic, adult volunteers to join the childcare team providing care from 6-8pm the first Thursday of each month. For more information contact Kathy or Abbie at 523-1551.



PROPERTY TEAM

The property team is looking to purchase a bulletin board for the gathering area. The one we would like to purchase is a piece of furniture. It has a cabinet below, which will match our doors to the worship center. It also has a double side bulletin board that is 4" X 4" and is on casters so it can be moved to an other area if needed. The cost of the unit is approx. \$1,400. The funds for this are not available at this time, so we are asking for donations. We are also open to other suggestions. Please talk with someone on the Property Team.

We are currently working with a very small group and would like to have others to join us. We now have four, but would like to have seven. If you are interested please talk with John Zerbe or Dennis Weaver

YELLOW CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

REVIVAL MEETINGS

You're Invited! SUNDAY, SEPT 23, 10:30 AM

Yellow Creek welcomes you to Revival meetings. You won't want to miss these meetings and time of fellowship. Our guest speaker will be Dwayne Runkle, pastor of Maple Grove Church of the Brethren in New Paris.

SUNDAY, SEPT 23, 7:00 PM

There will be a social hour from 6:00 to 7:00 with refreshments provided.

MONDAY, SEPT 24, 7:00 PM

TUESDAY, SEPT 25, 7:00 PM

Childcare is provided.



The Chancel Choir will have its first rehearsal of the 2007-2008 season on Wednesday, August 29 at 7:00pm at the church. We will sing in worship for the first time on Sunday, September 16. All singers are invited to join us; prior choir experience is not required.

The choir sings twice a month, on the first and third Sundays, and rehearses the Wednesday before the first Sunday the third Sunday, and the mornings on which we sing. Occasionally we will sing on a fifth Sunday, or for a special service such as Love Feast of Christmas Eve. The choir season is from September through the first Sunday of June; you may join us for a portion of the season if that's all your schedule will allow. Rehearsal dates and times through November are as follows:

Wed.	August 29	7:00 p.m. rehearsal
Wed.	September 12	7:00 p.m. rehearsal
Sun.	September 16	8:15 p.m. rehearsal, sing in worship
Wed.	October 3	7:00 p.m. rehearsal
Sun.	October 7	8:15 p.m. rehearsal, sing in worship
Wed.	October 10	7:00 p.m. rehearsal
Sun.	October 14	8:15 p.m. rehearsal, sing in worship
Rehearsal TBA		
Sun.	November 4	8:15 p.m. rehearsal, sing in worship
Wed.	November 14	7:00 p.m. rehearsal
Sun.	November 18	8:15 p.m. rehearsal, sing in worship
Wed.	November 28	7:00 p.m. rehearsal



All requests for building and ground use must be submitted and approved by the Property Team. This is done by completing a Room Reservation Request Form (check with the office).

A Room Reservation Form must be filled out and given to the Property team for any Creekside event which will take place inside the building or on the grounds on a day other than Sunday to adequately schedule the custodial staff. The team, class, or individual organizing the event is responsible for filling out the attached form.

Events are placed on the church calendar following approval by the Property Team.



Val Friedell thanks the Creekside members who generously donated to support twenty Palestinian students who want to attend college this semester but lack the needed \$50. Twenty men and twenty women are hoping to receive assistance in furthering their education. So far thirty-seven students registered to attend universities in Bethlehem and Ramallah have been selected for support by Creekside or Goshen City members and friends.

For \$50, you can help a student attend college for an entire semester. What an incredible bargain for education and international good will! Three students are still hoping for sponsors this semester.

Donations made out to the Students' Forum Scholarships are tax deductible. If you include your e-mail address, the student you support will acknowledge your gift. Val suggests using only your first name while corresponding with a student. Gillilands will deliver any checks to the Key Bank branch in Goshen that sends the money to the Students' Forum. School starts soon, so please consider helping one of the three remaining students.



The property Team is always looking for things in our church that need repaired or additions that the congregation would like to see. Unfortunately it is sometime difficult to see everything that everyone else has seen, We now have a form, which is located in the Property team mail box, This form is to help us do a better job for you, so if you see something please fill out a form and place it back in the box. We will review the forms and do as much as we can.

Thanks for your help,
Property Team

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 9

	Teacher	Studying	Room #
Children's Classes			
Nursery		<i>Gather Round</i>	505
Early Childhood		<i>Gather Round</i>	506
K-2	Jean Mann	<i>Gather Round</i>	403
3-5	Lisa Vardaman	<i>Gather Round</i>	405
Jr. Youth (grades 6-8)	Laurie Mastic	<i>Gather Round</i>	203
Sr. Youth (grades 9-12)	Stephen De Pue Valerie Rodgers	<i>NOOMA Series</i>	301
Adult Classes			
New Life Class	Kristen Vance	<i>"Life is Tough but God is Faithful"</i> Sheila Walsh	302
Onward Class	Class Members	<i>"Reaching for the Invisible God"</i> Philip Yancey	106
Overcomer's Class			201
Thee Seeker's Class	John Zerbe	<i>"The Truth Project"</i> - until 11/18 <i>"The Gospels of Mark"</i> - Frank Ramirez- until 1/6/08 <i>"The Truth Project"</i> - until 2/24/08	303
Young Adult Class			Sanctuary
Membership Class	David Bibbee	Membership Orientation	



Matters of the Heart



September 12, 2007

"Wendy Hite, director of special services of Wawasee Community Schools, will share her experience in adopting two sisters from the Ukraine.



October 10, 2007

Carolyn Marshall, director of the Lucille Raines residence in Indianapolis, will share stories of hope and promise of those living in that facility.



November 14, 2007

Cindy Reynolds, district superintendent of the Warsaw UMC, will lead us through the lives of some women of the Bible who followed their heart's direction.

Call 574-457-5600 for reservations,
 Tickets for each luncheon event will be
 \$12.00,
 Special diet considerations available upon
 request

**GOSHEN MEALS ON
 WHEELS VOLUNTEERS ARE
 DESPERATELY NEEDED:**

Interested persons will receive a "no obligation orientation".

Our Route Books lists excellent, detailed directions from major intersections to the customer's home address. The home address is described with details of apartment numbers, house color, and details about number and placement of trees.

You may volunteer with a partner or as an individual. Choose to be a driver or the one who carries the meal to the homebound persons. The recipients are eager not only for the excellent hot meal, but also crave 60 seconds of pleasant greetings and small talk. Their gratitude makes it all worthwhile.

Routes take from 45 minutes to one hour to complete. So, if you have a little time and would like to help brighten someone's day give The Window (533-9680) a call.

Your help will enable homebound persons to remain in the comfort and security of their own homes through this hospitality service. Whether you give a couple of hours a year or volunteer every week, we know that it is time well

Consider This...

One characteristic of healthy congregations is their willingness and ability to deal with conflict. Creekside's Shalom Team has been studying a helpful article by Don Kraybill that distinguishes between conflict that divides Christians and conflict that binds them.

In upcoming issues of Connections we will share insights for your reflection.

Divided By Conflict

1. Conflict is viewed as: wrong, dangerous, sign of not caring, something to avoid at all costs.

Typical Quote:

"If he disagrees with me, that proves he's a dangerous, untrustworthy and uncaring person. I'll tell my friends to pray that he repents..."

Bound Together By Conflict

1. Conflict is viewed as: inevitable, neither right nor wrong, an opportunity, evidence of involvement and concern.

Typical Quote:

"It's going to take some work to talk this one through, but I can see she cares a lot about our church, and me."

"I can tell I'm nervous about disagreements, but I know it's an important part of being brothers and sisters to each other!"



Men's Chorus

Men's Chorus will rehearse on Wednesday September 26, 2007 at 7 p.m. in the Worship Center.

We will sing for worship on Sunday September 30th.

Men of all ages are welcome to participate.

If you have questions see Cary Kelsey.

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).

Blessing of the Animals, September 30

In the film, Dr. Doolittle, Rex Harrison sang:

*If we could talk to the animals, learn their languages
Maybe take an animal degree
We'd study elephant and eagle, buffalo and
beagle Alligator, guinea pig, and flea.*

On September 30 at 3:00 p.m. we will not talk with animals, but we will talk *to* them and *bless* them in a service of animal blessing. The first Sunday in October is the Feast Day of St. Francis, the lover of all creation. (We are observing it a week early due to the CROP Walk.) According to legend, Francis was so fond of living things that one night he allowed himself and his small band of brothers to be displaced from a small hovel by a donkey.

The ancient tradition of the animal blessing began in the Catholic Church, but today is observed by many Christian traditions. People from the community and our congregation will be invited to bring their pets to this outdoor service (Relax, Ted. There won't be animal offerings on the carpet!). We are currently enlisting sponsor(s), and staff from the Animal Aid Clinic South will be present with information for pet owners. Area newspapers will promote the event, and we may have television coverage.

Pets have a special place in our lives. The bond between people and pets is like no other. Invite your animal loving friends to this service. If you are interested in helping with this fun event, contact Pastor David. Dogs, birds, hamsters, rabbits, horses, ferrets, lizards and snakes are welcome. Pastor David has even agreed to bless cats.



THAT'S NOT MY JOB

This is a story about four people named **EVERYBODY**, **SOMEBODY**, **ANYBODY**, and **NOBODY**. There was an important job to be done and **EVERYBODY** was sure that **SOMEBODY** would do it. **ANYBODY** could have done it, but **NOBODY** did it. **SOMEBODY** got angry about that, because it was everybody's job. **EVERYBODY** thought **ANYBODY** could do it, but **NOBODY** realized that **EVERYBODY** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **EVERYBODY** blamed **SOMEBODY** when **NOBODY** did what **ANYBODY** could have.

Author unknown

Find the red barn with the greenhouse attached! That's the landmark at CR 16 & CR 43, 11/2 miles east of Middlebury for the **Ninth Annual MDC Goldenrod Benefit Auction and Haystack Supper.**

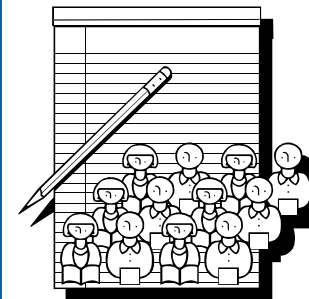
Proceeds benefit persons with developmental disabilities served by MDC Goldenrod. Come and bring the whole family on **Friday, September 7, 2007, 3:30-9:00 p.m.** to enjoy a traditional Amish haystack supper. Barbecued chicken, popcorn, ice cream, and snacks will also be served. Bid on hand-crafted quilts or furniture and check out the "Second Time Around Sale." Take home some Holmes County Swiss cheese and trail bologna and some baked goods to top off the evening. For information or to make a donation, please contact the MDC Goldenrod Office at (574) 533-9720 ext.0 or e-mail nedrag@goldenrodonline.org.



New Member Reception, September 23

Please make a special effort to be in worship on Sunday, September 23. We will welcome new members into the Creekside community and dedicate new followers of Jesus. It is always a joyous occasion when the church grafts new disciples into the family of faith. We look forward to knowing them and being enriched by the spiritual gifts they bring to our ministry. Following the service there will be a fellowship time in their honor.

Membership Preparation Classes Begin, September 23



Membership Class

Pastor David will teach a membership class during the church school hour beginning September 23 and lasting through November 25. The purpose of the class is to explore basic Christian beliefs, and learn about the Church of the Brethren approach to faith and practice. Letters have been sent to prospective participants. If you have not yet returned the response sheet indicating your participation, please place it in the offering plate by September 9. If you have not received a letter but would like information about the class, please contact Pastor David.

SEPTEMBER



2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School	3 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	4	5 9:00 A.M. - Volunteer Fellowship	6 7:00 P.M. - Worship Team	7 PASTOR DAVID ON VACATION	8
9 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School Fall SS Schedule Begins 300th Anniversary Celebration	10	11 5:00-9:00 P.M. - MMA Meeting in Gathering Area	12	13	14 District Conference 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.— Fiber Friends Group	15 District Conference
PASTOR DAVID ON VACATION						
16 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School Youth Heritage Team Here PASTOR DAVID ON VACATION Youth Drop In—Rodgers	17	18 6:30 p. m. - Church Board at Church	19 7:00 P.M. - Property Team	20	21	22
23 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School Receive New Members New Membership Class Begins Golf Outing at Old Orchard	24	25	26 DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER 7:00 P.M. - Men's Chorus	27	28 Ramirez Wedding Re- hearsal	29 AMBS Advent Planner Meeting Ramirez Wedding
30 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School Blessing of the Animals						