

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 programs 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

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AUGUST 2008

Pastor's Ponderings

Composing this meditation is one of my last responsibilities before leaving on vacation. By the time you read it, Sue and I will be a mere one thousand miles from home in the middle of the Canadian wilderness probing the depths of Lake Wabaskang, an oligatrophic (impressive word, huh?) lake teeming with walleye, pike, smallmouth bass and lake trout. I don't know how it is with you when preparing for vacation, but I'm like a little kid. I can't contain my excitement. I carefully organize my tackle box(es), spool new line on the reels, and do a thorough inventory, lest I be without the rig that is catching fish. I suppose food and clothing are important, too, but these matters are further down the list of priorities.

I've gone on these trips long enough to realize that vacations usually do not live up to our high expectations. One of my favorite Carly Simon songs is, *Anticipation*. Waiting in anticipation of something makes it all the more exciting. Of course, the anticipation of vacation is usually better than the actual event. Life seldom unfolds in ways we expect. Not knowing what may come is a part of the package. Keeping this in mind, Sue and I anticipate hot fishing, cool temperatures, seeing moose, bear(s), mink, otters, osprey and eagles galore, hearing owls and the howl of wolves in the night, the Northern Lights, millions of stars unobstructed by light pollution, and last, but not least, no mosquitoes or biting flies!

I know it is an over-used expression, but we will be in "God's country" in a state of "gawk and awe" before it's unspoiled beauty. I'm sure that both of us will repeat a prayer—*"Thank you, God, for the gift of witnessing this."*

While packing, the TV was on. A commercial caught my attention. It began, *"We are a nation of consumers..."* What I hoped to hear was something like, "As a result, we are consuming natural resources at an alarming rate, polluting the planet we call home, and becoming a superficial society." I was naive enough to hope for a quote from Jesus. "Life does not consist in the abundance of things." What came next made my heart sink. *"We are a nation of consumers... and that's okay. You're overwhelmed by so many cool things to buy. We can help you buy smart."* It obviously wasn't from the Sierra Club, but from the Discover Card. Like I said, I was naive.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

When Sue and I return from vacation I'm going to write a letter to the editor of the Elkhart Truth. The county commissioners said the CR 17 extension was built to help with traffic flow and that it *would not* become another Grape Road. It's beginning to look like Grape Road II to me. Prime farmland is being converted from corn to strip malls, many of which have no businesses in them. Strip malls that had businesses when they first opened are now vacant. The project built two years on State Road 19 south has only two businesses in it. Firms are not waiting in line to occupy the new, *still empty* stores at Pierre Moran. And will someone please explain the logic of having CVS and Walgreen's Pharmacies on opposite corners of the same intersection! How many Wal-Mart, Lowe's and McDonald's locations are needed in a city the size of Elkhart?

Mindless consumption, unchecked development and urban sprawl are issues everywhere. Though we have been told for years that the bubble is going to burst, we are just now waking up to the fact that our way of life is reaching a limit. Continuing to live the consumptive lifestyle will reap grim results. We must face the fact that it is no longer enough just to care for and tend the earth, but protect and save it.

This is not simply an environmental or an economic issue. It is a biblical and spiritual matter that must become a priority for Christians. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." (Psalm 24:1) It belongs to God. It is not ours to trash, exploit, and do with as we please.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus told us that all we need is God. He said that when we rely on God, we won't have to worry about food on the table or what clothing to wear. In God we have everything we need to live, plus a bounty to share (Matthew 6:25-34). St. Paul said, "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God." (Romans 8:19). Little bands of Christians in monasteries saved Western civilization from collapse during the Dark Ages. They preserved literature and taught people to read. They fed the hungry. They formed the first hospitals to care for the sick. It remains to be seen if the world will experience another dark age. It will depend upon whether we have the courage to make hard choices and redefine what it means to live "the good life." We know that the good life comes from fellowship with the Good Shepherd who tells us to consider the birds of the air and the flowers of the field.

In this time of shortages, limits, great wealth and greater poverty, it is the responsibility of the church to show the world what life in God's Kingdom looks like, starting with how we live and care for each other and the earth-- here and now.

It is something I'll think about on vacation, hemmed in by God's artistry in nature. Even more, I'll meditate upon the Lord Jesus, *the ruler of all nature* who told us, "*This is my Father's world.*"

In Christ,
David

REFRESHING ★ SUMMER ★ ACTIVITY


Try this activity with your Sunday school. It's a fun way to give people more than just a cold drink. It helps them learn about the Bible and your church.

What you need:

- Bottled water
- Tubs or ice chest filled with ice
- Printed labels or cut pieces of paper the same size as the existing water-bottle label
- Permanent markers (if you're not using preprinted labels)
- Clear contact paper
- Scissors
- Clear packing tape
- Poster board
- Adult supervision

What to do:

1. On labels or pieces of paper, write a verse about the living water Jesus gives us (for example, John 4:13-14; John 6:35; Revelation 22:17). Also include your church's name and contact information, as well as an invitation to worship or to an activity.
2. Either laminate the new labels or cover them in clear contact paper (to keep them from getting soggy).
3. Tape the labels to the back of the bottles.
4. Make a "FREE Water!" poster.
5. Find a park, local festival or corner where people pass by needing a cold drink. Be sure to have adult supervision.



The Water of Life

To beat the summer heat, we're often refreshed by a cold drink. Complete the puzzle below for a reminder of what Jesus offers us when we thirst.

KEY:
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

" _____ ; _____ "

19+4 10-2 10+5 10-5 18+4 1+4 20-2 8+1 12+7

18+2 1+7 10-1 20-2 18+1 20-0 26-1 6+6 5-0 10+10

4+4 8+1 8+5 1+2 10+5 15-2 1+4 0+1 7+7 1+3

26-3 7+1 20-5 2+3 21+1 6-1 19-1

21+2 9+0 18+1 10-2 7-2 15+4 10+2 7-2 17+3

6+2 11-2 11+2 20+0 2-1 9+2 8-3 22-2 11-3 2+3

3+3 22-4 5-0 1+4 3+4 7+2 9-3 9+11 14+1 8-2

23-3 12-4 8-3 21+2 4-3 20-0 10-5 20-2 13+2 4+2

5+7 12-3 9-3 6-1 " _____ "

Revelation 22:17, NIV

Answer: "Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." Revelation 22:17, NIV



The engraved stone which points to the Garden and Labyrinth is a thank-you from the Creekside Choir to accompanist Marilee Gilliland. It is a Tennessee boulder which weighs approximately 650 lbs., and was

engraved by Mark vanDiepenbos of New Paris. It was installed in the mulched bed near the sidewalk which leads from the parking lot to the kitchen on July 3rd. Thanks to those who helped, and a special thanks to Marilee for the gifts she shares at Creekside.



Prayer and Care Team is in need of a new member. Joyce Gordon has resigned. If the Lord lays it on your heart to become a member of our team,

please contact Lodema Hoke.

Also—remember. we are still taking pop cans to recycle for the church building fund.

Lodema still needs volunteers to pray with David on Sunday mornings. You will be asked to pray each Sunday for a month. Any one interested please let me.



Ushers Needed

Worship Team is looking for additional full time ushers for Sunday Morning. Men or Women are

welcome to be ushers. The most important guideline we have is that you be here by 8:30 am on Sunday Morning when you will be ushering. If you like to be with people and talk with them, this is a great opportunity for you to help out our church. It costs nothing and you receive many friendly smiles. Lee Markley is our new Head Usher and David Hoke is our Assistant Head Usher at this time. Feel free to discuss the responsibilities of ushering with any of the ushers of with Lee or David. I will also be happy to take your name and get in contact with you. Please consider this opportunity to serve the Church.

Thank you,
Maryann Zerbe, Worship Team



Sr. High News

Aug. 2nd we will be going to the dunes for the day. We will leave the Church at 9 am and we will return between 9 - 10 p.m.

Aug. 17th Drop In at the Vance's. We will be planning the events for the next year, so we are asking for all youth and parents to make it to this one. That way we can plan the calendar and so you, the parents, will know what is going on.



AUGUST Birthdays

- Aug 1 Erwin Telgenhoff
- Aug 3 Bill Swigert
- Aug 4 Deana Markley
- Aug 6 Suze Loth
- Aug 7 Nikki White
- Aug 8 Imogene Rothermel
- Aug 9 Amber Rodgers
- Aug 9 Joel McFadden
- Aug 12 Delores Wolf
- Aug 12 Alysa Marcin
- Aug 17 Tamara Toops
- Aug 18 Tim McFadden
- Aug 20 Saebrina Hoke
- Aug 25 Dale Crist
- Aug 26 Trisha Hoke
- Aug 30 Garnett Heeter



AUGUST Anniversaries

- Aug 2 Larry & Vicki Ehret
- Aug 9 Roger & Bonnie Neal
- Aug 9 Ted & Sue Noffsinger
- Aug 20 Tim & Rosanna McFadden
- Aug 23 Steve & Judy De Pue
- Aug 27 Jim & Kristen Vance
- Aug 29 John & Betty Yoder
- Aug 29 Kurt & Lisa Vardaman

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

DATE	Worship	Sunday School
7/6	106	62
7/13	98	60
7/20	96	68
7/27		



Thank you so much for the nice book and candle. Your continued support and encouragement during my education has helped tremendously. I'm lucky to have such a great church family! Darcy Fritz

I would like to thank everyone at Creekside for the cards, gifts and prayers given to me for graduation. I would also like to thank you for the use of the church for my open house and all the support you have given me over the years. I feel very blessed to be able to call you my family. In God's Love, Samantha

We have received thank you notes from several of our graduates for the gifts they received, as well as thank you notes for the scholarships some have received. In addition to the above, Vanessa De Pue & Rosanna McFadden sent thank you notes earlier. They were read at board meeting and unfortunately were not saved to print in the newsletter. Hopefully I haven't missed anyone.

These are very important times in each of their lives and are very thankful for your generosity.



280-FOOT BOARD WALK SECTION COMPLETED:

From the vantage point of a board walk, campers are exploring three water-focused eco-systems: wetlands prairie, a recharge area for Lake Waubee and a flowing stream. The board walk was made possible by a \$6,500 grant from the Kosciusko County Community Foundation, donor support and volunteer labor. If funds become available the board walk will be extended with a bridge over the channel connecting it to one of camp's main trails.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SUPPORT CAMP'S ANNUAL GOLF FUNDRAISER

on Saturday, August 9, 2008 at McCormick Creek Golf Course at Nappanee. Be a player (\$65.00 each for golf, prizes and the evening meal) a sponsor (from \$100 - \$1,000), and/or a prize donor. **Help provide camper scholarships and carpeting for Becker Lodge!**

FAMILY CAMPS: Colony Camp, August 15-17, and Labor Day Family Camp, August 29-September 1, are wonderful times to experience the love of God, the beauty of camp and the joy of family togetherness! Why not check today for openings?

SCARECROW CONTEST: Youth and other church groups are invited to create scarecrows for the 10th Anniversary

celebration of the Camp Mack Festival on October 4th! Scarecrows may be sitting, standing or doing some action! Each scarecrow will have a quarter (25 cent) tube near it. The winning scarecrow will be the one receiving the most quarters. Scarecrows may be kept by their creators or donated to the CMF auction.

FESTIVAL AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED:

It is time to develop the sale bill for the CMF auctions! Quality auction items are needed! Please call Camp by August 15 to let Mike or Lana Kauffman know what you can donate.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Camp leaders, campers returning home, and Family Camps.

Quote: "What a beautiful day! I'm taking home some oak leaves from the labyrinth – representing the gifts that fell in my path today." -A Quiet Place retreatant.



CREEKSIDE YOUTH ATTENDING CAMP THIS MONTH

SEEKERS CAMP

Tiara Marcin & Sara Houser—8/3 to 8/8

FINDERS CAMP

Joel McFadden & Heather Otto—8/3 to 8/8

District News Notes (continued from page 12)

Watson or Donna Kruis at 800-297-1516. After July 31, the collection point is: Brethren Service Center Annex, 601 Main Street, New Windsor, MD 21776. Congregations wishing to purchase supplies for clean-up buckets may be eligible for reimbursement through the district. For more information on reimbursement contact the district office: distcob@bnin.net or 574-773-3149.

- 6) **Treasures in Earthen Vessels Women's Retreat**, sponsored by the ABC, is scheduled for September 26-28 at the Leaven Retreat Center in Lyons, Michigan. Registration is due by July 25. It is to be a celebration of the woman's body, mind and spirit and how to care for those elements. For more information or to register please contact Mary Lou Garrison at 800-323-8039 or mgarrison_abc@brethren.org.
- 7) **The La Porte ceiling replacement** is scheduled to begin on **September 8**. Bruce Barwick will serve as Project Coordinator. He indicates that they could use eight persons, and four persons to date have indicated they could help. There is a need for able-bodied workers to work on scaffolding and others to carry debris to the dumpster. While there is a preference for workers who can work through the whole project, there may be opportunity for individuals who can help for one or two days. This is anticipated to be a 3-5 day project. Lodging and meals will be provided. Volunteers may contact John Sternberg at 574-293-6028; 574-612-2130 or email: jssternberg@maplenet.net
- 8) **Camp Mack's August 9th Golf outing** at McCormick Creek Golf Course in Nappanee, Indiana begins with registration at 7:00 a.m. and a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. Fundraisers are important to meet the needs for the increasing number of Camper scholarships. To register or for information visit: <http://www.campmack.org/fundraisers.php> or email at: campmack@npcc.net



District News Notes

- 1) **Volunteers are needed at the district office for assembling the District Conference books.** Help is needed 2 days; first day is Thursday, August 7, for pre-assembly and the second day is Monday, August 11, for assembly and mailing. There is a need for two people on Thursday and up to six people on Monday. Interested persons should contact Rachel at the office, 574-773-3149 or by email, offmgr@bnin.net.
- 2) Please **watch for a mailing to your congregation from the District Board** which invites you to join us in a season of prayer to discern God's call in the possibility of church planting in Northern Indiana. The Board requests that the "green" letter be read during a Sunday Morning worship service. Another mailing in early August will be sent to Pastors and Board Chairs with annual pastoral compensation information.
- 3) The **Middlebury Church of the Brethren** would like for all interested individuals to join us in celebrating 300 years of Continuing the Work of Jesus Saturday, August 9th. We are entering a float in the **Middlebury Summer Festival Parade** celebrating the COB's 300th Anniversary. The parade kicks off at 1:00 p.m. from the Middlebury Elementary school parking lot; we would ask that anyone interested in joining us be there by 12:30 p.m. Please contact Dean Brovant at 574-825-4153 or the Middlebury Church office at 574-825-2955 to get more details.
- 4) A **Ministers' Lunch** will be held at the District Office on Tuesday, August 5 at noon. This is the last of 3 summer time alternatives to the other area ministers' luncheons that are postponed from June - August. Join us in the resource center at the office and bring your lunch!
- 5) **Church World Service (CWS)** is calling for **Emergency Clean-up Buckets** to respond to the extensive flooding in the Midwest. The buckets are kits that may be assembled by congregations, other groups, and individuals, and donated to the disaster clean-up effort. Go to www.churchworldservice.org/kits/cleanup-kits.html for information about how to assemble these kits. Until July 31, the collection point for CWS Emergency Clean-up Buckets in Indiana is: Church World Service, 28606 Phillips Street, Elkhart, IN 46515. Buckets may be dropped off on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For more information contact Cindy

(continued on page 13)

September—Golf Outing
 9/3—9:00 a.m. Volunteer Fellowship
 9/4—6:30—Church Board
 9/25—6:30 p.m. Worship Team Mtg.
 10/1—9:00 a.m.—Volunteer Fellowship
 10/2 -6:30 p.m. Church Board
 10/12—Consecration Sunday
 10/12—2009 Budgets Due
 10/25—Mystery Dinner



FAITH MISSION NEEDS LIST

Foam Plates
 Foam Bowls
 Plastic Silverware
 Orange Juice/Fruit Juice
 Eggs
 Meat
 Canned Vegetables and Fruit
 Coffee
 Creamer
 Salt/Pepper Packets
 Sugar
 Mop Heads
 Dish Detergent
 55 Gal. Construction Grade
 Trash Bags
 Toilet Paper
 Combs
 Deodorant
 Disposable Razors
 Shampoo
 Toothbrushes
 Toothpaste
 All Sizes New Underpants (men, women and children)

Call Kerry at (574) 293-3406 to donate items or if you have questions.

Creekside Kids Activities



Due to weather the Beach trip on July 12th was unfortunately cancelled. However, we would like to thank Doris and Keith Hostetler for donating the SUPER Frisbees for the event. We will be using them at our upcoming cookout on August 23rd. We will be meeting at the Marcin's at 4:00pm. We will have lots of games, cook over the campfire and roast marshmallows. Kids can be picked up at 9:00pm.



The Heifer International fund raiser is going great thanks to the entire congregation! We have raised a total of \$690.00. We will be visiting Heifer in late September or early October to present them with our gift. We appreciate all of you who have helped us to pass along the gift.

School will be starting shortly, and we'll all be rushing out to buy supplies for the coming year. Don't forget to pick up an extra pencil or 2 for the school kits.



The flowers are blooming their hearts out at both the front (Peace Pole) perennial garden and the Prayer Garden. The rest of the landscaping areas are currently covered by teams of volunteers including Gillilands, Bollingers, Carolyn Colver, Diane Lund, and Maryann Zerbe.

Judy De Pue has one volunteer, Cary Kelsey who has taken responsibility for weeding and deadheading in the Peace Pole Garden. However, this job is too big for one person. Judy De Pue is the only person currently responsible for the Prayer Garden.

The Prayer Garden received spring weeding and deadheading on a Saturday workday in April and the Peace Pole Garden received some group help during our June workday. In between organized workdays, Rosanna McFadden has worked on weeding both gardens on an "call when help is needed" basis, and Kathy Royer has worked on deadheading both gardens on a "call when needed" basis as well. Judy De Pue has sprayed round-up twice in the Prayer Garden and weeded in between.....but we all need some extra help from someone who loves puttering outside. It is important to coordinate the work on the gardens since once a weed has been sprayed with round-up, it should not be pulled until it has two weeks to turn brown.

Please let Judy know if you can join in the care of either these gardens. They bring such joy as the season of blooms keeps changing and when you finish weeding and dead-heading, there is the satisfaction of seeing that you really made a difference.

AN-
PICNIC
ANNUAL ALL CHURCH



AT
OXBOW PARK

AUGUST 17

WORSHIP AT 10:30 A.M.



THANK YOU FROM THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM

A Big thank you to those who helped with Fellowship Time this past year including Grace & Lynn Bollinger, Bonnie & Roger Neal, Jeff Vance and Sharon Houser. Also the wonderful rolls from the Creme & Crimson Bakery were greatly appreciated. A thank you also to all those who donated food.



Timbercrest News

A celebration of summer will be held at **Timbercrest** on Saturday, August 23, 2008. The coffee hour begins at 8:30 a.m. The food market will also open at 8:30 a.m. Donations of homemade food items for the food market are always welcome.

Curtis Smith, Chief Meteorologist for Indiana's News Center (NBC & ABC TV in Fort Wayne) will be the featured speaker. Virlynn Rex and Andy Gross of Fort Wayne, a vocal duet, will perform. Lunch will be served at 12:15 pm. Tickets are \$6.00.

Anyone interested in attending, please notify Doris Walters at her new phone number 269-641-5093.

CCS PANTRY SHOPPING LIST

Food Items

Macaroni & Cheese
Ramon Noodles
Boxed potato or rice side dishes
Hamburger Helper
Cereal Pasta & Pasta Sauce
Peanut Butter
Canned Tuna or Chicken
Canned Vegetables
Canned Fruit
Canned Soup
Boxed Crackers
Cake Mixes
Baby Food (boxes or jars)

Personal Care Items

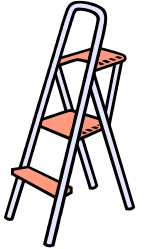
Toilet Paper
Tooth Paste & Tooth Brushes
Shampoo & Conditioner
Bar Soap

When shopping for your weekly groceries, please consider picking up a few items for the pantry. We feed an average of 1,300 families per month.

AUGUST UPDATE FROM FELLOWSHIP TEAM

The following is a list of items that have been donated to date:

- A narrow food serving cart that would fit in between the small tables during meals to be **purchased by the fellowship team with donated money.**
- Plastic baggies (There is a great need for 2 gallon bags) - **5 donated**
- An additional ladder to be **purchased by the** fellowship team with **donated funds**



- Liquid dish soap—**2 donated**

- Saran Wrap—**2 donated**

- An electric can opener for large & small cans

- Measuring spoons—**2 donated**

- Dish towels & dish rags—**6 dish-** towels & **14 wash rags** donated



- Casserole dishes (6) size 9x13 glass—**1 donated**

- Seriated bread knife—**1 donated**

- Paring knives (3)—**2 donated**

- A small table (4 ft. long x 2 ft. wide) to be **purchased with funds** donated



- Measuring cups (individual cups for each measure)—**1 donated**

- Carving boards (2)



- Aluminum foil—**1 donated**

- An igloo drink dispenser

- Imitation crystal serving trays (4)—**3 donated**

Anyone wishing to donate items should see Paulajeann Ritzmann. All cash donations should be given through the church office. Used items in good condition will be gladly accepted. **Any help you can give us will be greatly appreciated.**

August

2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m.—Fiber Friends	2 Sr. High—Dunes
					PASTOR DAVID - VACATION	
3 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School PASTOR DAVID - VACATION	4	5	6 6:30 p. m. - Finance Team Vi- sioning Mtg.	7 6:30 p. m. - Church Board	8	9
10 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School	11	12	13 7:00 p. m. - Fellowship Team Mtg.	14	15	16
17 Worship & Picnic at Ox- bow Drop In at Vance's	18 7:00 p. m. - Group Stewardship Mtg.	19	20	21 6:30 p. m. - Worship Team Mtg.	22	23 Creekside Kid's Cookout
24 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School	25	26	27 DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER	28	29	30
31 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School						