

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

The Creekside Connection

JUNE 2008

Pastor's Ponderings

I miss having a vegetable garden. I miss tilling the soil, with a tiller, or course! I miss watching sprouts grow into plants that become heavy with beans, tomatoes, and squash. I miss freezing and canning produce and the satisfaction of eating homegrown food. I miss it, but since I have neither a plot nor the time to tend it, I settle for handouts from your gardens.

Joseph was a carpenter, and we assume that Jesus learned the trade as well. He obviously didn't know much about farming. Matthew 13: 3-9 is the parable of the sower. The farmer got it wrong from the start. He didn't remove the rocks from the field. He didn't spray herbicide to control the weeds or treat the soil for crop-eating insects. He didn't plow the field and plant the seeds equidistant and in straight rows.

The farmer just started flinging and slinging seed in every direction. It fell on hard paths where flocks of birds ate it. It fell on rocks where it sprouted, couldn't take root and got toasted by the sun. It fell among weeds where the seed grew and was choked by thistles. Some of the seed fell on good soil where it took root and produced a fine harvest.

From an efficiency standpoint, the farmer was a failure. Only a small percentage of the seed yielded a harvest. The rest was wasted. But Jesus considered the waste worth the meager return. Leave it to Jesus to draw another weird conclusion that leaves us wondering what we've missed. "Waste not, want not," we've been told. We try not to waste, but it is not high on God's priority list.

In a recent sermon I accused God of going overboard. Why doesn't the universe have just one galaxy instead of 500 billion? Why not stop with a dozen species of beetles instead of 300,000? Why all the wasted space between stars? Why cram world full of beauty and wonder that most people will never see? There is more to God than can be comprehended, so why create people who grasp so little?

(continued on page 2)

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Jesus said we should give to everyone who asks. People call the church asking for money. Their needs are legitimate, though some are not. When I realize I've given money to a scam artist I feel bad for having wasted the money. Then I remember that Jesus didn't ask for a "proof of need" or conduct a background check before healing people.

When you leave the sanctuary on Sunday morning, you have already forgotten 90% (or more) of my sermon. Does this mean I wasted my time and yours? Not all of Jesus' lessons on discipleship have sunk in yet or penetrated my defenses. Is Jesus wasting time on me? On any given Sunday someone leaves worship thinking, "That sure was a waste of time. I didn't hear a single thing that applied to me." With pastoral sensitivity I might respond, "So? Maybe you weren't supposed to get something out of worship today. Maybe it was someone else's turn." You say you didn't like the hymns last Sunday? Maybe they were just what the person sitting behind you needed. A waste you say? Hardly.

In the effort to win our hearts, waste doesn't bother God. The sower in the parable was happy with the harvest he gleaned. He didn't think about the fact that most of the seed went to waste. He scattered it all over, hoped for the best, and was glad for the return he got. If you've been in the church most of your life you've sat through a lot of services, sermons, and Sunday school classes. Millions of words were directed your way; you were the object of persuasion and the recipient of invitations galore. What became of them? They weren't heard. They weren't understood. They weren't remembered. They were resisted. They were ignored. The birds, sun, and weeds all got to them. But a few of those seeds landed in good soil. They established roots in your heart and have yielded a harvest to God's glory.

God isn't into efficiency. God will continue to expend maximum effort for little return. Taking our cue from his son "the sower," maybe we should re-evaluate the return from our efforts to reach others with Jesus' love. We won't reach everybody. But we can reach some. The ratio of effort-to-result may not be impressive, but it's never a waste in God's eye. There is more joy in heaven over one sinner who comes home than over the ninety-nine righteous who never left (Luke 15: 7).

In Jesus' love,
David

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Give this unusual message to a family member or friend to announce summer's arrival — and invite them to join you in some summertime fun!

What you need:

- Summer treasures and trinkets (see ideas below)
- Empty plastic bottle with cap
- Paper and pencil
- Ribbon or tape

What you do:

1. With your parents, think of summertime activities and destinations. Then find, make or buy related items that will fit inside the bottle. (Note that you can also use stickers, magazine pictures or your own drawings.)
2. Place all your objects in the bottle.
3. Write a letter asking someone to guess your summer plans — and inviting them to join you.
4. Roll up your letter tightly with ribbon or tape it closed. Then place the letter inside the bottle and close with cap.
5. Deliver your message.

Just for KIDS

God made the seasons

Warmer weather means summer has arrived! God's beautiful creation is always changing, and we can praise God for every season.

Use this code to finish Genesis 8:22, NIV.

A =	I =	T =	S =
E =	O =	R =	N =
	U =	D =	

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Genesis 8:22, NIV

Answer: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."



June 8th - - - - Lunch and Stained Glass Presentation at Lynn and Grace Bollinger's. Leave directly from church and should be done around 3:00.

BETHANY CHRISTIAN EMPLOYMENT OPPS

Bethany Christian Schools is seeking a high school English teacher. Teaching responsibilities include a freshman/sophomore English course, upper-level classes: *English 12: College Prep World Uterature, AP English 12;* and an elective, *Creative Writing*. Interest in and aptitude for theatre production would be assets. Applicants should hold, or be qualified to obtain, Indiana licensure in secondary English. To apply, submit a resume and letter of application to Allan Dueck, Principal, 2904 S. Main St., Goshen, IN 46526-5499. Phone: 574-534-2567; email: akdueck@bethanvcs.net.

Bethany Christian Schools invites applications for the part-time position of *kitchen aide*, with a workload of about 2 hours over noon on school days. Experience in food services is helpful but not required. To apply please complete an application, which is available in the office at Bethany (2904 S. Main St., Goshen) or by email from administrative assistant Denise Risser at darisser@bethanvcs.nct. For information, call principal Allan Dueck at 534-2567.

NOTE FROM FELLOWSHIP TEAM

As we use the kitchen to prepare food for congregational functions there are sometimes items that would make preparation much easier. Donations in the form of used items in good condition, or cash donations to purchase needed items would be a great help. Cash donations may be made by indicating on your offering envelope the amount to be given for this purpose and writing the word kitchen fund. Cash donations given directly to the office should also indicate they are for the kitchen fund.

The following items would be very helpful to us:

1. 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
2. Plastic baggies (There is a great need for 2 gallon bags)
3. An additional ladder to be purchased by the fellowship team with donated funds
4. Liquid dish soap
5. Saran Wrap
6. An electric can opener for large & small cans
7. Measuring spoons
8. Dish towels & dish rags
9. Casserole dishes (6) size 9x13 glass
10. Seriated bread knife
11. Paring knives (3)
12. A small table (4 ft. long x 2 ft. wide) to be purchased with funds donated
13. Measuring cups (individual cups for each measure)
14. Carving boards (2)
15. Aluminum foil
16. An igloo drink dispenser
17. Imitation crystal serving trays (4)

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.**



Birthdays This Month

JUNE Birthdays

- June 9 Mary Schmucker
- June 9 Lois Losee
- June 14 Myron Miller
- June 17 Kurt Vardaman
- June 20 David White
- June 26 Norma Miller
- June 29 Sue Noffsinger



JUNE Anniversaries

- June 8 Keith & Nan Davis
- June 10 Keith & Janet Vardaman
- June 13 Tim & Diane Lund
- June 17 Dave & Karen Eis
- June 19 John & Maryann Zerbe
- June 25 Dan & Laurie King

Katherine Lenee Petersen (Katie) graduated from Loyola University, Chicago, on Friday, May 9, 2008, with a B.S. in Psychology. She and her grandmother, Carolyn Colver, invite you to an Open House on Sunday, June 1st at 57046 Hummingbird Court, Goshen, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Katie plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Art Therapy.

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

DATE	Worship	Sunday School
5/4	110	74
5/11		73
5/18	109	62
5/25	91	64

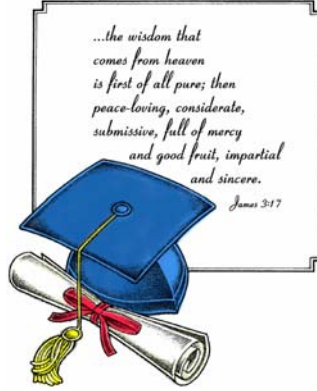


HELP WANTED!

The Media Team is looking for someone to help **create the computer screens** used on Sunday mornings for the hymn, scripture, and announcement slides. Commitment would be for about 2-4 hours every third week at the church to create the screens. Willingness to operate the computer projection system on Sunday mornings about once per month would be a plus.

We're also looking for someone to **operate the sound system equipment** on Sunday mornings about once per month. This would include setting up and taking down microphones before and after the Worship service as well as operating the sound levels and recording the sermon.

See Gary Arnold if you are interested in helping with either of these ministries.



Darcy Fritz received her Bachelor's of Science degree from DePaul in June 2004. Since that time she has worked as a research assistant at the University of Chicago in their sleep study unit. For the past eighteen months she has been working full time *and* studying to get her Master's Degree in nursing. Darcy plans to remain in Chicago, and hopes to find a position working as an emergency room nurse. After getting more on the job experience, Darcy plans to go back and work on a nurse practitioner's degree and license.



Pauline Arnold graduated Saturday, May 3, from the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne where she earned her Masters in Nursing (MSN) Degree. She also earned the Outstanding Academic Award and the Outstanding Clinical Award. Pauline is the Director of Quality and Customer Service at LaPorte Hospital, in LaPorte.

On the 9th of May, **Crystal Rodgers** graduated from Ivy Tech with an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. Crystal will be working this summer at Camp Mack again, and then in Sept. she is hoping to go for orientation and start of her year of BVS where she hopes to be able to go to Myrtle Point, Oregon working at a camp facility.



CREEKSIDE CAMP FIRE
JUNE 21 AT 6:00 P.M.

WEINER ROAST PROVIDED



CAMP FIRE

WALK THE PRAYER GARDEN AND LEARN HOW TO USE THE LABYRINTH

SING CAMP SONGS AROUND THE CAMPFIRE



Camp Songs

THE LISTEN TO VESPER SERVICE

Bring your lawn chairs for sitting if you do not wish to sit on the benches.




Goshen General Hospital's Hospice Program seeks volunteers. Hospice volunteers go wherever a hospice patient calls home—residence, nursing home, assisted living facility, or hospital—to provide comfort, support and companionship to the patient and their families. Hospice volunteers journey with those facing life's ultimate challenge. To join our team of hospice volunteers, or to learn more about hospice and the dying process, please call Nadine Zook Miller, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at 535-2700 or 1-800-446-4663. The next training program will be held on:

June 14 and 21 from 8 am - 5 pm
June 17 and 19 from 6:30- 9:30 pm.

All sessions are held in the High Park Building on the Goshen General Hospital campus.



MULCH MULCH MULCH

The landscaping committee at Creekside COB can use any and all helping hands to put mulch down on 15 outlying trees, 24 grasses, a zillion daffodils, and 5 (some large) landscaping beds along the driveway on **Saturday, June 7**. Bring your gloves, rakes, wheelbarrows, pitchforks, sunscreen and lots of energy.

Work begins at **8:30 a.m.**

Come and go as you need. There will be some extra tools if you don't have the items listed above. We will try to get down five 6 cubic ft. dump trailer loads—for a 2-1/2" deep cover.

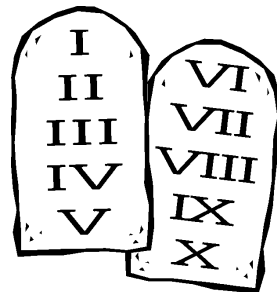


So.....we can use lots of help from folks of all ages!



A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."



Bryce Metcalf (grandson of Jan Weaver) will be graduating from Jimtown High School. He will attend IUSB in the fall.



Samantha Cooper is graduating from Elkhart Central High School. For the summer she will continue working for Little Cherubs Day Care in Elkhart where she was an intern this past school year. She will also continue working at Bristol Street Pediatrics where she has worked since last August. This fall Samantha will be attending Ball State University where she will major in Zoology and rooming with one of her best friends from high school. Upon graduating from Ball State you might be able to find Samantha hanging out with the giraffes at Bush Gardens.

On the 2nd of June, **Amber Rodgers** will be graduating from Elkhart Memorial High School at the Joyce ACC, and will be helping her mom with her child care unless she gets a job elsewhere. Then this fall Amber will be starting at Ivy Tech working towards an Associate Degree in Visual Communication where she is going to be working and learning more about photography, which is a love of Amber's.



Chris Palmer will be graduating from Northridge High School.

Krysta Bowen will be graduating from Concord High School. She will be heading off to IUPUI in August this fall. Krysta will be majoring in forensic science & investigation and eventually getting in to criminal justice and law enforcement.



CAMP MACK

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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>

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Volunteers are busy constructing a 1000' Board Walk through Camp Mack's wetlands. Camp Mack has received a grant to build this walk and must report on its completion by July 9. **Call Camp Mack if you can help with this construction project!** The walk extends through wetlands, over a recharge area for Lake Waubee and across a flowing stream giving guests exposure to three water-focused eco-systems.

SUMMER THEME: "Handle with Care" is the theme for this summer's camps. Daily themes include: *It's about Relationship*, Genesis 2: 4b-23; *It's All Good*, Genesis 1: 1-25; *It's a Matter of Choice*, Genesis 6:11 - 9:17. *It's about Trust*, Luke 12: 13-32; *It's What We Do*, Matthew 25: 14-30; *It's Good News*, **Mark 16:** 9-20.

CANCELLED CAMPS: The following

specialty and wilderness camps have been cancelled due to low registration numbers: Eco-Challenge, June 8-14; Worship Arts, July 27-August 1; Sailing Camp, June 22-28; and Odyssey, June 22-28.

CAMPERS LOVE TO GET MAIL! Please mail early and address your mail following this sample:

Chris Camper
 Program Name (i.e. Samplers, Seekers, etc.)
 Camp Mack
 PO Box 158
 Milford, IN 46542

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for: staff, all summer camp leadership, and campers.

MORE IMPORTANT JUNE DATES:

Beginners Camp	June 15-17
Sampler Camps	June 8-10, June 29-July 1
Seekers Camp	June 8-12 (short)
Finders Camp & Followers Camp	June 8-14
Eco Adventure (Finders) Youth Camp	June 15-20 June 29-July 5

A Quiet Place Quote: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. - Jesus

MDC Goldenrod offices have moved. Please note that the new address is 1514 College Ave., Goshen, IN 46526. The phone number and email addresses remain unchanged.

Do you have a car or trailer you don't need? MDC Goldenrod, a local ministry to people with disabilities, is looking for a 4-door car in good condition and a single axle trailer Both will be used by the ministry and not sold. If you could donate either one, please call David at 533-9720, ext. 2.

Making Pancakes

Six year-old Brandon decided one Saturday morning to fix his parents pancakes. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor.

He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten.

Brandon was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for Mom and Dad, but it was getting very bad.

He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove and he didn't know how the stove worked. Suddenly he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky.

And just then he saw Dad standing at the door. Big crocodile tears welled up in Brandon's eyes. All he'd wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. But his father just watched him.

Then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process!

That's how God deals with us.. We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky or we insult a friend, or we can't stand our job, or our health goes sour.

Sometimes we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do. That's when God picks us up and loves us and forgives us, even though some of our mess gets all over Him.

But just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying to 'make pancakes' for God or for others. Sooner or later we'll get it right, and then they'll be glad we tried...I was thinking, and I wondered if I had any wounds needing to be healed, friendships that need rekindling or three words needing to be said, sometimes, 'I love you' can heal and bless! Remind every one of your friends that you love them.. Even if you think they don't love back, you would be amazed at what those three little words, a smile, and a reminder like this can do.

Thank you for the many cards and well wishes to celebrate with us our 25th wedding anniversary. The support of family and friends has been a blessing.

Blessings to all of you.

Pauline and Gary Arnold



To the Creekside Congregation,

We are deeply grateful for your prayers, calls visits and support showered upon us following the death of Kathy. Your expressions of sympathy have not only been a comfort, but a source of strength for our family.

Blessings upon you all,

Michael George
Kayla & Katie Carney
Megan & Molly George
Keith & Jan Vardaman
Kurt & Lisa Vardaman



A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

6/3—6:30 p.m.—Church Board
7/31—6:30 p.m.—Worship Team Mtg.
8/7—6:30 p.m.—Church Board
8/17—Worship & Picnic at Oxbow Park
September—Golf Outing
9/4—Church Board
10/2—Church Board
10/25—Mystery Dinner
11/9—Congregational Business Meeting



JUNE VOLUNTEER FELLOWSHIP

The JUNE volunteer fellowship meeting will be held the SECOND WEDNESDAY, June 11. We will have a carry-in luncheon. Sandy Gordon has offered to bring some meat and Betty a casserole. Others may bring whatever you wish in the way of a salad or dessert. There be coffee and a cold drink available. We will knot as usual and have lunch between 11:30 and 12:00.

Hope to see you on JUNE 11.

Jean/Myrtis



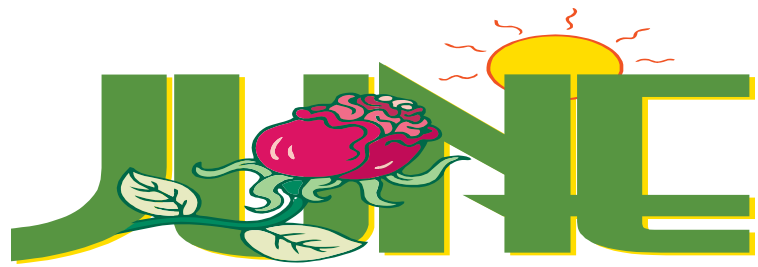
Mark Arnold
6906 N Lakewood, Unit IE
Chicago, IL 60626
Email & phone # remain the same

Dan & Laurie King (Arnold)
545 S. Main St.
Rochelle, IL 61068

Sabrina Fritz
914 Galen Ct.
Goshen, IN 46526
574-971-8485
574-596-9268 (cell)

Betty Kelsey e-mail—only use
cbkelsey@verizon.net

Rushford, Minnesota Flood Recovery—The Northern Indiana District is planning on work trip to this area on July 27 to August 2. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Bruce Barwick at 522-4524 or John Berkebile at 206-4164. There have been over 6,400 volunteers who have helped in this town so far.



2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School CHOIR SINGS GRADUATE RECOGNITION	2	3	4	5 6:30 p. m. - Church Board	6 9:30 a. m.-3:30 p.m. - Fiber Friends	7 8:30 a. m. - MULCH—MULCH—MULCH Work on landscaping
8 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School Drop In—Arnold's Jr. High—Bollinger's	9	10	11 9:00 a. m. - Volunteer Fellowship Knotting & Carry In 7:00 p.m.—Shalom Team 7:00 p.m.—Fellowship Team 7:00 p.m.—Finance Team & Team Leaders Mtg.	PASTOR DAVID OUT OF OFFICE		14
15 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> PASTOR DAVID OUT OF OFFICE </div>	16	17	18	19	20	21 6:00 p.m.—Campfire & Weiner Roast 3:00-5:00 p.m. Youth Rehearsing
22 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School	23	24	25 <div style="border: 3px double red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER </div>	26 6:30 p.m. Worship Team	27	28
29 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School	30					