

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

MAY 2008

Pastor's Ponderings

In an election year there is lots of discussion/debate about "the issues." What issues are foremost in the minds of Americans? Is there a particular issue that tops the list? There is much to choose from. The Iraq War is in its fifth year with no end in sight. Weren't we told weeks after it began that the mission was accomplished? Mortgage foreclosures are escalating at a record pace. The stock market is taking a licking. Gas cost \$3.65 a gallon, just a little higher than a gallon of milk. Food costs throughout the world have tripled since last year. Close to home, companies are laying off workers due to the economic slump. Some forecasters say we have not seen anything yet. For the first time in a long time our country is facing hardships that the rest of the world has dealt with for years.

It reminds me of Pentecost. Yes, you read it correctly. On the day of Pentecost the church was born. The Advocate that Jesus promised the disciples came rushing upon them like a hurricane. They spoke other languages. Their weak knees became strong. Their timid speech turned into courageous proclamation. They worshipped God with glad and generous hearts. They pooled their possessions so that none would have too little, nor would anyone have too much. As Acts tells us, "The Lord added daily to their number those who were being saved." So what does economics have to do with it? Listen to these words from Lutheran seminary professor, Barbara Lunblad:

"Pentecost often ends too soon. The first part of the story is thrilling. The sound of a mighty wind. The tongues of fire. People from all over the Roman Empire hearing their own languages spoken by ordinary Galileans. The promise of the Spirit poured out on young and old, including slaves, both women and men. Pentecost means all of that. As

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the story goes on, Peter stands up to preach, and he preaches such a powerful sermon that over 3,000 people are baptized. Pentecost means all of that too. But Pentecost ends too soon if it has nothing to do with possessions, with wealth and poverty, with what we call economics. Economics is from the Greek word oikos, which means household. How do we live together in God's household? Well, I know economics is a subject so complicated that our eyes glaze over at the mention of the word. But God is very interested in economics, about what we do with our possessions and portfolios.

A Pentecost church will reach out to people of every language and tongue. A Pentecost church will call young and old, women and men to prophesy. A Pentecost church will preach and baptize, but the story always ends too soon if a Pentecost church isn't concerned about economics."

Whether or not we are in a recession, and whether it will be short or long is beside the point. Jesus addressed the issue of money more than any other. Money gives Jesus some of his stiffest opposition. Lives that come under the influence of Jesus Christ become generous lives. Churches that are open to the winds of the Holy Spirit are generous churches, regardless if economic times are good or hard.

In Christ love,
David



A HEART FOR MOM

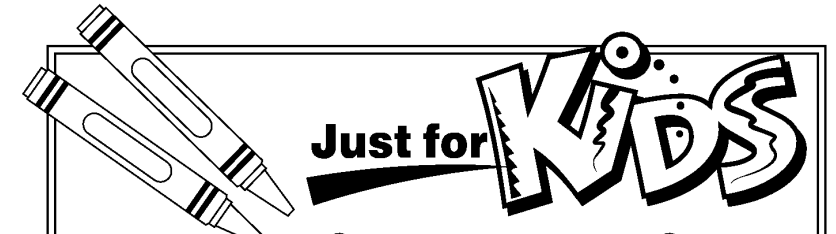
Show Mom how much you appreciate all she does for you with this "heartfelt" craft. Give it to her on Mother's Day.

What you need:

- Floral stem wire
- Dried cranberries (about 100, depending on the wire's length)
- Pliers
- Decorative ribbon (about 12 inches for each craft)
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Hole punch
- Crayons or markers

What you do:

1. With an adult's help, thread cranberries, one at a time with no space between them, onto the straight wire.
2. Bend the wire into a heart shape.
3. With pliers, twist the wire together at the top of the heart.
4. Tie ribbon to make a loop atop the heart (so your mom can hang it up).
5. Fold the paper into a card, and write a message of love and gratitude to your mom. You might want to add a verse from Proverbs 31 that best describes her.
6. Punch a hole in the card. Attach it to the ribbon that's tied to the heart.



A Mother of Noble Character

In Proverbs 31 (NIV), God provides the best example of a godly woman. Write the number of the sentence in the space next to the character quality it best describes.

- 1** "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies" (v. 10).
- 2** "She brings [her husband] good, not harm, all the days of her life" (v. 12).
- 3** "She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands" (v. 13).
- 4** "She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks" (v. 17).
- 5** "She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy" (v. 20).
- 6** "When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet" (v. 21).
- 7** "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised" (v. 30).

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| ___ Caring | ___ Godly | ___ Prepared |
| ___ Hardworking | ___ Hearty | ___ Priceless |
| | ___ Kind | |

Answers: 1. priceless, 2. kind, 3. kind, 4. hardworking, 5. hearty, 6. caring, 7. godly



Camp Mack Festival

Saturday - October 4, 2008
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

FOOD CRAFTS

Everybody loves to eat!

At the Camp Mack Festival people love to try new foods and old favorites.

At this year's Festival consider having a Food Booth and feature a new and different food item. How about breakfast items, beef haystacks; or spicy Buffalo Wings; or Funnel Cakes; or Elephant Ears; or Bacon Cheese Biscuits (mix crumble cooked bacon and shredded cheddar cheese in your favorite biscuit dough before cutting and baking).

REMEMBER, we serve breakfast and lunch and you can always ask a sister church to help with the booth.

The Craft Booths

Where you hope to find something new and unusual that you just can't live without. What might people be looking for this year?

A long, pretty hot pad that you can set a casserole dish or a turkey platter on; those knitted, heavy dish clothes you can use to wash dishes with; a catnip mouse that will withstand being pounced on by a pair of cats; a pretty centerpiece for the Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner tables; white lacey doilies; toys for little girls and boys; anything for babies; quilts; woodworking; paintings, plants; and herbs.

So dig out those old Workbaskets and Women's Day magazines and see what old ideas may be new again.



HARVEST BOOTH: Bring your extra produce, squash, tomatoes, canned goods, corn, potatoes, etc.!

Proceeds from this year's Festival will provide camper scholarships and new floor covering for Becker Lodge.



Birthdays This Month

MAY Birthdays

- May 2 Jim Buchanan
- May 10 Myrtis Justiniano
- May 13 Linda DeGeeter
- May 13 Dave Eis
- May 13 Rosanna McFadden
- May 18 Gary Arnold
- May 18 Angie DeVincent
- May 19 Larry Ludlow
- May 20 Jeff Vance
- May 20 Rick Rodgers
- May 24 Crystal Rodgers
- May 26 Roger Griffith
- May 26 Larry Ehret
- May 27 Eileen Rohrer
- May 30 Colleen Weaver



This Month's Anniversaries

MAY Anniversaries

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

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

DATE	Worship	Sunday School
4/6	122	85
4/13	966	52
4/20	103	87
4/27		

STUDENT AID SCHOLARSHIPS

The Church Board has approved Student Aid Scholarships for 9 individuals this year. All are for full scholarships except for Rosanna McFadden.

Below is a list of the students and the school they will be attending.

Mark Arnold	Loyola University Chicago
Amber Rodgers	Ivy Tech/South Bend
Andrew Lund	Valparaiso
Rosanna McFadden	AMBS
Vanessa De Pue	Goshen College
Katy McFadden	Manchester College
Betty Kelsey	Brethren Academy
Samantha Cooper	Ball State University
Krysta Bowen	IUPUI

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, 'My Mommy looked back once while she was driving,' he announced triumphantly, 'and she turned into a telephone pole!'



Pauline Arnold will be graduating Saturday, May 3, from the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne. She will be getting her Masters in Nursing (MSN). The graduation ceremony will be Saturday, May 3 @ 2:00 p.m. at the Fort Wayne Memorial Coliseum. The public is invited (no tickets, etc. required).

Church Community Services (CCS) has been blessed with the generosity of new friends and old along with our wonderful church partners. In January we were the recipients of a 2007 15-ft. box truck, given to CCS by a group of bighearted donors from the Middlebury area. We are using it almost daily to transport large quantities of food to our food pantry.

Thanks to the munificence of the seller, CCS was able to purchase the property at Oakland and Indiana Avenues. As soon as we have raised additional funds we will begin renovation to adapt the largest building for our use. We hope to relocate all our services there by this fall.

Thank you Creekside Church of the Brethren for contributing \$615.00 and 15 boxes of food to CCS in the past four months (December 07-March 08). Your help is vital. As we head into spring we are especially in need of baby food, diapers, toilet paper and other personal care items for the food pantry. The lobby continues to fill each day with people looking for help. It takes a lot of food to keep our shelves stocked for the thousands of families who come to relieve their hunger with free groceries. It takes the whole community to feed the hungry and respond to critical needs of people in poverty.

Our needs are urgent! In the last 4 months we have seen a 7.7% increase in the number of people coming for assistance over the same period last year. That means almost 100 additional people each month!

Our costs for the food we purchase continue to rise. As the price of grain rises, so does the cost of many food products. Eight months into our fiscal year we have already spent our entire food budget for the year (\$20,000). Your church's continued support through donated food and personal care products is critical. Your ADDITIONAL cash contributions for food are essential. Church contributions represent 30% of our income.

Thank you for joining with us in our mission to feed the hungry, prevent homelessness and offer hope to women through our SOS training program.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

In the Jewish tradition, Pentecost was a harvest festival, the next community observance following the feast of Passover. Christians observe Pentecost as the birthday of the church and the occasion for the outpouring of the empowerment and comfort of the Holy Spirit on the disciples in Jerusalem. This year Pentecost is on Sunday, May 11th; it is also Mother's Day, when we typically recognize empowerment and comfort on a more human level. So this Pentecost, bring your mother to church if you are able, or, if you are a mother, bring your children to church so that we can celebrate the activity of the Holy Spirit as the family of God.

Mothers, fathers, children and grandchildren are all invited to be part of the worship visual that day: please wear red, yellow, orange, or other "warm" colors as we proclaim the fire of the Spirit within and among us.

Rosanna McFadden
Worship Team

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, 'Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?'

'No,' replied Johnny. 'How could he, with just two worms.'



REMINDER:

David and Lodema are still collecting aluminum cans for the Building For Christ Fund. Please contact them if you have any to donate.

Thanks!

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, 'If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?' A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, 'I think I'd throw up.'

CAMP MACK

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May

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Phone: 574-658-4831 Fax: 574-658-4765
E-Mail: campmack@npec.net Website: <http://www.campmack.org>

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO PLAY AND/OR SPONSOR THE MAY 10th GOLF OUTING? This Spring's event is at Sycamore Golf Club in North Manchester with registration at noon and a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. Call Camp today to pre-register.

SIGN UP NOW FOR YOUR BOOTH AT THIS YEAR'S CAMP MACK FESTIVAL! This year's Festival is October 4th. Can't have a booth of your own? — Why not consider teaming up with a neighboring congregation to provide a booth? Planting a garden? Why not plant some extra for the Festival Produce booth? E-mail one of the Foods & Crafts Co-Chairs, Pam Hollenberg (phollenberg@gmail.com) or Karen Rowland (ckwagonwheel@maplenet.net) with your booth plans or booth questions.

ARE YOU HESITANT TO ACCEPT GOD'S CALL TO COUNSEL AT CAMP? To give a week of

one's summer - often one's vacation time - is a sacrifice. But what a difference you may make in the life of a child! Attend training and learn what is involved in counseling! **LEADERSHIP TRAINING:** Volunteer counselors, prospective counselors, CITs and team leaders, don't miss the information-packed Leadership Training on May 16-17. Training is a critical ingredient in creating a great experience for our campers.

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

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

IMPORTANT DATE:
CIT Training June 1-3

Quiet Place Quote: "Solitude is the furnace of transformation...it is the place of the great struggle and the great encounter-the struggle against the compulsions of the false self, and the encounter with the loving God who offers himself as the substance of the new self." - Henri Nouwen.



The Prayer and Care Team need volunteers to pray with Pastor David on Sunday Mornings. Please contact Lodema Hoke if you can help in this ministry.

UPDATE FROM BALDWINS

Dear Everyone,

It sure felt good to crawl into our own bed last night after 36 hours of airports and airplanes. Thank you for praying H.E.L.P. for our 15 day trip to Rwanda. It was an excellent trip and we are encouraged that Kingdom work is being accomplished in that country. During our time there, we were able to take part in two different ministries to street children. We also learned a great deal more about the work opportunities open to missionaries in Rwanda and the many challenges that go with those opportunities. We look forward to sharing more with you as soon as we have the chance ourselves to process everything we learned and saw.

This is Rwanda's national week of mourning as they continue to remember the one million plus people who died 14 years ago in the genocide. We're amazed at the rebuilding that is taking place, but so many people continue to suffer from poverty, disease, and other major problems. They need our continued prayers.

Julie & CW will be with us this weekend and we look forward to our time together.

Again, thanks so much for supporting us in prayer.

God bless, Debby & Chuck



May 17th - Jr. High will be helping to serve lunch for the "**Blessing of the Bikes & Ride**". Watch for more details regarding times.

BEING THANKFUL

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, 'So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?'

The little boy replied, 'Thank God he's in bed!'

- 6/1—CHOIR SING
- 6/4—9:00 a.m.—Volunteer Fellowship
- 6/11—7:00 p.m. Fellowship Team Mtg.
- 6/21—Campfire, Singing, & Weiner Roast
- 6/26—6:30 p.m.—Worship Team Mtg.
- 8/17—Worship & Picnic at Oxbow Park
- September—Golf Outing
- 10/25—Mystery Dinner
- 11/9—Congregational Business Meeting





MAY

2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 p. m. - Board at Church	2 9:30 a. m.-3:30 p.m. - Fiber Friends PASTOR DAVID ON VACATION	3 Work Day at Parsonage VACATION
4 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School YOUTH SUNDAY	5	6	7 9:00 a. m. - Volunteer Fellowship 7:00 p.m.—Choir	8	9	10
PASTOR DAVID ON VACATION						
11 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School MOTHER'S DAY CHOIR SINGS	12	13	14 7:00 p.m.—Choir	15	16	17 BLESSING OF THE BIKES
18 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School CHOIR SINGS Congregational Business Mtg. Drop In—De Pue's	19	20	21	22 7:00 p.m. Worship Team	23	24 1:00-4:00 p.m.— Samantha Cooper Open House
PASTOR DAVID CONFERENCE—MN						
25 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School	26 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	27	28 6:30 p.m.—Choir Picnic DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER	29	30	31