

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

SEPTEMBER 2008

Pastor's Ponderings

I have music playing in my head all the time—all kinds of music. One minute it's the Beatles' "Paperback Writer." A little later, Hank Williams is singing, "Your Cheatin' Heart." While feeding the dogs I hear the strains of Pachelbel's, "Canon in D." There is no rhyme or reason to it. The music comes and goes. There is a hymn or two—or ten. Today my brain played #1 from the maroon Brethren Hymnal, "Holy, Holy, Holy." The third stanza of verse three stood out. "Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee..."

Only God is holy. To stand before God's unfathomable holiness makes us melt. We try to be holy, but we fall short—far short. Part of the problem is that we think holiness means good behavior. We think holiness is adherence to a code. "Do this. Don't do that. You must. You must not." Lots of legalism, little love. Its face has furrowed brows and pursed lips.

Given a choice between being stranded on an island with a holy person or a wise person, I would pick the wise guy. People who try too hard to be holy aren't very interesting. They aren't much fun, either. I get uncomfortable when people wear holiness on their sleeves. They are not timid about criticizing the actions of others. Neither are they shy about telling you the things *they* wouldn't do. "Holier-than-thou," we call them. They aren't gracious or accepting and their attitudes don't engender gracious responses from others. If you said, "I can't stand being around you when you spew your holier-than-thou pronouncements," Mr. Holy might respond, "That's all right. I forgive you."

We need a relational perspective of holiness. A front porch philosopher observed, "You catch more ants with honey than vinegar." The holiness that delights God is winsome and *attractive*. Jesus was the epitome of it. He drew people like a magnet—not the Pharisees and Sadducees, but prostitutes, tax collectors, crooks, and rouges. To the religious people who considered themselves the cream of the crop, Jesus was a swig of vinegar. But to people at the bottom of the barrel, he was a friend.

(continued on page 2)

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Looking at my life and the holiness I've tried to live, I have concluded that it probably looks and feels good to religious folk. I need to learn what is missing. What strikes those on the outside as offensive or irrelevant? What must I do to cause people outside the faith to be curious? I don't have all the answers. I do know there is work to be done.

Do not assume the church that Jesus wants is the same church we want. Jesus would draw a crowd made up of wannabes, losers, ragamuffins, and the broken people the world dismisses. Who are the disconnected that Jesus wants us to reach?

Christians live lives consistent with the teachings of Jesus *and* they are comfortable in the company of sinners. They are humble and teachable while being winsome and relevant enough to draw those outside the faith into the community of Christ.

I have a lot to learn. Are you with me?

In Jesus,
David

Building for Christ Celebration Sunday - September 14th

Our mission statement talks about Seek, Celebrate and Share!! We have been Seeking and now we can celebrate and share our success!!

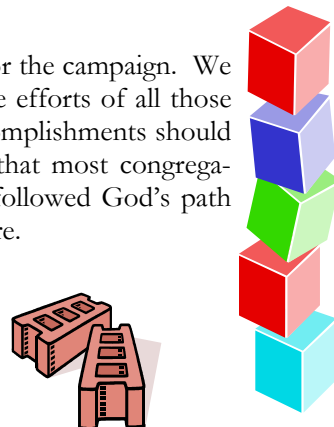


We will be celebrating the completion of the **Building for Christ Campaign**. After Sunday School, we will have a brief program on the Building for Christ Campaign and then a meal provided by the Fellowship Team.

All of us have worked hard and given generously for the campaign. We need to celebrate the success of our giving and the efforts of all those who helped to make the campaign a success. Accomplishments should not go unnoticed. We have accomplished more than most congregations our size. Through faith and a vision of the future we have followed God's path and direction to this place, this building and its potential for the future.

Let us Celebrate!! And then start Sharing!!

The Financial Team
Steve De Pue, Kathy Royer, Walt Gilliland, Ted Noffsinger



OUR HOUSE

This craft is a reminder of the blessing of your family and what you and your family should do for God.

What you need:

- 8 1/2" x 11" cardstock
- Markers or crayons
- A photograph of each person in your family that you can cut apart
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- A hanging picture frame that holds an 8 1/2" x 11" photo (optional)

What you do:

- Draw a colorful picture of the outside of your house. Remember to add a door and windows.
- Decide where you want each person's photo to go. Cut out a whole body (if you want someone to stand on the front porch, for example) or just cut out a face (if you want someone to be looking out a window).
- Use the glue stick to glue the cut-out photos onto your drawing.
- Write out Joshua 24:15b, NIV: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."
- To frame your picture, have an adult help you. If you don't have a frame, display your house on a refrigerator or bulletin board for everyone to see.

As for our family...

With school starting, schedules are getting busy again. Sometimes you might feel like you're going in too many directions and forgetting what's really important. Use the key below to remind you of where your family's real focus should always be.

	A	B	D	O*	N*	R*
KEY:	E	F	H	S*	T*	U*
	I	L	M	V*	W*	Y*

“B

JOSHUA 24:15B

Answer: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. invites individuals to register for its upcoming volunteer training at its Elkhart office, 2901 East Bristol Street, Elkhart - September 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The training will focus on the hospice philosophy, communication skills, spirituality, family dynamics, patient care, bereavement, and much more. Following training, volunteers may assist patients and families with respite, transportation, laundry, errands, companionship, or bereavement. Volunteers will serve patients in Elkhart, Kosciusko or LaGrange Counties in their homes, in nursing homes or may also serve in office or clerical roles. In addition, individuals with licensure/certification in massage therapy, hair styling or notary public are also needed. Scheduling for volunteers is flexible.

To schedule an interview or for further information, contact Kathy Frey, Volunteer Resources Coordinator, at (574) 264-3321 or (866) 264-3321.

A **Community Solidarity Day** is planned for Saturday, September 13, to walk with those affected by hate and to identify next steps toward justice and a hate-free community. All members of area congregations are invited to join the walk, which will begin at 1 p.m. at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS), 3003 Benham Avenue, and will conclude with a program on the plaza in downtown Elkhart. For information, see www.ambs.edu/Solidarity-Day.

Dear Family & Friends,



What incredibly beautiful blue clear skies God's blessed us with this week!!!

Our friend, Karen, continues to struggle in the hospital. They tried to do gall-bladder surgery last evening and it was not possible with the fluid around her stomach. Her abdomen area is swollen making it impossible to remove gallstones. Thank you for lifting her to the Throne of Grace.

Chuck is in Colorado Springs this week, attending the School of Spiritual Direction taught by Dr. Larry Crabb. Chuck was very excited to be able to participate in this event and we thank the Lord for providing the transportation and the majority of the tuition fee. I know you'll be hearing more from him about it all when he returns. If he comes to your mind this week, please pray that God will meet him and speak directly to his heart and that this week would be a highlight of his life.

Jean-Luc is now a seventh grader and had a good first day of classes yesterday. His encouragement was that there was no homework. Our prayer request this semester for Jean-Luc would be that he can find some real quality friends that will make attending school each day a positive experience.

We love and appreciate you each! Blessings on your Sunday, Debby Baldwin



SEPTEMBER Birthdays

- Sept 1 Jan Weaver
- Sept 2 Michaela Hoke
- Sept 3 Gail Vance
- Sept 6 Vanessa De Pue
- Sept 7 Marcia Blanton
- Sept 8 Denny Weaver
- Sept 10 Doris Walters
- Sept 12 Andrew Lund
- Sept 15 Sabrina Fritz
- Sept 16 Nan Davis
- Sept 17 Erika Toops
- Sept 18 Joyce Gordon
- Sept 19 Jim Vance
- Sept 20 Keith Vardaman
- Sept 23 Vicki Ellis
- Sept 24 Sandy Schrock
- Sept 24 Henry Schmucker
- Sept 24 Luis Davila
- Sept 29 Marcia Sowles
- Sept 31 Jeanne Brandon



SEPTEMBER Anniversaries

- Sept 4 Ronnie & Mary Lou Martin
- Sept 17 David & Beth Gilliland

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

DATE	Worship	Sunday School
8/3	93	53
8/10	110	55
8/17	67	No SS
8/24	94	45
8/31		



Property Team

In the past couple of months we have lost two members of our team and are looking for two or three persons who would be interested in serving on this team. We try to meet on a monthly basis, but that doesn't always happen. We try to spread the work load, so no one is burdened with too much. If you would be interested please contact John Zerbe.

JR HIGH NEWS & Notes

Sunday September 7th - Jr High Planning Session. Cook-out at Randall's after Sunday School. Kids...please bring your parents and your calendars so we can start planning our year's activities leading up to Jr. High Conference in June.

Sunday October 5th - CROP Walk. More details to come.



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 1, 2008. 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 10th Annual Camp Mack Festival on October 4th 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. Has your congregation entered the CMF scarecrow contest? Festival proceeds will be used for camper scholarships and new carpeting for Becker Lodge.

QUILTING RETREATS fill quickly. Register now for the fall retreat, October 16-19. The cost is \$122 if you arrive Thursday evening, \$109 if you arrive Friday morning, and \$98 for those coming on Friday evening. Those who at-

tended the 2008 Spring Quilting Retreat, receive a \$20 discount. Call or e-mail Camp (see above) for more information.

LAUGHTER, FUN, INSPIRATION, AND GREAT FOOD abound at Seasoned Citizen's Retreats. Register now for the October 13-16, 2008 Seasoned Citizens Retreat. This Monday afternoon through Thursday noon retreat costs just \$105 each. If you attended the May, 2008 Seasoned Citizens Retreat, you may attend this one for just \$90 per person.

"SURVIVORS" IS THE THEME of the Father/Son weekend, October 18-19. Build a shelter in the wilderness; collect fresh water in the woods; make a survival kit; taste wild edibles! Enjoy singing around the campfire and creating woodworking projects! Registration fee: \$91 for father and son (\$42 for each additional person).

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

A Quiet Place Quote: "Poisoned by the hypnotic belief that good things come only through unceasing determination and tireless effort, we can never truly rest. And for want of rest our lives are in danger." Wayne Mueller



Please add Pastor David and Sue's new home e-mail address to your directory. It is: dasu2@verizon.net

Prayer Cranes



The art of paper folding (origami) comes from Japan, where cranes are a symbol of hope and healing.

To participate with a Prayer Crane:

1. **Write** your prayer on the white side of a piece of origami paper.
2. **Fold** the paper into a crane using the diagram that is provided and place it in the basket, or put your paper in the basket and it will be folded for you.

Your crane will be added to the chain. These cranes will be displayed through October 5, 2008, World Communion Sunday.



FYI—On Monday of this past week, Church Community Services served 170 people.

World Communion Sunday

is October 4. World Communion Sunday was first started in 1936 by the Presbyterian Church and recognized by denominations all around the world in 1940. On this Sunday we celebrate our oneness in Christ. No matter your ethnicity or denomination we are all children of the same father and take this day to pray for our brothers and sisters around the world.

This year the Worship Team would like to observe World Communion Sunday by having a "School Kit Round-Up". I have been asked to collect school supplies to be assembled into kits on Sunday October 26. I will be asking area merchants to donate school supplies, fabric, and money. I will also be placing a box for donations in the gathering area. Donations will be accepted through October 12. I am also looking for volunteers to sew some school kit bags.

If you are interested in helping with the "School Kit Round Up" please let me know. Educating our children leads to knowledgeable adults and spreading our love for children through out the world leads to peace one child at a time.

Angi Marcin

School Kits Include

- 1- pair blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 3- 70 count spiral notebooks
- 1-12" ruler (30 centimeter)
- 1- hand held pencil sharpener
- 1- large eraser
- 6- new pencils with erasers
- 1- box of 24 crayons
- 1- 12"x 14" finished size cotton cloth bag with cloth handles

(also on website): <http://creeksideconnected.com/ministries/school-kits/index.htm>

DISMAS UPDATE

A few weeks ago Betty Yoder and Carolyn Colver furnished supper for the residents of Dismas House and they were, as usual, so appreciative of the meal. The residency number is low right now but is expected to rise this week. Carolyn will host a swim party for all of them at her pool on Aug 27th.

Watch for announcements in the future regarding a "Forgiveness Breakfast" that will be held in September or October. It will be in South Bend and will be free of charge. Carolyn will be taking a carload to the event. Thanks for your continued prayers and support for the program at Dismas.

- 10/1—9:00 a.m. Volunteer Fellowship
- 10/1—7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
- 10/2—6:30 p.m. Church Board
- 10/3—9:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Fiber Friends
- 10/5—World Communion Sunday
- 10/5—CROP Walk
- 10/5—Choir Sings
- 10/8 - Worship Team Mtg.
- 10/10—Advent Planner at AMBS
- 10/12—2009 Budgets Due
- 10/12—Consecration Sunday
- 10/15—7:00 p.m. Choir
- 11/9—Congregational Business Meeting



Creekside Choir

First Rehearsal, Wednesday, September 3rd.
All voices are welcome!
Rehearsals are alternate Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
We sing the first and third Sundays of the month.
More information available in the church office.

CAR WASH: September 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Goshen Aktion Club is doing a fundraiser car wash at the Salvation Army. The address is 1013 N. Main St, Goshen (near MMA). Proceeds will go to **MDC Goldenrod**, a faith-based organization that serves people with developmental disabilities. Aktion Club is a community-service group for adult citizens who live with a disability. It is sponsored by the Maple City Kiwanis. Thank you!

The Goshen City Church of the Brethren has invited us to join them for an afternoon of Southern Gospel music on Sunday, September 7 at 2:30 P.M. The concert will feature "Unity", a southern gospel men's quartet from Wells County, Indiana, and will take place on the church lawn at the corner of Fifth and Clinton Streets, just one block east of the county courthouse.

This concert is one of a series of events City Church has planned in celebration of our denomination's 300th Anniversary year. Bring your lawn chairs or a blanket and join us for an afternoon of Southern Gospel music presented by Unity.

The concert will move to the church sanctuary if the threat of rain exists.

Special Sunday School Presentations

Various member of the congregation at one time or another have mentioned that we have not had much information about Christian budgeting, giving, debt and personal financial management. The Financial Team has made arrangements with a Brethren financial planner to come during the Sunday School time to provide all of us, from Senior High on up to receive some instruction in these areas.

The financial planner is Cliff Daly. He does not promote or talk about specific products or investments. He will be providing basic information about thought processes in each of the areas. Motivation, Christian beliefs and Jesus' teachings will be the basis for his presentations relative to today's financial world.

We are somewhat bashful about discussing finances, especially church related finances. Jesus was not! He gave examples for us and we often do not discuss them or dwell on them because we are uncomfortable with the topic. Now is a time to get comfortable with that issue.

The three Sundays for Sunday School Classes to meet together in the Sanctuary are **September 28th**, **October 26th** and **November 16th**. Please meet promptly at 10:35 a.m. to start the sessions. Bring question you may have which you would like to have discussed, too. If you have a specific issue, write it down and give it to the Financial Team by September 21st.

We look forward to you attending. If any Sunday School teacher from the Jr. High on down would like to attend these sessions, please contact us for arrangements. This will be of benefit to each of you individually and as a member of our congregation. You may invite others to join us as well.

The Financial Team

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY—Helping a University Student in Bethlehem, Palestine costs \$50 per semester. That is the tuition for classes from September thru December. Half of the students supported are women, and all are hurting from 80% unemployment. If you can help, please make the check out to **Students' Forum Scholarships, LTD**. It is tax deductible and I will send your receipt to you. Please include your e-mail address. Some students can communicate to you in English, and Ramzi Odah, the chairperson of Students' Forum will write to you about his program. Recipient students must do public service in Bethlehem. Checks can be dropped off at Creekside office, to Gillilands, or sent to Goshen City Church office, 5th and Clinton, Goshen 46526.

Val Friedell



The end to our Heifer Project International fund raiser is coming to a close. We will be visiting the Heifer Regional Center on September 20. We currently have \$967.50 and will continue to take donations until September 7.

We had a great time at our cookout on August 23! We had 8 children in attendance and had lots of fun cooking over the fire, swimming, throwing water balloons, and painting. We learned a lot about each other as well. Alysa is quite the treasure finder and Erika has a wonderful talent with the paint brush.

Our upcoming activities will include a trip to a corn maze this fall and a community service project toward the ends of the year.



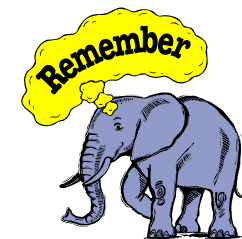
Dear Friends of Heifer International,

The annual Heifer International Midwest Hog Roast will take place on Sunday, September 21, 2008 at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds in Goshen, IN. We hope that you will encourage friends, neighbors, and members of your congregation to attend this event. The meal will be served from 11:30 A.M. until 1:30 P.M. and the cost is \$7 per person for adults and \$4 for children (6-12 years). Through sponsorships provided by local businesses and friends, all of the money received from ticket sales will go directly to support Heifer International projects around the world. This year the event will be held in the Sheep/Swine Building (use Gate 2).

A new feature this year will be a Silent Auction of unique handcrafted items. We will have our brochures and literature available and this is also an excellent opportunity to meet other Heifer supporters, volunteers, and staff.

We hope that you will be able to join us in September. Advance tickets may be ordered from the Midwest Regional office (574) 642-3096. Tickets may also be purchased at the door, but it helps our planning if we know that you are coming.

We look forward to seeing you on September 21!



Your donations for SOS Soup Mixes for our basket for the Camp Mack Festival are due by September 28!

Next Years Budgeting and Estimate of Giving Cards

Over the next two months we will have some announcements and notices about money. Money may be a dirty word for some people—a topic not to discuss. Some things in life are not fun to talk about or deal with. But, some times we can make jokes or laugh at some of the snafus that happen when we work with our money. Look for those opportunities in the coming weeks.

On Sunday October 5th, we will be distributing the estimate of giving cards for 2009. We will be asking for your name, commitment to operations and commitment to financial obligations of the Church.

On Sunday October 12th, Consecration Sunday, we will have a guest speaker, Vince Turner. After his presentation we will collect all of the estimate of giving cards for tabulation to determine the amount of funds for the church budget. If you are unable to be present, please see that your card is sent to the church office by that Sunday.

All of the teams and the board are to turn in their budgets also on October 12th. The financial team will be meeting on October 13th to compile the budget and determine how that will compare to the estimates of giving for 2009. If there is a significant difference, that fact will be made known to the congregation and everyone will have an opportunity to revise their card if they would like to, by October 19th.

The Financial Team will be hosting presentations for discussion and questions on the budget to be presented at the Annual Congregational Business Meeting on November 9th. The first session will be Sunday, October 26th after a brief lunch at 12:30 p.m. A second session will be held on Thursday, October 30th, at 7:00 p.m. for those who are not able to make the Sunday meeting. These sessions are for your information and for each of you to be informed when it comes time to vote on November 9th for the budget. We will try to keep people in groups of 10 or 12 on each date, to facilitate discussion. We also intend for the sessions to last about an hour at the most. If there is more interest, the leaders will stay as long as needed.

For those who will be at the October 26th meeting, please sign up, as we will need to know how much food we will need to supply for lunch.

The better we are informed, the better we can make decisions and work together.

The Financial Team

For the accuracy of bookkeeping and to make sure Sunday's collections are deposited, checks will be written on Monday and released on Wednesday beginning September 1. This is for all checks.

The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. invites individuals to register for its upcoming volunteer training at its Elkhart office, 2901 East Bristol Street, Elkhart - September 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

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To schedule an interview or for further information, contact Kathy Frey, Volunteer Resources Coordinator, at (574) 264-3321 or (866) 264-3321.

Our Weekly Giving

As was mentioned last Sunday, our current giving is considerably below the church's needs to pay its ongoing bills. We realize that summer times are when people are gone and may not always be able to give to the church each Sunday. Hopefully, those missed Sundays will be made up in the coming weeks. Please check the back of the bulletin and the record of giving each week. This will be a means for each of us to know when we may need to give a few dollars more. When several of us give even a little more it adds up to help cover our expenses and also allows the church to continue in outreach.

The Financial Team

We're Number 3!

Raising \$2,000 or more for Church World Service is something to celebrate! Below are those Indiana and Kentucky congregations who reached this significant CROP Walk plateau in 2007. *Thank you for your extra efforts.*

Versailles, KY - First Christian	\$4,144
Union City, IN - New Lisbon Christian	3,000
Elkhart, IN - Creekside Ch of the Brethren	2,571
Speedway, IN - Speedway Christian	2,361
Frankfort, KY - First Christian	2,250
Bowling Green, KY - First Christian	2,198
Peru, IN - First Christian	2,018



September 15 – CROP Walk Fundraiser at Goshen Hacienda

September 22 – CROP Walk Fundraiser at Elkhart Hacienda

October 5 – CROP Walk (watch for details)



September

2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 9:00 a. m.—Volunteer Fellowship 6:30 p.m.—Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.—Property Team Mtg.	4 6:30 p. m.—Church Board	5	6
7 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School CHOIR SINGS Jr. High Planning Session at Randall's	8 7:00 p.m.—Finance Team Mtg.	9	10 6:30 p. m.—Worship Team Mtg. 7:00 p.m.—Fellowship Team Mtg.	11	12	13
14 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School BFC Celebration Lunch	15 CROP Walk Fundraiser at Goshen Hacienda	16	17 7:00 p. m.—Choir Practice	18	19	20
21 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School CHOIR SINGS	22 CROP Walk Fundraiser at Elkhart Hacienda	23	24 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER </div>	25 6:30 p. m.—Worship Team Mtg.	26	27
28 9:00 a.m.—Worship 10:45 a.m.—Church School 3:00 p. m.—Blessing of the Animals Baptism	29	30				

DISTRICT CONFERENCE