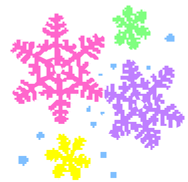
News from the Brick

Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren
5352 N. Brick Church Road
Hagerstown, IN 47346

Established 1820



Carol M. Pfeiffer, Pastor
Church Phone: 765-489-4430
Parsonage Phone: 765-489-3435
nettlecreekcob@tmcsmail.com
www.nettlecreekcob.com

Eloise Beeson, Secretary
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

January 2004

Continuing the Work of Jesus.
Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Carol's Comments — "Resolutions of the Spirit"

Rev. 21: 1-5 NRSV: *I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See I am making all things new."*

***The Message*, Eugene Peterson:** *I saw Heaven and earth new-created. Gone the first Heaven, gone the first earth, gone the sea. I saw Holy Jerusalem, new-created, descending resplendent out of Heaven, as ready for God as a bride for her husband. I heard a voice thunder from the Throne: "Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making his home with men and women! They're his people, he's their God. He'll wipe every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good—tears gone, crying gone, pain gone—all the first order of things gone." The Enthroned continued, "Look! I'm making everything new…"*

The late Erma Bombeck made these New Year's resolutions:

1. I'm going to clean this dump just as soon as the kids grow up.
2. I will go to no doctor whose office plants have died.
3. I'm going to follow my husband's suggestion to put a little excitement into my life by living within our budget.
4. I'm going to apply for a hardship scholarship to Weight Watchers.
5. I will never loan my car to anyone I have given birth to.
6. **And just like last year...I am going to remember that my children need love the most when they deserve it the least.**

- Dr. Mickey Anders, Sermon: "Resolutions for a New Year"

Let's take these resolutions and put a different spin on them.

1. I'm going to become active in the church when I have my life all together or _____________ (You fill in the blank.)
2. I will go to no church that doesn't do exactly what I want or________________________ .
3. I will not give to the church till they learn to live within their budget or spend it the way I suggest or _____________________.
4. I'm going to suggest the church does things my way or close its doors or ______________________.
5. I will never be available when there is work to be done or ________________.
6. **And just like last year…I am going to remember that people need love the most when they deserve it the least**.

Sounds pretty harsh, except for the last statement. Whereas we may never have made these statements