

News from the Brick

Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren
5352 N. Brick Church Road

Established 1820



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

Carol's Comments

"Can You Hear Me Now?"

Isaiah 55: 6-7 *Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. NRSV*

Psalms 4:3 *But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. NRSV*

Psalms 17:6 *I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God, incline your ear to me, hear my words. NRSV*



You've all probably seen the cell phone commercials of Verizon Wireless with the fellow walking around in various locations such as the beach, a mall, a street and asks, "Can you hear me now? Gooooo!!" People want to be connected and want clear reception on a cell phone. We look for the best deals, the best phone coverage, the most minutes, and the best connection. People change companies in search of the better deal to meet their needs. Even now we have cell phones that can take pictures that can be shown in real time.

I wonder if we can apply this to the church. Wanting to be connected, some people "church hop" looking for a "better connection" or a "clearer reception" or wanting to be heard better or just plain wanting to BE heard. But we don't need to leave the church to desire a better connection to God or a clearer reception. I find that oftentimes in our congregations we see frustrated people or people that are indifferent, because they've lost the connection most vital to their spiritual growth. I think we need to take a look at ourselves...our receiver or equipment. Can't hear on your present spiritual phone? Check out the equipment. Check yourself out and see if your attitude needs some adjustment...see if there is some spiritual block that is hindering the reception.

As in cell phones, we want the best. In churches we want the uplifting programs...the perfect worship services, the deep relationships with one another. And we rely on the church to provide it. But in case you haven't looked lately the church is **US**. If we are not involved, if our attitude is expecting spiritual growth handed to us in one package, if we want someone else to do it, we probably are not going to be satisfied. God needs **each** of us to grow the church. God needs each of us to make sure our "equipment and receivers" are working properly in order to "hear" God. We get the best coverage, the most minutes, and the best connection, when we do our part in our relationship to God and each other. We can't hear each other if we don't "reach out and touch someone" as another older commercial declared.

We in the church act as if the connection is all up to God. If we don't have the phone turned on, how do we expect to hear anything? If we don't press "call" or "send" on our cell phone, how do we expect to connect? It's up to us to be open to receive and then to be obedient to what we hear.

I'd like to imagine God waiting by the heavenly switchboard and saying to each of us, "**Can you hear me now?**" **Gooooo!!**

Blessings on the journey,
Pastor Carol M. Pfeiffer