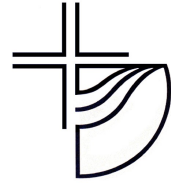


News from the Brick

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

Established 1820



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

June/July
2004

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

Carol's Comments

"Got a Rooster?"

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed. John 18: 25-27 NRSV

A few weeks ago Dave Reneau and I were at a Faith Housing Board meeting. While waiting for the chair to arrive, the discussion with the others turned to a rooster. It seems that the townsfolk could hear a rooster crowing. They laughed about how it crowed all day. I said that we live further out from town, more like country area, and we didn't have a rooster. (Be careful what you brag about.) I was pleased that we didn't have that annoyance.



The **very next day**, guess what showed up in the barnyard next to us? A rooster, of course. It was a white rooster with beautiful tail feathers. He strutted around the barnyard so cocky and proud crowing loudly. At four a.m. the next morning Bob and I were greeted, or rather awakened, by the cock-a-doodle-doo. On and on he crowed. All day long his cocky crow is heard. During the day, it's not so bad. I'm not at the parsonage much during the day, so it is tolerable. But it's his incessant four a.m. crowing that becomes irritating. Not only at four a.m., but from then on throughout the day his crowing is heard. I've even tried to chase him away, but he keeps coming back. He eats the birdseed that falls from the bird feeder in the front yard of the

parsonage.

No one knows where this rooster came from, but he's still hanging around crowing his lungs out. I actually blame Dave Reneau. I accused him of sending this rooster our way, since the rooster appeared the next day after our conversation. It does make one wonder. (Just kidding.)

Think about it though. A rooster's crow can be like a sin that won't go away. Sin rears its ugly head anytime of the day, haunting us like a rooster's crow. Sin can awaken us from our sleep. We don't always talk about "sin" anymore. But let me tell you that sin still exists. We may cloak the word sin by using different words calling it a mistake or indiscretion, but sin is anything that separates us from God. Whatever has our attention has us. Sometimes that is sin if that thought or action takes us or distances us from a loving relationship with God. Lying, cheating, adultery, stealing are still sins the last I looked. But society today seems to encourage those things by the shows that are prolific on TV today.

Often our restlessness, or nightmares, our conflicts are due to some sin in our life. But...we have gotten so desensitized we hardly recognize sin anymore. We need to take time to examine our lives to be sure that some "rooster" hasn't entered the barnyard. We may try to ignore sin, but the crowing will not go away until the sin is removed. If something is distancing us from God; if we discover sin, I John 1:9 tells us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." How refreshing to know that Jesus Christ paved the way for our forgiveness. He redeemed us. He extended grace to cover sin. We have been freed from sin! Hallelujah!