

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.

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

Carol's Comments

"How Far Would You Go?"

Luke 14: 27-28; 33: Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ...So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Recently Bob, Paul, and I made a trip to Minnesota. That's not particularly unusual. But the reason we went was to pick up a Schnoodle puppy from a breeder in Minnesota. Many thought I was crazy to go that far for a puppy. A Schnoodle is ½ Miniature Schnauzer and ½ Miniature Poodle. The mix makes for a good personality in a dog as well as being less allergenic. There were not any breeders in the immediate area that I could find. I did my research on the breeder. I checked out all the things one needs to know before applying. This particular breeder had very strict guidelines for the prospective owners. The breeder wanted to make sure the puppy was going to a good home, would be taken care of etc. The breeder explained how the puppies were socialized with her family etc. And so after research and going through the application, I waited for when a Schnoodle would come available. The prospective owner puts a down payment to hold a potential puppy. That demonstrates the seriousness of really wanting a puppy. To make a long story short, our family was accepted and a puppy became available.



We traveled to Minnesota to pick up our Schnoodle. It was a long trip. When we arrived, we were introduced to our adorable Schnoodle. We got instructions on the puppy...a packet of materials, a contract, a shot record, a bag of toys, and two bottles of water. I never saw such a thorough job done for a dog. We named our friendly, lovable, frisky, inquisitive pup Schnickelfritz.

You may not be willing to go to Minnesota for a puppy, but as we think about our Christian faith or our relationship with Jesus Christ, how far are we willing to go to deepen **that** relationship? Jesus asks us to count the cost. Have we continued to count the cost of discipleship and found it worth it? How much are we willing to pay or give of ourselves to take the journey of a lifetime with a wonderful Savior? How devoted are we willing to be? How much are we willing to commit to learning all we can and to spending time with our God? Are we willing to make a place in our heart to receive the greatest love we can ever know?

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, we make a covenant to love and to let Christ's spirit live in and through us. One might say that is our contract with Jesus Christ. When we journey with God, we receive a packet of information called the Bible. It is our instruction on how to live in relationship with God and neighbor. When we covenant with Christ, we learn to give and receive. When we walk with Christ, we find it worth the journey...worth the commitment...worth the love, peace, and joy that our relationship with Christ brings. Having a puppy brings challenges as I get to know to our pet. Having a relationship with Jesus Christ, brings challenges as we are stretched to grow, to obey, to love, to surrender, and to serve.