

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.

April
2005

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

Carol's Comments

Credit Card Faith?

Matthew 6:19-21 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

Recently while in the church office, the phone rang. When I picked up the receiver I thought it sounded like it might be a telemarketer call, for I could hear a couple other voices in the background. The voice on the line asked, "Do you accept credit cards for charitable donations?" This puzzled me because I had answered the phone with the usual greeting, "Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren." I responded to the question saying, "This is a church." The voice didn't acknowledge that response but went on to again ask, "Do you accept



credit cards for charitable donations?" I replied, "We don't have anyway to process that." Then the caller asked, "Do you accept cash or checks?" I said, "Yes." The caller replied, "Thank you," Then hung up.

There was no clarification from the caller if it was a survey of churches or just someone who really wanted to know if they could make a charitable donation. Or was it someone casing out a church? In this day of scams, one never knows. I'd not quite had a call like this one before. I do experience callers who don't seem to listen to the title Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren, and when I say, "This is a church," they will say, "Oh. Goodbye." But this caller wasn't put off by the title at all. At least she seemed oblivious to it. This call really intrigued me. Was it a legitimate caller? Was it someone looking for a church that could contribute via credit card? Yet she had asked about paying with check and cash if we didn't take credit cards. Perhaps she still didn't grasp the word "church." I'll never know. But more than likely it was a telemarketer checking out whether a business accepted credit cards.

There is a website www.mychurchdonations.com. This site allows individuals to make electronic payments to their church for their offerings, tithe and other donations. It's an intriguing thought. Are we getting to the place in our society that we, the consumer, find it easier to use a credit card for everything? Or is it something that churches need to consider: **Have card will contribute?**

If only the nature of our Christian faith were that easy. Take a credit card and commit to teaching Sunday School. Use a credit card to rack up one's prayers. Insert credit card and attend a meeting online, no physical presence needed. Scary isn't it? It's easier to use a card online or at the checkout counter. It is convenient, yes, but what are we giving up? We seem to get further and further away from personal contact with one another. We can buy anything via the computer with the use of a credit card. But it's not only that. Maybe we're getting further and further away from God too. Do we prayerfully consider the use of our money? All that we have belongs to God. Yet how many of us pray about our spending or our contributions to an organization or to the church? Let's remember that we do need to have money in the bank to back up our purchases.