

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

"A New Year's Revolution"

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35 NRSV

The other Sunday I was talking with some parishioners about, what else, but diets. I stated, "That will have to be my New Year's Revolution" in regards to what I would do in my diet. (It probably had to do with chocolate.) They laughed and I realized I said, "**revolution**" instead of "**resolution**." A Freudian slip? Well, I don't know about that, but it got me to thinking.

When a new year rolls around, we make "resolutions." Some dictionary definitions for resolution are:

1. The state or quality of being resolute; firm determination.
2. A resolving to do something.
3. A course of action determined or decided on.

This is the usual sense we use when "resolving" to do something about something we want to do differently.

"Revolution has a bit of the same sense also if we consider several definitions. Some definitions for "revolution" are:

1. Organized opposition intended to change or overthrow existing authority: insurgence, insurgency, insurrection, mutiny, rebellion, revolt, sedition, uprising. *See RESIST* .
2. A momentous or sweeping change: cataclysm, convulsion, upheaval. *See CHANGE* .
3. Circular movement around a point or about an axis: circuit, circulation, circumvolution, gyration, rotation, turn, wheel, whirl. *See GEOMETRY* , *REPETITION*

Although oftentimes in the church there is organized opposition about things, I want to skip over the "organized opposition," definition and concentrate on the number two definition, "a momentous or sweeping change."

Instead of "resolving or just determining a course of action" this year, what if we decide upon "a momentous or sweeping change?" What change do we need to make in our spiritual lives? Do we need to become more open to God's voice and then obey that leading? Do we need to "revolutionize" how we approach God or others? And then there is the church. What do we need to "revolutionize," or what "sweeping change" do we need? Do we need to change our attitude? Do we need to let go of "we've always done it that way attitude?" Do we need to be open to new ideas from folks who have not been as involved in the church before? In other words, do we need to risk allowing things to be changed? Do we need to let go of corporate fear that new people and/or new ideas unsettle our comfort zones...the way things have always been? Can we encourage new ideas without grumbling?

Change is scary for all of us. We "say" we want to grow, but resist anything that is out of the norm for us. Consider the apostles. Where would Christianity be if they had not gone against the norm of Judaism and expanded their knowledge and experience of God through Christ Jesus? What if they had said, "We've never

