

# News from the Brick

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

**Established 1820**



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Jodi Johnson, Secretary  
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.  
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

**March  
2006**

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

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## Carol's Comments

### "Come"

1 "Come, let us return to the LORD; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up.<sup>2</sup> After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.<sup>3</sup> Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth."

Hosea 6: 1-3 NRSV

<sup>28</sup>"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:38 NRSV

The other morning I was not quite fully awake, and I remember that I was praying. The word "come" floated across my mind. It was just that one word, "come." As I aroused more fully awake, I pondered that word. Of course, I believe it was God speaking that word to me. I thought about looking up the word in the concordance. I spoke to my spiritual director about it, and she encouraged me to spend time with the word, "come." What was it that God was inviting me to?



I thought about my dog, Schnickelfritz, and his non-response to the word, "come." I took him to obedience school. We had practiced giving the command with a treat as a reward when he came to me. He was very eager to "come" when there was a reward. But most times now when I call, "Come Schnickelfritz," he just stretches and looks at me. Having no treat in my hand, he doesn't come. He tends to hang back just out of my reach. He's not the only dog we've owned that didn't respond to the word.

So I wonder about myself. And I wonder about all of us. What is God inviting us to do or to be? When do we come to God? Do we need some sort of assurance of a reward before we will come to God? Do we hesitate to see if God has an ulterior motive if we do come? Will God ask us to do something we're just not that thrilled about? Will God stretch us? Will God ask us to forgive someone we just don't want to have anything to do with? Will we be challenged to give up some habits that are standing in the way of our Christian discipleship and growth? Will we be asked to change in some way or to change things at church that we're least excited about?

"Come" is a word of invitation. I suppose it depends on the tone of voice whether the word feels very inviting or not. When I get exasperated at Schnickelfritz's non-response, I tend to use a more harsh-sounding, "Come!" Perhaps that is the way God's "come" feels to us at times. But when we look to scripture, we hear the love not the harshness. "Come, let us return to the Lord..." "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Both of these "comes" are invitations to come to God...to draw near...to get to know the Lord...to receive rest from our heavy burdens.