

# News from the Brick

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Established 1820



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

**September 2005**     *Continuing the Work of Jesus.  
Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

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## **Carol's Comments**     **"Where Two or Three Are Gathered, We're all in the Same Boat"**

*For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20 NIV*

As I sit down to begin this newsletter, I ponder where to begin. Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast just outside New Orleans on Monday submerging entire neighborhoods up to their roofs, swamping Mississippi's beachfront and blowing out windows in hospitals, hotels, and high-rises. As each day passes we hear of more and more devastation. We hear of looting and people being rescued off their roofs. We see people wading in the water aimlessly. We hear of thousands in the Superdome who went there to find shelter and who will now have to be evacuated to more sanitary conditions as well as for their safety. I could go on and on. It is hard to fathom what the people must be experiencing. And we sit in our comfortable homes and worry about the price of gas!



While waiting for Bob's colonoscopy procedure on Wednesday, I overheard someone talking about these current events. This person was saying he did not have any pity for those who chose to live there and didn't leave and had to be rescued. I wondered how many of us thought the same thing. I wondered how many of us have always made the "right" decision compared to what others thought was the "right" choice. And I wondered about compassion. I wondered if we are to only have compassion when the conditions are acceptable in our eyes. I wonder if Christ ever thought, "Humph! They aren't living right...they built their house upon the sand, so let them swim from their house...Let them suffer." I don't think so.

When we were at our worst Christ died for us...for each of us! It's not that we have always made "right" choices or built our house on solid ground that he died for us. It was while we built our houses on sand and while we made unwise choices and while we were still sinners that he suffered and died for us. And through his understanding of suffering, he is with us in our suffering.

There is the story of a man on a boat. He is not alone, but acts as if he were. One night...without warning...he suddenly begins to cut a hole under his seat. The other people on the boat shout and shriek at him: "What on earth are you doing? Have you gone mad? Do you want to sink us all? Are you trying to destroy us?"

Calmly, the man answers: "I don't understand what you want. What I'm doing is none of your business. I paid my way. I'm not cutting under your seat. Leave me alone!" What the fanatic (and the egotist) will not accept, but what you and I cannot forget, is that all of us are in the same boat (Elie Wiesel, *Parade Magazine*).

And isn't that the truth? What happened in New Orleans, Mississippi, and Alabama is affecting all of us. Not only the forces of nature affects them but it affects us in the economy, in gas prices, in the loss of loved ones etc. And the way they respond and the way we respond affect all of us. Certainly there are many who are not reacting in the Christian way. But I believe that Christ is in the midst of the turmoil comforting. I believe