

Making the Change

January 9, 2009

I noticed all week long how difficult it has been this year for me to make the simple change of writing 2009 when I am writing the date. I am not quite sure why I am having such trouble this year making this change.

It certainly cannot be because I don't want to let go of 2008. I have been more than willing to let go of the year. I suspect it has much more to do with how hard it is to sometimes change habits. I have just been used to writing 2008 for so long. Have you been having difficulty writing the correct date? Do you ever have trouble changing habits?

In one of my daily devotionals recently, I read about a man who was lying by a pool of water. He had been ill for a long time when Jesus met him. Jesus asked him in a conversation, "Do you want to be made well?"

The man answered, "Of course I do, but there is no one here to help me get to the pool when it is time." The understanding was that when people were ill, if they waited until just the right moment to touch that body of water, they would experience healing. This man, after years of trying to be the first to get into the water, had learned how to remain ill beside the water.

Jesus' question was an important one. "Do you want to be made well?" It is a request that can get us thinking about our own habits that we find hard to change. It is a question that can jar us into looking beyond our old understandings about life, to see new possibilities that God has for us. In the end, Jesus reached out and touched this man and brought healing to him.

As we begin a New Year, I find myself wondering how can I learn to look to God and see beyond old understandings of life to see new possibilities that God has for me, for our church. Are you willing to see new possibilities for your life that God has? What is hard for you to let go of to see those possibilities?

It is a little thing, to make a change from writing 2008 to 2009. Yet my hope for each of us is that we can let go of the habits we have been clinging to that are not helpful and begin to see the new possibilities for hope, healing and life that God has for each of us. I look forward to seeing you in worship this weekend.

In the hope Jesus offers us,

Rev. Scott Carlson

The Mission of Sun Prairie United Methodist Church is to invite and welcome people to be committed and compassionate followers of Jesus Christ through worship, through spiritual growth, through fellowship and through service to others.