

It Never Happened Before

April 10, 2008

I am quite dependent upon my Blackberry. It is much more than a phone for me. It is a way to stay connected. It is a way to keep in touch. It helps me to be productive. It helps me to remember. I have been using a Blackberry for the past three and a half years.

Just yesterday I had something happen to me that had never happened before. I did a synchronization to my computer. I have done this synchronization almost daily for the last three and half years. I can almost do it in my sleep.

It happens like this. You plug the Blackberry into the computer. They talk to each other through the connection. You hit the little button that says do you want to make changes. Then, incredibly, oh, so smoothly, the changes are made to the Blackberry and to the computer that need to be made.

But yesterday, to my horror, there was a problem with the synchronization. I lost almost everything that was in my calendar.

I am still not sure what happened. But it is causing a minor panic in my life. I find myself wondering and worrying about all the information that I have lost. Who are the appointments that I have made, that I no longer have? What are the dates, birthdays, anniversaries I have lost?

I feel lost at the moment. I feel a bit disorganized at the moment. Have you ever felt that way?

It is amazing how easy it is to feel disorganized, discombobulated or lost. It can happen to us when changes happen, through health concerns, through moving, through an accident happening, through the unexpected happening. It happens when life, at least for the moment, seems turned upside down. Do you know what that is like?

In these moments of feeling lost, it is important for me to remember the words from Jeremiah that say, *"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)."* This simple scripture reminds me that even in those moments when I feel lost or frustrated, God is still there. God is still caring for me.

That simple act of remembering, of stepping back and looking at a larger picture, often helps me to put most inconveniences into perspective. Yes, I will have to do the work of re-entering my information into my Blackberry. Yes, I might even miss an appointment or two (although I will try not to). But in the big picture, while I am inconvenienced by this set back, it is fixable. I am still held in the hands of a loving God. I am still a part of an incredible congregation. God has blessed me with a remarkable family.

While I may feel lost for a time, I know Who holds my future. Thanks be to God. May you also know the joy of that assurance in your life.

In the hope Jesus offers us,
Rev. Scott Carlson

PS: This weekend we are beginning a new sermon series called *Stressed! Dealing with Life at the Boiling Point*. Our sermon is titled; *Handling Stress from Overload*. You may want to read Luke 8:42-48 in preparation.

PS: This is intended to be a devotional e-mail sent to get you thinking about your relationship with God and what it means to live a life of faith. If you would prefer to be taken off of this listing, please e-mail me (scottcarlson@sunprairieumc.org) and let me know. It is sent to Laura Meixner, Our Church Secretary, with everyone else as a Blind Copy.

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.