



# Valley Voice

*Buffalo Run, Fillmore and Valley View*

*The United Methodist Churches of the Buffalo Run Charge*

*"One Congregation Serving the Community and Worshiping in Three Locations"*

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## What Is That Ringing?

**A**s if alarm clocks, oven timers, dryers, and microwaves weren't enough buzzing and ringing, we had to come up with cell phones. They are small enough to carry everywhere, so the ringing can invade every tranquil place we ever knew. They are handy in an emergency, but they also come with the price. No matter where we go they're ringing and there are so many of us with cell phones receiving so many calls that the phones need a wide selection of ring tones so we can tell our phone from everyone else's.

I believe there is another very costly side effect of the constant invasion of this worldly clamor into every minute of our lives, the loss of our ability to hear God.

In scripture, we regularly see Jesus going off alone to pray, to get away from the clamor and chaos, seeking quiet to listen for the Father. Jesus is God's son; the Christ; God's anointed one called of God for a specific purpose. Jesus knew that only in listening for the Father could



## Word From the Pastor

he know the purpose and task that was before him.

We as Christians also are called and through the profession of faith and baptism become children of God, brothers and sisters in Jesus.

This calling comes, as we see in Christ, as both privilege and obligation. Paul makes this very clear in his letter to the church at Corinth saying:

***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to***

***himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation ... .”***

The privilege of being called to reconciliation with God and eternal new life carries also the obligation of serving Jesus that others might be reconciled with God. Paul says we are Christ's ambassadors. If we believe scripture is true and take seriously our relationship in Christ, then by Paul's exhortation for us to be faithful, we all should be employed in serving Jesus through His church.

God's call on our life is continuous; we are called to new life in Christ and called to a new way of life in worship of Christ. Paul tells us in Romans that obedient service is the ultimate act of worship, when he tells us:

***“... your spiritual act of worship is to offer ourselves as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God ... .”***

I begin to wonder if we are listening for God's calling. Do we even hear his voice, or are our lives so filled with ringing, beeping and buzzing that God is drowned out? Do we take time to be alone with God in prayer not to tell him what we want, but to hear what he wants?

The Bible is filled with stories about God calling to persons and how they responded.

God called young Samuel who didn't recognize the call. He didn't recognize God's ring tone on his spiritual cell phone.

Moses tried to use call forwarding on his spiritual cell phone. When God called him to go to Egypt, he tells God, "I'm not a good speaker. You ought to get someone else."

God leaves a message for Jonah on his spiritual cell phone, and Jonah doesn't reply, instead he runs and tries to hide from God and ends up as fish food before he listens for God.

How often do we not recognize God's call to serve him, or forward the call to someone else, or hideout not to respond to serve God?

I suspect that all of us, me included, have used these God avoiding features on our spiritual cell phones, and maybe several others of our own design.

As I ponder why this may be, I conclude it can only be the influence of Satan the great deceiver, for whenever God calls it is with good news. Jonah goes to Nineveh and they repent and the whole city is saved. Moses goes to Pharaoh and he frees Israel.

God's calling. Pick up. What great work of reconciliation might God want to do through you? If we don't, our life or the lives of hundreds whom we love may be at risk.

***“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”***

**Hebrews 13:20-21**

Blessings,

Pastor Duane

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***“Go into the world and preach the Gospel. If necessary, use words.”***

***St. Francis of Assisi***

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