

Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

Happy New Year! By the time you read this, the time of resolutions has probably come and gone...and many of us likely have already forgotten what we resolved! Interesting word, *re-solve*...something that needs to be solved again, re-solved. My dad's used to say it this way: "If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?" But so it goes in our busy and ever-changing world; there are issues and relationships and situations that just won't *stay* solved, and our only recourse is continual vigilance...re-resolution, as it were.

Or is it our only course? It seems to be the preferred method in a world striving to make meaning out of the maelstrom, that we just continue to upgrade, to fix and tink-

er and improve (and buy the newest version of the gizmo we just got so excited about buying a few weeks ago). It *feels* like the natural flow of events, we are so conditioned to it. But is it the only (or even the most helpful) way to approach life? Is life really no more than a continual remodeling project?

It seems to me, from the perspective of faith, that in place of more management, what our lives really need is more letting go, more surrender, more trust. This idea is the polar opposite of control and domination and distrust, in which so much of modern life, especially our political life, seems to be rooted. But 'letting go and letting God' is the very stuff of the gospel, and the truth that liberates. We don't need

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Our Purpose
To ENGAGE people in joyful relationships with God and with each other, so we will GROW in Christ-like compassion, and SHARE the blessings of the Holy Spirit.



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more New Year's resolutions, adding some grand behavioral change to the already unmanageable list of things to accomplish; we need more centeredness, more quiet, and more prayer. More time to sort out the "why" instead of so much focus on the "what".

In your parsonage backyard, there used to be an ugly little building (I can say that, I built it) made of lumber and plastic sheeting and staples and screws...a winter shelter for the more fragile plants. Looking from the outside only, the view is pretty static, just a plastic covered box. But what a lush and wonderful world awaits *inside*, where the green abundance is continuing in spite of the wintry ways around it. When we talk about spiritual growth, the imagery of plants and flowers comes readily to mind; certainly, we have all enjoyed magnificent growth and lush abundance in nature. The 'greening' of Butte County in a few months is a truly lovely thing. Closer to home, if we are gardeners, we supply rich soil and adequate water and enough light, and then the plants do what they do, *naturally*. But if we try to rush things, if we pull up the little plants every few days to see how the roots are doing, then our efforts are wasted and so are the plants.

Too much management without enough musing leads to may-

hem...and you can quote me on that!

Our task (individually, in our families, and in the Church) is not to *force* life to happen, but rather to provide the optimum space for new life to take root and blossom. And we Christian-folk provide that space through the nourishing medium of our spiritual disciplines: worship, prayer, meditation, fasting, study, thoughtful exercise, acts of compassion. If we engage in *these*, all of our high-minded resolutions will become superfluous. God has planted the seeds of optimum health, balanced mind, abundant resources, and rewarding relationships in the crowded soil of our lives. We need to use our spiritual tools to clear out the rocks and weeds, give light and water, and let God's design for us take root and flourish! Happy cultivating, my friends...

ALTERNATIVE GIVING **Christmas 2023**
6th Street Center for Youth

Priscilla Hanford

In Loving Memory of:

Carl Calvert

Joseph Coulter Sr., Joseph Coulter Jr.

Walter Humphreys

Given by:

Eleanor Calvert

Mary Coulter

Torres Shelter

In Loving Memory of:

Ellen Carruthers

Given by:

Maggie Banes

Shalom Free Clinic

In Honor of:

Cora & Julieta

Given by:

David & Tina Becker

In Loving Memory of:

Carl Calvert

Joe Ann Haynes

John Beryar, Sue Brown, Shannon King

Given by:

Eleanor Calvert

David Haynes

Peggy Beryar

CHAT

Cleo Reed

In Loving Memory of:

Carl & Merlon Fanno

Jeff, My Husband

Given by:

Larry & Mary Wahl

Lucille Wanece

UMCOR

In Honor of:

Dale Hoggins

In Loving Memory of:

Our Parents

Colleen & George Reese

Donna Hoggins, Bob Hoggins

Jeff, My Husband

Given by:

Vicki L. Hoggins

Given by:

Pauly & Pamela Beeman-Rabut

Goslin Family

Vicki L. Hoggins

Lucille Wanece

Missionary Support: Katherine Parker, Nepal

Suellen Rowlison

In Loving Memory of:

Beverly Swanson

Given by:

Rebecaa Zebley

ALTERNATIVE GIVING **Christmas 2023**

Heifer Project

Suellen Rowlison

In Honor of:

My Greats

In Loving Memory of:

Paul & Millie Goslin

Joe Ann Haynes

Larry Loughlin, Family & Loved Ones

Dick Whitmore

Frank Zebley

Given by:

Lucille Wanece

Given by:

Goslin Family

David Haynes

Lily Loughlin

Liza & Wendell Whitmore

Rebecca Zebley

Healthbridge Global

Cleo Reed

POINSETTIA GIVING

Christmas 2023

In Loving Memory of:

Janet & Joe Becker,

Erica & Irv Stamets, Our Parents

Maureen (Ediger) Carpenter, Our Parents

Roger Flaherty

John Hanford,,Georgie & Jerry Summers

John & Sue Kaiser

Don Keen

Walter Humphreys, Joe Coulter Sr.

Joe Coulter Jr., Marilee Humphreys

Amanda Montgomery & Nicole Ledford

Fenton & Peggy Smith

Walter Rothe

Dick & Jeanne Sorenson

Les & Ethel Wahl

Placed by:

David & Tina Becker

Bob & Pat Ediger

Diane Flaherty

Priscilla Hanford

Kaiser Daughters

Kay Keen

Candy Murphy

Our Family

Sorenson Children

Larry & Mary Wahl

UWF Notes

The much anticipated Bazaar held Dec. 1-2 culminated with an amazing net of \$9488.90 according to Treasurer Coleen. Credit goes to all who participated in ways large or small, but especially to Mary Wahl who coordinated the event with her leadership and the chairwomen from the various booths (earnings noted): Candy:

[REDACTED]

ian Ware and Laura Wells and Katya Yarosovich designed and ordered the large banner with changeable dates hung at the front of the church advertising the event. The hearty lunch of soup, coleslaw, roll is credited to the ladies of TBA and the homemade pies for dessert were donated by participant home bakers sharing their talents. Selma Lippincott and her team sliced and plated favorites each diner could choose. Pastor Dave and Christina Wong enhanced dining with renditions of Christmas carols beautifully vocalized and accompanied on the accordion.

Men who helped were Bob Ediger on set up morning and Ken Edgar bussed luncheon dishes.

Good comments about the prod-

ucts for sale were heard from browsers and shoppers and some delighted friends showed off items they'd purchased. All the pomegranate jelly made through group effort from donations of juice, sugar and pectin was sold out! Nearly everything else sold, as well, and the Bazaar was deemed worth the year's planning, labor and effort of making the items and putting the big fundraiser together. CONGRATULATE YOURSELVES, PARTICIPANTS!

All the proceeds will go toward the various local charities UWF supports, as well as for dues to the state and national UWF organizations. It won't be long before plans for the next fundraisers will be in the works.

The next meeting is Jan. 17 and besides analyzing the Bazaar, new officers will be elected.

Submitted by Lily Laughlin

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ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Sunday, January 7 EPIPHANY, HOLY COMMUNION

Our annual time with the Magi is today, and a new voice will give you his own distinctive take on the tale. We welcome Rev. Brian Peterson as our guest preacher today, proclaiming from Matthew 2:1-12. Holy Communion will also be celebrated on this first Sunday of the New Year!

Sunday, January 14

Pastor Dave returns to the pulpit to preach the sermon “Seriously?”, his reflection of the odd disciple-calling story found in John 1:43-51. Our Zoom services also resume today.

Sunday, January 21

Mark 1:14-20 brings us back to the shores of Galilee and much more familiar stories about Jesus and his earliest followers. The message will be called “It’s About Time!”

Sunday, January 28

We continue in the Gospel of Mark, chapter 1:21-28, as we ponder again the impressive beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry. The sermon “Disruption and Dismay” pretty much sums up the peoples reaction to his preaching and teaching.