

Tower Chimes Article for January, 2010

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

"What time is it?" This is a question we may ask each other on New Year's Eve as we're trying to keep track of the hours and minutes before the New Year arrives. New Year's Eve is a holiday during which we become dramatically aware of the passage of time. If we are able to take some time right before or right after this holiday to reflect on the year that has just gone by, we are richer for it. It is then that we can find ourselves marveling at and being grateful for all the gifts of time, talent, opportunities, relationships, and material things that our Lord has given us. In fact, they are probably beyond what we can even fully remember.

Beginning the New Year with this kind of realization can give us great joy and enthusiasm for stepping into the future. We know that God always has been, is, and will be a God of abundance. And as we move forward into the life God is calling us to live, we can rest assured that God will provide all that we need: direction for our lives, the resources needed to move in that direction, and the energy and strength to bring each step/project/mission to completion.

As we look ahead to our congregational life this year, we see great potential everywhere. We have young Christians who are growing up rapidly, and who are also bonding with each other. Our Confirmands are going forward with a number of ministry projects this year, including organizing a food drive for Mary's Place during January. We have new leadership in our Children's ministry area so that we are able to facilitate many more opportunities for spiritual growth and family fellowship. Adults will have new opportunities to deepen their relationship with the Lord and each other, and be invitational to new folks through our next "Food for Body and Soul" series this winter. And we will have other opportunities for study, fellowship and outreach in the months ahead.

So, what time is it? It is time to begin a New Year with hope and optimism, knowing that the Lord will continue to bless what he is calling us to do, which is to be a community of faith that knows, loves, and serves him and takes his love out into the world.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Ruth