

From the Pastor. . .

The swirl of the holidays is past and we have suddenly rushed into the new year. It is a truism to say that time passes quickly, but it seems to moving forward at warp speed nowadays. . . I remember I was in 5th grade when I first realized that a new century would eventually come upon us. Back then, the Year 2000 seemed impossibly far in the future; now it is a distant memory.

I have no real wisdom to offer, but Psalm 118:24 says *This is the day which the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.* To me this implies that every day is a blessing. Every day brings with it the promise and the certainty of God's grace, no matter what we might face. To me, that's a comforting thought. Scripture never promises a smooth road or a straight road, but I think it does promise a blessed road to travel.

On another subject, I had a friend of mine and his family visit our worship service on December 27. I did not know he was there until afterwards. He made it a point to tell me how welcome he and his family were made to feel. This is good news and reminds us again that hospitality is indeed a Christian virtue and is something we can all practice.

As St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, *Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.*

May a happy and blessed 2010 be yours.

— Eric Lindblade