



THE LAMP

Presbyterian Women's Quarterly Newsletter
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*God's
Plan*



THE NEW YEAR BRINGS THE DESIRE TO MAKE CHANGES.

We usually make resolutions and try to keep them, but we often fail. Even though we can set all kinds of resolutions, one change we ought to make is whatever new plans God has for our life. God does have plans for our life. He has given us gifts and talents. He wants us to use them to build up His church, which He calls His Body. And since spiritual bodies are like human bodies, they need all of its parts to perform properly. So if we fail to follow God's plan, we cheat ourselves as well as the Body. How do we know what God's plan is for our life? How can we achieve our part?

God gives us His instructions for living in the Bible. Here we can gain counsel from God. Studying with a mature Christian is helpful in learning the Bible. Living according to God's plan is stimulating. You use your gifts and stretch yourself. It is fulfilling to serve others and develop real relationships.



Beginning a **New Year**

With a good guide

On our side

The *star* of *Jesus*

Which shows us

Safe roads

Fills our hearts

With his *grace*

Best wishes for

The new year.

Time

Time...where did you go
on and on without end
moments of bliss and content
are over before I know
I want to hold them forever
to live in eternal glee
time...what are you doing to me
each precious second you change
I'm aware of it in awe
I cannot stop your inexorable law

or to my desires arrange
I better love when I love
let sorrow patiently heal
rejoice the beauty you reveal
of the earth and sky above
open my soul
my heart and my mind
give and receive till I leave
this earth behind.



A NEW YEAR'S PLAN

by Mary Fairchild

I tried to think of a clever new phrase -
A slogan to inspire the next 365 days,
A motto to live by this coming New Year,
But the catchy words fell flat to my ear.
And then I heard His still small voice
Saying, "Consider this simple, daily choice:
With each new dawn and close of day
Make new your resolve to trust and obey."

"Don't look back caught in regret
Or dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet;
Don't stare forward anchored by fear,
No, live in this moment, for I am here."

"I am all you need. Everything. I Am.
You are held secure by my strong hand.
Give me this one thing - your all in all;
Into my grace, let yourself fall."

So, at last I'm ready; I see the way.
It's to daily follow, trust, and obey.
I enter the New Year armed with a plan,
To give him my everything. All that I am.

An Irish Prayer

In thanks for the fullness
of days spent together, The
friends that we pray will be
with us forever, The feelings
we've shared, the food and
good fun with faith that God's
blessings have only begun.



Luke, the Irish Lamb Prayer Buddy



A New
Year

At the sound of the tolling midnight bell
a brand new year will begin.

Let's raise our hopes in a confident toast,
to the promise it ushers in.

May your battles be few, your pleasures many,
your wishes and dreams fulfilled.

May your confidence stand in the face of loss
and give you the strength to rebuild

May peace of heart fill all your days
may serenity grace your soul.

May tranquil moments bless your life
and keep your spirit whole.

Bible Verses On God's Plans For Our Lives



- For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. - *Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV)*
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. - *Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)*
- And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. - *Romans 8:28 (ESV)*
- The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. - *Proverbs 16:9 (ESV)*
- Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations. - *Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV)*
- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. - *Romans 12:2 (ESV)*
- I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. - *Psalms 32:8 (ESV)*

- But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him...” - *1 Corinthians 2:9 (ESV)*

God’s Plans For Us Must Start With Forgiveness



- In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. - *Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)*
- In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. - *Colossians 1:14 (ESV)*
- And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him. - *Colossians 1:20-22 (ESV)*
- By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. - *1 John 3:16 (ESV)*

Benediction

And now may the Lord go
before us to guide us,
behind us to encourage us.

May He Go beside us to befriend us,
above us to watch over us
and within us to give us peace.

We ask in Jesus' name,
Amen.

- Come Worship With Us -

Traditional Services: 9 & 11 am (Sanctuary)
Contemporary Worship: 10 am (Campus Center)

mark your
CALENDAR



Welcome from Church of the Palms' Presbyterian Women. We are busy creating an exciting collection of events for members, visitors and friends of all ages to enjoy. Please check your weekly bulletin, monthly *Connect Magazine*, the church's website and e-blasts, and listen for announcements during church services. Also visit us under the Fellowship Tree at the PW table before and after services every Sunday.

Church of the Palms