

From Our Pastor –January 2017

PASSING THE THRESHOLD

It is such an arbitrary thing to pass from one year to the next—an imaginary point of transition on earth that happens at a different time in each of twenty-four time zones. Yet we approach the end of one year as runners in a race approach the finish line, and we celebrate the arrival of a new year as though it were a major event in the changing seasons of life.

We celebrate the exact moment of transition—that is, those of us who still stay up until the bewitching hour of midnight. We prepare for such celebration by tidying up the affairs of life for the year that is ending, and celebrate the year that is beginning by awakening new dreams and making new plans—as though those plans could not have been dreamed of in the year that is passing. Yet we all know that the unfolding purpose of God is not at all disrupted by our arbitrary transitions in time!

What is it about that arbitrary transition that excites us so? I for one enjoy the year end reflections that help me put the year I have lived into some kind of thematic perspective. And I'll admit it, I enjoy the sensation of putting closure on one year so that a new one can begin unencumbered.

I also feel blessed every time I stand on the threshold of a new year, because it is there that I sense the inertia of divine providence. I feel it in the dreams that are awakened and in the visions that unfold; and I sense that the promises of God are somehow refreshed and made new. So, perhaps God is responsible for the way we decided to measure time on earth, because the cycles of reflection and rebirth are inherently part of all creation!

Our church passes that threshold with growing excitement about the future—with awakened dreams and renewed confidence that the Lord is leading us into a season of high adventure in our discipleship. And there is nothing arbitrary about such a transition, for the will of God transcends time with cosmic grace!

Happy New Year One and All,

David