



THE BEACON



The Newsletter of Pine Street Baptist Church

There is something refreshing about purchasing a new calendar which is empty of dates. The only dates marked are the holidays and special national events. Otherwise, there are 365 days for us to put our plans, dates, and times in the open space. A brand new year is before us as we leave the previous year behind. It's a new year and new start. We have an entire year to think about and plan for our lives.

Yet as we are well aware of, plans change. What we think will happen doesn't and what we don't expect suddenly finds a place on our calendar. Even our best plans for the year are often interrupted by a life that is not so predictable. The writer and director Woody Allen once said, "If you want to make God laugh, then tell him about your plans."

As much as we would like to think we are in control of our lives we know better because of our experiences of previous years. Much of life seems out of control.

Now that might be a terrifying thought if we believed that life simply spins along out of control and we are left to fend for ourselves. As a people of faith, however, we confess that God is working behind the scenes to bring about God's good will for all of creation. God has not left us to ourselves but God is intimately aware of every date on our calendars. Even with the unpredictability of life, this is still God's world and God has a plan for us all.

The prophet Jeremiah spoke this truth to the people of Israel who felt as though every day on their calendar simply brought more upheaval in their lives. To these weary folks, Jeremiah proclaimed from God, "Surely I know the plans I have for you says the Lord. Plans for goodness and not for harm; to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11) God has a purpose and a plan for each of our lives. We can trust that as one day turns into the next that God is working out his will for our lives.

None of us know what 2019 holds for us as individuals or as a church, but we do know who holds us. This was Jeremiah's message to the people then and God's message to us today. God gives us a future and a hope. We can step into each day of 2019 with this blessed assurance. So let's make our plans and check our calendars with the good news that God has already checked them first.



Happy New Year,

Philip



SIMON PETER

A STUDY BEGINNING JANUARY 9

Simon Peter was called out of his boat and away from his fishing nets to follow Jesus. On another occasion he got out of the boat and began to sink beneath the waves. Was he a rock, or a stumbling block? Was he a coward, or a man of courage? Peter was a man much like all of us, a disciple of Jesus who sought to be faithful amidst his many flaws. Join us on Wednesday night as we explore the life, faith, and character of Simon Peter.

January Birthdays

- 2: Bobby Carrington
- 5: Roger Harler
- 6: Alexis Rae Wang
Dolores Treadway
- 10: Dorothy Blackburn
- 12: Betty Stowell
- 15: George Hall
- 16: Emily Tribble Hite
- 17: Peggy Williams
- 18: Tina O'Mary
- 19: Julian Neal
- 20: Amanda Blankenship
- 21: Shannon Cooper
Joyce Robinson
- 22: Dylan Smith

Anniversaries

- 2: Lindsey and David Vinson

Envelope Budget Report through December 16

Budget: \$111,006
Given: \$93,528
Variance: -\$17,478



Fellowship Lunch and Team Updates January 13 after worship

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rachel Unger in graduating from the John Tyler School of Nursing. She will soon begin her work at the Emergency Room of Johnston Willis Hospital.