

The Lamb's Kin

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Scripture for January

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



The Mission of First Presbyterian Church

The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to proclaim the Word of God the Father Almighty, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit as commanded in the Scriptures. Spiritual growth is encouraged through study, prayer, praise, music, and worship; Christians and nonbelievers are nurtured with love and compassion; and stewardship of time, talents, and financial resources is kindled in response to God's call.



As a person who is known to make long lists of "things to do," I was drawn to a recent letter to the editor in "Guideposts" magazine. The author of the letter is also a committed list-maker, but with

what I believe is a helpful "twist." You see, instead of just making lists of "things to do," the author suggested making lists of "things to be."

With the arrival of another New Year, with the traditional "resolutions" to be made, I think it is important to remember that "doing" something is far more often an easier task than "being" something. Take love for example. Love is not something that works well on a list of "things to do." In fact, no one can "do" love at all. Yet if one commits to "being" loving, if one puts love down on his or her list of "things to be," then that person might just have real success.

I think the same is true of many other Christ-like attributes. We cannot "do" kindness, but we can "be" kind. We cannot "do" patience, but we can "be" patient. We cannot "do" forgiveness, but we can "be" forgiving.

Far too often – particularly for us listing-making types – we focus more of our energies on getting things done than we do on being the person God has called us to be. In our drive to check things off our lists we forget that the journey is always more important than the destination. In fact, it can be argued that God has not called us "to do" as much as God has called us "to be."

I wonder if we had more "to be" lists than we have "to do" lists if the things we want to "do" would not be accomplished far more easily? I wonder if we were more loving, more patient, more forgiving – and more of everything else God has called us to be in Christ Jesus – if the things we hope to accomplish in this life might not just happen anyway – and without the impatience and anxiety a list of "things to do" often brings about?

All of us have things we need to get done. Grocery lists will always need to be made, bills will need to be paid, and errands will have to be run. But while we make our lists of "things to do" in 2009, why don't you join me in making a list of "things to be?" Maybe, just maybe, instead of trying to "do" more for the Lord in this New Year, if we will instead try to "be" more like the people God has called us to be in Christ Jesus, then this New Year will indeed be filled with blessings.

Happy New Year!