



THE JOURNEY

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RANDY'S RAMBLINGS

Here we are in a brand new year. No one has ever lived it before and no one has messed it up. It is new and God has made it just for us to enjoy and to honor Him. Each of us will bring some baggage into the New Year of course. We will bring some unfinished projects and some unrealized dreams from the year gone before. It is likely we will bring some feelings of loss and maybe even a lament over some failures from the days gone by, but it is a New Year and there are some new adventures to be lived and enjoyed. In some ways God is giving us a second chance or at least some more time to make past wrongs right and to take seriously the responsibilities that are before us.

Like many other people I have been reassessing my life and planning for 2012. I, too, am making resolutions and I, too, will joke about breaking them. I have thought that I would resolve to diet and be more rigid about the foods I consume – both the types of food and the quantity. I have resolved to keep my membership at the YMCA and to actually go at least three days each week.

On the spiritual side, I have resolved to be more faithful to personal Bible reading and to prayer. I want my attitude about these things to change so that Bible reading and prayer are not just acts of piety to boast about, but genuine acts of worship which bring me into the presence of God.

There are many more resolutions I am making for this new year God has given to us. If this year is like the fifty-something I have already lived, I will soon forget to diet and exercise, or I will just get too busy to work out. My mind will be too cluttered and my attitude not fit to come before God in true worship on some days. I will try, and when I fail I will ask God for forgiveness and yet another chance. I will break some, many, okay, maybe *most* of the resolutions I am making, but I will try, and with God's help and by His grace I will keep some.

I want to ask you to help me with one resolution in particular. Please help me by holding me accountable and when you see me slip up, please gently and with much love remind me that I asked you to nudge me along. Here's the resolution; I want to eliminate negative thinking and negative talking from my life. I resolve never to criticize the efforts of others and when I see something going wrong I will try to be the difference and to make it right again.

God has given us a brand new year. No one has ever lived it before and no one has messed it up. Wonder what it will look like next December.

See You on Sunday,

Randy



HYMN OF THE MONTH

"To God Be the Glory"

Words: [Fanny J. Crosby](#) (1875)

Music: [William H. Doane](#) (1875)

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
 So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
 And opened the life gate that all may go in.

REFRAIN:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
 O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
 And give him the glory, great things he hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
 To every believer the promise of God;
 The vilest offender who truly believes,
 That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
 (REFRAIN)

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
 And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
 But purer, and higher, and greater will be
 Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
 (REFRAIN)

Fanny J. Crosby was born in Southeast, Putnam County, New York on March 24, 1820.

She became blind at the age of six weeks after a country doctor applied hot poultices to her inflamed eyes. She was educated at the New York City School for the Blind. After her graduation she taught English grammar, rhetoric, and Roman and American history at the school. In 1858 she was married to Alexander Van Alstyne, a musician who was also blind. Beginning in 1860's she began to write texts for gospel songs and captured the spirit of the nineteenth-century American gospel song. Her texts are numbered in the thousands. She died on February 12, 1915 in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

William H. Doane was born in Preston, Connecticut on February 3, 1832. He was educated at Woodstock Academy, where, at the age of fourteen, he directed the school choir.

He became associated with J.A. Fay & Co., manufacturers of woodworking machinery. He eventually became president of the company. In spite of his business interests, he was most active in his avocation of composing hymn tunes and editing collections. His more than twenty-two hundred tunes and more than forty collections were widely known and extremely popular. His most successful collaboration was with Fanny J. Crosby. He died on December 24, 1915 in South Orange, New Jersey.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Happy New Year! I wanted to give you some end of the year financial information for 2011. Thanks to \$2107.75 raised from Go Out and Multiply and the generosity of many folks in our congregation, we were able to pay all apportionments and the district work fund for 2011. We ended 2011 with a \$2586.56 deficit. Donations for the year were \$120,006 and expenses were \$122,593, ending the year with a balance of \$25,532. The finance committee will continue to make prayerful decisions and keep you informed in 2012.

Emily Hulsey – Finance Chairperson

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

The day after Christmas, I saw a television special which explained where many of our Christmas customs originated. Many of us know that the song “Silent Night” was written in Germany, and originally played on the guitar alone – just as we do at our Christmas Eve service each year.

It was particularly interesting to note where some of our personal customs started. For instance, I never realized that the tradition of an angel tree-topper was from Germany, the first nativity scene was made by St. Francis of Assisi, and Advent wreaths originated in Austria. As I was remembering this Christmas season and thinking about tradition, I realized that this Advent season seemed more meaningful than usual. Maybe this was triggered by circumstances in our lives – gaining a daughter is a life-changing event, but I think a good deal of my enhanced appreciation of the season was due to our Advent Bible Study group. Thank you to each of you who participated: You each helped me to understand and anticipate the wonder of Christmas in new ways.

Looking forward to new adventures in worship this year ...

Ella Kay Scholz

A NOTE FROM RANDY

Evelyn and I want each of you to know how much we appreciate the Christmas love offering you gave us. We have always known that you love and support us. Your generous gift to us is just one more way you make us know you care about us.

A NOTE FROM DONNA

It is difficult to express in words how much you, my family of Antioch, mean to me. Your love and support, your encouragement, and your love make my role as Choir Director worthwhile. Thank You so much for remembering me with your love offering. I appreciate the offering – and you – so much!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, January 8th – Youth gathering at 5pm. Come "Hang Out" with us.
 Sunday, January 15th – The Year in Review; A “state of the church” sermon.
 Sunday, January 22nd – A Wesleyan Covenant renewal service.
 – At 3pm, Antioch will host a Connectional Group meeting. The topic will be Vital Congregations. Everyone is invited, and church council members are encouraged to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UMW Meetings have been changed to the *third* Sunday of each month. This month's meeting will be held January 15th, immediately following the worship service – please bring a covered dish. As always, all ladies are invited to attend.

If you have announcements which you would like to place in either the Bulletin or *The Journey*, please submit them to bscholz@bellsouth.net by Friday of each week for the Bulletin and before the first of the month for *The Journey*.

JANUARY DUTIES

Greeters:	Carolyn Ferris and Jacqueline Turley	
Ushers:	Vivian & Roland Smith; Bo & Susan Wheeler	
Lockup:	Rick Freeland	
Altar Guild:	Carolyn Ferris and Jacqueline Turley	
Readers:	8 th January	Megan Hulsey
	15 th January	Lee Hudson
	22 nd January	Charles Coffee
	29 th January	Rita Edge

PRAYER LIST

Elizabeth Cassady	Marcus Hulsey	Vivian Smith
Renee Clark	Lora Kerby	Barbara Snipes
Martha Coffee	Patricia King	Lera Strickland
Bobby Haynes	Pat Knight	Nancy Swinson
Lenny & Shirley Hoover	Dr. John Lewallen	John Villyard
Lee Hudson		Sally Russell Warrington