

**THOUGHTS FOR NEW YEAR’S EVE**

* A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.
* New Year’s Eve is the only acceptable time to wear body glitter.
* My New Year's resolution is to stop hanging out with people who ask me about my New Year's resolutions.
* I’ve only one resolution: to rediscover the difference between wants and needs. May I have all I need and want all I have! Happy New Year!
* I'll remember 2024 like it was yesterday
* In 2025, may your neighbours respect you, troubles neglect you, angels protect you, and heaven accept you.
* Dear God, my prayer for 2025 is a FAT bank account and a THIN body. Please don't mix it up like you did LAST year.
* Remember you can reset your resolutions on January 14th (Orthodox New Year) and January 29th (Chinese New Year). After that, even I can't help you.
* Every year I make a resolution to change myself....... this year I’m making a resolution to be myself!
* New Year's is just a holiday created by calendar companies who don't want you reusing last year's calendar.



**THE FLIGHT TO EGYPT**

Terri asked her young Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle’s

picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent. “The Flight to Egypt,” was his quick reply. Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, “That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who’s the fourth person?” “Oh, that’s Pontius – he’s the pilot.



**WALKING IN THE RAIN**

A young mother saw a thunderstorm forming and worried her seven-year-old daughter would be afraid walking the three blocks from school. Deciding to meet her, the mom saw

her little girl walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed. Seeing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining happily, "All the way home, God's been taking my picture!"



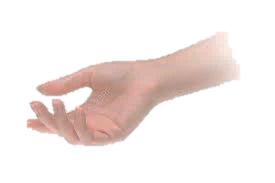
***“Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of the wicked.”*** ~ Psalm 37:16

**First Baptist Church Strathroy**

**Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!**



***GETTING CONNECTED***



Publication of…

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**January 2025**



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*“Everyone born of God over-comes the world – and this*

*is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith”* (1 John 5:4)





***Sunday,11a.m. Services***

**20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario**

***Thot:*** “O victory in Jesus, my Saviour forever! He sought me and bo’t me with His redeeming blood. He loved ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him. He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.”

~ Eugene M. Barlett

**THE SATAN STUFF**



Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably your dad.

**THE HAND OF GOD**

Philip was spending the weekend with his grandmother. His grandmother decided to take him to the park Saturday morning. Everything was beautiful – the trees and flowers, the green grass, the blue sky, the children running and playing. Music played from an impromptu band across the park. His grandmother commented, “Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery?  Did you know God painted this just for you?”

“Yes,” replied Philip, “God did it with His left hand.”

This confused his grandmother so she asked him, 'What makes you say God did this with His left hand?'

“Well,” said Philip, “we learned at Sunday School last week Jesus sits on God's right hand.”

***Something to Think About…***



*“Thanks be to God who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere.”* ~ 2 Corinthians 2:14.

As we flip the calendar and look to where we’re headed for another year, it’s important that we decide who will lead us. There are so many voices in the air – angry voices, seductive, enticing voices; voices that offer promise with little effort, and voices that tell you just what you think you want to hear.

Thankfully, our merciful, loving God will always lead us in Christ to where we ought to be. For the apostle Paul, as he wrote the above words, it seemed that plans were in disarray. Humanly speaking, it looked like the end of the battle with Satan scoring a victory. Except for one thing: Paul had an unconquerable faith! He was able to shout, “*Thanks be to God*!”, born out of the assurance of his trust in God, his heavenly Father, who had given Christ to all who place their trust in Him to *always lead us in triumphal procession*.

When our circumstances are anything but comfortable – perhaps the anxiety of a New Year with the unexpected challenges, health issues, or the fear of what we don’t know – have left us wondering if God is there, our trust is in the Lord. The apostle Paul certainly couldn’t explain the detours and disappointments he encountered in missions, but he was always sure that God was in control. Today, you and I are told that the one year ends and a new, uncharted year lays ahead. But this I know, that our God has gone before us and laid the foundation for all we will encounter in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. We need not fear, we have the Lord to lead us.

Yes, in Christ, we have the confidence that God is leading us and will lead us to a triumphant end. Why? Because two thousand years ago Jesus Christ, our great commander-in-chief, came to foreign soil (our world) and completely defeated the enemy, Satan, who thought he had everything under his control.

Lost souls who had been in the bondage of sin were set free. What a splendid victory! Today, we share in the victory that is in Christ. We don’t fight for the victory because we’re fighting from victory following Christ’s triumph, knowing as they say, “we’ve read the end of the book (the Bible) and we win”.

This year, will you set your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith, and trust that He is leading, holding your hand, taking you through pastures and over mountains, through rivers and over dry land, knowing that God is using you for His glory as He has purposed? That’s the fragrance of the knowledge of Him that He offers up to those who follow Him. It's the ministry He has instilled in each of His beloved children as He gives forth the fragrance of Christ within



***Mark your calendar!***

**Jan 5th -** Communion Sunday – 11 a.m.

**Wednesdays 1:30pm**

Weekly Prayer

(FBCS Godwinks’ Café)

January 11th – **Men’s Breakfast**

**Saturday at 8:30 a.m.**

***Message Series***

**FORTIFIED BY FAITH**

* **Tools for Living Triumphant Christian Lives**

**Come and join us!**

their lives and through their labours. To those who believe, we are the fragrance of life, but to those who reject the gift of God, we are the incense of death. We therefore, are humbled, knowing our mission is to reach out to those who are dying that they too may receive the fragrance of the gospel and embrace Christ as Lord.

The apostle Paul would urge us today to cling to the knowledge that our “*sufficiency is of God*” (2 Corinthians 3:5). We don’t know about tomorrow. But what we do know is who holds our tomorrows when we’re following the triumphant, victorious, ever-present, all-knowing Saviour. Others may not know where they’re going for 2025, many will doubt and fear, but our hope and trust are in the living Lord and in Christ in whom we have the spiritual resources to win the battle – with a clear conscience, a compassionate heart, and an unconquerable faith! Perhaps Paul said it best, “*If God be for us, who can be against us? … Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us*” (Romans 8:31; 37). His love sustains us and His Spirit guides us so that we are confident in the triumphal procession with Jesus! What a victory! Jesus leads us all the way.

May you and yours have a Happy New Year!