

SHORELINE

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FROM OUR PASTOR

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2017 ?

The future is not ours to see. Central to our faith journey is trust and confidence that the Lord will be with us no matter what the new year includes. We know new things will happen- some blessed, others not.

As I write this 2016 is still winding down. I have yet to see one of those "year in review" programs that traces the milestones that marked America's 2016 publicity.

Certainly it was a year of political jousting, a year of economic prosperity, and a year full of violence and destruction - in America and across the globe. No doubt the TV writers will pull together stories that remind us of events which shocked and surprised-headlines already fading into the past.

It was also a year in which Christians continued to long for the return of our Lord while they praised God for the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Moment by moment, in life after life, those with eyes to see know that God is at work in the world. Christmas reminds us that the Word has been spoken and it will never pass away.

People have gotten lost since Eden but never have we had 24/7 coverage of so much human blundering! I have yet to send a "Twit" (that is my way of summarizing my lack of understanding about Twitter, and my opinion of

social media excess, all in one word). The person to person connectivity can be a blessing, if the content is worthy. Too often people are just publically exposing their sins and spending time on conversations that are of no substance.

Please don't let it all distract you from more meaningful use of your time. The political and business games will grind on in 2017. If you read the Bible it is easy to see that corruption, greed, and ignorance of God are not unique in any century, place, tribe, or country. Let's hope that 2017 is marked by a revival, another awakening, a sweeping recognition by all nations that Jesus in Lord. That may sound like too much to hope for but that is exactly what God has promised!

Only God can save the world but we can do our part and trust that God will weave it all together as it was meant to be. Let's expect that in 2017. That's news worth spreading, posting, emailing- and even tweeting. I wonder, how will God create new parts of your life during 2017?

What a blessing to share the journey with our church family at Deer Creek Shores. Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Rev John Martin

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