

Subject: New From St. Francis Episcopal Church
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January 2, 2014

Happy New Year!!!

*Indeed, before the day was, I am He;
and there is no one who can deliver out of My hand;
I work, who can reverse it?
Isaiah 43:14*

New Year's Resolutions

A lot of people make resolutions this time of year. Look almost anywhere and you can find advice on how to make them. I thought I would add my advice to the mix. It is very easy to make resolutions out of guilt, frustration, or a sense of need.

That can be workable but may not carry enough motivation to make a real change, especially if it is making you feel worse about your situation than before you started. So, what is a better approach to New Year's resolutions?

God Is Already At Work

The verse from Isaiah above points to something about God that does not come naturally to our minds (like most things about God). Most of us will by default think when we start working on something then God will come along and give us a hand, hopefully. We tend to apply that line of thought to personal problems and challenges as well as growth goals. God, however, is already at work in that area long before we even begin to think about it. The more fruitful resolution would

be to catch what God is doing about the area of our life we want to change and then join in with where God is at work. You might use the Lord's Prayer for that.

3DMinistries (www.weare3dm.org) suggests an approach. Suppose your resolution is to read one book each month of 2014. Pray about it like this:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name: *Father, what aspect of your character would I begin to see in reading this year?*

Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven: *How would I be equipped to follow you as I read this year?*

Give us today our daily bread: *How would I receive what You have for me as I read this year?*

Forgive us our sins as we forgive: *How would I become a better friend, family member, co-worker as I read this year?*

Save us from the time of trial: *How would I be like you in hard times by reading this year?*

Deliver us from evil: *How would I stay closer and closer to you by reading this year?*

One of those petitions will impress you. Linger on that one and make it your resolution for 2014.

This is just an example. You can fill in your own resolution and pray through it.

Take some time in each petition to listen. You just might get a very powerful resolution to take up in 2014

Coming Attractions

Sunday, January 5, 2014 10:00am worship

Sunday, January 12, 2014 10:00am worship followed by pot luck lunch

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For the Family Chiropractic Center, Dr. Eric Carlsen, owner, that the practice would grow and many in our community would have better health

Metropolitan Richmond

To overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: For racial reconciliation and healing in Metropolitan Richmond; for an end to all racial prejudice and discrimination, beginning with what is in our own hearts.

Diocese of Virginia

Congregations and clergy of St. Anne's, Reston; Epiphany, Herndon; Epiphany, Richmond; Holy Comforter, Richmond; Christ Ascension, Richmond; and Varina, Richmond.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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