

Lamplighter

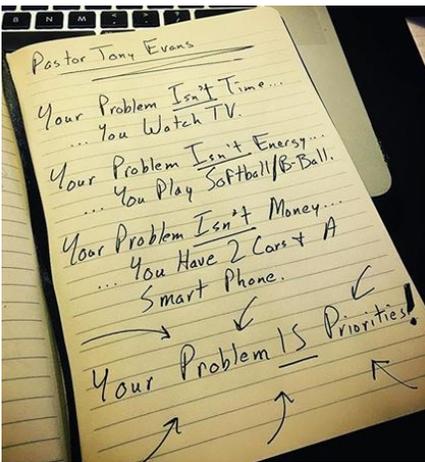
Randall Presbyterian Church ~ Randall, MN

But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Message from Michael

I have never been into New Year's resolutions. Too often they are unrealistic and doomed to failure. However, the New Year might be a good time to evaluate what is important in your life.

A pastor friend of mine posted the following picture on Facebook:



It struck home. Think about it. How often do you think, "If I only had enough time....or enough money... or just a little bit more energy."

Most of us don't think we have enough. What if we changed our mindset and said

to ourselves, "God has given me everything I need, now it is up to me to use God's gifts wisely."

Here are two suggestions to start you on your journey.

Inventory

Take some time, and do a complete inventory of how you spend your time, money, and energy. The internet is full of suggestions on creating an activity log. "Activity Logs are also useful for helping you identify non-core activities that don't help you meet important objectives."

Then track how you spend your money.

The following website is a detailed article about why and how to track your spending. (http://www.nomoredebts.org/learning_credit/monthly-expense-tracker.html)

Tracking energy isn't as easy. It isn't just a matter of what you do, but how the activity impacts you physically and emotionally. Some activities drain and others energize. Everyone is different. I actually get energized working on computer databases, an activity that would emotionally kill most people.

Prioritize

Then, make a list of what is truly important in your life. Be specific. Don't just write, "Family," but how much time do you want to spend with your family, is it quality time, how do you impact the emotional and physical health of your family, etc.? And where does your spiritual formation fit in? Is that given priority?

Make your list and ask yourself if you have your priorities in the right order. I do believe once you truly know and strive for what is important, everything else will fall into place.

I know that the pandemic has forced many people to go through the above process or something similar. If you haven't I encourage you to do so. It may be a great New Years resolution for a more focused and balanced 2022.

Michael

2022 Officer's Retreat

Part 1, Friday, January 7, 6:00 p.m.

All Deacons and Elders who served in 2021 or will be serving in 2022 are invited to the Hartwell's. Dinner included.

Part 2, Saturday, January 8, 9:00 a.m.

The retreat will resume at the church on Saturday for all new and continuing officers. This is a time to reflect on the past year and plan for the future.

Perkins Bible Study

Thursday Mornings at 9:30 a.m.

We are beginning a new study on January 6. Bring your bible and join us at the Little Falls Perkins for a late breakfast, early lunch, just coffee, or come just for the study and fellowship. The study is lead by Nancy Skoog.

Presbytery's In-Person or Zoom

Ruling Elder, Deacon Training

Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

This will be a great way for your ruling elders, deacons, and personnel committees to learn more about their roles and learn more about what other churches are doing. Please register with the Presbytery office for meal planning and zoom links.

The 2021 Per Capita is \$43.00

Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 10,000 congregations connect, participate and share in the work of the wider church.

Randall Presbyterian Church is obligated to pay the \$43.00 for each member of the congregation. The Session is asking every member to make an additional donation of \$43.00 to help the church cover it's commitment.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 23, following worship.

Please stay after worship for a short meeting as we review the past year and elect officers. The following members have been nominated.

Ruling Elder

Warren Johnson

Deacons

Ken Ballou

Renee Hegg

December Birthdays

Coyer Waldoch	Jan 03
Steve Magee	Jan 04
Sylvia Wiczek	Jan 08
Ryan Yorek	Jan 09
Bob Hines	Jan 11
Dana Johnson	Jan 11
Jeri Betts	Jan 12
Chris Magee	Jan 13
Yvonne Johnson	Jan 15
Dan Thilquist	Jan 17
Tanner Magee	Jan 21
Carol Saxton	Jan 22
Abby Carron	Jan 24
Celia DeGroot	Jan 28

*May God Bless Each of You &
May You Have a Happy Birthday*

Thank you and I am sorry!

I sometimes get flustered when I am unexpectedly put under the spotlight—such as when, on behalf of the Deacons, Cathy Gannon presented me with the gift from the church during worship in December.

Clearly, my gratitude wasn't expressed well at that moment, but please believe me, Christi and I are extremely grateful for the gift, as well as all the care and love we have experienced since being part of the Randall Presbyterian Church family.

Thank you!

Michael