

## A New Beginning

by Helen Steiner Rice

*It doesn't take a new year  
To begin our lives anew —  
God grants us new beginnings  
Each day the whole year through.  
So never be discouraged,  
For there comes daily to all men  
The chance to make another start  
And begin all over again.*

Now is the time to look on more than just a beautiful ball as it falls in Times Square. The real significance of this time of the year is that it can be a time of deep spiritual reflection. We can take a backward look and review the year. We can take an inward look and examine self. We can take a forward look and set our goals. We can take an upward look and draw near to God.

"You Lord ... are the same and your years will have no end" (Hebrews 1:10, 12).

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

· via Warren Center News, Warren Christian Apologetics Center, Nov./Dec. 2023 ·

### The Daily Cross

Charge not yourself with the weight of a year,  
Child of the Master, faithful and dear;  
Choose not the cross for the coming week,  
For that is more than He bids you seek.  
Bend not your arms for tomorrow's load;  
You may leave that to your gracious God.  
"Daily" only He says to thee,  
"Take up your cross and follow Me."

- Author Unknown -

### IN THE NEW YEAR ... THINGS WE CAN DO As Christians

*Put God First* - Matthew 6:33  
*Love One Another* - 1 Peter 1:22  
*Do Good Works* - Matthew 5:16  
*Study God's Word* - 2 Timothy 2:15

### One Day At A Time

We worry about our tomorrows  
Oft missing the joys of today.  
Troubled about what may happen  
Yet tomorrow, may not come our way.  
Life's pathway is ever uncertain  
"Right now" is what's yours and mine.  
The future is safe in God's keeping  
We can live but one day at a time.

- Author Unknown -



In the New Year: Wishing you peace, love and laughter.

## News & Notes

**TODAY'S EARLY SERVICE: 2:00 p.m. (Not 5:30) NO Fellowship meal today.**

**CONFESSION:** Alan Robinson.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY BREAKFAST: TOMORROW, 9:00 a.m.** at the Fellowship Building. Our Brothers will cook & serve. Plan to start the New Year in fellowship with your church family. Sign-up sheet in the foyer.

**TO HAVE SURGERY: Pam Thompson** will have surgery **Thursday, Jan. 4th** at Magee Women's Hospital in Pittsburgh. Remember her in prayer.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Jan. 6th, 8:00 a.m.** at EJ's.

**COVERED DISH DINNER: Next Sunday, Jan. 7th about noon** at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** at the Church Building.

**PANTRY:** Pancake mix and syrup.

**MALAWI PROJECT:** Give voluntary monetary donations to purchase items to make the Birthing Kits to MaClay Toomey. Donate cash or checks made out to the church.

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Craig Sayers** (Twila Adamson's son) who is seriously ill in North Carolina.

**SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home:** Chris Wiersbicki, Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Glenn McMahan, Gary & Marlene Evans, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **In Ohio: Herman McHan**, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432. **Lori Stocks** (Karen Strum's niece), 115 Springbrook Drive, Findlay, OH 45840. Lori is undergoing treatment for lung cancer.

## Choose The Right Way

Over a century ago, Robert Frost wrote a poem called "The Road Not Taken." This poem is often recognized by its last three lines,

*"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference."*



In Jesus' parable in Matthew about the wide and narrow gates, Jesus asks us to think along these lines as well. While Frost alludes to making a valuable life choice that seems to have worked well for him, Jesus speaks to us about the ultimate choice. Some people say, "What is popular is not always right, and what is right is not always popular." Jesus says this exact thing when He tells us to be righteous and follow His way rather than the way of the world. While it is easy to follow the way of the world, we will one day pay dearly for it. Just as Frost is thankful he took the road not taken, so should you be in choosing salvation and eternal life over death. Challenge yourself to give up worldly desires and take the road less traveled through the narrow gate to life in Christ.

- The Evening Review (12-30-06), Chester Bulletin Archives

*"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)*