

From the Pastor

January seems to be a good time to talk about New Year's resolutions. I read this week that 44 percent of us make them even though our record of keeping them may not be great. Despite our track records, we tell ourselves this year, we will be different. What drives us to make resolutions? I believe it is a deep seated sense that we are not all we could be. We know we cannot be perfect, but we believe we can be better than we are at this moment. That is the knowledge that pushes athletes and musicians to practice harder, motivates mere mortals to exercise, encourages people to eat better and inspires us to take the actions and time to grow spiritually. Resolutions are good for us, body and soul even if our resolve is not as long lived as we hope.

My dictionary says that a resolution is a decree, decision or a promise. It is related to the word resolve which can mean tenacity, perseverance or steadfastness. Steadfastness is a word I always associate with God. I began to contemplate God's resolutions.

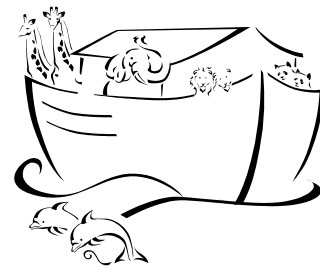
I opened an e-mail this week that read: "Based on a dream I had last night, I don't think this is a good time for me to be adding leadership responsibilities." The message struck me because the night before I had woke up with some ideas for this article. I hadn't wanted to go fire up the computer so I grabbed some paper and scratched down my inspirations so I could remember them in the morning. If I were prone to hyperbole, I would claim this article had been inspired by a dream. My midnight illuminations concerned times God had made resolutions. What troubled me the next day was that the first divine resolve on my nocturnal notes was "food."

Food? Food! Had I been inspired or merely having a Dagwood Bumstead moment? Just where had my unconscious self been taking me the night before? Perhaps my own ongoing love hate relationship with food had driven me to some subliminal message that food should be amongst my own resolutions this year.

Was I thinking of the prophets and their messages to share with the poor, or Jesus words in Matthew 25 about doing unto the least of his

brethren? But my notes were about God's resolutions. God began his resolves with creation. Genesis tells us that everything that is or was started with God's work of creation. The creation of human beings was the pinnacle or crowning achievement of that resolve.

One of the biggest resolutions God made was to Noah and his descendants. God had regretted the outcome of his first resolution and had sent a flood to destroy the earth. Noel! There was the answer. My note was not some nocturnal food related Freudian slip. In my half asleep scratches I had forgotten the "L" in flood.



God saved Noah and his family and a remnant of every living creature with them. After the flood God made a new promise. *"Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.'*" Genesis 9:11-13

God didn't stop there. A few chapters later God decides to bless all nations of the world through Abraham and his descendants. Later he promised David that he would establish his throne forever. God kept his word by sending his word to become one of us. *And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.* John 1:14 God's word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus is God's ultimate resolution, God's definitive word of hope for us. When God makes a resolution you can count on his steadfastness.

May this New Year find us steadfast in all our resolutions. Pastor Mindy