

Cherish Each Moment Daily

By the Rev. Mike Magee • December 27, 2008



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GETTING THERE

Where: Brentwood First Presbyterian Church, 1301 Franklin Rd., (.5 mile south of Concord Road) Brentwood, Tenn.

Phone: 615-377-6295

E-mail: church@brentwoodfirstpresbyterian.org

Web site: www.brentwoodfirstpresbyterian.org

Worship: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Special Services: Youth-led worship on Jan. 11 and 25; Jim McGinley's Grateful Blue Grass Band leads worship on Jan. 18.

God gives us the ability to time travel. God creates within us the ability to think outside of the current moment. So we travel, back in time with our memories, and forward in time with our dreams.

But sometimes time travel is not helpful, as when we revisit memories that propel us into destructive behavior, or when we can only dream of a dark future. How much of our time travel do we waste in bitterness and regret? How much of our time travel do we waste in dread and fear?

The beginning of a new year is the best time to think about time travel.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 12 reads, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die. ... Be happy and enjoy (your) self as long as (you) live."

The writer of Ecclesiastes will not let go of God's desire for us to flourish. He or she calls attention to the importance of living in the present tense.

We all have both memories and dreams we cherish, but when most of the dial settings in our personal time machines send us into dark places, it is time to step out of our time machines and live in the present.

When we step out of our time machines, we realize that every day of every New Year, and every moment of every new day is precious.

Happiness and pleasure are gifts from God and can be enjoyed whenever we find them, and with God's help, we can even make them happen for both us and for others. We may choose to worry about the past or future, or we may choose to enjoy the present as God's gift.

Time is too valuable for us to throw away. We can waste today traveling to a painful past, or a possible dark future, or we can enjoy today as a gift from God, using it in God's service for the betterment of humankind.

May your 2009 be a string of pearls of cherished memories and dreams, but also of cherished moments in the present.