

## Pastor's Pieces January, 2024

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." - Philippians 4:5,6

The New Year is upon us. 2024. And in this new year, we get an extra day: Leap Year Day, February 29. (It happens on a Thursday.) Will having 366 days to get our "to-do list" done have any impact on us? I wonder. It's a tradition for many to make "New Year's Resolutions" and perhaps you do. Are they the same resolutions you made last year? Or are they different? As a help in framing my own New Year's Resolutions, I've used the "Want to have – want to do – want to be" outline. It's not necessarily a comprehensive outline, but it does make goal-setting a bit more focused for me. I'd like to have a better organization to my paperwork (translate: organize the clutter in my office at home)! "To Do" goals should be specific: "Exercise more" should really be, "Begin walking one-quarter mile a day, and then increase." "To Be" can be the toughest: "Be more patient" could better be written, "Lift others up in love whenever I am tempted to be impatient." And so, it seems helpful to take St. Paul's words to heart. Turn the New Year's Resolutions over to Him Who is able to help. Let God know what is in your heart, on your mind. Ask The Lord's guidance as you think about plans and rely on it. Thank Him for all He has done for you. Thank Him for sending Jesus to conquer our sin, take away the sting of death, and banish the devil from our lives. Thanks be to God for His immeasurable gift! Thank you, people of First English, for letting me serve you!

Peace and joy be yours,

Pastor Lisa +