



Happy New Year!

January 2007

Unity of Fayetteville



Musings from the Minister

In the Beginning, God

Rev Jane Simmons

The month of January is traditionally one of new beginnings – a brand new year, 2007! What will this year bring? One of my instructors in ministerial school, used to be fond of saying, “Transition has three parts to it – the beginning, the middle and the end. It sounded pretty elementary to me, but, as I looked closer, I saw the truth of his statement. Ironically, the beginning of a transition occurs when there is an ending of some kind. If we look at the story of the Exodus, the Israelites’ transitional period began with the end of Egyptian bondage. For Unity of Fayetteville, change is in the air. At the end of February, Gary and I will be re-locating to the Kansas City area, and I will be saying goodbye to all of my friends here. It can be a poignant time of transformation and change, and that, as we know, doesn’t come about without some stretching and growing pains. Which brings us to the middle.

Sometimes this period of adjustment has a sort of “wandering mentality” to it and can be called The Wilderness Experience. It is a time of not knowing, as we step out into unfamiliar territory. It can also be a very rich phase of development and fruition. The Israelites, you may remember, wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, which metaphysically means, “as long as it takes.” And so, in this transitional process we can wander until we are ready to enter the third phase – the end.

The end, of course, brings us to a new beginning, the Promised Land. This year is filled with promise. Remaining open to God’s guidance during these times, we will be led step by step through the wilderness experience to the new creation that is Unity of Fayetteville. The Book of Genesis begins with the words, “In the beginning, God...” As we walk this journey, let us remember that God is there – in the beginning, through the middle and at the end.

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Looking forward to January Altars

- January 7 – Ashlee Shackleford
- January 14 – Renee Johnsen
- January 21 – Nancy Goliff
- January 28 – Brian Murray