January 5, 2015 - from sermon by Vicki Degner

“Time is not our enemy, nor is it a hostile place from which we must flee. It is a meeting place, a point of rendezvous with God. Time is a gift. To know time as gift is to know that its basic rhythms and inevitable passing are beyond our control. To know time as gift is to recognize time as the setting within which we also receive God’s other gifts.”

Receiving the Day - Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time, by Dorothy Bass

6 practices to help us learn to live time as a gift from God

1. Practice your own rhythm of silence and solitude with God.
2. Practice receiving the day by arising each morning and thanking God for the gift of a new day, new possibilities.
3. Keep a rhythm of weekly Sabbath time.
4. Practice praying the prayer of examen daily.
5. Pray over your calendar at the beginning of the day and invite God into it.
6. Read, learn more about, and begin to practice living into the Christian church calendar and accompanying lectionary scriptures.

Resources for learning more about the Christian Church Calendar and Lectionary

- Ancient-Future Time, by Robert E. Webber
- Living the Christian Year, by Bobby Gross
- The Liturgical Year, by Joan Chittister
- Epiphanyes - Stories for the Christian Year, edited by Eugene Peterson and Emilie Griffin
- A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants, by Rueben P. Job and Norman Shawchuck - This is a prayerbook with weekly lectionary scriptures and accompanying devotional readings on the theme of the week that many of the pastors and staff at Open Door are using.
- Lectionary Scripture Readings and explanation on how to read weekly, by Ruth Haley Barton. - http://www.transformingcenter.org/in/transforming-resources/lectionary-calendar.shtml
- The Revised Common Lectionary readings and accompanying calendar options. - http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/

“A secular calendar without a story is inadequate. It is hardly worth arriving at a place on the right day if we don’t know who we are when we get there, if we don’t know what to do. This civic calendar that we all live by tell us that time is, but it doesn’t tell us what time is for.”

Epiphanyes: Stories for the Christian Year, by Eugene Peterson