

January 5, 2018

Russell's Rittings....

As a young boy I remember mom and dad having to take inventory at the end of the year in our little store. Every can of peas, every bag of rice, every tin of aspirin, every apple and pear, every package of ice cream, every bottle of cola had to be counted. This was a part of preparing to pay the taxes for the year.

This is the beginning of the new year. In the words of an old pop philosopher it is a "new year that ain't ever been wrote on yet" (his grammar, not mine). Maybe we need to take spiritual inventory? Here are some good questions to ask ourselves:

1. Am I known as a Christian where I work?
2. Is Christ more loved or respected because of the way I live?
3. Do those who know me believe in me the most?
4. Do I criticize the church in front of my children?
5. Do people know me as one whose conversation is always negative?
6. Do I nurse revenge?
7. Do I find time for daily Bible study and prayer?
8. Can I work with other people? AND – can others work with ME?
9. Can I truly say I don't care who is second or third as long as Christ is first?
10. What can I do this year to make it better than last year?

At UMCE we ended 2017 with great momentum! We are on the grow in many ways. 2018 can be even better. I believe in you – that your best days are ahead, that you will maintain your growth posture, that your dreams can happen, that you will be faithful, and that in ten years you will be a flagship church in the Rocky Mountain Conference! I said the first Sunday I preached here five years ago that God wants you to lean forward, take the first step, and seize the future – not that YOU want – but that HE wants for you!

This Sunday is Holy Communion, the sermon is "Were You at the Baptism?" and the text is Mark 1: 9-11.

From the Heart,

Russell