

Time and the New Year

Ready or not, 2017 is ready to make its debut. I haven't quite figured out what happened to the year 2016. It seems such a blur of events and activities, compressed into a very short amount of time.

Time, of course, is the key word as New Year's Day approaches, and then launches us into the next calendar of days and months. We count down the hours and the seconds as the old year marches out and the new one arrives. We make resolutions to improve our health, our habits and our financial well-being, and to make better use of our time in what we hope will be a fresh, new beginning in pursuit of our goals.

One of the appropriate definitions of time is a measurement of change. Think about how true that assessment is. The journey between high school and college graduation exercises, for example, generally considered to be four years, represents a significant change in our educational maturity.

The period between a couple's wedding day and any anniversary reflects important changes in their lives and lifestyles. The tenure an associate has with Life Care or Century Park is filled with experiences and training, from point of hire to today, that make him or her more professionally, and personally, prepared to deliver valuable service to our residents.

Consider what has transpired between Jan. 1, 2016, and today, Dec. 29, 2016, in your own life. No doubt you can point to developments – some positive and some not – that hopefully have made you stronger and better equipped for what lies ahead. My prayer for you and whatever this span of time may have brought to you is that it has resulted in a closer walk with the Lord.

Here is the comforting – and sobering – assurance: Each one of us has the same amount of time: 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour, 24 hours in a day, seven days a week with which to work. The accomplishments, the happiness, the fulfillment in our lives come from how we spend those increments of time, whether productively or wastefully.

Time is a precious gift. One resolution we should have at the outset of 2017 is to use our allotment of it wisely.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; at time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter