



## New Year's Resolutions .... By Donna Godshall

It's January! Ready or not, the calendar has flipped to 2021.

As we ring in a new year, many of us will continue the tradition of making New Year's Resolutions. We evaluate. We take inventory. And then make resolutions around the places we see needs for improvement and growth. Resolutions to help us reach our goals:

*I should lose some weight... I will walk five days a week. I should "give back"... I will find a volunteer opportunity. I should have a healthier diet... I will drink less soda. I need a better work-life balance... I will leave the office by 6:00 pm every day. And the possibilities go on and on.*

For many years, I determined resolutions to start on January 1. And often they had already fallen apart by January 10. Usually, my good intentions were not enough to make the resolutions "stick." At some point, I wondered if it was even worth making them at all.

Why do we make New Year's resolutions in the first place? Is it because our human nature desires a sense of control? Do we have a picture of how we want our life to look and hope these "goals" will make that picture become reality? Is it possible we see these resolutions as steps to making our dreams and plans come to fruition?

Making resolutions as we enter a new year can be positive. They can be helpful in initiating good changes. But let's think about this — What if we lay down our preoccupation with the picture we have planned of our life? What if we loosed control over our dreams, over our future? And what if, instead, we opened our hands and asked God to show us what He desires to raise up in our life in this new year?

Is it possible we would find out God's plans are better than our dreams? Is it possible God's desires for us are sweeter and more satisfying than our own? Is it possible what God wants to accomplish in your life in this new year is more than you can plan or imagine?

*"God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it... by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us."  
Ephesians 3:20 (MSG)*

Your life is precious in the eyes of God! When that truth seeps into the innermost parts of your being, you can live in hope that something beyond your expectations can begin to happen in you.

It's a new year. Let's walk into it trusting that God's plans for us are bigger than our dreams. Let's anticipate the new things God's power will do within us... new things that are beyond what we can imagine!

# January 2021 |





# Making Connections

## Meet Sabrina Godshall:

I was born in a small town called Red Lake, in Ontario, Canada. My parents were originally from the Franconia area, but were missionaries for Impact North Ministries at the time. I have three brothers and one sister. We grew up near a lake and loved the outdoors and spending time together as a family. I have a lot of great memories of boating, fishing, swimming, skating, snowmobiling, and playing outside. I also remember flying or boating to various Indian reservations to hold Bible school, church services, and Bible studies.



When I was nine years old, we moved to Pennsylvania to be closer to our extended family after my grandfather passed away. It was a challenging transition for all of us, coming from a very different lifestyle and culture. However, a highlight for me was getting to know my relatives and growing up with my cousins who I have many wonderful memories with.

We started attending church here at Franconia, after we moved. I am so thankful for all the people I met here through the years that have made a profound impact on my life. Youth group and young adult group were an important part of my life as a teen and gave me many lifelong friends and memorable experiences that have influenced my life greatly, from going on service projects, to retreats, to canoe trips, and other fun adventures. I have always appreciated how much Franconia supports their youth and helps them to grow in their faith by providing them with loving and caring Christian role models and mentors.

After graduating from high school, I spent two summers as a camp counselor at Victory Bible Camp in Alaska. I truly loved my time there, being in the outdoors and appreciating God's beautiful creation, building relationships with other counselors and leaders, and being with the kids. It was hard to hear their stories of hardship and struggle at times, but it gave me a heart to work with kids and youth in the future. This led to my decision to go to college to become an elementary teacher. I taught at Salford Hills Elementary School for nine years and really enjoyed being a teacher there.

I met my husband, Troy, in high school. Although we went to the same church, we got to know each other during some classes at school. After several years of dating, we got married. Soon after that, we became MYF sponsors and then young adult sponsors. We thoroughly enjoyed building relationships with the youth and young adults of our church and we learned a lot from all the other leaders we got to work alongside of.

Our road to parenthood was much more difficult and challenging than we had ever anticipated. By the grace of God, we eventually welcomed three amazing children into our family, Trevor, Kayla, and Karli. We are so thankful to have them in our lives!

Throughout life, there have been many times when the future was uncertain and I continually had to learn to let go and fully surrender to God. He provided what I needed when I needed it, even if it looked different than I thought it would. He also brought people into my life along the way who have been such an encouragement and support through the hard times. One of my favorite verses is one that a dear friend shared with me during one of these times, and it has stuck with me whenever I face challenges: Deuteronomy 31:8 - The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged.



# What's Happening for Women

## *Bible Memorization/Meditation*

We're adding a new twist to our Bible memorization/meditation for 2021. We plan to provide an assortment of designed cards with meaningful verses. You can choose one and take it home for the month. It can be displayed in your car or window sill for you to meditate on or memorize. These cards will be in a basket on the Women's Ministry table. Please look for them in the coming weeks.



## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

will be starting up again in the new year! Beginning Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, we will again be meeting at Marilyn Halteman's at 7:00 PM and will meet every other week. Please join us!



Please note:

**BINGO**

Has been postponed-  
Stay tuned!

**MCC Project of the Month:**  
New bath-sized towels

## **Attention Mothers of Preschoolers:**



*Story Time with Miss Bronwen!*

Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>  
11:00am in the Church Library  
RSVP [4kids@franconiamennonite.org](mailto:4kids@franconiamennonite.org)  
Please enter at the main entrance to  
the auditorium

# January 2021 |

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT		
					1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10	11	Story time 11am Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	12	Sewing Circle 8am-4pm	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
31		Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm						

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