



From the Pastor's Study

The Best Laid Plans...

As we go into the New Year, it is common to look ahead at what we can expect and to reassess our plans for the future. As you do this, I just want to remind you – **something is going to go wrong with the plans that you will devise.**

That is certainly true of the wise men that come to visit the Christ child in the second chapter of Matthew. Things went so wrong that three men stopped to ask for directions! When in history, either before or after that time, has that ever happened?

What could drive these well-educated and apparently reasonable men to take such a radical step in their lives? The Christ Child! Epiphany, January 6, is the day we remember that the magi visited Jesus in Bethlehem. These wise men traveled far and wide for a chance to have an encounter with God. And when circumstances ruined the plans that they had made, they took the steps necessary to ensure that they would find God anyway.

Epiphany is that time of the Christian year in which we celebrate that encounters with God are still possible!

Just like the wise men, we go in search of God and in the midst of our journey we are faced with all manner of difficulties, difficulties that challenge us to give up the quest. **Never give up!** God is waiting in your life, waiting to be found, waiting to reveal his very self to you. If you surrender because the search becomes hard, then you will miss the epiphany—the encounter with God and the wondrous revelation that it will give to you.

Remember, the difficulties that you face in following your plans may just allow you to find the plans that God has for you.

I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

May God bless you in all your epiphanies,

Jim