

Happy New Year to the Saints of Mission Presbytery!

I think it's safe to say that we ALL had a "cool" New Year's Day. Some more than others - believe it or not, my youngest decided to go ahead and take part in the Polar Bear Plunge at Mo-Ranch! The Watsons are still recovering from the 23 or so degree weather that day, but kudos to Dick Powell and the Ranch staff for putting on a fun event in spite of the cold.

I've been reflecting on courage - maybe it's gumption, given my daughter's New Year's decision! - and leadership, and hope, and adventure - and a bunch of things as we turn the page into 2018. Which makes me turn once again to probably my favorite theologian, Stanley Hauerwas. (He's a Methodist, but can be forgiven that because he's a Texan!) I was introduced to his book *A Community of Character* in the mid-80s as a seminarian, and it's still one to which I turn again and again. This quote is worthy of posting on your refrigerator or your bathroom mirror:

Adventure requires courage to keep us faithful to the struggle, since by its very nature adventure means that the future is always in doubt. And just to the extent that the future is in doubt, hope is required, as there can be no adventure if we despair of our goal. Such hope does not necessarily take the form of excessive confidence; rather it involves the simple willingness to take the next step.

Wishing you, me, and all of us plenty of adventure, courage, and hope to take our next steps into 2018.

PRESBYTER SIGHTINGS

January 4 - Committee chair training and Leadership Team meeting

January 9-10 - Church Development and Evangelism retreat at Mo-Ranch

January 11 - several meetings in Austin

January 12-13 - Committee on Ministry retreat at Mo-Ranch

January 14 - "Joshua Build" at SA Northwood; installation of Brian Diebold as Pastor of SA Crossroads

January 17 - Disaster Preparation training with Liz Branch, PDA

January 18 - meet with Rio Grande Valley region for lunch

January 21-22 - Pensacola, meeting with Synod EPs for Presbytery Leader Formation

January 24 - meet with Mission, Outreach and Justice committee

January 29-31 - study leave, Midwinter Lectures at Austin Seminary