

New Years

By George Underhill

As *The Mirror* usually comes out during the first week of the month, you will probably be reading this in early February of 2015. This will be more than adequate time for your New Year's resolutions to have disappeared like ground fog on a hot summer day. This is particularly true if the resolutions were big ones. "I will exercise regularly. I will go on a diet. I will drink less." You know, the big ones.

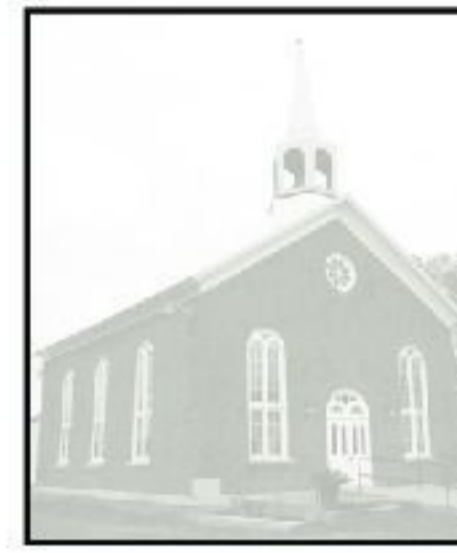
I avoid breaking resolutions by resolving little things. One year I resolved to stop putting sugar in my coffee. This is something a person can actually do, and today I still have my coffee without sugar. I confess that lately I've made no resolutions whatsoever. I guess I'm just that close to being perfect.

A friend of mine, just prior to Christmas, confessed that his gift to his wife would be for her to name something about him she would like him to change. He would comply, and that would be his gift. Not a bad idea, because when you get old you don't need anything. I asked, "What if she wants your legs not to be so skinny and chicken-like?" He said that wouldn't qualify. "What if she wants you to be more thoughtful and caring," I asked. He opined that would be tough to do but that he might give it a shot for a few hours. Not a great gift if he's going to put a time limit on it. "I'll be thoughtful for the next half hour, and by the way, I'm heading out to the liquor store."

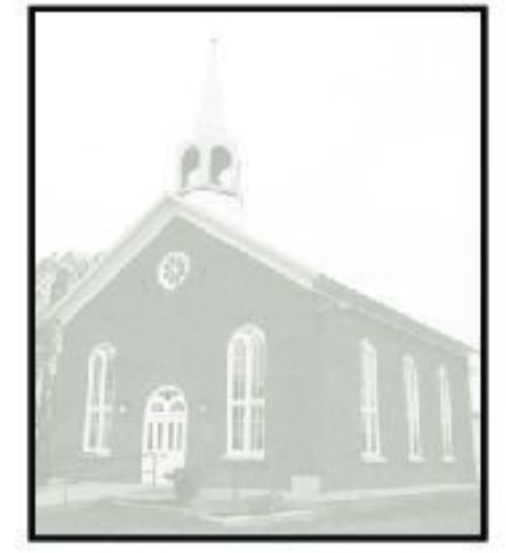
In the *Globe & Mail*, a group of authors was asked about their New Year's resolutions. What we got was a lot of self-serving blathering about their published or soon-to-be published works. "I will not read the critic's comments about my upcoming novel." What self-aggrandizing pap. They should do better than to retail their books. That's what publishers are for.

I have resolved for many years not to go to New Year's parties. This isn't difficult because, (1) I'm not invited to any and, (2) the only parties I dislike more are Halloween costume parties. I dislike New Year's parties because at midnight you are forced to hug and kiss, or to be hugged and kissed, by people you don't especially care for or even know. I once had to go to a Halloween party where my wife dressed as The Jolly Green Giant and I went as The Little Green Sprout. The only guy dumber was Billy Skinner who dressed as a TV set inside a cardboard box. He was unable to move his arms up to his mouth to eat or take a drink and people kept resting their drinks on the shoulders of his TV set. He couldn't eat, drink, or even dance. Hell of a party for Billy.

So, in summarizing the benefits of New Year's Resolutions, I quote from the philosopher and author Tara Brach, "Perfection is not a prerequisite for anything but pain." That summarizes the benefits of resolutions.



South Bay U.C.W.



U.C.W. met at South Bay United Church hall on Wednesday, January 14th at 1:30 p.m.

President Sandra began with U.C.W. purpose, theme hymn and the Lord's Prayer.

Alice's devotional, titled *The Man Called Jesus* was a synopsis of Jesus' life.

Seven members and one visitor answered roll call with a Christmas memory.

Maureen read the minutes of the last meeting with one change being made for the luncheon pertaining to the group Women Around Noon.

Twenty-five sick calls were made by the ladies.

After Joyce reviewed our finances for the group, a motion was made to give a donation to the Missionary and Service for 2014.

Collection was taken and dedicated.

The ladies made a list of the people who are to receive Valentine cards from U.C.W. for February.

Schedules were brought up to date till the end of April.

The meeting proper was closed with our U.C.W. prayer.

Sandra got us all busily making cards with needle felting which could be presented to anyone we wish to receive them.

Karen thanked Maureen and Carol for the delicious lunch that tickled out palates.

U.C.W. & Milford Friendship Circle Coming events:

Wednesday, February 11th – U.C.W. will meet at South Bay United Church hall at 12:00 noon for a pot luck lunch. Devotional: Brenda Minaker; Roll Call: wear red; Program: Alice Miller; Objective: collection to Heart and Stroke.

There will be no February meeting for the Friendship Circle. The March meeting will be held at Marg Crouse's new home on Thursday, March 5th.