Change

 It’s February of a new year. We’ve put away the holiday decorations. We’ve learned to write “2015” on our checks. We’ve started gathering receipts and paperwork for tax season. It’s just like it was last year, or maybe not.

 Most people will tell you that change is hard. For many, it is. I have been asked more than once if our church will be here in 20 years. I can’t answer that. But I have read what you’ve read, and I know what you know, which is that churches, especially mainline churches, must change in order to survive. The church you knew as a child is different than the church is today. Churches have changed before. They’ll change again. And God will be blessed.

 This year, several of your church committees have and are changing. Why? Because if we do it the same way, we won’t thrive. We may remain for a few years, but that’s not good enough for God. Because God deserves our trust, our faith, and our very best efforts.

*Mission* is now under the umbrella of the Outreach Committee. Theirs is the most visible and most energetic of all the committees, and our hope is that they will infuse their enthusiasm into a changing Mission field.

*Fellowship* will no longer simply provide food once a month. Instead, sometimes, we’ll go someplace together. We may go to a play. We may go to a movie. We may meet in homes, or we may meet out in the mission field. We’ll be together – in Christian fellowship!

*Communications* will be more visible electronically. The website will be updated even more; the FaceBook account will include pictures**……** of you! Get aboard!

*Christian Education* will be sharing their expertise with other congregations. We have passionate people who are engaged with the world, and we want to be in the lead.

*Building & Grounds* is planning face-lift changes in the Sanctuary. Three families have stepped up to cover the cost for these upgrades. You will be asked to contribute, too. Because we don’t want to just survive. We want to thrive!

 You’re welcome to join us. We’re making changes – *good* changes, because our congregation is alive, and when folks are alive, they’re moving. Just as God is always moving. The first day of change is challenging. The third day is *fun* and we intend to keep it that way. Our Lord invented laughter. Our Lord invented relationship. Our Lord will not be held back. Our Lord is alive, and alert, and moving, and changing. Praise be to our *glorious* Lord!

Candice

*“And the Lord changed the wind to a very strong west wind, which caught up the locusts and carried them into the Red Sea. Not a locust was left anywhere in Egypt.”* ‒ [Exodus 10:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+10:19&version=NIV)