**Time for New Beginnings**. . . . . . . . . . . Taylor Addison, Blue Mountain Arts, 1989

"This is a time for reflection as well as celebration.

As you look back on the past year and all that has taken place in your life,

Remember each experience for the good that has come of it  
and for the knowledge you have gained.

Remember the efforts you have made and the goals you have reached.

Remember the love you have shared and the happiness you have brought.

Remember the laughter, the joy, the hard work, and the tears.

And as you reflect on the past year, also be thinking of the new one to come.

Because most importantly, this is a time of new beginnings  
and the celebration of life."

**A New Year’s Prayer**. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Anonymous

**Dear Lord,** please give me…  
A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;  
A work to do which has real value,  
without which the world would be the poorer;  
A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;  
An understanding heart;  
A sense of humor;  
Time for quiet, silent meditation;  
A feeling of the presence of God;  
The patience to wait for the coming of these things,  
With the wisdom to recognize them when they come. Amen.

**A New Year’s Prayer**

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God’s love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.