

January Edition 2024

“Let’s go up in the attic, daddy” was not quite music to my ears from my seven-year-old daughter waking me approximately 6:30am on New Year’s Day. Happy New Year’s alright... Maybe I skipped over it in the Parenting 101 Book, but I was not prepared to begin the new year with such an adventure up in the dusty, hot attic. After sipping on my black cup of coffee and having a morning jog, I found myself kicking off 2024 by climbing an old,



not very sturdy wooden ladder up into the attic. While Mya was amazed of a few items (I’m still amazed I didn’t fall), I felt a bit sadden about the treasurers hidden upstairs. For one, it reminded me of numerous Christmas decorations that did not even cross our minds or had time to even think about setting up outside. Until I saw the decorations, I totally forgot about the large lighted up present that opens up with a dog, a Christmas Mickey and Minnie Mouse, an aluminum mailbox for letters to

Santa, and much, much more. Sure, there were beat up suitcases, a ten-year old double stroller, and a handful of random items that I suppose we will never touch again. Therefore, since I was still surprised I could pull myself up into the attic, shout out to Planet Fitness, I took down and set items to the curve to officially say good-bye.

Mya and I 2024 morning adventure reminded me that each new year we have the opportunity to do a bit cleaning ourselves. As we move forward there is always something that we might need to stop clinching our fist too tightly on or possibly even fully release. This can be something physically, emotionally, or spiritually. For some of us it’s time to let go of the resentment. Or, maybe others of us it’s time to forgive the person who wronged you or maybe to leave the past behind. No matter how enormous or minuscule it might be, taking time in the beginning of the year to reflect, name it, and release can lighten your burden. Just maybe this thing to let go of is something that was beneficial in the past, but now it’s no longer any help or even preventing you from living your best life right now. So let’s give it to Jesus.

Although most people will either have their Christmas decorations down or be ready to take them down since we are nearing Epiphany, thanks to Mya we brought Minnie down from the attic as we decided to be that courageous house on the street with a lit up Christmas Minnie for a few extra weeks. Besides just being “those” neighbors, we are doing so simply because it brings a smile to my daughter’s face. As we move forward in the year 2024, let’s prayerful ask God for the wisdom for what might need to be set to the curve and what we might need to hold on to. While we toss out what is not necessary and holds us down, I invite you to hold on tightly to what can carry you forward throughout the new year. Whether it’s reading a favorite devotional, praying before an important decision, or simply something that makes your heart smile in the evening. Maybe it’s holding onto a new memory from this past year that brought you much joy. As a known psychologist once wisely said in a seminar, “Only you can be responsible for your own joy.” So let’s take responsibility this upcoming year to let go of the unnecessary and loosely hold on to what is necessary, and be open to new adventures. Besides climbing attics- that is overrated. To use some of Apostle Paul’s words “what is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy- think about such things” (Philippians 4:8). Or, to paraphrase another Pauline Scripture, think and fill your life *with things above* that offer hope, love, and joy (Colossians 3:2)!

On a practical note, you can join Bob, FMCC property chair, and I as we give an old-fashion cleaning to some rooms this month. In the narthex, we want to clean out the two interior rooms, the sound room and room across from it. The two exterior rooms we will concentrate on are both the mechanical and electrical rooms as well as the shed in the back of the campus. If you are free on Tuesday, Jan.11, from 9am-12pm, you are welcome to join the fun or something like that! Blessings this new year as you toss out, embrace, and open yourself to new adventures that might be a doorway or at least a window for joy in 2024.



Prayers and Praise to God from December

(update) **Ray Schneider**, began hospice at home, Church Family
Gene Taylor, hip surgery at Gulf Coast Hospital, Church Family
Bill Garlow, upcoming stomach surgery on Jan.22, Church Family
Turner Owen, in the ICU needing both a kidney and heart, Shirley Fizer (friend)
(update) **Maggie Johnston**, advanced stages of lymphoma, Ron and Betty Johnston (daughter-in-law)
Rev. Ray Miles, medical issues, Church Family
Campbell Family, in the death of Sam Campbell (Zach's sister's father-in-law)
Ingee Stuart, back home after pace maker complications, Church Family
Clifford Holcomb, unexpectedly died at age 51, Rita (nephew)
Benik Minasyan, prostate cancer, Asya (father)
Dorothy Gill, brain cancer, Steve Weaver (brother-in law's mother)
Megan Beaty, breast cancer, Leon and Mary Ann (granddaughter)
Roy Dalrymple, aggressive bladder cancer, Church Family
John Battazzo, good 6 month follow-up at Moffitt, Church Family
Dean Brown, successful cataract surgeries on both eyes, Church Family
Lori Summers, diagnosed with breast cancer, Church Family/Former bookkeeper
Sallie Eblin, was in ICU with kidneys failure, Shirley Fizer (best friend)
Donna, beginning clinical trial in Nashville for cancer, Gail Baumgarten (friend)
Mike's Family, wife diagnosed with aggressive cancer at age 50, Zach (friend)

Outreach Corner

The holidays are over and I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year, now onto bigger and better things.

We are well into the month of January and we will take a break this month after all the festivities of December. Let's look at February! February 14 is Valentine's Day and we are tentatively planning to have a fun cookout and celebrate the day with our loved ones. I will have more information by the end of the month. Also, in February there is Super Bowl Sunday. In the past we have collected food for the Gladiolus Food Pantry, and had a contest between the two football teams to see who can bring the most food. Since at this point we don't know who's actually playing, we will begin the contest with the AFC versus the NFC. Remember to bring non-perishable items and put them in the narthex. There will be two bins labeled for each side. Looking towards the future, I hope to get back to planning a potluck dinner at least every other month .

I hope everyone has a very happy 2024.-Linda Lee, outreach chair

A Special Christmas!

Christmas Eve we had two meaningful worship services utilizing both the sanctuary as well as fellowship hall. We welcomed back members of the Cusack Family Susan, Meghan, and Liam as well as Grace Anderson was back with us from MIT. Additionally, Steve, Harry, Addison, and Colton participated in either the morning or evening worship. At the conclusion of Christmas Eve worship service in the fellowship hall, we walked into the sanctuary to sing "Silent Night." Indeed, it was a special Christmas!



Grace Anderson joined us both on Christmas Eve as well as New Year's Eve!

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Name Missing? Email the office.)

Steve Weaver	13 th
Scott Hamm	17 th
Steve Larson	20 th
Millie Dalrymple	21 st
Roy Dalrymple	23 rd
Roy and Millie Dalrymple	24 th