

Simple JOY

JANUARY 2019

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 1



Snow Angels



2020

— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

Hello Joy! Happy New Year 2020!

It is my prayer that you have a blessed and wonderful 2020! What we have learned recently is that contentment is the source for a thankful heart. A thankful heart changes our attitudes and the outcome is a life filled with joy! Who doesn't desire joy? In fact, we are commanded to "Rejoice in the Lord always!" Let's work on that together through the power of the Holy Spirit!

For this year we do have some plans that I pray are the Lord's plans and not ours. These are goals that I would ask you to pray about in your personal prayer life. They are the following:

- Continue *The Story* January 12th with small groups once again beginning the following week. If you have not been involved, please plan to a part of a small group.
- Begin a Spanish speaking ministry under the leadership of Pastor Antonio Mercado. We are looking to begin by Easter.



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

"Happy 2020"

SNOW ANGELS

The cast of children who took part in the Cantata, *"Go Sing it on the Mountain"*, were very surprised when it starting "snowing" on them and the manger scene near the end of the program. Snow machines sent millions of tiny "snowflakes" in the air and, like real snow, settled on everything and everyone nearby. The picture on the front cover inspired the title, "Snow Angels", because those children were part of the cast of angels who had come to worship the baby, Jesus. The Cantata was wonderful, and the unique songs sung by the choir kept going through many people's minds over and over again. Thanks to all who took part volunteering their time and skills. Speaking as one of the narrators, I especially want to thank Sharon Bohot whose task of rounding us up for practice was akin to trying to round up a flock of flying birds! Hardly ever were the narrators at one place at the same time. However, somehow they all landed together in their seats the night of the Cantata, and pulled it off. Thanks to you, Sharon.

TWO BAPTISMS

Not one, but two baptisms took place a week apart at Joy in Decem-

- Begin a "Mother's Day Out" program to meet the needs of our community and reach more children and families for Christ.
- Continue to improve our outreach to our children and families with the possibility of hiring a part-time Director of Children's Education (DCE).
- Be prepared to add a second service Sunday early morning (English speaking), and a third that will be Spanish speaking (either Sunday afternoon or Saturday night).

These are lofty goals, yet I believe they are obtainable! When Mary was told that she would be pregnant with the Christ-child, even though she was a virgin, she asked the angel, "How can this be?" The angel responded, "Nothing is impossible with God!"

Do you believe that? Together we go forward in faith! May God bless each of you!

Pastor Mark

ber 2019! Astonishing because the church grew suddenly by two babies who are close to the same age, might be in the same grade going through school, and may end up being good friends. See their pictures and information on page 5. Congratulations Leo and Gabriel!

PRAYER MINISTRY

Speaking of Sharon Bohot again, her Prayer Ministry column addresses hindrances when we pray. For example, are we unforgiving to others or do we ignore our own sins? Does doing those things hamper our prayers? Find out on page 4.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

It's time for the Chinese New Year - the year of the Rat ,2020. If you've never been to one, it's time to go. You won't be sorry! Read Kathi Haw's invitation to Joy on page 7.

POP TABS 2019

All the little aluminum pop tabs that many of us bagged up and brought to church added up for the 2019 collection. You'll be surprised to see how much they weighed and how much they were worth. Read Karen Hope's report about the successful drive on page 8!

And now, I pray this issue will be informative, spark your curiosity, and make its way into the hands of people you care about. Until next month...

Barbara Ogden, Editor

If any of you, our readers, wish to contribute submissions to our newsletters, please contact me at angelcare4u@sbcglobal.net or 281-452-7435.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA 2019



The Nativity scene came alive with the cast of children and choir at Joy on December 15, 2019.



The narrators spoke parts detailing the Christmas story while Pastor Mark and the choir followed with songs that told it with music. The children, portraying different characters, silently acted the stories out.

Below, Mary & Joseph welcome baby Jesus.



The baby "cows" at the manger



Let it snow,
Let it snow,

**LET IT
SNOW!**



Tuesday, December 7, 2019

5 - 7 pm - Fellowship Hall

Come, Pray with Us and Touch the Heart of God

Intercessory Prayer Ministry



HINDRANCES TO ANSWERED PRAYER

The Lord delights to give us what we ask of Him in prayer. Like David, we should all cry, "O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth." (Psalm 54:2)

The Lord is the one who tells us we can have confidence that our prayers ascend to Him. "And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him." (1 John 5:14,15) However, there are times when God chooses not to answer our request. When we are not right with God, we can hinder our prayers and not necessarily be aware of it.

Wrong or Selfish Motives

We can ask for anything and believe we have received it, and still we won't be able to receive it if we ask with the wrong motives! James 4:3 states, "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures." If we want our prayers answered, we must ask according to His will as revealed in the Bible. We must ask for things consistent with the character and nature of God. We ask for our daily bread, forgiveness of sins, deliverance, blessing and things for spiritual benefit for ourselves and for the person on whose behalf we pray.

Turning Away from Scripture

We need to be in the Word daily—immersing ourselves in scripture—that we may know what God's will is and what it is not. Psalm 1 tells us to delight in the law and meditate on it day and night.

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.

If we ignore the Word, it may hinder us from having our prayers answered. Solomon suggests that prayers made from such a hardened heart are an abomination to God. "If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination to God." (Proverbs 28:9). When we pray, God likes us to use scriptural promises in our prayers to show that we are praying in His will. We pray best and most effectively when we are saturated in the Word of God.

Unforgiveness

In Mark 11:25-26 Jesus says, "And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses." Our assurance of pardon before the Father is dependent on our willingness to forgive others. If we have an attitude of unforgiveness, we can expect our prayers to be hindered.

Unconfessed Sin

Just as unforgiveness can hinder our prayers, so can sin in our lives that we have refused to confess before God. "If I have cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." (Psalm 66:18) Before we conclude that God has not heard our prayer or that His will is not to give us what we ask, we need to ask God to reveal any unconfessed sin to us. We need to continually examine our hearts to see if unconfessed sin stands as a barrier between ourselves and God.

Unbelief or Doubt

Jesus tells us that if we ask in His name and believe that we will receive it, then the request will be granted. Our unbelief or doubt stops our prayers from being answered. So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." (Matthew 21:21-22)

Family Discord

It is God's will that there be peace and harmony within the family. As the father is the head of the family, it is his responsibility to ensure that there is not discord within the family. The relationship between a husband and his wife is to reflect that of Christ to His church. This is impossible when the relationship is strained. The apostle Peter, a married man, wrote that husbands should live with their wives in an understanding way, "showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." (1 Peter 3:7). Therefore a man should examine his relationship with his wife to ensure it is not a hindrance to his prayers (and to hers.)

Conclusion

It is God's desire that we persist in our petitions before Him. But when we pray and do not receive our requests, we need to examine our hearts and ask why our prayers are being hindered. Have we turned away from God? Do we doubt when we pray, being double-minded? Do we harbor unforgiveness in our hearts or ignore sin in our lives? Or have we allowed discord to become entrenched in our families? Examining our hearts and asking these questions can lead us back to communion with the Lord.

Sharon Marion-Bohot, Prayer Ministry Director (281) 300-0348

Resources:

"5 things that will stop your prayers from being answered," Jay Freeman, Oct. 28, 2017

"Six Ways to Inhibit Prayer," Tim Challies, May 23 2008

Baptisms

Leo Mason Maier

On Sunday, December 22, 2019, little Leo Mason Maier was baptized by Pastor Mark Brunette during worship service. As the congregation, family, and sponsors watched, Leo was washed anew by Christ's living water which casts away original sin from all those who believe in His name. Leo began his Christian journey at that moment. Our prayers are with his family and friends to help him pursue a life filled with Christ's love and forgiveness.



At the left in the picture are sponsors, Kimberly Cannon and Christine Lanberg. To the right of them is Pastor Mark leading a prayer for Leo who is held by his father, Aaron Maier. Jennifer, Leo's mom, and her daughter, Kaitlyne Sevilla, pray along with Pastor and the congregation. Elder Justin Lutz stands at the back.

Gabriel Robert Aguilar

On Sunday, December 29, 2019, Gabriel Robert Aguilar was baptized by Pastor Mark Brunette. Held by his father, Robert, at the baptismal font, Gabriel was washed anew by Christ's living water. Gabriel's mother, Ashley, lovingly witnessed the spiritual renewing of her baby boy. Head elder Mark Eichberger watched from behind them all.



After the baptism, family members gathered for a picture. From the left are Amber with her mother, Lori Fillbrandt. Robert Aguilar and son, Gabriel, and his mother, Ashley. Next to Ashley is her mother, Judy Melin. May Gabriel's family help him embark on his journey as a loving follower of Christ and support him as he moves forward through life.

Altar Guild

We Need you!!!!

There are exciting things happening at JOY Lutheran these days!! We love everyone who comes to worship with us! An important part of that worship is *Holy Communion*. Our need for volunteers to support the Altar Guild has grown as our church continues to grow and prosper.

Communion is served every 1st and 3rd Sunday, and our ministry supports the set up and clean up before and after service. **Service is easy!!!** It only takes 20-30 minutes of your time, and the more volunteers we have, the less often any one person has to work. Currently, we are rotating with 6 volunteers so we generally serve once every 4-6 weeks. Individuals or couples are welcome! We would love to have you be a part of this important Ministry!! Please see **Mark Eichberger** or **Kathy Hayman** if you are interested.

Kathy Hayman



THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.



"The STORY!"

Starting the Week of January 12!

Starting the week of January 12, JOY will continue the church wide study of *The Story*, a book of God's pursuit of a relationship with man.

This study is different from the HOLY BIBLE account because it is written in chronological order from Genesis to Revelation (also very simple to read).

Besides the sermons each Sunday, small groups are meeting during the week. It is never too late to get into a group and get immersed in the story of God's love for you!



Below is a listing of the current small groups. If you see a group with a time that is convenient for you, call the leader and get information about the group.

- Pastor Mark & Michelle - Wednesdays, 7 pm - 832-233-1098
- Betty & Curtis Copaus - Crosby/Dayton area - Wed. 6:30 pm 281-328-9769
- Mark & Donna Eichberger - Summerwood - Wed. 10 am - 281-225-5000
- Rich & Erin Farina - Kingwood/Porter - Wed. 7 pm - 832-741-4969
- Ben & Sandy Herr - The Grove (W Lake Houston area) - After church on Sunday w/lunch - 512-633-0240
- Carl Mattern - Channelview - Thursdays - 6 pm - 713-453-5813

BEFORE SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE IN BIBLE CLASS - 9 am

- Mark Eichberger - Fellowship Hall
- Donna Eichberger (Ladies only) - Sunday School Room

Call 281-225-5000 for information



The BROKEN Necklace

By Ishalyn Ballard



My children's faith in God amazes me every day! My 11 year old bought this necklace from the fair with his own money. One morning about a month later he hands it to me broken. He said that one day it was bent so he straightened it, and then the cycle repeated several times over the following days until it finally broke.

I thought he'd be upset. But instead he says, "Momma, we're a lot like that cross. We can bend and break and pull away from Jesus. But Jesus is like that wire and he's going to hang on to us!"

His words took my breath away! I told him I believed that he took the EXACT message that God intended from that broken necklace. And I thanked him for sharing it with me because that's what God wants us to do. We never know when or how God is going to use us to spread his word, therefore we always need to be willing to share it. That message is exactly what I needed to hear that morning! Thank you God for my children's faith, and I pray it strengthens with each passing day!



(Submitted by Evelyn Hale)



January's Very Special Days

BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 Mike Coon
- 1/2 Vickie Wadzeck
- 1/6 Charlotte Eggert
- 1/10 Cheryl Moerbe
- 1/10 Carol Peterson
- 1/17 Marshall Lawrence
- 1/18 Roger Morken
- 1/20 Shelby Vierling
- 1/22 Peggy Kaiser
- 1/24 Christian McElroy
- 1/25 Dayne Farina

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/4 Ray & Barbara Ogden
- 1/6 Jason & Kristi Carpenter
- 1/14 Bobby & Kaye Reichle
- 1/31 Jesse Lee & Sudie Mask

NOTE:

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please email Kathy Sommers at joylutheran44ks@gmail.com or call her at 832-850-5070, and she will gladly add your special days to Joy's database.



A Prayer For Growing Old Gracefully

Lord, You know better than I myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful

but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all; but You know, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains; they are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cock-sureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet, for a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people; and give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen.

The author is unknown, but very wise.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 18:2

It is my sincere wish that everyone has had a joyous Christmas Season and a Happy New Year. As we have a true adventure awaiting us in 2020.

Roy McDonald



DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY - JAN 2020



It's time to start planning a second session of FPU for next year here at Joy. The class teaches God's way of handling money and covers everything from budgeting, investing, insurance, real estate, and giving. Come learn to live like no one else so that later you can live and give like no one else.

The personal finance classes will run for 9 weeks beginning January 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

If you're interested in attending, sponsoring someone, or willing to volunteer (we'll need babysitters during class), please contact Dan Vierling at 281-733-9945 or vierlind@yahoo.com

Chinese New Year



I hope you will join us as we celebrate the Chinese New Year - the year of the "RAT".

You may be asking "what is this all about", well.... JOY has done an annual celebration - this year marks the **10th annual celebration!!** (It seems the actual Christmas/new year period is just so busy).

Did you know that part of our mission statement is "Connecting"? This is a time for members of JOY, (adults only, as alcohol is served), your neighbors and friends to get together and connect with each other, and see God work in our JOY family, outside of the Sunday church service. It's a time of great food, fun and fellowship.

Mark your calendars and join us on January 25th in the JOY fellowship hall. **Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm.** Feel free to come a little early and enjoy some fellowship and Kathi's "famous eggnog".

We will enjoy a catered Chinese dinner (that's why we need you to sign up so we know how much food to order - and if you sign up and are unable to attend please let me know). We will also celebrate with a gift exchange - this can be a "white elephant" gift or something a little nicer. It's a fun time to see who will really end the night with the gift they started with.

There is a sign up sheet on the welcome table. If you want to participate in the gift exchange please bring a gift (\$15.00 limit) for each person that wants to play.

Feel free to call Kathi at 281-458-0091 or email kjhawn@hotmail.com for questions or to RSVP. Hope you'll join us as we celebrate the year of the rat.



Kathi Hawn

Family Promise of Lake Houston



Family Promise of Lake Houston realized their four year in-the-making dream of breaking ground on Promise House. With your support, families will receive one-on-one counseling. Their goal is to provide each family with higher education/training to move them toward financial independence. Promise House is located behind Jack in the Box off FM 1960 in Humble.

Lola Wilbur



At the left is a picture of the ground breaking ceremony where Promise House will be built. A lot of smiling faces made the 4-year dream worthwhile.

Above, an artist's rendition of the future building can be seen on the sign posted on the property. May God bless the people and families who will pass through Promise House upon its completion.

POP TABS AT Joy IN 2019

I took the collection of Joy Lutheran's Church POP TABS that Joy collected for the Ronald McDonald Houses of Houston Charities on Monday, December 16th, 2019 to Elephant Recycling Plant, and we got 35 cents per pound instead of the "expected" 30 cents per pound. We had collected 48 pounds of POP TABS this year which equated to \$216.80. These funds will be used at Ronald McDonald House which needs \$25.00 a day to support one family.



I enjoyed my visit at the recycling plant. It takes 5 seconds to grind a car. It takes years and years for the grinding blades to wear out. They said they get most of their cars at auctions. They do a huge business. It was very muddy out there. Everyone was in waders and everyone was very, very nice.

On December 18, 2019, Laura Kaune and I presented the \$216.80 cashier check to Ronald McDonald's House. Thanks to all of you who took the time to "pop the tabs", bag them and bring them to church! You made a difference to families in crisis.

Karen L. Hope
karenhopemadrid@yahoo.com



Laura Kaune, left, and Karen Hope, right, present the cashier's check for \$216.80 to a Ronald McDonald House representative.

		53093964 12/16/2019 004 80 Uvalde (004) DGalvez
Purchaser: KAREN LYNN HOPE Memo: JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH		35-846 1130
PAY Two Hundred Sixteen dollars and Eighty cents *****		
TO THE ORDER OF RONALD MCDONALD'S HOUSE HOLCOMBE BLVD.		*\$216.80*

PAPA'S GARDEN

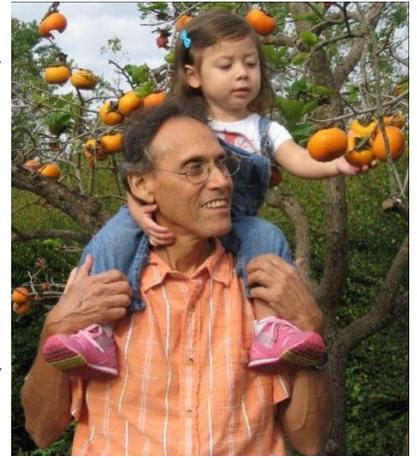
Good news, Papa's Gardeners! If you want to increase your gardening knowledge, look to the left of this page. Urban Harvest has classes and events coming up for early 2020 that will enrich you, your soil, and your plants. The dates of the classes are listed for you. To visit Urban Harvest's website, go to urbanharvest.org/events/ where more details are listed.

If you would like to add a fruit tree to your backyard, click on the "Fruit Tree Sale" button at the top of the web page. What's great about this sale and the variety of fruit trees available is stated on their page:

"Our annual Fruit Tree Sale features a large variety of fruit trees that are suited to the climate and soils of the greater Houston area. With over 4,000 fruit trees, this is the largest one-day fruit tree sale in the country!"

You can click on "Varieties and Pricing" to see a chart of all the trees, their size, and how much they cost. What's great about the event is you can talk with some of the master gardeners and volunteers about the trees and their care! I learned so much doing that! You can also reach Urban Harvest by calling this number: **713.880.5540**

Urban Harvest reaches all ages. Children learn about growing sustainable food by helping establish gardens at their schools. Neighborhood community gardens draw volunteers from the people living near them. The families are exposed to methods to improve and sustain a living garden and enjoy working in the soil, meeting their neighbors, and sharing the produce.



ABOUT URBAN HARVEST

Founded in 1994, Urban Harvest has garnered a well-deserved reputation as a leader in the local food movement by adhering to clear and simple values and a focused mission.

Over 30 years ago, two Fourth Ward activists, Deacon Malcolm McLemore and Deacon Jean Cameron, started a community garden in their neighborhood along with Dr. Bob Randall, one of the founders of Urban Harvest.

Their garden grew and grew. The simple act of growing food brought neighbors together to share recipes and seeds, to solve problems about crime and blight, and to eat and celebrate together.

The seed that was planted by the success of this garden led to the creation of Urban Harvest seven years later. Since 1994, Urban Harvest has cultivated communities of gardeners, educators, farmers and neighbors to launch thriving gardens and farmers markets. These communal places improve mental well-being by providing a place to de-stress, meditate, and be productive in nature.

65 gardens are in food deserts, and 25 donation gardens provide nutritious produce to shelters, food pantries, corner stores, and meal centers.

In the United States, food now travels between 1,500 and 2,500 miles from farm to table; Houston community gardens offer a local source of fresh fruits and vegetables, and reduce the local food system's carbon footprint.

Barbara Ogden, a Papa Gardener



Urban Harvest

NEW YEAR, NEW CLASSES

2020 IS THE YEAR TO STEP UP YOUR
GARDENING GAME!

"DIG IN" TO OUR UPCOMING CLASSES AND
SNAG A SPOT ON OUR FRESH, NEW LINEUP.



SAVE THE DATES

GROWING ORGANIC VEGETABLES: 1/9

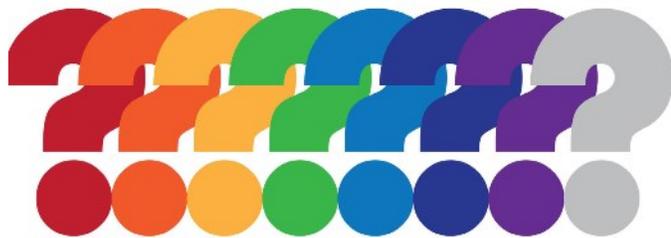
FRUIT TREE TRAINING AND PRUNING: 1/11

PERMACULTURE - SUSTAINABLE
LIVING 1 & 2: 1/19 & 1/27



20TH ANNUAL FRUIT TREE SALE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH FROM 9AM-1PM
SAWYER YARDS // 2101 WINTER ST



Did You Know?

There have been many articles written and information about chewing an aspirin in the event of a heart attack over the years. I am sure most of you know this information. It is "old hat," but I hope this is a good reminder. I had the opportunity to assist one of our members in this situation a number of years ago and the action taken was successful. I have done this, and it is not a pleasant taste, but I would rather take this action rather than experience the consequences. I even carry an aspirin in my purse.

SO, in the event of a heart attack, chew a regular strength (325 mgm), non-coated aspirin before swallowing it with a glass of water. According to the Harvard Medical School, breaking down the pill in your mouth causes the aspirin to work faster in the body. One study found that the chewed aspirin took just five (5) minutes to start working, while swallowing a whole aspirin took twelve (12) minutes. That time difference is a "life saver."

SOURCE: "BETTER HEALTH," CONCORDIA PLAN SERVICES, Fall 2019

(Submitted by Karen Hope)



We live in an age of almost instant communication. You can pick up your smartphone and call (or text, or private message, or Skype, or FaceTime) almost anyone in the developed world almost instantly. Social media allows us to easily keep in touch with far-flung family and "friends." You'd think that we would all find intimacy in connecting with so many people, and loneliness would be the last problem on our minds.

Unfortunately, that's not the case. In July of 2018, *Psychology Today* opined "In the last 50 years, rates of loneliness have doubled in the United States. In a survey of over 20,000 American adults, it was found that almost half of respondents reported feeling alone, left out, and isolated. Further, one in four Americans shared that they rarely feel understood, and one in five people believe they rarely or never feel close to people." It seems technology and our culture have betrayed us. We talk, but we don't connect. Social media seems to amplify our isolation, and encourages us to create an inauthentic digital version of ourselves.

None of us can be an island unto ourselves and expect to remain psychologically healthy. None of us has all the talents and skills necessary to tackle the demands that life brings. God didn't design us to tackle life alone. Scripture is replete with examples and commands that encourage us to be in fellowship with one other, to bring our skills and gifts to the table, and to learn to depend upon the skills and gifts that He gave to others.

Simply put, our Creator designed us to depend on each other—and face to face might just do it.

(Submitted by Karen Hope)



New Year's Resolution for those over 60:

EXERCISE!

This exercise is suggested for 'seniors', to build muscle strength in the arms and shoulders. It is suggested to do it three days a week.

1. Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room.
2. With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there for as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.
3. Each day, you will find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.
4. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags, and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight out for more than a full minute. (*I'm at this level*)
5. After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.



AniMeals on Wheels donations are going strong at Joy, but we could up it a little in the new year. Bags of dry pet food and/or cans of wet food are just what Interfaith Ministries needs for the senior Meals on Wheels pet owners to be able to take care of their pets, which may just be the closest "friend" of theirs - always there to comfort them, keep them smiling, and give them a sense of purpose each day.

So, please help Mary Brown, Joy's aniMeals advocate, to bring some joy to these loving pet owners each month by placing your donations on the Ministry rack in the lobby. Mary hand-delivers the food, blankets, toys, treats, etc. right to them. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, she would be glad to answer your questions. You can also visit Interfaith Ministries of Houston online to see what they do, including aniMeals on Wheels. Thank you for all your support!

Mary Brown

Reflective Thoughts for 2020 and Beyond

If there is light in the soul,
There will be beauty in the person.
If there is beauty in the person,
There will be harmony in the house.
If there is harmony in the house,
There will be order in the nation.
If there is order in the nation,
There will be peace in the world.

Chinese Proverb

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead, American Anthropologist

It is not the critic who counts;
not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled
or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.
The credit belongs to the man
who is actually in the arena,
whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood;
who strives valiantly;
who errs and comes short again and again;
who knows great enthusiasms,
the great devotions;
who spends himself in a worthy cause;
who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement,
and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while
DARING GREATLY
so that his place shall never be
with those timid souls
who know neither victory or defeat.

Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the U.S.

At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done.

We will be judged by 'I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was naked and you clothed me, I was homeless and you took me in.'

Hungry not only for bread -- but hungry for love. Naked not only for clothing -- but naked for human dignity and respect. Homeless not only for want of a room of bricks -- but homeless because of rejection.

*Mother Teresa, Catholic Missionary,
Nobel Peace Prize recipient*

In Germany they came first for the Communists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.
Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.
Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.
Then they came for me,
and by that time no one was left to speak up.

*Martin Niemoeller (1892-1984)
German Protestant Clergyman*

A native American grandfather was talking to his grandson about how he felt. He said 'I feel as if I have two wolves fighting in my heart. One wolf is the vengeful, angry, violent one. The other wolf is the loving, compassionate one.' The grandson asked him, 'Which wolf will win the fight in your heart?' The grandfather answered: 'The one I feed.'

Native American Story

The Wise Woman's Stone

A wise woman who was traveling in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream. The next day she met another traveler who was hungry, and the wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveler saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him. She did so without hesitation. The traveler left, rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime. But a few days later he came back to return the stone to the wise woman.

"I've been thinking," he said, "I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone."

Author Unknown

How far you go in life depends on you being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.

*George Washington Carver
American Educator, Scientist*





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WELCOME TO JOY!

Adult Bible Study @ 9:15am
Connecting Class @ 9:15 am
Confirmation @ 9:15am
Sunday School @ 9:15am
Women's Bible Study @ 9:00am
Worship Service @ 10:30am

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