

Views from the Top

The Cloudhaven Chronicle

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Dear friends...

This has been the wettest spring and summer we've seen in all our years on the mountain. So, the fire danger is down (despite much lightning,) but the weeds are up! Providentially, we've had some help with weed abatement and gathering firewood for the winter.



Grif mows with a little help from dad, Jason Tate

First, Las Tierras Community Church scheduled a work day at Cloudhaven but got rained out. They're hoping to come back this fall. Then Westminster Presbyterian came in force and knocked down more than two acres of heavy weeds. Our friends at First Baptist, Cloudcroft, blessed us with three cords of seasoned firewood rounds. We then purchased two more cords of split wood, so with all this we should be set for the winter!



Pastor Larry Evans, Jim Folan and Neil Hooten

Ministry updates

Among those who came since the last newsletter were Pastor Shelby and Colleen Moon from Westminster Pres. in Alamogordo. They were just blessed with their ninth child, Penelope Chapin

Moon, born at home on August 6th. Since the midwife didn't get there in time, Shelby did delivery duty. All are doing fine and are praising the Author of Life for his provision.



Pastor Shelby and Colleen Moon

We were blessed to host the Castleberry family from El Paso. Curtis is an intern with the Hispanic Leadership Initiative under the mentorship of Pastor Manuel Padilla at Las Tierras Community Church. He is working toward licensure and ordination in the PCA. We were blessed to spend a little time getting to know Curtis and Marian, J.J. and Levi. Jim was also invited to preach at Las Tierras this summer—always a special treat for the Baileys.



Curtis, J.J. and Levi Castleberry

Christmas at Cloudhaven

Please mark your calendar and plan to come to our 13th annual family candlelight service of...

Lessons & Carols

Saturday, Dec. 5th, 6:30 PM

Speaking of the Hispanic Leadership Initiative, Executive Director Gene and LuAnn Bowman from El Paso joined us for the third year in celebrating Independence Day at Cloudhaven. We all went down the mountain to the New Mexico Museum of Space History for a fun family tailgate picnic followed by a world-class fireworks display. Amidst the culture wars in all their sometimes frustrating aspects, we're thankful to live in a country where freedom to worship the true God still survives.

This month, members of the Anglican ROC Committee blessed us yet again with their prayers and presence as they worked with Pastor Fred and Nancy Griffin at the Church of the Epiphany in Cloudcroft. They are hard at work building a strongly evangelical diocese here in the Southwest.

We were also glad to host Elizabeth Padilla and Lindsey Stum. Lizzy is Pastor Padilla's daughter and is currently pursuing nursing at Texas Tech in Lubbock. Lindsey has begun teaching Spanish in the El Paso school system. Our sometimes dog, Baylee, is showing her age these days (like us,) but was happy to spend a day hiking with Lizzy and Lindsey.

As we were putting this issue of the Chronicle to bed, Susan Picket came to stay while working with a Walk to Emmaus held at the Sacramento Methodist Assembly up here in Weed, NM. Her husband Rev. John is on our

(over)



The Cloudhaven Board: Will, Jim, John, Katy, Mike, Tito and Rick

Cloudhaven Board. You may remember these guys. They are a great encouragement and source of wisdom for us...



Lizzy Padilla, Baylee and Lindsey Stum

Tell ya what...

In May, Katy and Jim went back East to catch up with Katy's son Matt and daughter Alesia and her husband



Alesia and Jerry Booth

Jerry Booth of Germantown, Maryland. While we were there, Alesia was diagnosed with breast cancer. She has since had a mastectomy and is undergoing chemotherapy. We think all is going well, but Katy is going back in September to give Jerry some relief as caregiver. We greatly appreciate your prayers for Alesia. She jokes that she

looks more like Jerry every day...

From Maryland, we went to Oriskany, NY, to spend some time with Jim's brother John and Wanda, and nephew Brad and Lindsey. It was great to see them all since it's getting harder to get together across the country. They're very active in church and praising God for all his blessings.

Then in June, we travelled to California for Jim's son Tim's graduation from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, CA. Tim went back to school for a master's degree in public policy. He is currently busy starting his own company which applies his law enforcement experience to environmental security coupled with public policy research—perhaps in regard to California's current water crisis.

Summer visitors to Cloudhaven often marvel at the hummingbirds that flock outside our kitchen windows. They got off to a slow start this year due to our trips away during which their feeders were unfilled. But now we have dozens at a time vying for the sugar water. We have two feeders each with 28 oz. capacity that they empty twice a day! Their territorial zeal makes swapping out the feeders an exciting adventure.

I have often remarked to our guests that in our high-tech arrogance over all the intricate gadgets we can produce, we have yet to make something as small as a hummingbird that can do all that they do and run on sugar water. If we take that idea to the insect and microbe world, the sheer complexity and wonder of tiny life should cause us to respond in amazement at the intricacy of all that God has created and providentially maintains.

No plausible naturalistic theory of origins has yet been proposed that explains how even the simplest single-celled organism could have come into existence solely by time and chance.



Hope and Grif dodge the hummingbirds

Granting the timescales that modern science gives us for the age of the universe, there is simply not enough time for the extreme complexity of a single living cell to have arisen haphazardly.

I wonder if future generations will look back at our time as a dark age of science where inadequate theories were held far beyond their usefulness.

Soli Deo Gloria!



The Anglican ROC Committee

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"I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you."—Is. 44:22