

Views from the Top

The Cloudhaven Chronicle

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Happy New Year...

We trust you had a worshipful Christmas and thoughtful New Year's milestone. Our last Newsletter was in October, so we'll try to catch you up...

Since then, Pastor Manuel and Kim Padilla spent most of a week with us in our guest house. Eddie Townsend and Deacons Kevin Blackstone and Karl Schulze from Westminster Pres. in Alamogordo (WPC) came up to help us with our yearly chore of splitting and hauling firewood. We managed to fill the wood room, but now are about a third through it stoking our wood stoves and fireplaces.

We also took the plunge and purchased a new Mazda CX-5 SUV to replace our 1996 Blazer and in anticipation of our 2003 Acura not lasting forever (250,000+ miles so far.) Unless God has other ideas, it's probably the last new car we'll be able to swing.

Also in October, leaders from InterVarsity Christian Fellowship came for a retreat. Amidst ministry planning, they had time to carve a few pumpkins.

In November, we hosted the Session of WPC for a lunch and discussion time. Westminster is investing in Fanning the Flames, a coached revitalization program, with the hope of deepening and enriching personal sanctification, corporate worship and evangelistic

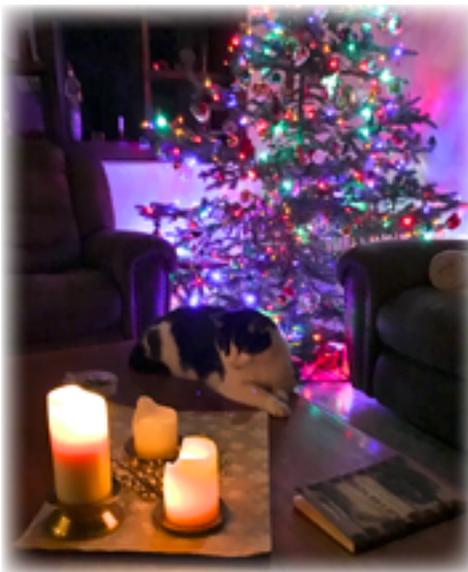


Matheson, Poppie Marie and Jeff



Leaders from InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

outreach—exciting times. Jeff White returned with wife Matheson and too cute Poppie Marie. Jeff is planning to stand for licensure in Southwest Presbytery later this month. We had just two guests for Thanksgiving dinner, Eddie Townsend from Alamogordo and our neighbor Alice Shaw. A good time and too much food was enjoyed by all.



As many of you know, December is the time of our annual Christmas at Cloudhaven celebration. This year, long time friends the Lakes and Wor-

shams came from Ojai, CA to participate. Also Gene and LuAnn Bowman from El Paso returned to help us set up and serve. Providentially, though, the only significant snow we've had so far this year fell on that date and we



had to cancel the service due to folks planning to come from near and far. The good news is that we were joined by Jerry and Maria Crump who walked down the hill, and the ten of us had the worship service and feast together—

(over)

an intimate time of fellowship provided unexpectedly by our gracious Lord.

Later that month, Kim and Lizzie Padilla joined us for a few days. Katy and I had a quiet Christmas before we were joined by Jim's son Tim who came from California in time for Katy's birthday, Dec. 27th. Tim is working full time for Tulare County and has launched a new company focused on environmental security.



Men in Black—Tim & Jim

So far this month, we have celebrated our 33rd wedding anniversary (and 59th Friday the 13th) with a special meal in Las Cruces, a movie, and a wonderful new painting from David Fickett of El Paso. Jim has begun teaching Sunday School at WPC this quarter using an excellent video series by Sinclair Ferguson on the Sermon on the Mount. We are planning to attend Presbytery in Tucson, AZ next week.

Tell ya what...

For Jim's birthday last August, Katy and Tim commissioned a custom carved plaque for our kitchen door to replace one of similar size from a previous owner of Cloudhaven. The multitasking artist is our neighbor Jerry Crump. Jerry has a lot going on and didn't finish the custom design and carving until December, and is still working on the finishing stages. It's a wonderful piece. We'll show you the finished product, [ahem]... some day, soon, right Jerry? Thanks Katy, Tim and Jerry! Guess this is the year for great new art at Cloudhaven.

All this beauty reminds me of the One

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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



Ken & Sue Lakes, Jan & Roy Worsham

who is beauty personified in three persons. I'm thinking of the O.T. Tabernacle and temples that he specified in all details. Then he raised up artists for no other purpose than to endow these structures with beauty to inspire us and remind us that he is the ultimate source of all things true and beautiful. These were but shadows of the beautiful Savior who was to come.

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."—Phil. 4:8



Jerry, Jim and the carving!

Soli Deo Gloria!



Our spectacular new painting from impressionist David Fickett