

Doorway to Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Church, P.C.A.

Our Vision: Training People for L.I.F.E

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Now We All Thank our God

Our last newsletter (February/March 2020) began with a meditation on friendship and community. Being knit together in 2020 sounds strange in light of the ways COVID disrupted our year. Here's a short list:

- * Not meeting together from March 15 till June 14th
- * No communion for five months
- * No shaking of hands, hugs, or greeting of peace
- * No meals in the church basement
- * Silence in the halls due to Spa Christian closing
- * Silence on Sundays because the kids are all at home
- * No Sunday School

Yet, as we studied the Gospel according to Namaan's Slave Girl in 2 Kings 5, God is good, all the time. And all the time He is working all things together for the good of those who love him (Romans 8). Behind God's frowning providence, there is God's smiling face. So we, even in this year, can trust Him for His grace. Since God was working for our good through the evil of those men who killed Jesus, the Author of life, (Acts 3:15)

He is working for our good through the events of 2020.

So what is providence? It's a theological term communicating the beauty of God's utter divine sovereignty over all things, good and bad." Nothing happens to you and me by accident, karma or bad luck. That is the truth that comes to us from Jesus, our Wonderful Counselor.

Do you believe Him when He tells us that not even a single hair can fall from your head without the watchful care of our Heavenly Father (Matthew 10:29-30)? We trust Jesus' counseling because He speaks as the One who has been crushed by God's frowning providence. It was the will of God the good Father to crush Jesus, His beloved Son and suffering servant *for* us. (Isaiah 53:10-11) All of that hap-

pened so we might abound in thanksgiving in whatever we do (Colossians 3:17).

God's providence over and in suffering is one place where the beauty of the Scriptures shines and burns through the clouds to warm our icy and skeptical hearts. Consider Lamentations. Seriously. We spent several weeks this year meditating on it with Pastor Jim. Lamentations is a series of five intricately emotional poems. It's a majestic piece of literary art and intention. Chapters 1-2 and 4-5 are composed of 22 verses. The center poem has three times that (66 verses). Listen to the words that are at the literary center of the book (Lam. 3:33) that Jeremiah wants us to know about God:

For He does not afflict from His heart or grieve the children of men.

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To talk about God's heart is to describe what He is like, what is most reliable and true about Him. It is from the ashes of Jerusalem that Jeremiah tells us, "God does not afflict any person from the heart." Why? Well, vs. 32 tells us. *"Though He cause grief, He will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love."*

So, pause here. What do you think of God after this year's troubles? Is your view of God formed more by the clouds of frustration or by God's smiling face above those clouds? Where do you turn with your doubts and tears? Look at the abundance of His steadfast love. Look at the things God does with ALL His heart. Look at what He enjoys doing with ALL of His being. That is the promise of the new covenant in Jeremiah 32:41! God swears,

*"I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, **with all my heart and all my soul.**"*

God's plan is to make an eternal unbreakable covenant to never stop doing good to His people." It is written right there in Jeremiah 32:40. Go look it up! God's goodness to you and me in 2020 has nothing to do with our successes and failure, our fears, our frustrations, or our circumstances. It's solely due to His desire and eternal covenant to do so.

So how do we get in on the blessing of God's delight in never stopping doing good for us? Well, on the night Jesus was betrayed, after breaking the bread, He took the cup. Then He said, *"This cup that is poured out for you is the **new covenant in my blood.**"* (Luke 22:20) The new covenant is a phrase straight out of Jeremiah 31:31-34. And this eternal covenant includes the

good news of what God enjoys doing in Jeremiah 32: "Doing good to his people, with all his heart and soul."

So, you lived all of 2020, with our Sovereign God on the throne, with God's goodness working all things for your good. Which means, in the midst of very real sorrow and loss, grief and affliction, we have reasons to look up and know that God's face is upon us, smiling above the stormy clouds. So, we give thanks!

I was blown away by the lyrics of "Now Thank We All Our God," listed above. They were composed by a German pastor who buried 4,000 of his neighbors in the midst of a pandemic, including his wife. He wrote, "O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, to keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills of this world in the next."

So, as you look back at 2020 and look forward to 2021, take your sorrow and skepticism to God's heart. There, gratitude springs up eternal as we see Jesus.

"What is God's disposition? What is He on the edge of his seat eager to do? If you catch me off guard, what will leap out of me before I have time to regain composure will likely be grouchiness. If you catch God off guard, what leaps out most freely is blessing. The impulse to do good. The desire to swallow us up in joy." Therefore, we can say of God that all of his attributes seem to lay out a banquet showing us His unstoppable love.

Pastor Nate

So what is providence? It's a theological term communicating the beauty of God's utter divine sovereignty over all things, good and bad."

Brandon Perkins

I wanted to write a few lines to update everyone on my training as an elder. It has been nearly a year since the Session first approached me to discuss entering into a renewed period of training. What a year it has been! My very last restaurant meal was sitting down to breakfast with Jim and Nate on March 14 at the Route 50 Diner before a morning of discussion and prayer with the Session at the church. A little while later, but still very early in the COVID period, I sat on my living room floor on a Zoom call and talked with all of you about how God has been at work in my life. I talked about how I felt the Holy Spirit's tug on me to serve the body of Christ here at Hope as an elder. I have been blessed since then by the encouraging words I have heard from so many of you.

A "normal" period of elder training would have involved much more face-to-face interaction with both the Session and all of you. I miss having those times to see you all and speak with you. But God has been good. I was remarking to someone last week that had this pandemic come at any previous time in my life it would have been much harder to live through without the technology to be able to continue to see each other through video calls like Zoom. I am excited to see what areas of ministry will be enabled in the future by these new tools that we are learning about together! I have gotten to know many more of you through our times on Zoom. I especially have appreciated time in the breakout rooms after the service where we can chat and connect.

What has elder training been like for me during this time? I have been meeting with the Session on a weekly basis for prayer meetings and attending the regular Session meet-

ings. We just finished reading The Care of Souls by Harold Senkbeil. The author is a long-time Lutheran pastor who has a heart for training servants of the church. While the language that Lutherans use is sometimes different than our own Presbyterian language, the universal truth of the Gospel carries through. Senkbeil urges us to develop a pastoral "habitus" or a pastoral temperament and character. He writes that such a habitus is not simply the result of academic study, but is "honed and developed through deliberate and diligent interactions with the people of God." Using agricultural analogies that really resonate with me he urges the pastors and elders to be "sheepdogs for Jesus." He reminded us of how a loyal sheepdog will work with tireless eagerness and delight to do the work of the great Shepherd to care for the flock. If you've ever spent time with a sheepdog you also know they spend much of their time sitting and looking at their shepherd.

Additionally I have been leading the Session in a careful reading of the Westminster Confession of Faith during our time together. This study has been aided by a wonderful commentary on the Confession by Chad VanDixhoorn, one of the preeminent scholars focused on the work of the Westminster divines.

Much of our time each week is spent in prayer remembering all of you at Hope and bringing your cares and concerns before our Father. God has blessed us at Hope with wonderful elders. I have seen first-hand the love and care and wisdom that Nate, Jim, and John each possess. This has been a wonderful time of discipling and learning for me. Hope Church has truly been blessed with leaders who love Jesus, our Shepherd, and who care deeply for all of

us here at Hope.

Another part of this period of training for me is to lead our Sunday morning Christian Education time. I am so excited to be looking at Exodus 34:6-7 with those of you attending. One commentator said that, apart from the Incarnation, these verses are the high-point of God's revelation in the Bible. So far we've talked about God's glory being His goodness and have begun to look at God's character as he describes himself. "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." I hope you can join with us for this time of gazing with Moses at the glory of our Heavenly Father.

My family and I had been returning to worship on Sunday mornings during the summer and fall, but due to my father's poor health and rising COVID cases in the area we have decided to join in the weekly services via Zoom for the time being. We miss seeing all of you in person and we are longing for the day when we can be together again. This has also created the biggest challenge for me as a growing shepherd - the ability to connect with more of you on a personal level. I long for the time when we can sit together over a shared meal or a cup of coffee or even just for a quick chat after church. These are the times where I can hear your joys and struggles and cares and talk about how The Holy Spirit is at work in me and in you. For the time being this will need to

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be over the phone or by Zoom. I am sticking around in breakout rooms after most Sunday services on Zoom. I have enjoyed getting to know several of you better during these times. I encourage you to spend a few minutes to join a breakout room after service. Leslie and I would love to chat and I'm sure at least one of my boys will show you a drawing or special trick they can do! I'm also available for a call or video throughout the week.

I continue to be humbled and thankful for the trust that you in the congregation showed in putting me into this time of training. It has not always been easy, but God's Spirit is at work in me encouraging and strengthening me for the task. I would encourage all of you to consider how God has gifted you and in what ways you can be of service to His body at Hope Church. We are in need of more officers (Elders and Deacons) and there are many other ways to serve.

My time of training has been wonderful. I've been stretched and have grown in my faith through this time. Please continue to keep me in your prayers as I work to complete this period of training and look forward to what God has next for me here at Hope.

* * * * *

“Cast Your Deadly Doing Down, Down at Jesus’ Feet”—Thoughts on 2020

How has 2020 changed me? I've had to face up to my need to be “useful,” to DO, to be busy. It's easy to feel worthless if you're not DOING all the time! Because I'm not one of those incredibly busy front-line essential workers, I've had to learn (again and again) that praying IS important, that staying in touch with others is essential, and that staying connected with the Lord is vital.

Connections with brother and sisters have become so important this year! Seeing one another at church—whether “for real” or via zoom—has become such a treat! Ladies Bible Study is a highlight of the week. We look forward to daily phone calls with friends and family. We've loved “zooming” around the world! I'm in closer touch with my siblings than I've been since childhood. And each of you has become more precious. Nate's teaching, Jim's frequent phone calls and preaching, John's singing, Brandon's teaching, CoJo's and her helpers' tech wizardry, the behind-the-scenes diaconal work: Wow! What gifts these are to us as we continue to grow despite, perhaps because of, COVID! Seeing the flowering of the gifts that Christ gives to his people as they serve one another in new and numerous ways, has been a joy. So we can be strong together—even when we're not physically together!

Yet there are struggles! A big one for me this year has been potential divisions within the Body of Christ. Our country is so divided! Our friends have differing opinions about masks and social distancing. And politics have loomed large! How can we find the “unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” in the middle of it all? Nate's talk on “Jesus, Gentleness, and Politics” was helpful and timely! And Scott Saul's book, **Jesus Outside the Lines: For Those Who Are Tired of Taking Sides** gave me insight into Jesus' broader view.

So we carry on.... Who knows what 2021 will bring? What we do know is that Christ's work in our lives will continue...and that we will grow in the process!

“Stand in Him, in Him alone/Gloriously complete.”
Rae Whitehead

This past year has been a whirlwind, as I know we all have had. I gained a new appreciation for health, for family, for reading, and more. Uncertainty has been huge, and during this time the Lord is reminding me to trust Him and lean into Him during times of suffering, or times where everything feels shaky.

I gained a brother-in-law, and became an aunt all over again. I also lost some loved ones, as well, with the last two of my grandparents now resting peacefully in Heaven. I moved three times, started two new jobs, and saw (either in person or online) five of my friends get married. Even if the world seemed like it stopped, it doesn't mean that God hasn't been moving and working. In a lot of ways, this pause has let Him work even more in my life and forced me to confront a lot of sin that can be easily hidden by busyness and distraction.

During all of that time, the one thing that has been keeping me going has been you as a church family. I've received so much support, and the constant love I've felt from you has helped me far more than you could imagine. Offering places for me to stay, helping me with moving, texting to check up on my health, putting sweet gifts on my porch, it all has meant so much. So thank you so much, and I look forward to hearing what's been going on in your life!

—Becca Loomis

* * * * *

How has this Year of the Pandemic affected my life as a believer? The best thing is that it has strengthened my faith in a sovereign God—which allows me to totally rest in Him. I have been blessed in a new way through phone conversations with beloved brothers and sisters in Christ. Both Rae and I have also enjoyed walking with people and even meeting with some (at a safe distance) on a front or back porch. Our family has also gotten closer through zoom times!

In ending, I want to say that the faith I have been given continues to give me optimism and joy each and every day! Let the adventure continue! —David Whitehead

* * * * *

The overarching theme for us during the craziness of 2020 has been thankfulness. Our jobs (though they have gone through many upheavals) have remained intact and we have been generally healthy. Over the summer we had many backyard visits with family and friends and we welcomed a granddaughter (born to Kyle and his wife Emily) into our family in July! We're grateful for the good progress Joe's brother Steven has been making in his recovery from recent multiple surgeries to remove a benign cyst from his brain. Like everyone else, we've struggled with what things to participate in and what things are out of our comfort zone, and that has limited our interaction with our church family, but we are thankful for zoom!

During this season of COVID, the Lord has shown us how very precious our family and friends are to us and has given us a new appreciation for our relationships. We are trying to remember to purposefully live through this and not just survive it, and we eagerly look forward to just being able to put our arms around our loved ones again!

—Jill and Joe Galarneau

So my crazy 2020 started even before COVID-19 hit us so hard. Faced with a pay decrease due to Spa Christian School's struggling finances, I wondered what God had in store for the year. Then COVID closures hit us all in March. My classroom blackboard had the last day of school memorialized: March 13, 2020. Then I was pole-axed by the news: Spa Christian will be closing its doors. I know this affected many households, but it was an all-encompassing black hole of shock and grief for me personally. Spa had been my world for 22 years! Why would God allow this amazing ministry to die? But as posters came off walls, books got packed up, materials got put on shelves for sale, I could see my world being steadily sold away.

Oh, there were other things happening in the world. My parents struggled with poor health, other people I knew lost jobs, education for our students was a mess, families I knew were struck with sickness or grief, and loneliness and depression ran rampant. Rays of hope could be seen: summer came, ZOOM kept our church family connected, the struggling family of Spa worked hard to bless each other, masks became a fashion statement, yet I still struggled each day to know what my purpose was now. How could I serve the Lord with no Spa, no Camp Hope, no worship team, no Sunday School? I felt pretty useless even though I was still able to serve a few Spa families with tutoring.

Looking for a job is hard and when I was about to lose hope an opportunity at Malta Ave Elementary School arose. I hadn't really interviewed for anything for 22 years but it went well and in October I started a job as a Teaching Assistant. The job is going well and I'm happy to be employed though I walk through empty classrooms and barren walls in the church building and still feel grief. It's tempered though by God's ever-loving faithfulness. I can serve Him well in my job position. I can serve Him well by working the soundboard at church. I can serve Him well by loving my neighbors. I can serve Him well by using one of the classrooms in the building to set up a place where we can possibly have a few fun after-school classes. His eye is on the sparrow and I know He was surely watching over me through all this!!!

Though 2020 didn't look at all like a typical year and we are all reeling in many ways, Pastor Nate and Pastor Jim have given us sermons to help us walk through our lament and our exile here on this planet. God IS Sovereign! God IS faithful! I am truly blessed to be one of His children. And when some days it's hard to see those truths, I just need to repeat them to myself and God comes shining through with a new blessing! Amen.

—Melanie Combs

I have always liked Jeremiah 29:11, *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Over the past ten months I have seen God's plans set before me by the timing of many events in my life. My February shoulder surgery was the week before all elective surgeries in area hospitals were cancelled. The timing of that surgery allowed me to have the summer to swim, kayak and re-strengthen that shoulder.

In October my mammogram was moved up six weeks to mid-September allowing for early detection of breast cancer and subsequent surgeries in October and November. In both of these situations I was quickly and professionally cared for. I am so very thankful.

God has been good and He has been faithful. Yet, when doctor appointments and radiation schedules threaten to be delayed, I find myself becoming anxious and restless. I have needed to remind myself over and over again that God's timing is not the same as my timing.

The timing of the end of this pandemic is not mine to know or figure out. God is Sovereign, loving, faithful and totally in control. My prayer is, "Lord, help me, my biological family and my church family remember this as we move forward and help us trust and rest in your love and faithfulness."

—Sally Jenkins

Foster Loving Relationships

We praise thee, O God, for thy glory
displayed in all the creatures of the earth,
In the snow in the rain, in the wind, in the
storm;
In all of thy creatures, both the hunters
and the hunted...
They affirm thee in living;
all things affirm thee in living;
the bird in the air, both the hawk and the
finch;
the beast on the earth, both the wolf and
the lamb...
Therefore man, whom thou hast made
to be conscious of thee,
must consciously praise thee,
in thought and in word and in deed.
Even with the hand to the broom,
the back bent in laying the fire
the knee bent in cleaning the hearth...
The back bent under toil,
the knee bent under sin,
the hands to the face under fear,
the head bent under grief,
Even in us the voices of the seasons,
the snuffle of winter, the song of spring,
the drone of summer,
the voices of beasts and of birds,
praise the.

Murder in the Cathedral
From: The Plough



DOORWAY TO HOPE STAFF

Sally Jenkins, Nate Thompson, and
Rae Whitehead

COVID CARING.....Behind the Scenes

While the Diaconal Ministries Committee is a known ministry of Hope Church and it is expected and rightly assumed that ministry is taking place, I want to take a moment and brag on the behind the scenes, unsolicited acts of love, mercy and compassion that have been happening within the church family during COVID-19 that is not a direct act of the Diaconal Ministries Committee.

I am blessed to be the recipient of phone calls and texts and to have participated in thoughtful, generous in-person conversations. How often the message to me was "I want to take a meal to someone. Who can I take it to?" "I am grocery shopping right now and want to pick up a few extra items to take to someone....who should I take them to?" "The Lord has blessed me with a few extra dollars this month. Can I give a donation to the DMC and ask you to give this amount to someone who needs a little extra help and don't tell them who it's from?" Or a gift of money is given with an intended named recipient but with the request of anonymity. Sometimes, I am notified of a donation of money or gifts from someone in the community who just has a heart for giving to Hope Church and wants to bless others they do not even know. How blessed am I to hear these words! And in turn, how blessed are the recipients. And I would be remiss if I didn't say.....How blessed is the giver!!!!

COVID-19 changed almost everything. It changed how we think, how we act and then how we proceed or do not proceed given the risk factors facing us. But the one thing it did not steal from us was the generous spirit God gives to our Hope Church Family and one particular lady in the greater Capitol District who is aware of Hope Church and just loves to bless us.

Much has gone on behind the scenes during this pandemic with many burdens lifted, gifts of love offered and compassion and thoughtfulness easing fear and uncertainty. The pandemic of COVID-19 wouldn't be on anyone's wish list, but I can tell you first hand that there have been abundant blessings to both the giver and the receiver behind the scenes that wouldn't have happened otherwise. God really does work all things for our good.

Lovingly,

Terry Cornick

Foster Loving Relationships

Mike Mailloux: Our Brother

November 1, 1960-January 26, 2021



The word that seems to best characterize Mike is **faithful**. Faithfulness keeps coming up as we consider his life as husband, father, fellow worker, and brother in Christ. I would add **quiet** to **faithful**. He was a behind-the-scenes kind of guy at church, faithfully and quietly doing work that needed to be done: making the sound system work, making recordings, managing the website. So he always sat in the back of the church, in the sound box. We'd stop to have a word with him on the way out the door, but he was busy with what had to be done! He also manned the coffee pot and served on the pastoral search committee. And so much more....

It wasn't until his memorial service that many of us realized how extensive Mike's faithful work had been. Phil Talamo had worked with him for years, and car-pooled with him often. Phil told us, through tears, that Mike's job with the naval nuclear laboratory, which was necessarily secret, was so well done, that it took three men to fill his position. Jim Clevestine had worked with Mike at Bechtel. Jim wrote: "He was a good man. He was thorough and detailed. And he was reliable, faithfully doing whatever he said he would." Mike's son Luke wrote in his dad's obituary: "He was true to his engineering training at work and at home and dedicated over 30 years of service to the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program as an Electrical and Software Engineer at Bechtel Plant Machinery and Naval Nuclear Laboratory...receiving awards in recognition of his contributions. He was greatly respected as a mentor and hard worker."

At the memorial service, Daryl Cutler gave us a picture of Mike as a friend who loved to laugh and share. Mike had worked with Daryl in leadership with Boys' Brigade. He enjoyed the father-son times at Northern Frontier.

The video at the service was created by Luke. It showed us more facets of Mike's character that many of us had never seen: his love of nature, hiking and boating; his musical ability; his fun-loving propensity for adventure expressed in the family trips; his love for cooking and good food.

Though there is much about Mike that we at church did not know, what we do know is that he had enormous spiritual strength. When his son Josh died at age five in a tragic accident, Mike held his family together. And he faithfully continued to do just that through many difficult years, even as he served us all in quiet ways. Mike's children expressed their dad's faith when they beautifully sang at his service "It is well with my soul." We are privileged to have known him. Our prayers continue to be with Sandy, Hannah, Luke and Leah as they soldier on, carrying on Mike's legacy of quiet faithfulness.



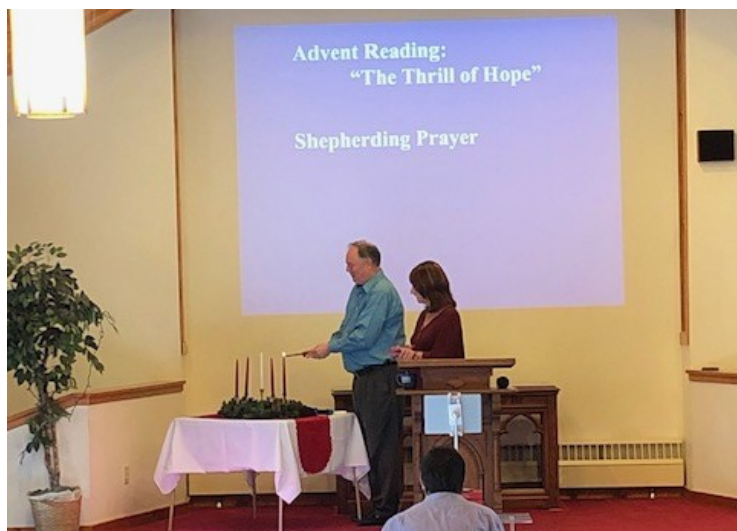
Extend God's Hope



Some Christmas traditions were not forgotten at Hope Church this year.

Many thanks to Fred Richards for his hours and days of tireless effort to erect, wire and set up our Nativity scene. Then to make matters worse, he came back and dug it out after our 32 inch snowfall on December 19th. Thanks so much for your tireless effort on behalf of your church family (and the neighborhood).

We opted for a smaller Christmas tree in the foyer this year when Melanie Combs, Rosemary Hathaway and Sally Jenkins met together to hang the window wreaths and decorate the sanctuary. Then, wouldn't you know it we had to cancel the in-person Christmas Eve Service due to possible COVID exposure. It has been a challenging Christmas season but we are so very thankful for that baby who came to the manger!



Extend God's Hope

Christmas Greetings

Congratulations, John and Bill!

Two of our brothers at Hope joined the happy ranks of retirees in 2020!

Ruling elder **John VanVoorhis** retired after a checkered career of 43 years in the workplace. He began as an auctioneer's clerk in Duanesburg during his senior year in high school, earning ten dollars for his weekly Saturday stint! He then attended RPI, majoring in physics, and married Pat following graduation, in 1976. They both taught at Covenant Christian School in Duanesburg for a year before moving to Sanford, Maine, where John worked with Sprague Electric Company for twenty-four years. He began as project engineer, then as engineering section head, and finally as senior scientist for R&D. During that time, Sprague Electric was absorbed by Vishay Intertechnology, a larger company, which in 2001 downsized, while the R&D group moved overseas. John then became technical sales manager with Cabot Performance Materials in Boyertown, PA., where he stayed until 2005. Then Pat and John moved to their current home in North Bennington, VT, where John worked for Tansitor, a division of Vishay. There he was engineering manager and senior R&D engineer. As John writes: "At some point in there, with all those changes, it stopped being fun, so I am really happy to be moving along to better days!"

Bill Challener is also a ruling elder, having been ordained in a sister PCA church near Pittsburgh. He grew up mostly in New Jersey and Missouri. After earning a degree in physics from MIT, he graduated in 1983 from U.C. Berkeley, with a Ph.D. also in physics. Since then, he has worked as a research scientist, primarily in photonics. For two years, he was a fellow in post-doctoral work at Los Alamos National Lab, in New Mexico. For eleven years he worked in St. Paul, MN for 3M, which spun off into a new company, Imation, also in St. Paul, where Bill worked for four years. In 2001, Bill joined Seagate Technology research facility in Pittsburgh, and in 2009, when that facility closed, he was transferred to Minneapolis. In 2010, Bill joined GE Research, from which he retired in October. Bill writes: "So, we have moved around quite a bit as you can tell!" Wow! They certainly have! Bill and Helen have no immediate plans, though they hope to move (again) to be closer to their children when they appear to be settled.

Dear Friends,

Rejoicing in the life-giving hope of Jesus at Christmas!

As we come to the end of our relationship with Serge, we want to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude for your faithful prayer and generous financial partnership. We can testify to God's kingdom moving and growing in the Hindu community, as well as His guidance and provision in our lives—and those of our team and new converts!

We still covet your prayers as we transition from our unique Hindu neighborhood, precious relationships, etc.—to learning what it means (in our mid-70's) to be full-time caregivers for John's mom—who turned 95 on December 30th.

In all, may God be glorified!

In Him, John and Sharon Milne

* * * * *

Dear friends at Hope Church,

We wish you a Merry (belated) Christmas, a safe and joyous New Year and a peaceful epiphany season.

We appreciate your partnership, prayers and support through the years. It means a lot to us, especially in 2020! We are safe and well, hunkered down in our house and teaching on line. (High School and college students were the first to go online and will be the last to get back to school in person.) We appreciate technology but we miss face-to-face interactions.

Please pray for our students and their families. They've had a tough year with lost jobs, illness, death of loved ones, stress and isolation. Pray for us to shine some of Christ's light in a dark time.

Peace,

Carolyn and Ted Turnau
Czech Republic

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