

“Behold, I am making all things new.”
- Revelation 21:5

ON BLESSINGS AND ADDICTIONS

January 2012

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a joyous Advent and Christmas we had in worship! We heard new musical talent among the members of the congregation, and were blessed with a fine Sunday School Christmas Pageant on December 18th. On Thursday, December 22nd, church pianist Levi Graft led us in a “Sing a Long” of Christmas hymns and songs. Fifty-three of us gathered in the pews, choir loft, chancel area, and around the piano to make a joyful noise to the Lord. It was a great evening.

We extend our gratitude to the members of both the Worship Committee and the Property Committee for their fine work in seeing to all the “details” of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship.

The New Year is beginning, and I am reminded of how God comes to us anew in every moment, in every day, in every year of our lives and the life of the world. The passage from Revelation 21 (above) is just one of the passages in scripture that speaks to God’s renewing power of love.

As we have celebrated the holiday season I am also reminded of how often during the holiday seasons there are painful moments for families, especially when there is a family member addicted to alcohol, drugs, or other substances. The National Institute of Health estimates that there are 17 million people addicted to alcohol in the United States alone. It is the #1 drug of “choice” in our nation.

I was recently asked by a colleague to accompany a young person to his first AA meeting. This was with special permission of the leader of the meeting and the members (usually AA and other 12-step programs are “closed” for obvious reasons). As we gathered, I was struck by how members introduced themselves by first name and then stated how many days they have been in recovery. For one man, it was 1033 days; for another 242 days; for a young woman 17 days; for a new member, 8 days. Each person was applauded and encouraged. It was clear that the members of the group do live “One Day at a Time”. They live leaning on the promise of a Higher Power [whom Christians know as God in Jesus Christ] to make each day new. In their courage, I could see Revelation 21 come to life.

If you or a loved one are addicted to alcohol, drugs, gambling, a dangerous relationship with another person, or other such situation, please do seek help this year. Jesus Christ is there for you in all the embarrassment, pain, fatigue, and despair. There are 12-Step programs available in our community at no cost. These programs are a beginning, and in them you will find new life.

Blessings for the New Year,

Rev. Donna Havrisko