



Photo taken by Mission donor, Jacqueline Genovese-Lucas

Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your glory to their children. Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands... ~ Psalm 90:16-17

There is a black-capped chickadee that sits on the second story roof of the house across from mine and he fills the morning air with song. One might be forgiven for looking around and thinking that piercing sound could not come from such a diminutive creature. I looked up and down the block and I was not the only one in the audience. People were just standing in their driveways, car keys in hand, listening, smiling. He sang several encores before picking up breakfast for the family and flying back to a tree in my yard. The memory of his voice came back to me throughout the day.

Kathy is convinced that the colors in Christ's robe change when the birds sing. I have not asked her where she obtained this information and she says it as if proof is not required. I nod because that is the smart move, after all, wives just know things, like the fact that you will marry them before the idea dawns on you. I do, however, admit to a belief that everything is beautifully and efficiently tied to the Creator because the scripture tells me that the earth and all its fullness are His.

I had the wonderful experience several times over the past few months to see people who were once living in our dorms and who are now, not only employed, but are working at their own successful businesses. Graduates of our program who return for a word to encourage us and to place a gift in our hands. "Bless someone with it, Pastor." These people are not shy about their faith. Not timidly in love with Christ. They are singing from the rooftops and beautifying our community. Helping those who struggle is their mission now. Thankfulness fuels their journey. This isn't a gift we gave them. It is their chosen work, overcoming every day, until we are all together in the Kingdom.

We try so hard to be the kind of place that speaks life over dry bones, that sings from the rooftop over a chasm of loss and despair. How can we help? What can we do? How can we support and encourage change?

Like the scripture above, we can be a conduit for *the beauty of the Lord* because *beauty establishes the work*. Not strength or force but beauty. Not our beauty, surely, but Christ's holy beauty. Beauty that soothes and fills, that confronts and overcomes, that loves and liberates, beauty that builds on a sure foundation. The very word for *establish* pictures a house built with strong pillars and the word for *beauty* in this scripture is seen as interchangeable with the word for God's favor.

If we encourage a culture that allows the beauty and favor of God to rest upon us as a ministry, then that will be the atmosphere that encourages those in need to allow the Holy Spirit to create in them a resting place for favor.

Someone dear to me endured a painful illness during which she made small works of art to share with friends. On the back of each piece were these words, "**Beauty quiets suffering.**" She found that the "whatsoever things are lovely" of scripture was indeed an antidote for the things that were unlovely. This is the same revelation we all must come to, that our dear clients must discover. God's beauty quiets suffering and loneliness and anger and addiction. It is the song that pierces the mornings of our lives, rain or shine. It is a robust tune possible of even the smallest of us.

Please keep the Mission in your prayers that this will become a place of consequential beauty in the days ahead, more than we have known in the past. The Sullivan shelter has closed and there are many with little knowledge of beauty who now need our help. We are also well underway with physical changes to the property in support of our kitchen upgrade. The economy has not left us untouched. We are not scaling back but are climbing onto the roof and singing into the work. We would

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love to make it a full choir, a tsunami of joy that leaves no doubt about who has established the work of our hands.

Is there a suffering in your life beauty can quiet? May the Lord bless and inspire you to new pathways of praise. May grace marry truth in your heart. May all that is important in your life have Christ's full attention.

If He can give a chickadee such a song then how much more shall He give to us?

With expectation,

Pastor John LaMantia

*The love of God toward you is like the Amazon River flowing down to water a single daisy.
~ F.B. Meyer*



A Long and Fruitful History



I was thrilled to have been asked to speak about the church's blessing the Mission for the 70th Anniversary of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. The choir and musicians were out of this world. The speakers were great and honored Shiloh's long history of ministry to our community. I appreciated Pastors Undra and Mildred Parker's gracious invitation. The Holy Spirit was the guest of honor from start to finish. May the Lord continue to bless and prosper the work of this soul-harvesting church.

All the Way from Florida

What a blessing we had when Freedom House brought the mission team from Grace City Church in Lakeland Florida to minister in our chapel service. Sweet service. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with us. Mission teams add so much to the ministry here and we love welcoming them.



Cowboy Movie Night



The 4th Saturday in July is movie night and this year it falls on National Cowboy Day. We will be viewing the Redemption of Henry Myers and will have apple pie and ice cream following. Should

anyone wish to donate pies for the occasion we would be grateful. Pies could be dropped off anytime July 22.

Joy in His Presence



Thank-you, University Baptist Church worship team, for making a special appearance in one of our Sunday evening services. Worship pastor, Jordan, on guitar and his brother, Ben, brought the word. Such an enjoyable time in the Presence of the Lord! University Baptist is our next-door neighbor.

July Memorials



May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise. ~ Psalm 119:76

Memorial for: Marie Wilson
by: Dennis Hedman

Memorial for: Gene Fleisher
by: Dennis Hedman

Memorial for: Evelyn Patterson
by: Michael Patterson

Memorial for Audrey Richardson
by: Thomas & Mona Grib

Memorial for: George Rakos
by: Patrick & Mary Gerrety

Memorial for: Wayne & Reta Diller
by: James & Faith Carpenter

*"If we ever forget that we are one nation under God. . .then we will be one nation gone under."
~ Ronald Reagan*

Beautifying the Neighborhood

Every year the Mission goes to the city nursery and picks up bedding plants. We clear the beds then plant them so Folker Park, which is right behind the Mission, looks beautiful. Our program folks have a service requirement as part of their one-year commitment. This is done in a spirit of community. Thank you, Shane Day, for supervising.



The Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission makes every effort to honor the wishes of our donors who have directed contributions to a specific area. We do, however, reserve the right to redirect the monies received over and above a specific need, into whatever areas they may best be useful.

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Email: info@anchoragerescue.org | Website: www.anchoragerescue.org



Nightly Services 7:30PM - 8:30 PM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Bob Barger

Celebrating With Bob

Bob Barger is one of the residents in our supportive housing and he is a special and wonderful soul. We are celebrating with Bob because something grand occurred in his life and we wanted to recognize that. Bob is involved in announcing sports events. In March of 2022, the University of Alaska at Anchorage announced his induction into the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) Hall of Fame. He is posing here with the Lifetime Achievement Award he was presented with upon his induction. He received this for broadcasting Alaska high school sports events for radio and television and for broadcasting Alaska State Championships on the worldwide web through the National Federation of High School Sports Network. Bob is celebrating fifty-two years of sports broadcasting. We are so proud of Bob and his commitment to the school sports community. Well done, Bob!

Thank you to all who have helped us surpass the 60% mark in our fund raising for our kitchen upgrade. You can check out the architectural drawings for the new kitchen, dining room, and classroom on our website at anchoragerescue.org.