

As the year closes and a new year begins, I just wanted to write a short note of thank you. We accomplished so many different things this year. The children's ministry began outreach to the community through VBS and a weeknight program. A committee was convened to redecorate the sanctuary and make it more hospitable for fellowship and meeting new people. The music program held more concerts and special services. We began the process of starting a new care ministry and blessed the volunteers for that ministry in December.

Of course, we have a Day School with 80 students and 19 teachers and other staff. We have many programmatic committees and work teams helping us live into our reconciling church status, reaching out to others through missions work, helping us appreciate other cultures through multicultural events and monthly recognitions. We have a foundation and committees focused on the church's financial health. There are Trustees who care for the property and leaders who meet to think about and pray for God's guidance in our church's life. There are committees who help us welcome guests to our worship services and communicate about our ministries. There are dedicated people who meet to pray on behalf of the people of the church and beyond.

We also have a team of staff people who take care of many different areas of the church—music, grounds, maintenance, children's ministry, worship, office and others. Lastly, we have dozens of volunteers who live out their call to serve in all of these areas and more. It takes a lot of energy to make all of the things the people of Catalina care about!

I just want to take the opportunity to thank all of the people that make Catalina the church that it is. Without the help of all of these dozens of people and more (sandwich making and other missions, the organ festival, Catalina Breakfast Forum...!) we could not do all of the things that Catalina is known for and appreciated for without ALL this help. So, thank you to everyone for helping to make our church thrive in 2024!

I hope the new year is just as bright! Happy New Year!

- Pastor Mike