

Tuesday, March 16

Jane Simpson

The year 2020 started off good. I had been volunteering some in Wyatt's 2nd grade classroom (and loving it!), had eaten lunch with him there almost every week, had helped with 3 seasonal parties, and we were planning a big Easter egg hunt for the class at my house when BOOM - COVID entered our lives, and things changed.

One of the things I've been most thankful for is that Wyatt (cousin, but like a grandchild), along with his mommy and daddy, live next door, so I was able to continue having him in my life almost every day. What I missed most was my "2nd home" at First Baptist and all the activities there, but due to everyone working together, we remained strong, even if our new way of worship/study/fellowship came most of the time through online and Zoom activities. Resuming in-person worship at church for a while was uplifting, but we had to go back and end the year online. I think, though, that we took our role as "servants" a little more seriously as we all checked on not just church family, but also our friends, neighbors and others we could help. Church is not a building, but rather the people, and we demonstrated this.

My biggest struggle, and when I think my faith came into play and sustained me most, was when I had major knee surgery in the midst of COVID. The surgery was scheduled for April but had to be cancelled. I was finally able to have it on June 15, but that was during the time when no one but the patient could be inside the hospital, so I was going to be there all alone. Wyatt, his mommy and his daddy would take me to the hospital in Spartanburg the day of surgery, drop me off and pick me up 2 days later. I cried a lot the day before surgery trying to "get it all out" so I wouldn't be emotional the next day in front of Wyatt. I prayed a lot too, for strength for that day. The morning of surgery I was "fine." I was smiling when I said goodbye to Wyatt and his mommy in the parking lot. His daddy was able to walk me to Surgery Waiting, and then it was goodbye to him too, but I was still fine - no tears, and I knew that my family, Pastor Tim and my friends were all there with me in spirit, but most importantly, God was there with me, too.

The year certainly had its ups and downs, and other challenges (in addition to COVID), have been all around us. I think the year has helped me to pray in more specific ways for all that has affected me personally as well as our country and our world. As a new year begins, I am reminded of the hymn "Another Year is Dawning". May we keep our faith strong, and as the song says, "Another year is dawning, Dear Father, let it be,... On Earth or else in heaven, Another year for Thee." (Frances R. Havergal)

Bible verses that were meaningful throughout the year: Ephesians 5:20,
I Thessalonians 5:17, Psalm 46:1, Isaiah 12:2, Exodus 33:14, Philippians 4:6