

May 2021 Pastor's Newsletter Article

With less than 2 months before we move, our last Sunday being on June 13th, I write this second to last article with the help of my entire family. It has been 9 amazing and blessed years, and almost a decade! I will write a few words to begin and end this article, and in between are words from Jamie and our children. So, I truly thank God for watching over us over all the years we've been blessed to be together. God has blessed each of us, our church and our ministries to those near and from our Carleton community of faith. You welcomed us with excited, joyful, expectant, warm and loving hearts. We worked hard no matter the obstacles. We shared many stories, laughs and tears. I've seen your families grow, as you have seen our children grow also grow, not only in height but also in faith and love. Each of you, especially the Sunday School teachers all played an important part of our children's faith in and walk with Christ. It is hard to express my gratitude to God for each of you, for your prayers, support, service, sacrifices, and faithful dedication to God in and through our church. Though this pandemic has made many things difficult, including the passing of members who would otherwise still be with us, we all have also been given the opportunities and gifts of drawing closer together. I honestly did not know what to expect when I and my family first arrived to this wonderful and loving congregation. But we were blown away by how you cared for us as we worked hard to care for each of you. Though I could say so much more, I want to say that my family and I will dearly miss you all and cherish all the memories God allowed us to make over all the years God blessed us with. Here are farewell words from my family to you:

I hope you have a good summer. I will miss everyone and hope to see you soon. I hope that you all do well. –Jonathan

Thank you for being so kind to us. I will miss you all, and I hope that I will see you again. We will miss singing for the church as part of the Youth Choir. I will also miss eating cookies after church. –Andrew

Hi Everyone! I'm so glad I got to be part of this church, and I am going to miss everyone so much. –Rebekah

Dear Church Family,

It is hard to sum up nine years in a newsletter, and even harder to say goodbye. There are no words to express how grateful we have been for your love and friendship over the past nine years. You have loved, embraced and guided our children in their faith, welcomed us into your lives and homes, supported us through challenging times and shared your lives with us. You will always hold a special place in our hearts. This is the community in which we raised our children from preschoolers to youth and in which we formed deep and lasting friendships. We are better for knowing you and will always carry you in our hearts as we leave Carleton to start the next adventure for our family. I know the Poy's are lucky to be joining this community, and I pray they feel your love just as deeply as we have.

With all my love,
Jamie

Now I end our family letter to you with a blessing. May God bless you, your families and friends with all the blessings that you could possibly receive. May you also be a blessing to everyone as much as possible. And may those who have not experienced and received the grace and saving love of Jesus Christ, find it abundantly in and through you and your life, faith and love. Amen.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Taek