

NEWSLETTER



“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
(Ephesians 2:10)

Winter 2018

December 26, 2018

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Seasons Greetings

With each passing year as the Lord reveals more of his story in our lives—the simple truth—that this was for us—for you and for me that He gave us this life in Him, it is in this belief that the Lord allows us to return again to what is sacred.

It takes a kind of stillness, but sometimes we are given grace enough to remember the day we were first called, and we can hold our breath again as we look upon the manger in our hearts, or as we sit beside him at the wedding curious about the wine and the music in his voice, or torn to pieces at the foot of the cross, and kneeling in the empty tomb on that first Easter morning—when his voice broke the silence of the morning air and asked her dearly, “Mary, why are you crying? Who is it you’re looking for?”

The Measure of His Faithfulness

Over the course of this year, in spite of the grave tests we’ve faced together in our neighborhoods, our cities, our nation and throughout the world—at Refuge, we continue to simply look after this precious ministry with as much reverence and love as we have found in our hearts to offer.

As we began the year, it was clear that all the Lord was doing in us was good, and strengthening—and in wisdom that surpassed all our understanding, He made a way for the road ahead. There was never a single day that didn’t require grace, patience and faithfulness—but everywhere we see signs of his hands at work:

- just consider over 115 new cases started in the last two years
- and a three year credentialing approval, a qualification reserved only for the most excellent clinical programs in Philadelphia

We set out to organize every smallest process at Refuge with the care that we felt that the delicate beauty the original vision for this place deserved:

- adding new processes to better anticipate crisis, measure intensity and risk, allowing us to keep better watch over our own hearts
- nurturing new partnerships focusing on strengthening the work we carry out in our most vulnerable cases—including those faced with trauma, violence, addiction and the opioid crisis at our door

Looking back, though we are encouraged—it is still a wonder that He would call such imperfect creatures as us to come and be a part of the blessing of His good work here in the poorest neighborhood in Philadelphia.

We believe that He has called each of us to this present moment. So what can we do but trust him, and celebrate one thing above all—simply, that He is with us—and that we can hope in his presence for all the days to come.

