

Letter to the Congregation:

Thirteen years ago, Pastor Bill Calhoun asked me to come to his office. He said my wife Mary Medley had mentioned that I knew a bit about construction, and he asked for my help in replacing a failing exterior door. One small project led to another, and, as they say, "The rest is history."

I have had the privilege of working with four co-pastors, four executive directors (and filling in twice as interim executive director), program staff, administrative staff, and sextons who work hard every day to make Montview the caring, loving place it is.

There was never a dull moment what with the rain and snowstorms, floods, electrical outages, leaky roofs, boiler failures, and technology outages, just to name a few. And, Montview has come a long way in the last 13 years. The design and construction of the Outdoor Sanctuary and the recent completion of the Capital Campaign project are the highlights of my tenure as your Director of Facilities.

I had one guiding principal through both projects: what the members of Montview 50 years ago must have been thinking when they raised the money and built our one-of-a-kind sanctuary. They were not thinking about themselves but were thinking of you and me and how we would so appreciate worshipping and serving in such a beautiful space. That is what I thought about over the almost three years it took to make the Capital Campaign vision become a reality. Working through the pandemic, supply chain issues, unusual price increases, and the many unforeseen conditions exposed behind every wall made it exciting.

Together, we have created a house of worship that 50 years from now Montview members will look back on with admiration and gratitude for our decision to pay it forward. I can imagine it will motivate them to do the same for future generations as well.

Of course, it takes a community to accomplish such projects and to keep Montview's facilities both beautiful and functional. As I retire from my role, I thank each and every one of you for your contribution to making it happen whether it was a contribution, an idea, a thought, or a wish.

I will now be able to sit in the pew on Sunday with my bride and be one of the many who worship at Montview. It has been a privilege working with you all over the years, and I thank God for giving me the opportunity.

Bob Cloud