

"Fear Not"

"Fear not," the angel said to Mary.

Though her parents and Joseph
would first doubt the miracle
and tongues would wag,

Mary was blessed beyond all measure
to be chosen to birth the Savior.

"Fear not," the angel said to the shepherds
keeping watch over their sheep.

"The Savior has been born this night.
Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace."

"Fear not," the angel whispers to our hearts
today . . . if we'll but listen and believe.

Immanuel, our God is with us.

The Babe born in a manger
lives and reigns
and holds the future in His hands.

Fear not!

Marlene Bagnull

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Christmas 2017

Dear friends -

We are praising God for His presence in our lives during the blessings and challenges of 2017. He is so faithful!

A springtime blizzard in Colorado that dumped 41" of snow during the Colorado Christian Writers Conference was an unbelievable challenge. I'm so grateful many of our conferees heeded my email to come early and attend the Wednesday afternoon workshops free of charge before the roads were closed as indeed they were.

The time pressures that go with directing the Colorado and Greater Philly Christian Writers Conferences were more intense than ever thanks to events beyond my control. A slow recovery from surgery prevented one of the Colorado keynoters from coming. I knew Father wanted me to bring the message. I'm grateful for the new handicapped bathroom at the Y where I hid Friday afternoon to prepare a rough outline and Power-Point slides. As someone has said, "I could write a book." Having directed over 50 conferences, I definitely have a lot to share. It's on my never-ending to-do list!

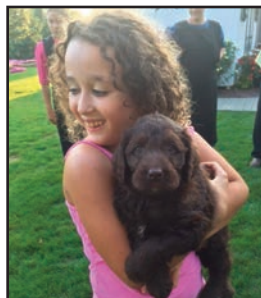
Paul's fishing trips resulted in several fish dinners this year. His help around the house and running errands enables me to be in full-time ministry.

We're thankful to live within walking distance of our three grandkids - well, walking distance for them but not for us. It's becoming obvious that I'm not going to be able put off the replacement of both knees much longer. Paul's arthritis makes walking difficult for him too.

September 30 we brought home an eight-week-old puppy. Emmy is a Labradoodle and the most energetic and strong-willed puppy we have ever had. She is definitely keeping us and our nine-year-old Golden active.

Our oldest daughter, Sharon, and her husband, Howard, are both finally getting disability benefits. Please pray for them and the health challenges they face daily.

Our son, Rob, Nicole, our daughter-in-law, and their two dogs moved out the same day we got Emmy. We miss them but are so happy they are in a beautiful new home of their own.

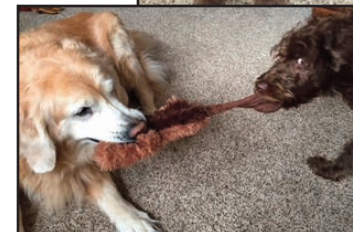


Emmy has more than doubled in size in two months!

Deb, Rob, and our three grandkids have had an exciting year of travel including two weeks in Europe.

As another year draws to a close may you know His peace and joy.

Marlene & Paul



Background photo taken by Eric Sprinkle at the YMCA of the Rockies during Colorado Christian Writers Conference blizzard of 2017