

Inclusion and Welcome

During some of the darkest days of our lives, we found a warm welcome from the congregation at First Presbyterian Church. Most of the congregation did not know either Catherine or me, but you were so genuine in your welcome and outreach. The love and support really made a difference: we still treasure the poems, the quilts, the books, the notes, the precious words and prayers you gave to us when you hardly knew us. The outpouring of support at Edith's baptism is something we will never forget. Marilyn walked down a very hard path with us, and she continues on with us each and every day. We have also been supported in the joys of adopting and raising Millie (aka Sibü) at First Pres. We'll also never forget the New Year's Day on which she was baptized and the feeling that First Pres was lifting her and us up, much like that house was lifted up in the Pixar movie.

What so moves us about our church family is the family part: we love the children's sermons, we love having a crop of like-aged kids with whom to climb the tree, we love the way adults reach into Sibü's life with so much love and fore-thought, and how the older kids look out for the younger kids, including ours. What beautiful people—inside and out—have taken root here. Often times we'll be at First Friends gatherings where Sibü is the only young child and the boxes of toys have been dug out so she will have something to do. Or, as happened this winter, when the adults will get to play with the train tracks, under the cover of playing with Millie. We treasure our time on the Beach Trip when Sibü feels what it's really like to have a church family and draws pictures of us—as her "church family"—for school (see attached).

As with everything in life, it takes time, talent, and treasure to keep the buildings standing, the staff employed, and to provide a spiritual home. Please join us in continuing to support First Pres in whatever ways you can.

-Tom and Catherine Admay

