



ViewPoints



HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 5, Issue 4

July 2026

It Takes a Village or Church - by Bradley Baker



Illustration by Brian Worobec

There is an old African proverb, familiar to many of us: "it takes a village to raise a child". In some cultures, child rearing goes beyond parental responsibility, and instead becomes a matter of communal responsibility.

I wanted to take a moment and speak from my personal experience to reflect on how Hillview Baptist Church has been my "village". As one who wears the hats of preacher, adult Sunday School teacher, and more recently, Director of Christian Education, my journey has certainly been one of personal growth. However, this journey has not merely

been a personal experience. The community of Hillview Baptist Church has taken on an important role in my life.

Regarding the first hat, that of preacher, I

cannot imagine I would approach a pulpit without Hillview Baptist Church. When I am called upon to preach, my first few days consist of a scramble of prayer, page flipping, and a slew of half-developed ideas. When I find a passage that I believe is timely for our Church, my thoughts take me on quite a journey. First, I start wondering about the broadest, Bible-spanning context of the passage. Then, through about 3-4 false starts (elsewise called rough drafts), I finally narrow things down to the passage itself. Then comes the illustrations, the flow, and some globs of glue to hold things together. And

finally, the work can begin on determining the conclusion.

In my early days, before Hillview, my sermons never got past that first step. They went even longer, had less of a point, and contained no illustrations, flow, or glue. But then I found Hillview Baptist. Pastor Norm has been steadfast in teaching, coaching, and encouraging me, and faithful in giving me opportunities. As well, so many of you have given me constructive and kind feedback over the years, in your words, cards, emails, text messages, and phone calls. I am still committed to learning and growing, but I am so far along from where I started because my "village" has patiently and lovingly built me up. It has been my joy to serve in Hillview in this way, as I try to pour my own love and care back into the Church. I trust I am facilitating God's Word to God's people, as I rely on God's power to accomplish what he will.

On to the second hat, that of Adult Sunday School

Special points of interest:

- COLOURING
- SUDOKU
- PICTURES FROM FRANCE
- PEANUTS
- "BLESS YOU"

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It Takes a Village or Church

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... BUT, AGAIN,
I'VE FOUND A
LOVING,
ENCOURAGING
VILLAGE IN
HILLVIEW.



teacher, which I have worn on occasion in partnership with Dr. Jerry Shepherd. He is the reason I tried this particular hat on in the first place. Jerry Shepherd has been an incredible professor, mentor, and friend ever since my time as a student at Taylor Seminary. He once asked me to teach with him at Hillview, and I, hesitantly and timidly, only taught a couple times when we were covering the book of Psalms. Recently, as we taught through the wisdom literature of the Bible, I opened myself up to teaching more regularly with Jerry. I am quite glad that I made this decision.

I have found teaching downstairs in the Fellowship Hall to be an entirely different bird than preaching from the pulpit. The content takes a different approach to form and to present. In addition, the setting itself is more intimate with a smaller group and no blinding lights that keep me from seeing any-

one. Not to mention, I know my partner in crime has been a Biblical scholar longer than I've been alive! But, again, I've found a loving, encouraging village in Hillview. Jerry's own encouragement, grace, support, and help has been incredibly edifying. Also, the feedback from all of you has taken me aback. You all have been so very gracious and encouraging. I was not expecting to receive such a loving response. I know in the future I will jump at the chance to teach alongside Jerry.



Christian
Education

The last hat is that of Director of Children's Ministry. I can not express my gratitude enough. Mostly, this role entails Children's Ministry. I came with some experience in this area. There was my year as a student chaplain at a hospital. While I have drawn on these past experiences, I still have more growth and learning ahead of me, for sure. But, from the Elders who have pledged their support to me, to the amazing volunteer team who always impress me with

their creativity, energy, and effort, to the families who have become so dear to me, and finally, to the children who fill my heart and constantly amaze me with their godly character, I feel as if I am hoisted up on the shoulders of my village, supported by so many wonderful people. I truly believe I am playing one small part in God's amazing Kingdom.

Often I hear stories about how children are stopping at home during their playtime to say, "wait, we shouldn't do that because it's not what Jesus would do", or see a child writing out Bible verses. I also hear about families devoting their time to spiritual discussion and devotional exercises. It causes me to praise God. This is the culmination of God's work and ours—"ours" meaning the work of the children, their families, the Church, and the volunteer team.

Wearing this very special hat reminds me daily that I am part of an incredible village at Hillview Baptist Church. Of course, I hope not only to be a beneficiary of this village, but a member of it who supports others as well.

Appreciation at the Food Bank - by Gloria Swain



Gloria, Hank and Margaret

On June 2/26 the Edmonton's Food Bank held their annual Volunteer Appreciation Evening. The theme for this year's event was Hawaiian. We were greeted by some of our drivers upon our arrival. And shortly thereafter a Hawaiian Lei was placed around our necks. The Lei represents: love, respect, friendship and celebration.

After a few house rules and introductions, we were treated to a fabulous meal catered by Friesen Brothers. This event is a great opportunity to meet with other distribution centre volunteers and share stories and ideas. We made a connection with Andrea, the Boys and Girls Club Coordinator for the Millwoods area. Presently they are housed out of the Millborne Shopping Centre. It was very interesting to

hear first hand about the work they do with the children in the area and learn that the Food Bank supplies meals for the children. At times they include kids from the Hillview area.

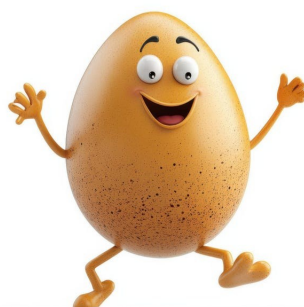
Following our meal we were given a presentation on some of the work the Food Bank does. You may be surprised that it's not all about the food hampers. They are involved in so much more, to name a few:

- Mobile Food Depots,
- Agency Meal & Snack Program,
- The Retail Food Program,
- Beyond Food Program,
- The Seed Bank (Hillwood Community Garden benefited), and
- Collective Kitchens.

Their Food sources are 60% rescued/salvaged. Some

comes from "Plant, Grow, Share A Row" (Hillview Community Garden has set aside 3 plots for the Food-Bank), and "Second Helping". "Edmonton's Food Bank" adheres to the food safety guidelines of Alberta Health Services when collecting and distributing food.

We also heard some amazing statistics. For example, over \$86,000 was spent on egg purchases. Why eggs? Eggs are a great source of protein. They are easy to digest, quick to cook and a perfect staple for a food hamper. *(but, only if you can tolerate the taste, smell, texture and appearance Ed.)*



The Beyond Food Program supported 3,429 registered participants. It provides various employment supports for free. This includes resume writing, job search techniques, and interview practice. The program also assists clients by connecting them to other organizations for further help and guidance.

- 409 people experiencing unstable housing were helped each month with an emergency food bag,
- over 100 schools obtained food from the warehouse,
- 500,000 snacks and meals distributed per month in 2025,
- 1,025 people accessed the pantry each month on average, and
- client services has responded to as many as 586 calls, 259 emails, and 753 online hamper orders in a single day!

In 2025 the Food Bank experienced an all time high of providing over 46,000 hampers monthly. This resulted in their fleet of trucks travelling 244,368 kilometers picking up and distributing food: that is equivalent to travelling the entire Trans-Canada Highway, east to west, 31 times! 5.1 million kilograms of food was distributed with the help of 159,060 volunteer hours. Volunteers matter and they help make Edmonton a kinder community.

The evening ended with door prize draws, none of which we won. But, being able to be part of this event was being a winner.

ViewPoints

Winning an Award - by Gloria Swain

THE JANET
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THOSE WHO ...

May 31, 2026 a windy, rainy day brought Hailey Hailset from the Edmonton Food Bank to our church. She was like a ray of sunshine. She came through our doors with the Janet Hughes Award and a large potted flowering plant to present to Yvonne Aben.

The Edmonton Food Bank recognizes individuals who go above and beyond their expectations. The Janet Hughes Award is a prestigious honor presented every year to those who possess the willingness to go the extra mile. The award recognizes those individuals who demonstrate a positive impact in ensuring those in need receive the food and support they require. One needs to demonstrate resilience, adaptability and dedication to serving the community and those around them.

We are grateful to have Yvonne take on the responsibilities as our Food Bank Coordinator. Her demeanor is friendly, caring, respectful and courteous. She values each

volunteer and listens to any concerns that crop up. She assures the volunteers that they are important in the roles they play. Yvonne has such a way with her

clients feel valued as they leave. Clients have expressed that they leave feeling so thankful that we all CARE!



Hailey (EDFB) Mo, Yvonne, Margaret, Gloria

words and actions that our group is always relaxed. This transcends to our volunteers, who immediately can't help but feel good about themselves and, in turn, this is passed on to our clients.

Hillview prides themselves in being one of Edmonton's best Foodbank Distribution Centres. We are proud to recognize that Yvonne plays a major role in who we are today. As volunteers we look forward to our Monday afternoons, and that by working together our

Thanks Yvonne for all you do and always going the extra mile. As Yvonne accepted the award, she did not accept it for herself, but on behalf of all the Hillview Food Bank Volunteers. She said, "It's the team working together in harmony that makes us great and not one specific individual. I share this honor with my

colleagues who are equally deserving and I feel such a privilege to be selected among other recipients for this award. I share this honor with each one of you".

This is the second year Hillview has received this award. Last year it was presented to Gloria Swain. Way to go Hillview Food Bank Distribution Centre.

The illustration was taken from an original photograph and re-fashioned by Brian Worobec using his amazing imagination. Ed

An Encouragement to Prayer - by Kurt Redschlag



Illustration by Brian Worobec

The Bible encourages us to "Pray continually" (1 Thess. 5:17). But when God seemingly doesn't answer our repeated prayers, we tend to become discouraged and often stop praying. And not only that, sometimes we may even be tempted to give up on our faith in God because we feel God is not keeping his promise to answer our prayers. But let us not stop praying because God is faithful, and in his own time and in his own way, he will answer our prayers. Just ask Mrs. Hanover of Chicago.

For your encouragement, let me share the following true story with you that I recently came across in my reading. It's from the book "Surprise Endings", by Ron Mehl. In the book the author tells a powerful story about how discouragement can overpower us when long-time prayers just don't seem to be answered.

It is a true account which took place just after World War II. Here is a summary of the story.

The war was finally over, and Roger Simms, hitchhiking his way home, would never forget the date of May 7, 1945. His heavy suitcase made Roger tired. He was looking forward to getting home again and anxious to take off his army uniform once and for all. Flashing the hitchhiking sign to an oncoming car, he lost hope of getting a ride when he saw that it was a black, sleek new Cadillac. But to his surprise, the car stopped and the passenger door opened. He ran toward the car, tossed his suitcase into the back seat and slid into the front seat, next to the well-dressed driver. "Are you going home for keeps?" the driver asked him. Roger replied that he was indeed glad to be going home after his years of army service. "Well, I'm

going all the way to Chicago, if that's the direction you are also going," the driver continued. Roger told him he lived in a small town just a few miles shy of Chicago and that he was most grateful

for the ride. Then Roger asked the driver if he lived in Chicago or just happened to be going there today. "Yes, I live in Chicago and have a business there," he replied. Then he told him his name was Mr. Hanover.

After talking about many things, Roger, a Christian, felt a compulsion to witness to this fiftyish, apparently successful businessman about Christ. But he kept putting it off, till he realized he was just thirty minutes from his home town. It was now or never, he told himself. Roger cleared his throat. "Mr. Hanover," he began, "I would like to talk to you about something very important." Then he proceeded to explain the way of salvation to him, ultimately asking Mr. Hanover if he would like to receive

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An Encouragement to Prayer

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"LET US HOLD
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FAITHFUL"
(HEB. 10:23)



Christ as his Savior. To Roger's chagrin, the Cadillac immediately pulled over to the shoulder of the road and stopped abruptly. Roger was sure he was going to be asked to leave the car. But to his astonishment, this well-to-do businessman, visibly shaking with emotion, bowed his head and prayed to receive Christ right then and there. Then he thanked Roger, telling him that this was the greatest thing that has ever happened to him. Roger then encouraged him to read his Bible and join a good church. A few moments later they reached Roger's home town and he stepped out of the car and again thanked Mr. Hanover for the ride and encouraged him in his new-found faith.

Five years went by, and Roger was now married to a wonderful wife and had a two-year-old son. By now he also had a business of his own. Packing his suitcase for a business trip to Chicago, he suddenly remembered the small, white business card Mr. Hanover had given him five years before. He found it and placed it in his briefcase. While in Chicago, he decided to look up Hanover Enterprises and see how Mr. Hanover was doing. A receptionist told him

it was impossible to see Mr. Hanover, but he could see Mrs. Hanover. A little confused as to what was going on, he followed the receptionist and was ushered into a plush office and found himself facing a keen-eyed woman in her fifties. She extended her hand. "The receptionist told me you knew my husband, is that right?" Roger told her how her husband had given him a ride when he was hitchhiking his way home after the war five years ago. She asked him somewhat anxiously if he could remember when that was.

Sometimes we may be tempted to give up on our faith in God because we feel God is not keeping his promise to answer our prayers. But let us not stop praying. He will answer.

"Oh, yes, I can," he replied. "It was five years ago on May 7, 1945, the day I was discharged from the army." At his mention of May 7, 1945, she almost went into shock, and very nervously asked if he could remember anything special about that day. Roger hesitated. Should he mention that he witnessed to him? Since he had come so far, he decided he might as well take the plunge. "Mrs. Hanover," he began, "as we were driving, I explained the gospel to your husband, and told him how he could receive Christ as his Savior. After I fin-

ished, he immediately pulled over to the side of the road and wept profusely as he leaned over the steering wheel and gave his life to Christ that very moment."

Explosive sobs shook her body. Getting a grip on herself, she sobbed, "I had prayed for my husband's salvation for years. I truly believed God would save him." Curious, Roger asked her where her husband was, and was shocked when she told him that he was dead. Then she elaborated, "He was in a car crash on that May 7th, soon after he let you out of his car. He never got home. You see, Roger, all this time I thought God had not kept his promise." Then sobbing uncontrollably, she added, "I stopped living for God five years ago when my husband died, because I thought God had not answered my prayers for his salvation. But now, to my utter and glorious surprise, I know that God did save him and that I'll see him again in heaven. Thanks to your witnessing to him, God answered my prayers just a few hours before my husband died."

Therefore, let's "Pray continually", because God is faithful to his promise and he does answer our prayers.

Parking Lot Revelation - by Bill Holmes



the catch basin drains both the upper and lower parking lot, it lacks a proper gravel base, but the major reason is the garbage truck. The

Introduction:

At the Annual General Meeting on Monday, June 15, there was a rather intense and lively question and answer session. This was especially true for people who had not read the June newsletter, because there was a rather nasty surprise. Based on some preliminary estimates, the Trustees indicated that the lower parking lot needed to be replaced at the cost of up to \$60,000. The discussion focused primarily on cost and how the expense could be funded. The following is based on a later conversation I had with Howard, Larry and Warren. Lets get into some details.

The Situation:

If you examine the lower parking lot, without the vehicles, the problem is obvious. The asphalt is breaking up. This is happening for a few reasons. The asphalt is over 40 years old and unlike the upper lot it experiences more trauma -

original parking lot was designed to handle normal vehicles not large, heavy garbage trucks.

Once there are cracks in the asphalt the water gets beneath the surface, freezes and breaks up the asphalt. So its just like a big pot-hole. Every year more water gets in and freezes and more asphalt breaks up, getting worse each year. The catch basin (i.e. the drain) is okay, as is the upper lot. Water pooling around the concrete area of the drain is not a major concern. However, as the asphalt continues to fragment more water will migrate beneath the asphalt heading towards the catch basin and that could cause an even bigger problem down the road.

How to fix?

The process to fix the problem involves the following steps:

- Eliminate the old asphalt,
- Remove 6-8 inches of soil

- Add a gravel base concentrating on the route taken by the garbage truck
- The other portion may not require as much gravel base, and in fact there is a possibility that the new asphalt could simply be applied over the existing asphalt.

Some have proposed a concrete slab for the area in front of the garbage bin. Although much stronger than asphalt, it would not be a major advantage because the route of the garbage truck still needs to be upgraded and concrete is very expensive, about 6x the cost of asphalt.

Other suggestions:

There was mention about moving the garbage bin to another spot, but none seem to work. We do not want the garbage truck to drive over the drain to reach the bin, which could compromise the drain; or to place it at the entrance to the lower lot because of the distance from the church. Using the Pastor's parking space was suggested but rejected because it would entail using the finicky elevator and giving the garbage truck a whole new road to ruin.

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Catch basin (drain) with concrete perimeter

ViewPoints

Parking Lot Revelation

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The timeline:

If we wait another year the problem will compound itself and the longer we wait the more it will cost. There is a company that will quote based on the fact that they are working on another parking lot nearby and would not charge the church as much, mainly because the company has the equipment in the area. Another factor is the rain - the paving companies will be behind and very busy catching up. It could be less expensive if we wait until fall when they might not be as busy but again that depends on the weather.



Funding:

The expectation is the Building Fund should have over \$60,000 by the end of June. It could be used for the parking lot, but is that wise, having no funds available for an emergency. Would it be possible to put some money in a GIC and use half of the available money for the parking lot, and then borrow the money for the remainder. **For example**, we may get 2% for the investment and borrow at 4% for a loan. This would keep some funds available if needed for an emergency. You are only losing 2% but, if amortized the cost over 4 or 5 years doesn't drain all our cash assets.

One company has indicated that, with a deposit, he would wait 30 or 45 days for the balance, which would give us more time to raise the necessary funds by taking some special offerings over and above the congregation's regular tithes and offerings. This approach would require approval from the Elders/Leadership Council.

Additional Projects:

The trustees are considering other improvements:

1. New flooring for the Fireside Room and maybe even the Fellowship Hall
2. Bathroom upgrades

Community Outreach - the Other Side of the River - by Gloria Swain

THE CHURCH'S
CONGREGATION
HAD NOT
DONE
AN EVENT LIKE
THIS PREVIOUSLY
AND...

On Saturday, June 20, 2026 Hillview joined hands across the river with Restoring Hope Fellowship on 118 Avenue and 86 Street for a Community Outreach Day. Our own Keith Wourms and his Freedom Band performed gospel music along with the Restoring Hope Choir. This event gave us an opportunity to get involved and donate some of our left over wieners and buns from one of our prior events.

Restoring Hope Fellowship is a small congregation meeting in the Eastwood Community Hall. Their pastor is Reverend Sedrick Vassell. He attends most of our Family Feast events, so most of us have gotten to know him. He loves the Lord and has a profound heart for the street people of Edmonton.

The church's congregation had not done an event like this previously and were a little confused as to how to proceed. That is until the

Hillview whirlwind blew in. We immediately stepped up to the plate. Mo and Gloria got the wieners heated, wrapped and ready to serve. Shannon and Noreen worked the service counter with assistance from (Angie Noreen's friend). Wendy (Mo's daughter) arrived and soon food was flying out of the kitchen. Along with the hot dogs, there was pop, water, chips, pretzels, popcorn and eventually coffee.

ViewPoints

Visiting Sherri is nice in Nice, France (Part 1) by Marcy and Dale Hufnagel

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so I will try to use pictures and only a few words to describe a little of our ten day trip to visit Sherri, our daughter in Nice, France. Since the church has heard of her ministry, prays for her, and supports her, this may help make her ministry more real.

May 3: Sherri met us in Cannes, France and we took a 10 minute train ride to Antibes to see a few sights. Seeing sights with luggage in tow was not fun. We then took the 20 minute train ride on to Nice and went to Sherri's studio apartment where she had a lovely crockpot lunch hot and ready to eat. After visiting awhile, we went out to see the town.

We walked along the Promenade des Anglais and climbed many steps to reach the top of Castle Hill to see the sights from the top. The old city in the bottom with the newer section behind. Off to the left on the coast is Cannes where we started our day.



May 4: It was Sherri's day off so we took a bus to the medieval City of Eze with its beautiful and unique gardens.



May 5: the day we looked forward to: Café Alfred! We met people, saw the church and café, and baked with Sherri!



Visiting Sherri is nice in Nice, France (Part 1) cont.



May 6 and 7: We hung around the café to help out and visit with people that came by for coffee.



May 8: Sherri was off an extra day. Plans to take a train ride to an island down by Cannes were changed due to trains not running for a few hours. Instead we pivoted and visited the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild a mansion with beautiful gardens and a palatial house of extravagance.



May 9: some Romanian Canadian friends of Sherri drove us to visit La Turbie. Nathalie also met us there and we enjoyed looking at the sights (Monaco from above), and the medieval City of Eze from above.



Monaco - Joy and I saw this too!



Medieval City of Eze



Hidden Pictures: Jesus Taught About Prayer

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: canoe, fish, leaf, lollipop, magnet, moon, needle & thread, orange slice, plate, spoon, and star.



Sudoku Puzzle

The goal of Sudoku is to fill a 9 × 9 grid with numbers from 1 to 9 so that every row, column, and 3 × 3 box contains each number exactly once. You solve the puzzle using logic and deduction rather than math.

No duplicates in rows: Every horizontal row must contain the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once.

No duplicates in columns: Every vertical column must contain the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once.

No duplicates in boxes: Every 3 × 3 sub-grid (bolded sections) must contain the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once.

6	1	8	3			7		5
				7		6		3
							1	2
	7	2	9	8		5		
		5	2		3	1		
		9		1	5	2	6	
9	4							
2		1		9				
3		7			2	9	5	1

See Joy for the answer, not me, I have no clue. Ed

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Community Outreach - the Other Side of the River

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After about 300 hot dogs were handed out, we started serving hamburgers that were being BBQed under a tent to keep out the rain. The rain did not stop the people from coming. They were soon lined up inside the perimeter of the hall. As they waited in line sad stories came out. One man said he hadn't eaten in five days! It was heart breaking and keeping up with the food line was hard work. But when you realize that not only were these people being fed, they

were also hearing God's word through the band's music. Once the people had enough to eat they sat and listened to the music. Being warm, dry and fed inside the hall was better than being out in the rain. This was one time we can thank God for the rain.

When all was said and done we dished out 300 hot dogs, 200 hamburgers and 3 hours of Jesus through gospel music to about 200 people.

**To God be the Glory
again and again.**

Hello God, I wanted to say thank you. Thank you for my family. Thank you for my lessons. Thank you for my opportunities. Thank you for my life. I know I'm not always grateful and I'm sorry. Help me to not get so distracted by this world that I forget how blessed I am. Amen.



Sneezing in church: an immediate "bless you" chorus in harmony.

WHY DO YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES WHEN YOU SNEEZE?

It's a reflex. Your eyes snap shut when you

sneeze, and it's pretty much impossible to keep them open. The nerves serving the eyes and the nose are very closely connected. If you stimulate one nerve, like in your nose when you sneeze, often it will trigger some response in the other. It's like having your eyes water when you yawn.

There is a kid's rumour or an old wives' tale that if you keep your eyes open when you sneeze, your eyes will pop out. (I'm not willing to find out). But it's just a tale. Even if you could keep your eyes open

they wouldn't pop out. Sneezing is just an extreme form of breathing. When you sneeze, air is exhaled violently through your nasal passages. So why do we sneeze? To keep foreign material out of the body. If you inhale particles like dust, the tiny particles will excite your nose and trigger a sneeze. You'll sneeze if you have a cold too, or if you have allergies. Some people sneeze when they go out into the bright sunlight. That's called the photic sneeze reflex. It happens to 16% to 25% of the population. It is also genetic-you

have a 64% chance of inheriting it if one of your parents is a photic sneezer.

The most chronic fit of sneezing was by Donna Griffiths of Pershore, England. She caught a cold and started sneezing on January 13, 1981...and stopped 978 days later. She likely sneezed about a million times in the first year. (That's really clearing your head)!