

## **"Overheard from the Stairs"**

Third Sunday of Advent

by Becky Enney

Barabas woke up early yesterday morning and as he was coming down the steps, he heard Uncle Floyd and Francis, who he should really call UNCLE Francis, but that isn't how Uncle Floyd introduced them, anyway, he heard Uncle Floyd and Francis talking so he decided to sit on the steps out of sight and listen to these two brothers talk.

"Remember the time we got up really early on Christmas morning," laughed Francis.

"I reckon I do! We peeked at the gifts that Santa had left, and Frank accidentally dropped one of them."

And Francis interrupted laughing saying: "Oh man, it was loud and sounded like he broke it!"

"And Mom and Dad came storming down and tried to be angry, but then they started laughing and laughing." And then Uncle Floyd and Francis were laughing and laughing in the memory of Christmases long, long ago.

Barabas liked hearing them laugh.

"Well, brother," said Uncle Floyd, "I am glad you are here with me now. It has been several months you have been sleeping on our living room sofa and I reckon it is time to clear out that small back room upstairs I use for an office and we'll make a better space for you!"

"Oh! That will be great, and I can help of course." said Francis.



"I reckon the move will give us a place in the living room for our Christmas tree we get tomorrow."

And then Uncle Floyd said "You seem to be working well with your therapist. Do you think he is helping you?"

Francis answered "Yes, and the medicine I take helps a lot. Thank you, Floyd, for a second chance." And Barabas could hear Uncle Floyd give a bear hug to Francis.

"I reckon I thank Jesus every day for your return to us. And Frank will be here from CA next week for Christmas! Oh boy, the three of us brothers together!"

As Barabas listened from the stairs, he hadn't noticed that Gator had quietly slipped down beside him and was listening too.

Gator whispered to Barabas "I love living here with you and Uncle Floyd. He is a good man. And he has taught me about Jesus." And Barabas whispered back . . . "Me too."

(Light three candles on little Advent Wreath)

On this third Sunday of Advent, let's close with a prayer: Help us Jesus, to teach others about your love. Amen

THE END