

As the Christmas season comes upon us in a rush I begin to do my annual thinking about being present and in the moment for these special times. Does all the running around and list making keep me from enjoying the friends, family and occasions?



“Tis the season” to try to connect with friends and family through cards, newsletters, parties and family dinners. Making sure we enjoy each of these special moments takes special attention I think.

We just had our annual Stillwaters Christmas dinner last Sunday and it was a wonderful time of seeing lots of friends and neighbors all in one place. The dinner is an annual gift from the Williams family and is always memorable. This fabulous dinner is a reminder to all of us what a bonus it is to live in Stillwaters.

In the midst of all this there is the tradition of gifts. What to buy? What would they like or need? How can I make those gifts meaningful? These are important decisions!

As I was pondering this a few days ago I ran into an article with ideas for gift giving and making it an enjoyable season. Specifically, the article was about buying meaningful gifts – focusing on experiences and/or giving the gift of our time.



This is from a blog called “Slow your Home”, posted by Brooke McAlary on November 6, 2017.

The author’s suggestions for gift giving are 1) something they want; 2) something they need; 3) something to wear; or 4) something to read.

Their gift ideas include: Movie or event tickets, cooking lessons, music events, charitable gifts, and homemade gifts are always a treat.

Even the gift of time spent together is special. One of my favorite Christmas stories is called “A Christmas Cup of Tea”, by Tom Hegg. As the story tells us, in all the rush and flurry, the gift of time is priceless! Click [HERE](#) if you want to view the YouTube version of this story, read by the author.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

For it is in giving that we receive. – Francis of Assisi

FAVORITE PHOTO OF THE WEEK:



A snowy photo from Christmas past from resident Marcia Ray

Enjoy the week ahead!