

**L**pfront



These photos bring you inside our home. The decorations are pretty, to my eye. Stopping to look at them for a moment many times each day and night is simple, unabashed joy. The fruit of our decorating labor provides more than a month's worth of little rewards. The process itself creates a repeatable ritual that strengthens a family and reinforces its bonds.

I don't do much beyond the "heavy" work. I buy the wreaths and tree from men beneath a temporary tent. I carry them awkwardly from the

truck bed through the front door. I rig the wreaths with wire – a tedious task that I walk away from several times before finishing, lest my patience and thumbpads suffer beyond repair. I hang these evergreen rings from our iron balcony railing, naïvely hoping they align on the first try. I right the tree in its stand, agonizing over its persistent tilt. I carry boxes of ornaments and nativities and artificial snow up the precarious garden level steps. I stack the boxes on the parlor floor and stealthily retreat.

Gabby, while lamenting a lack of helping hands, wraps the tree in lights and loads its branches with heirlooms and tchotchkes and homemade crafts. She's a whirlwind of uncompromising efficiency. She can't abide a job that's half-done.

Jenna has a designer's eye and a huge heart. She fills the scene in from its edges, imagining things into being, working feverishly into the wee of more than a few nights.

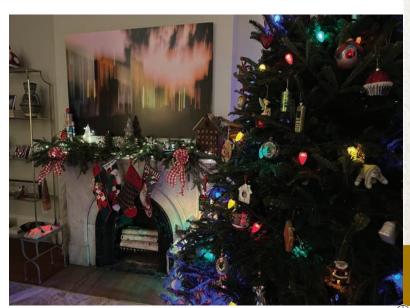
Sofia focuses our less-visual senses. She bakes. And makes candy. Quietly, without ceremony. Dishing up the kind of edible, unspoken love I easily understand.

This is how it is now, at our house, as it was last year and – knock on Douglas fir bark – will be next. It makes me happy. I hope the pictures convey a hint of the feelings that the stories behind them evoke in me.











We're excited about new things to come in 2024 and to sharing them with you.



Kimberly C. Good, ChFC°, CFP°, CIMA° President and Chief Investment Officer



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