

Kirsten Chase, Adam's mother

Mr. Rogers - Presby Minister

MISTER
ROGERS'
NEIGHBORHOOD

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The Children of Oxford Presbyterian Church
16 S. 5th Street
Oxford, PA 19363

Dear Friends,

Mrs. McAllister wrote to tell me about the fire at the Oxford Presbyterian Church. I was so sorry to know about that. The fire has taken something that means so much to you and to the adults of your church, and that's unfortunate. Fires can be scary, but I hope you know that fires like that rarely happen.

When people lose something important to them, like a church building, there can be a lot of sadness. There can also be angry and lonely feelings. Losing something important can be difficult. Sometimes children might even think a tragic thing like a fire happens because of something "bad" they have done or said--or even thought--at times when they were angry. But, angry wishes and angry feelings don't make bad things happen.

Even at hard times like this, there can also be a lot of hopefulness. You are young and growing and active; with your energy and your care, you can find good ways to help in the rebuilding of your church. Rebuilding a building will take time, but it can be done.

I also think that what happened to your church building helps us all understand that a church building is a building, but the Church is really the people. And that doesn't just mean the adults. Children are very important people in the church. As I read about what you did for Ashley Duncan, the girl who has cancer, I thought that you all are doing such helpful ministering with your care and concern for others who are in need.

Best wishes from all of us here in the Neighborhood. Each one of you is special--just because you're you.

Your television friend,

Mister Rogers

