

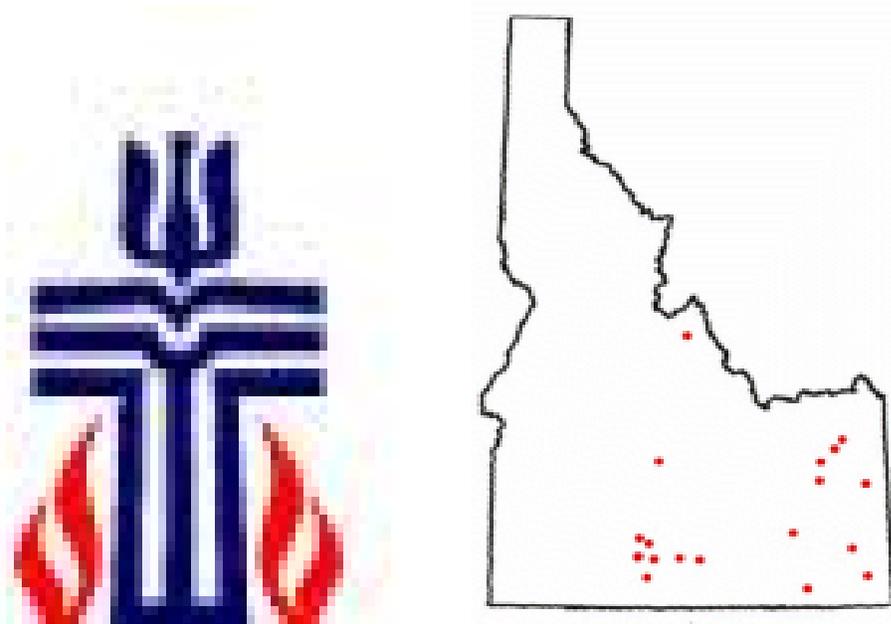
THE KENDALL CONSTELLATION

A Newsletter of Kendall Presbytery

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“And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:12-14)



Please forward this to all your friends in Kendall Presbytery.



Dear Friends and Colleagues in Kendall Presbytery,

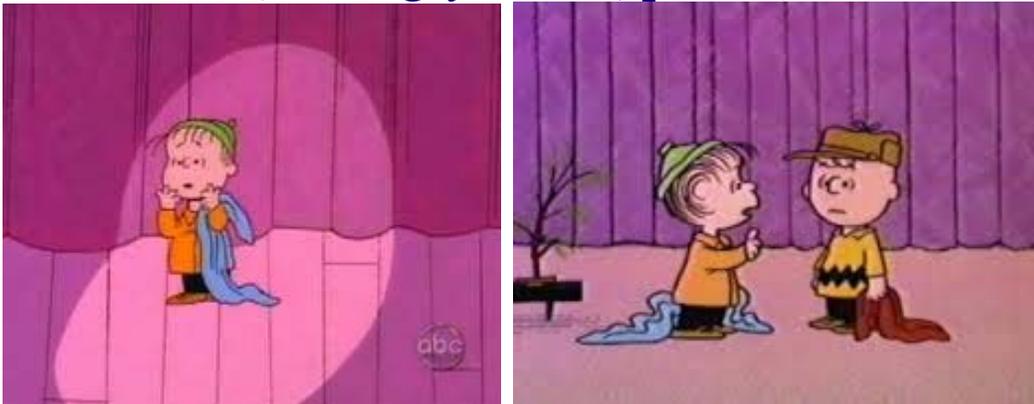
Back in the days before Christ's birth, many seemed to sense that the time was drawing near. For some, like King Herod, it was an unwelcome thought and his reaction to the news was cruel and violent. That first Christmas Season put the squeeze on him and what came out when he was squeezed was what was inside of him: cruelty and violence. For others, like the shepherds of the field, it was kindness and joy.

We, too, have a sense that Christmas is drawing near because at this time of year time itself seems to get compressed and we feel the squeeze as we feel ourselves running out of time. Like others, when we get squeezed the stuff that comes out of us is what is inside us. And so, whether we are a joyful caroler or an

Ebenezer Scrooge at heart becomes impossible to hide.

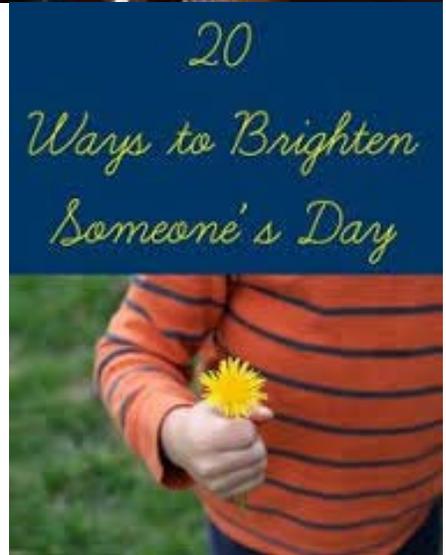
Children, in particular, are often the most observant of such things since most of them cannot comprehend the pressures of adult life and cannot understand all the frustration and the short tempers. For their own part, children often miss the real meaning of the Season. Often they are caught up in the thoughts of receiving a special gift, perhaps an expensive toy - something electronic, these days, more than likely (alas).

I can still remember those days well. I also remember a time in my early childhood years when the Christ of Christmas began to mean more to me than anything else. I thank God that this was part of my early childhood years. As I recall, it was soon after I learned (to my great shock and disappointment) that Santa was not a real person and that the gifts were bought by my parents and other relatives. (No angry letters, please)



Increasingly as the years go by and I bring to mind more than 50 Christmases gone by, I wonder about all the things that came together to help me find the Christ in Christmas. Among the mix is Charlie Brown's Christmas TV show where Linus reads from the gospel of Luke and expounds the true meaning of Christmas. Wonderful! In retrospect, the Scriptures were integral to my awakening to the Christ of Christmas.

Also contributing were many thoughtful acts and words, expressions of faith and love, by many all around me: Mom and Dad, my older sister, the teachers at school, my aunts and uncles, my older cousins, and our neighbors and many friends at Church. I now realize these words and acts were a great gift - many small things that added up to a great amount over time.



These gifts are impossible to recompense. Many of their names and faces have escaped me, many have gone to their eternal reward, many others were probably not that aware of me at the time. I was, after all, just a kid they'd shown some small kindness to ... and, yet, they gave me so much that has continued to give to me over these many years - gifts that have

truly kept on giving. Something that started out small has grown to fill my heart and my entire life today. So many little things that turned out to be so important.

All of which brings me hope - hope that when I feel that all I can give is really only a small amount in such a big world, that the small gifts will still mean something to someone, someday, beyond my sight or ken.

There are no words for much of what I am trying to express, yet I hope that what I have written conveys something of what I feel of the joy of Christ this Christmas and that it renews in you, as it does in me, a dedication to act in love and kindness, even in small ways, toward big and little people alike ... and may the cumulative witness of our lives resonate with the angels' chorus:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

In Christ's Love,

Ron Lavoie,

EP/SC Kendall Presbytery





2014 Presbytery Meetings:

- ***Saturday, February 22 (First Presbyterian Church, Burley)***
- ***Saturday, June 7 (First Presbyterian Church, Malad City)***
- ***Saturday, October 25 (in Jerome - Monastery of the Ascension)***