



*Dear First Presbyterian Friends,*

This will be a bit of an ‘odds and ends’ letter, as a number of unconnected thoughts about our life together are rattling around my mind.

First, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the folks who showed up last Saturday to take on the monumental task of raking up the leaves in the church yard. Their efforts, combined with those of Mike Wright, our Maintenance Manager, for many days prior, have the church grounds looking good. Thank you, one and all.

Second, John Sampsele, our church’s Finance Administrator, reports that the pledges received thus far in our stewardship campaign are significantly fewer in number than this time a year ago, and the total dollars pledged so far leave us facing a significant deficit in terms of our projected 2010 budget. Your session had to make substantial and painful cuts last year in our 2009 budget and hopes not to have to do so again this year. If you have not already done so, please do send along your pledge card indicating your intended contributions for next year as soon as possible, so that the budgeting process may go forward.

Third, many of you turned in prayer requests along with your pledge cards on Sunday, November 15. I want you to know that these requests were included in our prayers during our weekly staff worship service the following Wednesday.

Fourth, let me wish all of you a splendid Thanksgiving. As I imagine you have gathered from my sermons of late, I believe gratitude to be a crucial aspect of the spiritual life, and I therefore love Thanksgiving with its focus on precisely that activity. May all enjoy good times with family and friends.

Fifth, let me be the first to wish you “A Happy New Year!” No, I’ve not lost my mind. For Christians, the new year begins with the first Sunday in Advent, this coming Sunday. We begin our annual spiritual journey with our preparations for the celebration of the Incarnation we call Christmas. So, while the world must wait some weeks before beginning anew, we get to begin this Sunday. May this new year be full of growth in the knowledge and love of God in Christ for us all.

A prayer to share:

Make room in me for thy coming, O Christ.

Room not only in my heart, but in my daily schedule.

Room not only in my schedule, but in my words.

Room not only in my words, but in my choices.

Room not only in my choices, but in my actions towards others,

Not only towards those I love, but those you place in my path for me to learn to love.

For then there shall be room in me for thee. Amen +

(Anonymous)

See you in church.

Grace and peace,

*Jany Farris*