

## The Fish Net

### Boston Presbyterian Church

Christmas 2015

Rev. Shawn Croll

Dear Friends,

When our children were younger the town's Christmas parade was very much a part of our Christmas celebrations. In our early years in Milton when the children were young we were strictly spectators. Then as the kids grew older, they became participants but either way, we never missed a parade. With the passage of time though, when the kids were no longer involved in or attending the parade, Susan and I so-to-speak outgrew it too. We went a couple of times by ourselves but it just wasn't the same and it ceased to be a part of our celebrations. That however changed this year.

Our oldest daughter announced that she and her family were coming back home that afternoon to see the parade. Susan and I decided to join them; how could we possibly miss our granddaughter's first time at the parade? As our family stood together by the side of the road waiting for the parade, I was reminded of something that I had long forgotten; everyone's, younger and older alike, sense of joy, awe, wonder and excitement. The atmosphere was almost electric with a sense of anticipation and sure enough, the parade didn't disappoint us.

As I thought about this it occurred to me; how many of us have lost our sense of awe, wonder and excitement when it comes to the Christmas story? Is it possible that we think we've outgrown it? Is it possible that we have heard the story so many times that it has lost its ability to inspire a sense of awe and wonder within us? If such is the case then it is a shame because the message of Christmas truly is mind-boggling; that Almighty God, a being so different and far removed from us so loved the world including every single one of us that He willingly became one of us. God did this so that He might know, share and experience life as we do; the joys and the sorrows. And to think that God joined us, not at the top of the social order in a palace, but rather at the bottom, in a stable. Then after His birth He was forced to flee to Egypt in order to escape King Herod; God in effect became a refugee. Truly the message of the Christmas story is mind-boggling, timeless and as relevant to us today as it ever was.

There is a commercial for a breakfast cereal that urges the listeners to "taste them again for the first time". I would urge you to "hear the Christmas story again for the first time". You will be glad you did.

Wishing you a most blessed Christmas!