

# The Fish Net

## Boston Presbyterian Church

Easter 2016

Rev. Shawn Croll

Dear Friends,

One of my life's little pleasures is taking our dog for her daily walk. Over the years through walking the streets in my neighbourhood I have come to know who will and will not clear their sidewalks after a snow fall; indeed I have noticed a pattern. We will walk for a good stretch and virtually everyone's sidewalk has been cleared. Then a little further along, there will be a stretch where virtually no one bothers and I ask myself; why is this? Why such a pattern?

I am only guessing but I suspect that in the stretches where virtually all are shovelled, the people feel the need to "keep up with the Jones"; my neighbours have looked after theirs and so I should look after mine. Conversely, where few if any have been cleared, I suspect the attitude may well be, "my neighbours haven't bothered so why should I?"

We may not realize it but every day in countless ways the people around us have an impact on us; how we feel, what we believe and what we say and do. At the same time we ourselves, possibly without ever realizing it, are having an impact on others. Jesus was well aware of this and that is why he called upon his followers to be like salt or yeast.

While salt has a bit of a bad reputation nowadays, in the ancient world salt was the preservative and the flavour giver for food. In itself salt seemed insignificant but it made life so much better and easier. And even as yeast seemed to be so insignificant, it too played a role all out of proportion to its size or appearance. Without yeast there couldn't be any bread and bread was the staple food back then. Salt and yeast made life better and so it should also be, said Jesus, with us. We may seem to be small and insignificant. The things we say and do may not seem to matter but guess again! Of course even with the best of intentions sometimes our impact on others is less than positive but even so, all is not lost. Sometimes these weeks leading up to Easter with their focus on sin are portrayed as being so gloomy but nothing can be further from the truth. The good news and promise of Lent is that all can be forgiven and it is this, the love and forgiveness of God that sets us free to be the people and to live the lives God has called us to.

Wishing you a most blessed Lent and Easter! Shawn