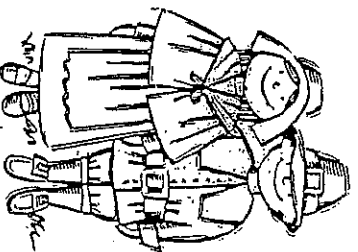


THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of
The Preston City
Congregational Church
Gathered 1698

DECEMBER
2013



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Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the January newsletter is due in the church office by **December 22nd**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

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From the Minister ...

Seems strange to write this piece before the turkey has even been defrosted, baked, and enjoyed, but here I go...

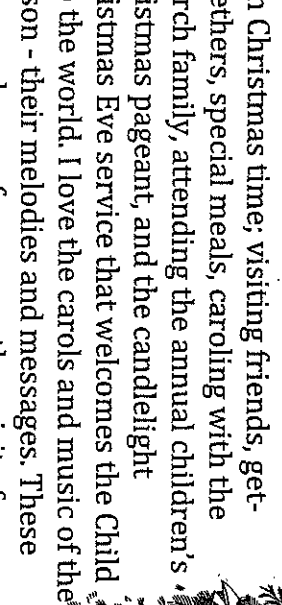
Don't Rush It!

It seems that the "preparation" for holidays starts earlier and earlier every year. I saw stores beautifully decorated for Christmas before Halloween!

I spent some time in Florida recently. The shopping malls were decked-out with bright-colored lights and beautiful decorations; even Santa's "welcome center" was in place, complete with a sign stating the date and time when he will appear! I just couldn't get into the spirit of Christmas – walking around an air-conditioned mall wearing shorts, in 80 degree weather, listening to Christmas music. Now that I'm home, back in cold and windy Connecticut, I'm beginning to catch the joy and excitement, and the spirit of Christmas time – but not until Thanksgiving has had its day to shine with family and friends, parades and football games!

I don't like to be rushed; who does?

I want to enjoy all the "moments" associated



with Christmas time; visiting friends, get-togethers, special meals, caroling with the church family, attending the annual children's Christmas pageant, and the candlelight Christmas Eve service that welcomes the Child into the world. I love the carols and music of the season - their melodies and messages. These things and more, for me, are the spirit of Christmas, and I don't want to rush through any of it!

My prayer has already been said...

God, slow me down to enjoy the beauty of Christmas; especially its meaning – the Child, my Savior and Redeemer - my Friend.

Though the season has been in full swing for many weeks, don't let it push you along, keeping you from enjoying all the special moments connected to this time of year. Slow down! Breathe!

Before your calendar becomes filled consider these church happenings:

December 8, 2 P.M. All-Church Caroling through the neighborhoods, then soup and sandwiches back at the church. This is great family fun!

December 15, 4 P.M. not one, but two Christmas Pageants presented by the Sunday School children. Come and hear the Christmas story from their perspective. Refreshments will follow.

