



## TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Reverend Thomas Nelson

Dear Family of Faith:

I have been looking everywhere for that perfect gift. I heard that Ken and Barbi were finally going to tie the knot. It is about time! Well, of course, the perfect wedding requires the perfect setting...a small town wedding center with a Presbyterian Church upstairs. It must be darling; little scale model Hymnals to stash under the plastic chairs and cute little replicas of quilted banners that can be hung out of the way for the big event.

What would life together be like if "we had it made?" I venture to say that things would *be* dull. We probably would not be at all. We *are* people who like a challenge. We like the challenge of living the Gospel in our daily rounds. The challenge of converting plain buildings into sanctuaries. The challenge of keeping divergent opinions and varied gifts in a harmonious body...working together for a common good.

And we like the challenge of new ideas and new dreams and new goals and new people. What's next? A home to call our own., We have made a commitment to build a building to God's glory. It is going to be a stretch for us to do this. Out on the limb we go again. But, we will do it! Each one giving what he or she can give, pulling together in a common direction and common purpose.

I am excited and somewhat overwhelmed to think of what this next year will hold for us. But I can't look into a manger and realize that that little kicking, cooing bundle of baby is the Prince of Peace ... the Christ! and not expect God to surprise us. Grace is always a surprise!

I thank God for the chance to *be* on the road to Bethlehem with all of you. May we find that manger and the peaceful presence of Christ Jesus our Lord in our lives. For us the Son is born .. a child given!

Within the pause of Silent Night

Candle burning

Held in still, gentle hands.

Flickering lights,

Joined hearts now playful dancing in shadows.

Peaceful sanctuary that is our home.

GOD'S GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU ALL...

*Tom*  
Rev. Thomas G. Nelson

*Merry  
Christmas!!*