

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Special Christmas Edition

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Dear Fincastle Presbyterian Church Congregation and Friends,

When I was a boy of about 12, or so, and as Christmas of that year was approaching, I knew exactly what I wanted “Santy Claus” to bring me for Christmas: an electric football game! It was glorious! It was two complete teams of red vs. blue little plastic men. Some were linemen, some were receivers, running backs; and, of course, two men were the opposing quarter backs whose sturdy right arms could snap forward, thus hurling the “felt” football to the receivers!



I had to have that game. I longed for that game I day dreamed about that game! And... Lo, and Behold!... On Christmas day, “Santy” came through! There, under the Christmas tree, wrapped in lovingly folded Christmas paper, was: “THE FOOTBALL GAME”!! My life as a 12 year old kid was, at that moment, complete!

A couple of weeks, or maybe a month, later: a player or two had been lost; the “new” had worn off. The “gift of all gifts” had become just “one more thing” shoved to the back of my closet.

Has something like that ever happened to you? Probably, I am also willing to guess that, as each of us matured, we each became more aware of the real “Gift of all gifts” that Christmas brings to us: the Good News that, on that first Christmas Day, God gave to the world God’s only Son, so that whoever would believe in Him might not perish, but have life everlasting..

This Christmas may we all grow in our awareness of and belief in the real “Gift of all gifts”, who is Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, born on Christmas Day.

Peace in Christ; and a very Merry Christmas
and the Happiest New Year ever!

David and Patsy

... Notes from Patsy

I included this in our Christmas Cards to our family and friends across the United States. I read it on line posted by a dear seminary friend of David's who did not write it but posted it for all. I thought the message was something we could all apply to our lives:



This

Christmas

End a quarrel.

Seek out a forgotten

friend. Dismiss suspicion,

And replace it with trust.

Write a love letter. Share some

treasure. Give a soft answer. Keep

a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge.

Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you

were wrong. Try to understand. Examine your

demands on others. Think first of someone else.

Be kind; be gentle. Appreciate. Laugh a little. Laugh a

little more. Express your gratitude. Gladden the heart of a

child. Welcome a stranger. Take pleasure in the beauty and the

Wonder of Earth.

Speak your love.

Speak it again.

Speak it yet

once again.

From lessonslearnedinlife.com

Shared by Becky Brumfield Stanley



The Work of Christmas

(a poem by Howard Thurman)

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart!*

David and I want to wish Christmas Blessings to all during this 2023 Holiday Season. We are so blessed to a part of the Fincastle Presbyterian Church family. You are very special. This Christmas may we all grow in our awareness of and belief in the real "Gift of all gifts", who is Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, born on Christmas Day.

Peace in Christ; and a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest New Year ever!

David and Patsy