



What did you get for Christmas? This is the first year my immediate family exchanged names, so the number of presents under the tree and the number of packages I got to open was greatly reduced.

And that was fine. Not only because we are living in hard economic times, but also because

it helps us focus on the true gift of the holy-day that is Christ Jesus, our Savior.

Perhaps I should ask what you GAVE for Christmas? Did you figure out a way to present gifts to each person you'd hoped to honor? Perhaps you spent months making that special gift for that special someone. Or maybe you spotted the perfect gift at a bargain price last August. Or maybe you just gave an extra-heartfelt hug to each of those close to you. And to Jesus...?

Did you give your regular December 25th envelope AND your Christmas envelope, or did you tell yourself that you only need to give one or the other because Christmas is on a Sunday this year? Did you stop to consider what impact that will have on the church if every other member does the same thing? As far as the budget it concerned, it would be as if Christmas had never happened! (Maybe you could catch up a bit this Sunday.)

And when you heard about the new constitution and the newly expanded positions of service that are being created, did you think, "Hmm, this could give me a chance to serve my Lord now at St. Paul," or did you think, "Hmm, I sure hope they know better than to ask me to serve; I'm far too busy." Did you stop to consider what impact that will have on the church if every other member does the same thing? And consider how many volunteers are going to be needed just to make the Agape Dinner a success (see page 5)!

This Christmas, this whole new year, let's stop to consider how "the season of giving" may continue to be a part of our lives. Let's think long and hard how to come up with a way to present ourselves as gifts to the Lord Jesus, our newborn King. May all we have, may all we are be used by God to benefit his Church and to spread the good news of Jesus.

And may 2012 be "a season of giving" for all who are at St. Paul.

Pastor David L. Hein
