



*Twas the month of December and here at First Pres ...*

Written and dedicated by: Janet Schmoll

The staff were all busy preparing their best. For the great celebration of Christmas: the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem here on the earth. The church was all festive with garlands. The tree festooned with gold Chrismons was glorious to see. The red doors bade "welcome" to all passersby and wreaths with red ribbons said Christmas was nigh.

*Michelle* in her office, intent on her tasks to keep all things running so well (should you ask), ensured that the church operations were fine—the newsletter published, reports all in line.

Next door at her desk *Doreen* was engrossed with all things financial—payments to post. Bills to be paid, accounts all in hand, as well as the details for Taking A Stand.

The office assistant, *Amy* by name, was busy with bulletins, but her real fame was revealed at the concert the choir put on as she lifted her beautiful voice in a song.

Directed by *Ted*, the choir was superb—the diction so perfect one could hear every word. The orchestra under his skillful direction delivered a musical, rhythmic confection.

At the piano *Diane* played with grace and precision and feeling, as is always the case, the chords were dramatic, the runs gave a thrill! She mastered the keyboard (even adding a trill!)

At the microphone, *Larry*, came down from the Loft, narrated the story of Christmas told oft. With a voice that was resonant, focused, and clear, so that all who were present could easily hear.

Up in the booth, overlooking it all and working the sound board and lighting was *Paul* making technical magic his own quiet way. How often his know-how has here saved the day!

All over the church, week out and week in, *Chris* worked with great care to keep everything clean. The offices, kitchen, the bathrooms and more—all venues she takes responsibility for.

*Over* →

And everywhere, all the time—or so it seemed—*Fernando* was working. He was on the scene. To fix, to repair, to keep everything working. A "man for all seasons" without any shirking!

Even though he'd retired, *Lewis* kept active visiting all of the members who now live at Westminster or those whose age makes it hard to come to a service but need more than a card. The homebound, the sick, the lonely, and more—to them he extends his friendship and care.

Up in his office overseeing it all was *Dino*, the pastor, fulfilling his call to serve God by serving and loving his "flock" - a task that take hours not on the clock—to cultivate hearts that are so filled with grace and love that all who come to this place may meet for themselves the God whom we love who sent to us here from heaven about that baby, that boy child, Jesus by name. To show us the way to the Father, He came.

"Twas the month of December. The plans were unfolding, made carefully by staff who knew they were holding a gift for people who'd come through our door—a gift to "unwrap" - hope, joy, peace, and more. It's "right, meet, and salutary" to thank you all, you staff members who always exceed the call your positions entail. So, from Personnel a heartfelt "well done!" and finally, farewell!



As well as celebrated Fernando's birthday!



Christmas staff luncheon at Bella Mia's given by the Personnel Ministry Team

*A great time had by all!*

