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THE BIRD'S NEST

As the year 2011 draws to a close, I wish to extend to each of you my heartfelt gratitude for your patience, generosity and prayers. Even though the first half of the year was marred with my illness and the devastation of the tornado, your steadfast faith and stewardship has brought healing to both the community and myself as your pastor.

During this special season of Advent and Christmas, I would like to ask you to take some time, alone or with your family and friends, and shut out those worries and anxieties which might interfere with the feeling of wonder and comfort of Christmas. Turn your thoughts toward the miracle and message of the birth of God's Son Jesus Christ. Allow the peace which he offers to all of us to cover you and yours with the true joy and happiness of this blessed season.

Remember the love of God for us can transform our lives with peace and power. Let us this Christmas, and through the coming years, make God's love the pattern for our love of each other. The Herods of life can smash things; our selfishness, illness, grief or the vicissitudes of life can bring great losses; but none of these can create a situation too difficult for God to handle. They can never blot out His star!

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old familiar carols play. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep, God is not dead; nor doth He sleep! The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, goodwill to men!"

- Henry W. Longfellow

Grace and Peace,
Tim

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