



December, 2012

Dear Members & Friends of the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green:

I come to you as your new pastor at the tail end of the Town of Bloomfield's year-long Bicentennial celebration. My call to the church was not finalized in time for me to participate in any of the special events of 2012--such as the bus tours, canal hike, or the fireworks spectacular--but I can readily imagine the thrill of the community celebrating such an historic milestone.

I understand that the town history cannot be told apart from the history of Old First Church, now Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green. From generation to generation, faithful Presbyterian Christians have conducted public worship, provided Christian education and performed Christian service from this location, and 2012 was no exception.

Although this church was without a pastor for most of 2012, you nevertheless maintained vital ministries among members and on behalf of the community, while also working to address the many issues related to the preservation of the sanctuary building. To all who have given themselves steadfastly to these efforts, let us extend a resounding "well done!"

If the town fathers and mothers could see how things have changed over the past two centuries, they might well raise an eyebrow or two. But mostly, I imagine, they would rejoice to see this church serving the poor, caring for the lonely, proclaiming God's Word and singing God's praise.

As the newest pastor of the town's oldest church, I rejoice to offer you greetings this momentous year, and to invite you to the Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols on Christmas Eve at 8:00PM. I also invite you to contribute as you are able to the 2012 Christmas Offering. 10% of funds received will go to (1) retired and active church workers facing financial difficulty, and (2) the historic racial-ethnic colleges affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA), through the Christmas Joy Offering. The remainder will stay here in the church, a down payment on our next 200 years of "trusting God and ministering to all people as Christ teaches us in the Gospel" (BPCOG Mission Statement).

May the knowledge of God's love perfectly revealed in Jesus Christ bring you joy this season and throughout the New Year.

Yours in Christ's service,

Ruth L. Boling

Ruth L. Boling
Designated Pastor

Christmas Eve, 8:00 PM

Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
in the Parish House

