



# The Homesteader

A Publication of Homestead Presbytery

December 11, 2012 Issue

Dear Kris

Welcome to the The Homesteader!

**[Homesteader Print Version](#)**

Please share this with other members of your congregation - You are welcome to use it as a Sunday bulletin insert, forward as an email, print copies OR include all or part of it in your own church newsletter.



## A Farewell to Bob Snell

Join us as we celebrate the ministry and retirement of Rev. Robert Snell with an open house at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 16, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served.



## Scrooge: The Symbol of Christmas!

I commend to you, Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge, the best symbol we have of the true meaning of Christmas. Bah! Humbug!

We all know Ebenezer Scrooge, the vile villain of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. The word scrooge is the epitome of miserly greed, of self-concern, and of the use of immoral trickery for gain.

You may well wonder, isn't Christmas the antithesis of Scrooge and everything he stands for? Dickens' epithet for Scrooge is the Dark Master. People on the street turn away from Scrooge. He is described as eschewing coal and candles and as liking darkness "because it is cheap." Money and its hoarding is the defining character of Scrooge. When the ghost of Marley appears to Scrooge, the life and values of Scrooge are condemned when Scrooge justifies them as "good business":

"Business!" cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. "Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!" The reward of Marley and Scrooge for their life of 'good business' is a soul with eternal unrest:

"It is required of every man," the Ghost returned, "that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellowmen, and travel far and wide; and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. It is doomed to wander through the world -- oh, woe is me! -- and witness what it cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness!"

We all know this about Scrooge. We all know that the loneliness of lost love and of friendships refused is the consequence of Scrooge's denial of everything Christ taught. Symbol of Christmas? Bah! Humbug! You say.

Homestead Presbytery  
**[The Wise Men still Seek Him](#)**  
**[Advent Devotional](#)**

**Why I Love My Church.....**  
There just doesn't seem to be enough love for our churches. Come on! Share with us - don't be shy! **Send a note about why you love your church!**  
[krisp@homestead.org](mailto:krisp@homestead.org)

**[PYT 2013](#)**

Registration  
for High  
School age



youth begins **January 31- May 31, 2013 (Fall 2013 freshman thru graduating spring of 2013)**

Cost: \$469.00 per person  
Homestead Presbytery covers transportation costs  
Registrar: Rev. Cathy Allen  
[tworevs52@yahoo.com](mailto:tworevs52@yahoo.com)  
or 402-892-3362

**Related Links**

**[Mission Yearbook of Prayer](#)**  
**[View daily online for free](#)**

**[FriendlyPresbyterianChurches.org](http://FriendlyPresbyterianChurches.org)**

**[Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#)**

**[Synod of Lakes & Prairies](#)**

**[Running Notes](#)**

I say, nay! Humbug is not the story of Scrooge. The story of Scrooge is the great and glorious story of the 'Reason for the Season'! Christmas is the time to remember that Christ came into the world to redeem the world. Even Ebenezer. He was a tough nut to crack, but he did come 'round. It took the ghost of Marley [a good preacher?] and three visitations of spirits...[the work of the Holy Spirit here?]. But in the end, Scrooge is redeemed. He repents of his old ways, and reforms his actions. In the end, he makes a vow to be and to act better:

Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; "...He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world...and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God Bless Us, Every One!"

It doesn't matter how we started out. Or where we are. As the church, we are the Spirit of Christmas...past, present and future. The Good News is that Christ has come! And that it's not too late for any of us, or for anyone, to know the love of God and to be the joy of Christmas for the world, our neighborhood, and our neighbor. It is my Christmas wish that we may all indeed be Scrooge-like! And know that God does truly bless us, every one.

Merry Christmas.

On the evening of Wednesday, November 21 Lincoln Heritage hosted the Lincoln Presbyterian Churches for their annual Thanksgiving Eve worship.

Worship leaders included Sue Coller, Jim Goble, Jim Goodenberger, Kenneth Hipple, and Raymond Meester. A combined choir under the direction of Heritage's Rachel Kornfeld-Lambrecht sang the anthems, "It is a Good Thing to give Thanks," and Canticle of Thanksgiving," and led the congregation in singing while wearing choir robes from their own churches. Heritage's Mission Committee served refreshments in fellowship hall following the service. An offering of \$503.00 was received for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts.



*Check out page 25 of the December 2012 issue of [Presbyterians Today](#)! There is a picture of Homestead's own Ramona & Gina Meester (wife & daughter of Rev. Ray Meester - Heritage PC Lincoln).*

Tell us what's going on in the life of your congregation or ministry -  
Church news, event promotion, mission articles and photos are all welcome!

Please submit articles to [krisp@homesteadpres.org](mailto:krisp@homesteadpres.org)  
or mail to 1135 Eastridge Road, Lincoln, NE 68510

#### Contact Information

Congregational Resource Coordinator, Kris Peterson

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Gina Meester now has a blog  
about her life in Africa as a YAV -  
check it out at  
<http://gmyav2012.blogspot.com/>