

"Little Mercies . . ."



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Yes, we do live in a rapid-paced culture ... yes, the culture is often cynical ... but every once in awhile, when you allow yourself to step back from the spinning world we call home, you can see wonderful snippets of goodness and you can even manage a smile or two. To wit, here is a sampling of stories from our town's newspaper New Year's Day edition:

"Sweet Surprise" - When Wellesley Police Officer Marie Cleary headed off to work on a Wednesday, the week before Christmas, she thought it was going to be a typical day. By mid-afternoon, she'd receive the surprise of her life ..." (Marie 's husband had been able to arrange a quick surprise Christmas furlough from the war in Iraq ... so there he was, in complete battle fatigues, standing in the Wellesley Police Station!)

"Leave It to The Women" - Wellesley Hills women's club has been serving the town since 1890.. (A wonderful article about an endless parade of women who understood that service is at the heart of a life of character.)

"A Close Shave on Linden Street" - Larry Corda gives Jim Negro a shave and a haircut at his shop on Linden Street Tuesday morning. Corda is one of the few barbers who still give shaves with a straight razor ..." (This was accompanied by a picture of Larry in action inside his barber shop.)

So what's the point pastor? The point is simply that we must never lose track of the fact that even though we live in "enemy occupied territory" (you'll have to read C.S. Lewis to understand that remark), God still allows His mercy to be felt throughout His creation. The theologians refer to it as "common grace" - it's a work of the Holy Spirit - "whereby He, without renewing the heart, exercises such a moral influence on man that sin is restrained, order is maintained in social life, and civil righteousness is promoted ... those general blessings, such as rain and sunshine, food and drink, clothing and shelter, which God imparts to all men indiscriminately where and in what measure it seems good to Him." (Berkhoff, Systematic Theology)

So why not learn to look for signs of common grace in this New Year - you will be a happier person for it!

Blessings in this New Year.