

Dear Friends,

Almost from the moment Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz learned they were expecting their 2nd child, they decided to write the pregnancy into the lives of their fictional characters, Lucy and Ricky Ricardo, on *I Love Lucy*. Some of you may remember as the TV episode approached in which Ricky Jr. was born, school events and board meetings were rearranged so that TV viewers could be home to see the big moment. (Ah, life before VCRs, DVRs, and TiVo!)



What some people didn't realize was how nervous CBS executives were over the pregnancy being part of the TV show. Censors insisted that the word "pregnant" could not be used - even though the priest, pastor and rabbi supervising the scripts said, "Well, that's what she is!" Instead, Fred and Ethel had to say "in a family way."

And in spite of all of the orchestrations, the one thing no one could predict was that Lucille Ball would give birth to Desi Arnaz Jr. the same day that Lucy Ricardo gave birth to Ricky Ricardo Jr.



We come into this season with some of the same expectations and nervousness. We will hang the greens in our church and homes and wish one another "Merry Christmas." But will our welcome for the Christ Child continue beyond those walls? Will we incorporate Christmas into our other associations, or will we say

"Happy Holidays" to be safe?

Maybe like the CBS executives, we are a little nervous about this baby. He seems so innocent in the manger, but will we be bold enough to accept him as Savior and Lord?

And most of all, are we allowing some room for wonder and surprise? Instead of expecting the same old same old - and getting it - will we build in room for God to take us to new levels of joy and peace during this season?

My prayer is that when Christmas Day arrives, we indeed will be prepared to welcome the Christ Child - the one sent by God out of His love for the entire world.

Peace and prayers,
Pastor Kathy