



## Christmas Gift

During Grace Church at Willow Valley's Christmas Eve service, Sam Mylin felt like "the little drummer boy with 'no gifts to bring." He and his wife, Kathy, watched as their fellow church members in Lancaster, Pa., celebrated Christmas by sharing their gifts of music, dance, and drama. Mylin decided he, too, wanted to give.

His gift would be a painting. Twelve years later, Mylin has created a series of work inspired by the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Each Advent season, the church exhibits Mylin's paintings. The new addition was revealed following the Christmas Eve service, concluding with the 12th painting in 2013.

What began as a means to celebrate Christmas Eve also became a way to celebrate the individuals and families of the Willow Valley church, which is pastored by John Smith. Mylin remembered that while he was presenting his first painting, he heard a small voice whisper, "Give it away to a loved one." Since then, Mylin has gifted each new work to another person or family in the congregation.

"All of this is for the Glory of God," said Mylin. "I am just a paint brush used by my Creator. This series is not about entertainment, glitzy show, or self glory at all. It is a gift for my True Love."

*This story was first published at [graceconnect.us/christmas-gift/](http://graceconnect.us/christmas-gift/). Go to [graceconnect.us](http://graceconnect.us) to subscribe to the weekly e-newsletter that includes stories about how God is working through the people and churches of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.*

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