Is winter over yet?

I read a little bit of a column in yesterday's paper about him already being tired of winter and I had to think to myself that I quite agree with him, at least for now. A week ago I would not have been in agreement but the last several days have shown the rougher side of winter. Starting Monday morning, we had the rain from the night before that turned into the freezing rain during the night leaving the roads very icy in the morning. The very next day, the snow started coming down in the afternoon making for a longer return commute that time. However, after all was said and done about this storm I said to myself that I could shovel snow like that all the time- very light and fluffy.

Then Thursday night came. The storm that shut down the schools on Friday for a head start on the two-week break. I really would have liked to say I didn't mind shoveling after *this* storm but that would make me a liar. Shoveling this snow was like shoveling dirt and rocks it was so heavy. It felt like the snow had been compacted as much as possible after falling, but still leaving several inches to move. The end of the driveway was the worst. We could use some modern technology to replace those snowplows that shove all the snow in the road to the side, including driveways. I could not shovel the driveway and sidewalk all at once- I took a few-hour break between sessions.

Saturday. Not so bad, but then snow started coming down in the evening when I was still driving. Light snow, but at this point I was already tiring of it. Then of course we have today's frigid temperature. Fortunately the car started right up for me this morning, but it was a little more trying following church. The battery is only two years old, so I can only guess that I didn't let it run for long enough between

home and church to keep the battery charged. I did notice that by the time I got near my home afterward the temperature needle still had not moved so I drove for about ten minutes more just to let the car warm up. And tomorrow promises more of the same. At least it was sunny out. Tuesday is forecast to be much warmer in the upper 20s, but it also shows snow. How about sunny *and* warm. Please?

So is it time for spring yet? Unfortunately the calendar shows winter only just began…