

January 2013  
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#285 The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed;  
Those who help others are helped. Proverbs 11:26-27 *The Message*

This is the season for New Year's resolutions. We want to start out the New Year on the right foot, taking care to improve ourselves and our habits. For many people means starting with two of the top ten resolutions made each year - *getting out of debt and saving money*.

We also tend to be facing a number of money crunches at this time of year: *Why does the car always seem to need a major repair in December or January? How did we end up with so much on the credit card when we vowed to have a "simpler" Christmas? When can we stop worrying about the heating bill?* Seriously, you want me to "Think Greater" about generosity?

Yes, that seems counter-intuitive, but generosity breeds a positive, "can-do" attitude in us. It's good to say thank you, even in tough times. Consider making the first payment from your paycheck a "thank you" gift for the many blessings you've received. And, save an equal amount in an emergency savings account you can use when you truly need to overspend your regular budget for medical needs, car repairs, house repairs or emergency family travel.

Some folks find that giving 5% of their income to the church and saving another 5% each week or month in an emergency fund can be a helpful spiritual tool as they take responsibility for their finances.

If you'd like help in meeting your financial New Year's resolution, sign up today to attend the two-hour **Freed Up From Debt Workshop** sponsored by the Foundation on January 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 8:00 pm or January 28<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 - 4:30 pm in Room 305 of the Conference Center in Sun Prairie. Cost is \$8.00. Everyone is welcome! Call us to register and to get more information:

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750 Windsor Street Ste 305, P.O. Box 620  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0620  
1-888-903-9863 or [wumf@wumf.org](mailto:wumf@wumf.org)

*Growing in Generosity with Children*

Eleven year old Hallie sat quietly while the other children in her Sunday School class were talking about their allowances, particularly how low their allowances were in the face of all their expenses. When asked if she thought her allowance was big enough she replied, "Of course, why wouldn't it be?" When asked how much it was, she replied, "Ten dollars a week." Even the children who received less than that per week didn't understand how Hallie could think that was enough.

"It's enough," she replied stubbornly. "I give one dollar a week to the church, and put three dollars a week into savings. That leaves six dollars a week to do WHATEVER I want with. As long as I don't want anything that costs more than six dollars, it's enough."

Shared by Rev. Heather Brewer  
Pastor of the Bloomer and New Auburn UMC's

If you're looking for a good book to share with children to help them learn good money habits from an early age, we recommend Three Cups by Tony Townsley. This is the story of one family's unique and effective method of teaching personal financial management.

For more resources to help you meet your financial goals this year visit:

[www.sharesavespend.com](http://www.sharesavespend.com) - Family Money Talks, Mind Your Money - for adults, and Money Sanity Solutions Book and DVD  
[www.moneypurposejoy.com](http://www.moneypurposejoy.com) - click on "Resources," "Calculators," and then "Accelerated Debt Payoff Calculator"  
[www.threerules.org](http://www.threerules.org)  
[http://www.willowcreek.com/resources/good\\_sense.asp](http://www.willowcreek.com/resources/good_sense.asp)

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February 2013  
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#286 *Giving is an act of Love.* Protect yourself against the least little bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot." Luke 12:15 The Message

When Rev. Lowell Bartel retired, he wanted to honor the ministry of the many local pastors he admired as colleagues over the years. His initial gift of \$10,000 established the Licensed Local Pastor Endowment Fund to provide financial assistance to Licensed Local Pastors attending the Course of Study for Ministry.

The amount available each year will be based on 5% of the balance in the Endowment Fund. Rev. Bartel's hope was that others would also contribute to this Endowment Fund. It was a passion of his that he hoped others shared.

What is your passion? What do you love so much about your local church or our ministry together as United Methodists that you are moved to establish an Endowment Fund?

In this month of expressing our love and passion, we invite you to consider giving a gift that keeps on giving from now into perpetuity. Consider the gift of establishing an Endowment Fund for a ministry purpose that is important to you. Or consider adding funds to an existing account.

The Licensed Local Pastor Endowment Fund is account #C229 at the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. For a list of other Endowment Funds that benefit our common ministry or for more information on establishing an Endowment Fund for your local church, please contact us at:

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*Growing in Generosity - The "Extra" Chair*

As they prepared for their annual Valentine's Day dinner and dance outing last year, three couples who meet monthly to socialize realized how much food their local food pantry could buy for the cost of one of their tickets for the night. As they met to finalize the details, one of the men suggested they try something new. He asked each couple to set aside an amount for a "Third Ticket" or an "Extra Chair" and to save that money to give to charity at the end of the year, instead of buying each other Christmas gifts.

Through their "Third Ticket" or "Extra Chair" plan, each couple placed the cost of an extra ticket to the show or play or the cost of an extra dinner in a jar they kept at home. If they went out to dinner and the cost was \$20 apiece, each couple put another \$20 bill in the jar. If they went out to a play and tickets cost \$30 to \$40, each couple put that amount in the jar. Even if they just met on the spur of the moment for a quick lunch at \$5 apiece, they went home and put an extra \$5 in the jar.

Their motive was to save regularly in order to make a substantial charitable gift at the end of the year. They found it also reminded them to pray more regularly for persons in need.

At the end of the first year, their "Extra Chair" savings totaled just over \$3,000. On the night they gathered to share their savings and determine which charities to support, they started with a pot luck instead of going out to dinner. Then they divided their gifts between their church's shared connectional giving (apportionments) and three extra mission funds: their local food pantry, a mission outreach to children in a nearby state and a world hunger organization. They reported, "It was the best Christmas gathering the six of us have ever had!"

Perhaps we can use their idea to start saving for our own Christmas miracles this year!

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March 2013  
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#287 *Giving is...to be consistent...* "Every Sunday each of you make an offering and put it in safekeeping. Be as generous as you can." (1 Cor. 16:2 The Message)

How much should we give?

The church Annette attends paid its bills in full last year using the usual end-of-the year crisis call for money. After celebrating a sense of relief that all commitments were made in full some people started asking, "How much should we give, anyway?" Others pointed out that they wanted to give more last year but the plea for money came at a bad time. They said, "If we had known about this all year, we could have started saving earlier."

As chair of the Church Council, Annette suggested they turn to the story of how Paul encouraged the Corinthians to make offerings to assist those in need by giving generously and regularly, setting something aside week by week. She said, "If you're seriously wondering how much to give, consider starting at 3% of your net income. If you're above that but below tithing, ask God in prayer what might be an amount that will invite you to sacrifice, yet give you joy as you consider the lives that will be changed."

The tithe was established so that all the people might know the abundance of God's love. As United Methodists, we tend to average giving only about 1% of our income. Imagine the variety of ways we could be in mission and ministry if we could average giving 3%, 5%, 7% or even a full 10% tithe!

No matter how much we are called to give to the church, it is always easier in the end if we put God first and write those checks as the first check of every pay period. Whether it's 3%, 5%, 10% or more, choose an amount that helps you to grow in faith through sacrifice and joy - remembering that in giving away up to 10%, we still have 90% or more to meet our obligations, wants and needs!

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Some Lenten ponderings from 1911:

Seven Ways of Giving

First - *The Careless Way*: To give something to every cause that is presented, without inquiring into its merits.

Second - *The Impulsive Way*: To give from impulse - as much and as often as love and piety and sensibility prompt.

Third - *The Lazy Way*: To make a special offer to earn money for benevolent objects by fairs, festivals, etc.

Fourth - *The Self-denying Way*: To save the cost of luxuries and apply them to purposes of religion and charity. This may lead to asceticism [severity] and self-complacency [self-righteousness].

Fifth - *The Systematic Way*: To lay aside as an offering to God a definite portion of our gains - one-tenth, one-fifth, one-third, or one-half. This is adapted to all, whether rich or poor, and gifts would be largely increased if it were generally practiced. (1 Cor. 16:2)

Sixth - *The Equal Way*: To give God and the needy just as much as we spend on ourselves, balancing all our personal expenditures by our gifts.

Seventh - *The Heroic Way*: To limit our own expenditures to a certain sum and give away all the rest of our income. This was John Wesley's way.

-by Dr. A. T. Pierson from Gems of Thought on Tithing,  
Published 1911 By George W. Brown, a Presbyterian layman

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April 2013  
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#288    *"Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God  
what belongs to God.." Matthew 22:21*

**Are you 70-1/2 or older?  
Or do you know someone 70-1/2 or older?  
If you are, what ministries are you most passionate about?  
Don't pass up the chance to make a special gift this year  
and save on your 2013 income taxes!**

Don and Sandi always wanted to see a youth minister in place at their church. When they learned they could make a distribution directly to their church from their Traditional IRA to provide the seed money to start this ministry, they decided to tithe their IRA. A few other members of their church joined them in this effort and now the youth ministry position is funded for the next five years.

The IRA Rollover is a special giving option that is only available **through December 31, 2013** to persons 70-1/2 and older. Call your IRA administrator today and request to have your Required Minimum Distribution for 2013 (*or a gift of your choice up to a maximum of \$100,000*) sent directly to your local church *or another charity*. This gift will benefit the ministry you have designated and will NOT be included in your gross income for tax purposes.

**What types of IRAs qualify?** Only Traditional and Roth IRAs

**When?** Now through December 31, 2013.

**Where can I make Qualified Charitable Distributions from my IRA?** Only to qualified public charities. All United Methodist Churches and United Methodist Ministries are qualified public charities: UMCOR, any of our Health and Welfare Ministries, UM Camps, or Advance Specials. You may make an outright gift or make a gift that establishes a permanent endowment fund. For more information and a sample letter please contact us at:

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Helps for the Stewardship Chair

*Are you receiving a tax refund this year?*

*Consider giving a portion or a tithe (10%) to support a  
ministry you're passionate about!*

*A member of one church called and offered a tithe of his tax  
refund to fund camp scholarships for children to attend one  
of our United Methodist camps this summer.*

*What are you passionate about?  
Whether your tax refund is less than \$100 or several thousand  
dollars, a portion of that refund can make a real difference  
in the lives of those we serve.*

*What is God calling you to give?*

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There is an old parable of the man who had a pond of water on his land. He was always hoarding water, turning every little ditch into his pond, setting tubs and buckets under every eave and spout, and carrying water to put into it. He envied even the birds what they drank; fearing lest someday the pond would be dry and he would perish of thirst. But coming one day with an unusually heavy load of water, he slipped and fell into his pond and was drowned. There are many [of us] who are hoarding and pouring into the pond of our material wealth, who at last will be overwhelmed in its waters. It is not the pond which never gives, but the stream which does nothing but gives and looks as if it would soon run itself away, that is constantly replenished and is kept pure, sparking and bright.

-Rev. C. W. Harshman  
*Taken from Gems of Thought on Tithing  
Compiled by George W. Brown, Indianapolis, 1911*

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May 2013  
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#289 *Giving means thinking positively.* "Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times." (Ephesians 5:16 *The Message*)

April showers bring May flowers! We all hope that all the rain and snow showers we've received this spring will turn into a wonderful gift of flowers. The same can be said for our financial gifts. We like to see the fruits of our labors, so to speak!

As Bob and Marilyn finished their taxes this year, they realized that an additional gift to their church and other charities could turn their personal blessings into gifts for many others - and save them taxes, especially capital gains taxes if they gave appreciated stock.

They decided on an amount to give this year, but couldn't decide exactly how to distribute it. Marilyn said, "We have to decide. If we don't start giving this amount right now, you know we'll find other frivolous things to do with the money. If we really feel called to give it away, we need to use it to make gifts." Then they learned they could establish a DONOR ADVISED FUND through the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation.

A Donor Advised Fund allows you to claim a tax advantage in the year you make the gift and your Donor Advised Fund account is established at the Foundation. Donor Advised Funds are distributed over an unlimited period of time on a schedule that accomplishes your charitable giving goals. This allows you to "take your time" in distributing your gift.

For more information on how you might meet your charitable giving goals through a Donor Advised Fund, contact us at:

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Helps for the Stewardship Chair

Gandhi said,  
"There are enough resources  
In the world  
For everyone's need,  
But not for  
Everyone's greed."

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"No one would remember  
The Good Samaritan  
If he'd only had good intentions;  
He had money as well!

-Margaret Thatcher

\*\*\*\*\*

"We are called to share generously from what we already have,  
so that all may have enough.

Don't worry about giving what you don't have.  
Give generously and willingly of what you do have,  
And all will be blest!"

*By Joe Dominquez and Vicki Robin, Your Money or Your Life*  
From *The Abingdon Guide to Funding Ministry*, Vol. 3 by Donald Joiner and Norma Wimberly  
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June 2013  
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

**#290 Giving is a life-long journey.** "What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

**"In and Out"**

By Rev. William F. Helwig, President  
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

*Our thanks to Bill for his faithful ministry with the Foundation for the last 21 years. This will be his final newsletter item as he is retiring June 30, 2013.*

It's been 41 years since I left my job as a systems analyst and computer programmer to respond to the inner call to ministry in the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church. At 27 years of age I decided to change the direction of my life from seeking gain to seeking the joy of life itself. I still recall clearly the excitement I felt driving home after my last day at work. In just a few weeks now I will again drive home after my last day at work and already I feel the excitement growing.

The past four decades have been better than even I had dreamed. The first 20 years I served as a pastor in local churches and the last 21 years leading the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. Our Christian faith clearly teaches us that the joy of life can only be fully experienced in its fullness as we let go of all that we have gained through sharing it with others. Last week, our pastor reminded us again that life is like breathing. We cannot live if we only breathe in. To fully live we must breathe out as well. To follow Christ means to take in and then let go...to receive and then give back.

I'm excited about the next phase of joyful living that awaits me just around the corner. What blessings will come my way? But, more importantly, what can I give away? Breathe with me, won't you? In and out.

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Helps for the Stewardship Chair

***Did you Know...***

Charitable Gift Annuities can provide additional income for persons with assets they feel called to give away. If you have a CD or some shares of stock or mutual funds that are currently underperforming, you might consider establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity. You can increase your income through fixed income annuity payments, remove the asset from your estate, and have the assurance of making an ultimate gift to the church or ministry of your choice at the time of your death.

Call our office today (***Toll Free 1-888-903-9863***) and ask for a Charitable Gift Annuity Application. You will be under no obligation. However, please be ready to share with us your birthdate, the amount of the gift you are considering, whether you will be funding your charitable gift annuity with cash or appreciated stock or mutual fund shares, and your income tax bracket.

**SOME SELECTED CURRENT  
CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY RATES**

One Life		Two Lives	
Age 60	4.4%	Ages 60 & 60	3.9%
Age 65	4.7%	Ages 65 & 65	4.2 %
Age 70	5.1%	Ages 70 & 70	4.6%
Age 75	5.8%	Ages 75 & 75	5.0%
Age 80	6.8%	Ages 80 & 80	5.7%
Age 85	7.8%	Ages 85 & 85	6.7%
Age 90+	9.0%	Ages 90 & 90	8.2%

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July 2013  
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#291 Be faithful. "...fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out." (Romans 12:2 *The Message*)

Cindy and Steve were making final plans for their summer vacation. They had considered some trips close to home, yet their dream trip to Yellowstone kept bouncing back into the discussion. They thought about the fact that their oldest child will start high school in the fall and the fact that they usually traveled home to Michigan to see family. Finally they decided to "go for it" and head to Yellowstone.

The next Sunday, Steve started writing the check for their offering. He found Cindy and asked, "What do you think about giving less to the church this summer to make sure we have enough money for our vacation?" She said, "I guess it's okay...I don't know," as she ran off to comb little Lily's hair.

When it came time for the offering, their 10 year old son took his turn at putting the envelope in the plate. Steve noticed that he was studying it pretty closely. When they got out to the car, Tyler asked, "How come you gave less to the church today, Dad?" Steve looked at Cindy, who stared straight ahead at the road. He replied, "Well, your mother and I were thinking about taking a special vacation this summer. You know that Kristy's going to high school next year and..." Kristy interrupted, "Mom said you were thinking about taking us to Yellowstone instead of going to Grandma and Grandpa's this year. Why would we want to do that? It doesn't seem very faithful to me for us to give less to the church just so we can take a trip to see *Old Faithful!*"

After the kids were in bed, Cindy brought Steve the checkbook and said, "I just went online and signed up to have our regular tithe sent to the church every week through online banking. Do you want to write a check to make up the difference this week or should I?" "I will," he said. "And I'll call my folks to make sure we can come during our usual week in August. Maybe we can take the ferry or do something special while we're in Michigan this year and start a new tradition."

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Helps for the Stewardship Chair

Biblical Stewardship Principle:

*To give is to Respond Gratefully.*

My dad would sit down at the kitchen table on Saturday evenings, write a check, and put it in the envelope. Then he would set it on the corner of the kitchen counter next to his car keys. That's it. He never said anything to my brother and me about stewardship, about giving to God, about the importance of sharing. He just did it. He never missed. He still does it every Saturday night. It's a powerful memory, and it continues.

I did not inherit my dad's organizational skills, nor more honestly, his faithfulness. I have been known to search my purse for a pen while the ushers were coming down the aisle, or to fill out my check for the offering while the pastor was recapping the Gospel lesson. If by some chance the plate went by before I finished - more times than I care to admit - that week's offering never made it anywhere.

But I still remember that envelope sitting by the car keys. And some weeks I lay my own witness on the kitchen counter for my kids to see. I might even write a bigger check to "catch up." It's not a have-to it's a want-to something from my past that allows me to be faithful.

- Barbara DeGrote

From *The Abingdon Guide to Funding Ministry*, Vol. 3 by Donald Joiner and Norma Wimberly, page 170.  
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August 2013  
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#292 "Giving is Fun!"  
"God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7b)

Blake was so tired one night in the middle of the mission trip that he fell asleep at the table during supper! When he got home he was sick for a week, became dehydrated and had to spend time in the Emergency Room.

Now that he's recovered, his pastor asked him, "If you had known ahead of time that you were going to get so sick, would you have gone anyway?" Blake quickly responded, "Of course! Those people have to live like that all the time. We only had to do it for one week. And, we were able to build some things to help make their lives a little better."

God gives us time, talents and treasures to use for God's glory. They are not gifts given to us to store in bigger barns for ourselves. They are like seeds, given to us to plant in good, rich soil so that they can bear the fruit of God's love for us to share with the world.

We often feel the temptation to use all the blessings that come to our own lives for our own benefit. Our Christian faith, however, invites us to live in community. Jesus calls us to TITHE, SHARE, and SACRIFICE from all our blessings.

How will you use your time, talents, and treasures to make a joyful difference for God this month?

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60 Second Offering Statements for the Summer:

This morning it's extremely hot and humid outside. But here inside we are comfortable, thanks to our air conditioning. We can worship in comfort. I thank you for your offerings. Your gifts make it possible for us, as well as those who suffer health problems in the heat, to be here and join together to praise God. Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*

While this has been a cooler summer than last year, it is definitely warm outside today. I give thanks for all of you who have come to worship here today in the name of Jesus in spite of the heat. I give thanks for our air conditioning that enables me to preach and you to listen to the Word of God in comfort. Your faithful offerings, week by week, enable us to pay our utility bills in order that we can all share in Christian community, regardless of the temperature outside. Thank you!

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For churches without air conditioning:

Thank you for your faithful presence here today, even though the weather outside continues to make it hot and uncomfortable inside. The warmth of God's love is evident as we share and sing and pray together. This building is a special, sacred space that has served many faithful generations of Christian people in our community. Thank you for your faithful offerings that keep our ministry alive.

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September 2013  
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#293 The grass withers, the flower fades; But the word of our God will stand forever." (Isaiah 40:8 - NRSV)

Edna loved children, yet she was never blessed to become a mother. Instead, she taught children all her life and cared for each one of them as a gift from God. As she prepared her will, Edna spoke with her pastor about leaving a portion of her estate to the church to be used for children's or youth ministries.

Pastor Phil suggested she make her gift available to provide seed money to start new ministries that might emerge during the program year, outside of the normal budget cycle. He pointed out that often there's no money to even try some new and creative ideas for reaching out to children and youth, when they come up in the middle of the year. Edna was excited about that possibility and included a paragraph in her will stating that a percentage of her estate would be sent to First Church to establish a Ministries Fund. When she died in 1997, \$20,000 came to the church and an account was established with the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. Every year 4% of the market value of the fund is sent to the church to be used for developing program ministries.

Shortly after Edna's gift established the Ministries Fund, another estate gift came to First Church from her friend, Mae and was added to the fund. Mae and her husband, Bill, were also committed to caring for the children and youth of the church. Before he died 10 years earlier, Bill had named the church as the beneficiary of a Certificate of Deposit. He knew that if Mae needed it after he died, the money would be available to her first. But, if she didn't need it, they both had the assurance that a significant gift would be given to the church at the time of her death.

If you have questions about how you might leave a legacy gift to your church, please call us or visit our website listed below.

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Wisconsin Stewardship Stories

*The following story is one of many stewardship stories that we will share from individuals throughout the Wisconsin Annual Conference. If you have a stewardship story or idea to share, please send it to us today. All items submitted are done so with the understanding that permission is granted by the author to the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation for the purpose of sharing items in this forum with other United Methodist Churches.*

**SHOULD I GIVE LESS WHEN I RETIRE?**

Yes, my income is less; yes, I need to tighten my belt; but, please hear the experience of a couple from First UMC in West Allis when they reached retirement.

Introducing Sheridan and "Lou" Ellsworth. Sheridan retired from a long career of teaching and as a Principal in the West Allis School System. "Lou" was a homemaker and a very talented artist. They loved this church! When retirement came they pondered "must we reduce our giving to match our reduced income?"

After much thought and prayer the answer was, "Heavens, No!" They discovered that when not holding a regular job their expenses were much less, and so in retirement they actually increased their giving!

You cannot love something and not offer your best – especially to your church, your family, your friends, and your Lord... "for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also!"

Rev. Earl F. Lindsay  
Retired

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**OCTOBER 2013**  
**A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH**

**#294** *Giving involves your whole self; including all you have and all you accumulate in your lifetime. "Zaccheus said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.'"*  
(Luke 19:8 NRSV)

Zaccheus quickly learned the meaning of the teachings of Jesus is that it is "more blessed to give than to receive." Like children who "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF", he experienced the joy of being able to give to others who are in need. Donors who establish a Charitable Gift Annuity through the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation also experience this joy.

A Charitable Gift Annuity allows you to make a gift to your favorite United Methodist ministry or local church and receive a fixed annuity payment for the rest of your life, or for the duration of your life and the life of your spouse. The payment you receive is a fixed percentage of your gift and is based upon your age. You can also receive a charitable deduction for a portion of the gift you make. At the time of your death, 80% of the remaining funds in your account will be sent to the church or charity you designate.

Examples of the 2011-2012 single life rates are:

Age 55 - 4.0	Age 65 - 4.7	Age 75 - 5.8	Age 85 - 7.8
Age 60 - 4.4	Age 70 - 5.1	Age 80 - 6.8	Age 90+ - 9.0

Charitable Gift Annuities can be established with gifts of as little as \$2,000. For more information, please call our office. Please have information regarding your age, the age of your joint annuitant (if applicable) and your income tax bracket ready to share, in confidence, with a member of our staff.

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation  
750 Windsor Street Suite 305  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
1-888-903-9863 or [wumf@wumf.org](mailto:wumf@wumf.org)

Helps for the Stewardship Chair

Giving Is ... sharing.  
It is an acknowledgement that God owns everything.  
We are simply stewards.

Getting ready for Halloween usually means finding a costume, appropriate make-up and the biggest goodie bag ever. Halloween celebrations can also be a time to teach children (and adults) about giving, when you invite them to "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF"

Children become very excited about this opportunity to help less fortunate children to have clean water to drink, medicine, and warm blankets. Once they've been invited to turn the rather greedy tradition of trick-or-treating into a way to help "the least of these", children seem grateful for the chance to give. And those they visit on Halloween tend to respond with enthusiasm and gratitude as well. Let's not overlook the ways our children can be encouraged to be good stewards and leaders in living the gospel of Christ among us, throughout the upcoming holiday season.

In order to make Halloween count this year, visit the following website <http://youth.unicefusa.org/trickortreat> where you can order collection boxes, or to print out a canister wrapper to create your own collection container. Then go door-to-door on Halloween and "Trick or Treat for UNICEF", or create your own fundraiser.



Ask everyone to help you raise money for kids around the world!

Once you've collected the money, send it to **UNICEF** to help save kids' lives. Print out a [donation form](#) off the website and then send it with a check or money order to:

**Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF**  
**125 Maiden Lane,**  
**New York, NY 10038.**

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November 2013  
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#295 Giving breaks the temptation of greed. *"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind." (2 Corinthians 9:6-7a)*

**Are you 70-1/2 or older?**

**Or do you know someone 70-1/2 or older?**

**If you are, what ministries are you most passionate about?  
Don't pass up the chance to make a special gift this year!**

Don and Sandi always wanted to see a youth minister in place at their church. When they learned they could make a distribution directly to their church from their Traditional IRA to provide the seed money to start this ministry, they decided to tithe their IRA. A few other members of their church joined them in this effort and now the youth ministry position is funded for the next five years.

The IRA Rollover is a special giving option that is only available **through December 31, 2013** to persons 70-1/2 and older. Call your IRA administrator today and request to have your Required Minimum Distribution for 2013 *(or a gift of your choice up to a maximum of \$100,000)* sent directly to your local church *(or other charity)*. This gift will benefit the ministry you have designated and will NOT be included in your gross income for tax purposes.

**What types of IRAs qualify?** Only Traditional and Roth IRAs

**When?** Now through December 31, 2013.

**Where can I make Qualified Charitable Distributions from my IRA?** Only to qualified public charities. All United Methodist Churches and United Methodist Ministries are qualified public charities: UMCOR, any of our Health and Welfare Ministries, UM Camps, or Advance Specials. You may make an outright gift or make a gift that establishes a permanent endowment fund. For more information, see the sample letter on the reverse side or contact Jean Nicholas or Rick Churan at:

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation  
750 Windsor Street Ste 305  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
1-888-903-9863 or wumf@wumf.org

Sample Letter/Email to IRA Custodian – Valid through Dec. 31, 2013

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of IRA Custodian \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Dear IRA Custodian,

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 permits a rollover directly from an IRA to a qualified public charity from January 1 – December 31, 2013. As the owner of IRA account #\_\_\_\_\_ that is in the custody of your organization, I request that you transfer from that account the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to

\_\_\_\_\_ United Methodist Church located at

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

The Treasury Tax ID Number for \_\_\_\_\_ United

Methodist Church is \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_.

It is my intention to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to \_\_\_\_\_ United Methodist Church from my IRA. It is also my intention that this distribution \_\_\_\_ will / \_\_\_\_ will not *(choose one)* fulfill part or all of my IRA required minimum distribution for this year.

This letter is sufficient authorization for you to make this QCD gift. However, if you require any further documents, please promptly send those to me.

Cordially yours,

Name of Donor \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

December 2013  
A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

#296 Give to Grow Spiritually - "For a child has been born -- for us! ... and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings." (Isaiah 9:6-7, *The Message*.)

*"What can I give him ... if I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb".*

When I think of ways to honor the Christ Child during this season, these words from the hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter" often come to mind. And, I remember the many wonderful teachers and caregivers who share the love of Christ with the children in my life:

- The nursery worker who welcomed my five year old grandson to the nursery one day because he wanted to be with her and not in the class where he didn't know anyone;
- The many people at church who go out of their way to say "Hi" to our youngest grandson and smile when he offers a loud, little high-pitched "Hi" in return;
- The Sunday School teachers who invite visiting children to join the group and hold their hand until they feel comfortable;
- The usher who calls the children by name as they come in to worship and offers a "high five" to everyone who accepts;
- The youth group leader who involves everyone in the leadership of an activity and encourages those who are a bit shy than others;
- And, the faithful attender who gives each week to the church offering so that these ordinary ministries sharing the love of Christ can continue to make a difference in people's lives in your congregation and mine.

How will you honor the Christ Child this year? What is Jesus calling you to give of your time, talent and treasures? Remember that the ordinary is often extraordinary and every gift, whether large or small, is a good and perfect gift.

-Rev. Jean Ehnert Nicholas

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Helps for the Stewardship Chair  
*Ways to Grow in Generosity with Children*

Consider a "Simple Home" Christmas without purchased gifts. For coupons that give someone free child care or another service check out <http://www.buynothingchristmas.org/resources/index.html>. For free craft patterns go to [www.freepatterns.com](http://www.freepatterns.com).

During Advent, give them each a "charitable certificate" for a certain amount per day (\$1.00/day = \$25, \$2.00/day = \$50) or whatever sum feels right. Ask them to decide by Christmas what good cause to give it to. Then give it in their names.

## Happy Birthday, Jesus!

As we wait for Jesus' birthday this year, your Christmas gift to him includes a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per day from December 1-25, for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
And you get to decide who this gift will help!

Please decide by Christmas, which good cause you want to receive this gift. We can talk about it together if you want. It is up to you how you will help others know the love of Jesus through this gift.

Merry Christmas, with Love

FROM:

TO:

Websites to Consider when choosing a charity -  
UM Committee on Relief UMCOR) Gift Catalog  
(<http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/give/gift-catalog/>)  
Heifer International ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org))  
The Advance at ([www.advancinghope.org](http://www.advancinghope.org))