



Valley Voice

*The Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World
Pastor Calvin Miller
Office Phone: 814-355-2208
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Understanding Giving

Recently I had the joy of visiting Local Pastors currently attending the Course of Study at Wesley Theological School in Washington. I sat with students and staff and experienced a Love Feast Worship service which is in the Moravian tradition of sharing some sort of bread and drink.

The Message helped me to reconsider my understanding of giving.

The preacher shared that the word “surrender” is most often translated as “give up.” However, a much more accurate and true translation is “give.”

Isn't that amazing? By removing a 2-letter word, the meaning goes from negative to positive; from tearing down to building up; from losing out to gaining everything.

God wants us to gain everything, but we first must give with generous hearts. It is in being a Blessing that we receive Blessings.

In light of this, I encourage you to do two things. First, to examine and define your church membership vows to “give of your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.”

Second, to honestly consider whether you are living into this vow. One of my grandmother's favorite sayings was, “you reap what you sow.” If you're not reaping what you would like to,



consider sowing Blessings- this is the best way to reap them.

I look forward to the upcoming appointment year with you, and I look forward to sowing, and reaping, God's Blessings next to you.

Peace,

Pastor Calvin

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6: 21)



Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church

*MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR
THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD*

Sunday Worship Schedule:

9 a.m.

Buffalo Run UMC Location

10:30 a.m.

Sunday School

Buffalo Run UMC Location

If you are in need of prayer or would like to
have a pastoral visit, please contact

Pastor Calvin Miller

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A Smile

A smile is something nice to see
It doesn't cost a cent.

A smile is something all your own
It never can be spent.

A smile is welcome anywhere
It does away with frowns.

A smile is good for everyone
To ease life's ups and downs.



What Is Tithing?

MATHEMATICALLY it is a tenth. ". . . and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee" (Gen. 28:11).

SCRIPTURALLY it is a law. "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase" (Deut. 14:22).

MORALLY it is a debt. ". . . Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings" (Mal. 3:8).

ECONOMICALLY it is an investment. "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matt. 6:20).

"Give, and it shall be given unto you" (Luke 6:38).

SPIRITUALLY it is a blessing. "I will open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:10).

Send It On Ahead

When candy manufacturer John S. Huyler started out in business, he pledged 10% of his earnings to God. He opened a special bank account that he initialed "M.P." which stood for "My Partner." As he kept his promise to God, his industry grew at a phenomenal rate, and each week the Lord's treasury received increasingly larger sums. His many gifts and contributions were always accompanied with the request that the recipient offer praise to God alone, for Huyler said, "After all, the money isn't mine; it's the Lord's!"

Dear Friend, do you want God as your partner? Then put Him first in your finances. Tithe to your church and donate generously to His Kingdom. Remember that giving to the Lord can be sweet business!

You can't take money with you when you die, but you can send it on ahead.





"The budget committee was wondering if you'd give the same sermon next Sunday."

from Joyfulnoiseletter.com
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Sowing Rotten Seed

Suppose that, at one of our church potlucks, the cooks prepared a scrumptious feast but instead of serving it to us they set the best aside for themselves and served us what was left? Suppose the pastor's wife took the new sack of potatoes home for her family, then mashed the old spuds under the sink, the ones with the mold, for the guests?

In far too many ways the church is treating God in much the same way. How often do we set aside the best for ourselves and give God what's left over?

And if some say, "I always write my tithe check first," let's ask them, "What about your service to the Lord? Do you serve Him first before you serve others or yourself?" Let's ask them, "What about your talents? Does He get the best of your ability and your intellect? The church must remember the main point of the "widow's mite": **Recall that the Lord's focus wasn't the amount which was given, it was the heart attitude before, during, and after the act.**

---J. A. Gillmartin, The SHEEP'S CRIB - Illustrations, sheepcribone.blogspot.com

No God-No Brains?

There was a Quaker who in dealing with an atheist hit the nail on the head:

The atheist asked the Quaker, "Did you ever see God?" "No."

"Did you ever feel God?" "No."

"Did you ever smell God?" "No."

"So why do you believe there is a God?"

The Quaker, in disgust, asked the infidel, "Friend, did thee ever see thy brains?" "No."

"Did thee ever feel thy brains?" "No."

"So why dost thee think thee hast any brains?"

If we have any brains at all, we must come to the conclusion that there IS a God; that there is an Architect behind this marvelous architecture called the Universe.

---The Exchange, via Sparks

You Expected a Reward?

This ancient tale a seer relates:

A man stood at the Pearly Gates;

"Friend, come with me," St. Peter said,

And showed him broken crusts of bread,

Some small, cheap coins upon a plate,

And old clothes, worn and out of date.

"These were the gifts on earth you made

To God's poor, and the tithes you paid."

And then he asked, "Now, what reward

Were you expecting from the Lord?"

---Author unknown, via Sparks

How Do You Spell God?

Three women die and all three reach Heaven at the same time. There they meet St. Peter. He tells them he has some other important business to transact and asks them to wait outside. Finally he returns and calls the first woman into his office. He apologizes for making her wait so long. "Oh, I don't mind at all," the woman says. "I'm so thrilled just to be here in Heaven."

St. Peter is delighted by her attitude. "Well, then, if you can just answer one question for me, we can finish processing your papers. Now tell me, how do you spell 'God'?" The woman spells it for him, then she goes on into the celestial realm.

St. Peter calls in the next woman and also apologizes to her for making her wait. "It will be worth it, I'm sure," she answers. "I am willing to wait one thousand years if necessary in order to see God face to face." St. Peter is very pleased. He insists, though, on asking her one more question for the Records. "Tell me, dear lady, how do you spell 'God'?" The woman spells it perfectly, then enters the Pearly Gates.

Finally, St. Peter calls in the third woman. He also apologizes to her, but she refuses to accept his apology. "It was quite rude," she says angrily. "All my life on earth I had to wait in lines. Wait at the checkout counter, wait at the bus stop, wait for the kids to get home from school, wait for my coffee break. And now you expect me to wait to get into Heaven? Well, I just won't stand for it!"

St. Peter said, "I'm so sorry. If you'll just answer one more question for our records, then you can go on in. Tell me, how do you spell 'Czechoslovakia'?"



Strange People ...

People who talk about prayer but never pray.
People who say tithing is right but never tithe.
People who want to belong to the church but never attend.
People who say the Bible is God's Word to man but never read it.



The Seventh Flute

Preacher William L. Stidger once told a story about the conductor Walter Damrosch who stopped his orchestra when everything was apparently going along smoothly. He asked, "Where is the seventh flute?"

As Stidger points out, the conductor didn't ask for the first flute, or the second flute – but the seventh. Even the seventh flute had an important role in creating the harmony the leader desired.

The lesson, Stidger explained: "We may feel inferior, untalented, not beautiful and some of us uneducated. But each of us has a part to play and should play it well."

He tells how he used to watch the man who plays the triangle in a large orchestra. Often the player would sit through the entire number. Eagerly waiting. Then, toward the close, he would, with perfect timing, deftly strike the instrument and produce just the right note.

In other words, there is no unimportant job. Whatever your part is in this world, do it well.

---Three Minutes a Day



"We find meaning in life not to the extent we look inward but to the extent that we gaze outward, see something that needs to be done, and do it."

---The Christophers

