

November 2005
Money Matters

Dear Theophilus,

November is the time when we lament summer's passing as we await the dark and cold of winter. It is also the time when we consider how we will support LCPC with our annual pledge campaign culminating in Pledge Sunday on November 13th.

Dark and cold somehow connected to giving away money? Maybe you feel that way sometimes, that you are constantly getting bombarded with requests that leave you not only dizzy and irritated but in a dark and cold mood. That's precisely the opposite of what the church is asking us to feel as we are asked for support.

I came across some wise words from Vicky Curtiss, former general presbyter of our presbytery and one of the most spiritually alive people I've had the pleasure of knowing. Here are some of her insights:

Money is a gift from God. When we are in right relationship with God, we will be in right relationship with our money.

Money is a prime idol and addiction in our society, honored like a god. The spiritual discipline of giving money away breaks our compulsive clutching, deepens our gratitude, is an act of trust in God, and, when given in love, multiplies God's work.

Our use of money is an expression of ourselves. How we spend it, withhold it, give it, save it, receive it all reveal our deepest beliefs and values.

When we share, we know abundance.

And there is abundance here at LCPC, of spirit, of grace, of community, of love and I experienced that in a most profound way last weekend.

Speechless and wordless. That's how that magical weekend has left me, celebrating my 10th anniversary at LCPC with a fantastic dinner and party, followed by worship on Sunday morning. A great thank you to all who dreamed it up, organized, arranged, prepared, worked on the details great and small, who came to dinner, who wrote me notes, who couldn't come but wanted to, who contributed to the monetary gift (thank you, thank you!), and who are part of this great congregation.

I have had a recurring dream ever since I stopped playing college baseball that I had one more year of eligibility. Now, thanks to ten families and individuals of the congregation, I can live out that dream for a week at the Indians Fantasy Camp January 22-29, 2006 in Winter Haven, Florida. Literally a dream come true! What a wonderful gift.

Again, thank you all for honoring me. November doesn't seem so cold and dark anymore. You have shared your abundance with me and may we do so with one another, in our pledge campaign, with God, with the world.

Grace and peace,

Harry

