

Stewardship corner

“Bigger Barns and Stewardship”

But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God. -Luke 12: 20-21

I ain’t ever seen a hearse with a luggage rack. -George Strait
(from his song *You’ll Be There*)



When Pastor Katie gave her memorable sermon entitled [Bigger Barns](#) recently, she provided us with the definition of wealth from a spiritual perspective. We have reprised a few passages for this month’s column:

“... Jesus talked in various ways about money—more than about anything else—so it makes sense that our

lectionary texts would help us to encounter some of these passages involving wealth and money and possessions outside of designated stewardship seasons.

“... This text invites us to think about wealth from a *spiritual* perspective in addition to a pragmatic one—what does it mean to be rich toward God? As this parable unfolds, we hear that the rich man’s land was really turning out those harvests. He had so many crops that he no longer knew what to do with them. His solution? Build bigger barns. Store it up. Hoard it.

“... There are so many things that money cannot buy: Honesty. Integrity. Trust. A happy home. What would be on your list? Humility. Perspective. Selflessness. Wisdom. A place in someone’s heart. Friendship—the kind that lasts even across miles, and picks up right where it left off after years spent apart. Maybe the top of your list is Joy. Maybe it’s Laughter.

“... So much of spiritual wealth is grounded, ironically, not so much in what we store up for ourselves but in what we give away... In the few short weeks that I have been here at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, I have seen you giving away pieces of yourselves to one another.

“... This is what happens when we fill ourselves with God instead of self: relationships are built and strengthened, empty pantries are stocked, strangers are welcomed as beloved friends, and weary hearts (are) replenished.

“... Grain that sits in a silo too long—unused—will eventually begin to rot. But when shared, the very same grain can become life-giving, sustaining, and community-building in so many ways! And, it can be baked into the bread we share together at this very thanksgiving table, that all may gather here to remember, know God’s love, give thanks, and then go out to share that gift of grace.

“... Jesus is offering us, in this parable, the chance to re-evaluate what it REALLY means to be wealthy, to fill one’s barn with God instead of self. ...What might God be inviting us to give away in the days to come?”

Here is a frequently-asked question: When the offering plate is passed around, I notice that many active members don’t put anything in. Why?

Answer: There are many ways to pledge and donate. Increasingly, many of our members are pledging electronically, so there is no need to place cash or a check in the offering plate. While some may donate only periodically; the majority of our active members do so on a regular basis.

([Click here](#) to listen to MP3 audio of Pastor Katie’s sermon, *Bigger Barns*, referenced in this month’s column.)

Please reach out to Stewardship Committee members with your questions and suggestions or your desire to join. Our contact information is as follows:

- Dick Curry; Co-Chair:** (703) 629-0772 rca1817@aol.com
- Kim Pacala; Co-Chair:** (571) 220-6911 kpacala@verizon.net
- Elizabeth Hefferon; Session Liaison:** (703)623-9017 theff2@verizon.net
- Kathy Bagden:** (703) 477-6399 kbagden@yahoo.com
- Bill Huyler:** (703) 343-0812 whuyler@huyler.com
- Mike Mackensen:** (703) 919-8334 mackensens@msn.com
- John Tysse:** (703) 734-0120 jtyss@ntll.com
- Hal Van Gieson:** (703) 969-2532 hvg@micradc.com
- Ann Winston:** (703) 973-0520 awinston1111@cox.net

