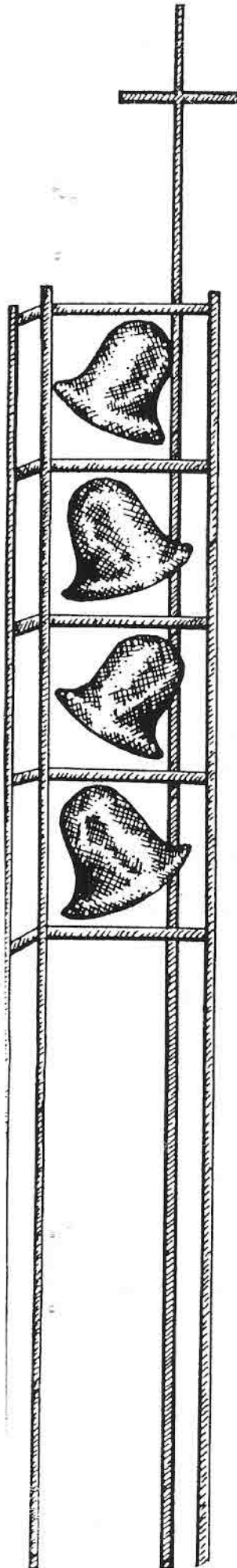


CHRIST'S UNITED'S NEWS & VIEWS

JANUARY 2010

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

BENEVOLENT CHRISTIANS



The lives we lead are very often governed by a variety of economic factors- wages and salaries, prices and interests, taxes and benefits. Particularly at this time of our lives, increased attention is given to these economic concerns as many are simply trying to “make ends meet.” Rises in the cost-of-living indexes and unemployment have raised the level of fear among many of our families. Recessions as we are currently experiencing often lead to a reduction of saving and in “charitable giving.” Bailouts and regulatory intervention have enabled quite a few “for-profit” businesses to stay afloat. But in this economic downturn, many agencies and organizations that depend on generous and benevolent giving are suffering because of decreased giving and higher demands for services.

Interestingly, the Gospels reveal that Jesus addressed economic concerns quite often in his preaching and teaching. He was aware of unjust economic practices and the effects of greed on the

distribution of goods and services. He was alert to the needs of the poor and those who lived at the margins of society. He called on his followers to share graciously and generously with those in need. And he sternly warned against seeking wealth simply for the purpose of getting rich. His warnings were poignant and direct- “how hard it will be for a person of wealth to enter the Kingdom of God.” His concern was not to instill fear or panic but to guide his followers to live and act justly towards all and to share God’s provisions equitably and fairly.

As Christians living out our lives in communities of families and churches, we are constantly aware of the economic practices of generating income, paying expenses, meeting budgets, saving for the future, and addressing “unexpected” costs incurred by such things as illnesses or property maintenance and replacement. Many of our daily choices are

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 Fri – 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

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 The Rev. John D. Yost.....Pastor
 Bette McCrandall.....Missionary
 Margie Dunkle Sec/Asst Tr/Editor
 Al Pantaleo & Dianne Shuck..... Treasurers
 Janet Hackenberg & Greg Shuck..... Asst Trs
 Glen VanDyke Choir Director
 Tom Catherman Custodian
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THE DEADLINE FOR
 ARTICLES FOR THE

FEBRUARY

 NEWSLETTER IS:

JANUARY 18

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE...

...when a member of your family is sick or is admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made and the proper people notified.

...when your phone number is changed, so the church records can be corrected.

...when you move—out of town or locally.

...when a new baby arrives in your family or in the family of another church member.

...when a member of your family leaves home for college or to establish a new residence.

...when a new family moves into your neighborhood.

...when your class or group plans to have a meeting, so that it can be cleared and placed on the church calendar.

...when something good happens to you or your family.

...when you feel the church can assist you in any way.

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motivated by economic factors and ultimately reveal what we deem as most important in our lives. Our spending habits do truly indicate the value of our relationships- to God, to each other, and to the world in which God places us.

The “for-profit” corporate world is slowly making an upturn through regulatory interventions, tax incentives, and demands for goods and services. Demands are also increasing for those agencies and organizations that regularly rely on charitable and benevolent giving. But as the demands for these services increase, the benevolent giving has decreased or has remained steady. “Not-for-profit” and church-based charitable organizations are having difficulty addressing the needs in their communities as demands have far exceeded “normal” public or governmental intervention. As followers of Christ, how are we to respond, particularly as we need address our own personal and congregational economic concerns?

We need first to be aware of the needs and concerns of the whole people of God as well as the demands placed upon our “charitable” organizations. Secondly, we are called as followers of Jesus to assist in ways that we are able- with our time, our talents, or our monetary giving. As a congregation, we historically have risen to the occasion and have responded generously to needs brought before us, such as World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Relief, and more locally through the Red Cross, Haven Ministries, Hope’s Haven and the Mifflinburg Food Bank.

For 2010, council has approved monthly benevolent giving to be directed for particular “not-for-profit” and charitable agencies and organizations. Each month, you will have an opportunity to give to these particular funds. Each Sunday there will be a collection box for the designated benevolence as well as a description of its services for those it serves. We simply ask that you give as you choose and are able. Again, these gifts are beyond regular congregational giving.

The designations selected are as follows:

- January- “Food for the Poor”**
- February- “American Red Cross”**
- March- “Mifflinburg Food Bank”**
- April- “Camp Mount Luther”**
- May- “Hope’s Haven”**
- June- “Lutheran Church in Liberia”**
- July- “Haven Ministries”**
- August- Lutheran Disaster Relief**
- September- “Heifer International”**
- October- “Lutheran World Hunger”**
- November - local needs as they arise**
- December- local needs as they arise**

If you have any questions and concerns or suggestions of possible benevolences, please direct these to Pastor John. As God has blessed us, may we be a blessing to others.

--Pastor John

BIBLE STUDIES



Luke’s parables will be the topic of the Bible studies when they resume in January. We invite and encourage everyone to attend any of the sessions below:

10:30 a.m.

7:00 p.m.

January 4
January 11
January 18
January 25

January 6
January 13
January 20
January 27

