



Why I Give

by Pastor Charles

In weeks before Christmas, our congregation's leaders mailed a letter containing initial information about our stewardship emphasis on January 3rd and 10th. In the December letter, everyone in First United Methodist Church was asked to pray about making his/her/their best gift. As 2016 begins, we can choose to be faithful stewards with every gift God has entrusted to us. The January 3rd theme promotes stewardship as it relates to time and talents, and the January 10th focus encourages financial faithfulness. Throughout this edition of the Carillon, some of the leaders of our congregation offer a few words on the topic "Why I Give." Below is a brief essay written by Donnis Broman. Her thoughts on "Why I Give" provide an excellent beginning.

*Grace and peace,
Pastor Charles*

Why I Give

by Donnis Broman

My first memories of giving to the church was when I was quite small and attending Sunday school. I placed my coins in the offering plate the teacher passed around the table. I remember feeling good about it and thinking giving seems important. I have very fond memories of Bible school in early June each year. I remember I always took a bouquet of lilacs to the teacher. To this day, when I smell lilacs, I think of Bible school and the fond memories of time spent with friends under the gentle guidance of a caring teacher.

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My paternal grandmother died when I was in junior high. Her memorials were directed to our church. Some of the money went to purchase a sterling silver coffee and tea set for the women of the church to use at wedding and funeral receptions. That set was used at my wedding reception some ten years later. Thirteen years later, my maternal grandmother died, her funeral was at the church and there was the coffee and tea service again! I remember thinking how wonderful it was that money my grandmother had given to the church had come back to touch me personally.

My parents pledged to help build an educational wing onto our century old church in the 1960s. It was an ambitious project considering our congregation was small. I remember my parents discussing how much money they thought they could pledge and they dutifully paid their pledge over several years. I remember feeling their sense of pride as the new building opened and we toured it. The Sunday school classes now had bright and airy rooms. These rooms served myself, my brother and sister and now my nieces and nephews.

Thirty years later, my husband and I pledged to help build the educational wing here at First United Methodist, and we purchased bonds to help do so. Our three children have all benefited from this addition, and now we see young families and their children filling the halls and rooms.

My mother taught Sunday school and served on various committees at our church over the years. I have to say, her favorite volunteering was with the Women's Fellowship. Her favorite project was the annual cookie walk that they sponsored. She would bake for days and donate dozens of cookies. Proceeds raised benefited the church's mission. My mother loved the sense of community, the sense of family within the church. Last year, my mother died after spending over two years in a memory unit. Towards the end of her life, she no longer recognized us and was essentially nonverbal. She lived in a facility that had been built by the Lutheran church a number of years ago, and it had a beautiful chapel. My brother would take her to service on Sunday, and he told us that when it came time to recite the Lord's Prayer, my mother would recite the prayer along with the rest of the congregation. Words she had learned over eighty years earlier were so ingrained in her memory that not even dementia could steal them from her.

I give to the church for those who went before me and provided for me. I give for my children and the children of others so they might have a foundation in the Christian faith. I give for those children yet to be born so that they may be provided the opportunity to learn and grow in their faith.

I see now the legacy that was left me. It was a legacy of caring, a legacy of love and a legacy of hope for the future. I feel a desire and an obligation to continue building upon what those who went before me began.

DEATHS WITH SYMPATHY

Bonnie Fahrenbruch

What John Wesley Believed

You are invited to attend a four-week series on Wesley Theology taught by Ross Loomis. He has become an expert on all things 'John Wesley.' The series begins **January 10** on Sundays in the Parlor, starting at 9:15 a.m. Emphasis during the series will be on the Wesleyan Quadrilateral.

Why I Give

by Stan Woodring

My giving to the church began when I was a child. My parents gave me coins to drop in the offering plate. I knew that the money was important to the church and would be used to help others. It made me feel good, helping others.

As I grew older I began to understand that the money I gave was used for many things. But, in the end, all of the uses resulted in a better life for many. It made me feel good, knowing that.

I know that as one, I can do little to eliminate homelessness, feed the hungry, clothe the poor. But, with others, I can help. How can I not give?

Finally, I give freely. I give with the understanding that I no longer control my donation. I must have faith that it will be used wisely, faith that others share my understanding of helping those in need.

Calling Musicians!

by Karen Stoody

As the year 2016 gets underway, the music staff would love to expand our ministry to involve many more talented musicians of ALL ages that we know are in the FUMC family. Musicians are used to provide special music for the 8:00 worship service every week, to help with the Sanctuary Choir, to provide music for non-traditional worship services and events like caroling to shut-ins, Good Friday, funerals, and many other needs. My personal list of musicians is fairly long, but it has much room for expansion! If you sing or play an instrument of any kind and would like to share your gift, would you please contact me: **karstoo@earthlink.net**. Thank you in advance!!



Article Submission

If you have an article for submission in the Carillon, please email it (300 words or less) to **christyloewen@fcfumc.net** no later than the 15th of the month prior, at 4:00 pm. Thank you!

What's Next in the Interim Process?

by Pastor Vivian Hiestand

Last fall the Transition Team arranged for Pastor Charles and I to lead ten “Listening Circles” comprised of about 15 people in each circle. During the Circle time each person spoke about what drew them to the church, what keeps them involved here, and what their hopes and dreams are for the church. The circles are constructed so that each person is given at least one minute to speak per topic, and all listen without interrupting. Everyone has a chance to say what's on their minds except Pastors Charles and I, who simply listen.

It has been fascinating to learn about our church in this way. Some common themes are emerging from the Circles, and each Circle has several points of view that are unique. The faithfulness of our people is strikingly evident, and it is clear the Holy Spirit is moving within and among us bringing a sense of hope and renewal.

One thing has become clear to all who have participated thus far: they didn't really know what others thought and felt about the church. At the start of this process many people thought that they had a good idea of what others in the church knew and what opinions were generally held. But we have all been surprised at what we've learned during these gentle listening times.

“Listening Circles” will resume this month, and continue for several months more. But there is more to

the interim process than listening, so later in the spring we will move into the next phase of the process: discernment. Discernment is about more than making decisions about what to do as a church. It is the time when we listen to God's deep desire for our church and come together to create a way to live into that call.

During the discernment process we will be in prayer together, then move into a time of conversation. Those conversations will be held in small groups so we continue to really listen to one another. Depending on where God leads us, we may form small groups to study various issues or new ways of being church in today's culture. That information will, in turn, call us into more prayer and continued conversations.

Ultimately, God's leading will begin to become clear as the Holy Spirit moves within the church so that “the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion” (Philippians 1:6). As we are drawn into clarity regarding God's will, we will shift our conversations about what we need to do in order to live into that calling. But that phase is a topic to be addressed in a future article for The Carillon. For now, move forward with hope based on the knowledge that God is steadfast in his love for this church.

And if you haven't already, sign up to participate in a Listening Circle!

Why I Give

by Elaine Andersen

When I was a new freshman at CSU, a long way from home, you welcomed me. When I had three preschoolers, you gave me the Co-op Preschool and Sunday School for everyone. You taught my teenagers to give to others on summer youth mission trips. When my husband was injured in a major accident, you visited and brought food. When I became a caregiver for my parents, you taught me how to care. I made lifelong friends here and grew in faith and understanding.

Why would I not give?



EVERY MOMENT HOLDS THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME
—THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFT OF *life.*

Preschool Registration

by Laura Lechtenberg

Class Offerings

Primary (Must be 3 years old by September 15)

2 day/week:

Mon & Wed	Morning 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Tues & Thurs	Morning 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

3 day/week:

Mon, Wed & Fri	Morning 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
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Pre-K (Must be 4 years old by September 15)

3 day/week:

Mon, Wed & Fri	Morning (2 classes) 9:00 - 12:00 pm
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4 day/week:

Mon – Thursday	Morning (1 class) 9:00 - 12:00 pm
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FUMC members not currently enrolled in preschool will be able to register **February 18th** at 9:00am. Open registration for the public will be **February 19th**. Members may register after their designated day, but they will lose their priority status. Registration involves filing out a registration form and paying the \$50 non-refundable registration fee.

Our Annual Open House is **February 3rd from 9:30-11:30 am**. We invite you to come visit. If you have any questions or would like to visit the program, please call the Preschool Director, Laura Lechtenberg 482-0343 or email lauralechtenberg@fcfumc.net.

Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors about our excellent preschool program!

Adult Faith Formation Events

submitted by David Reid

Book Study: There will be two chances to read *Grounded*, the new spirituality book from Diana Butler Bass, in a small group beginning Jan. 6. The five-week course will be offered at noon Wednesdays in the Parlor and at 7 p.m. Wednesdays in Wesley Commons.

Bass is convinced that religion is not dying but transforming and she explores finding God in dirt, water, and sky in this volume, which is subtitled “A Spiritual Revolution.”

David Reid, director of Adult Faith Formation, will lead these sessions. Contact him to order a book for \$17.

Exploring Brain Plasticity: Howard Nornes will speak on “New Understandings of the Brain’s Plasticity and Its Implications for New Ways of Healing Physically and Emotionally” at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 4 at Trinity Lutheran Church. He is professor emeritus in CSU’s Department of Anatomy/Neurobiology. This is the first presentation of 2016 for the Theologian in Residence Program.

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Church Foundation Announces 2016 Board of Directors

submitted by Stephen Zink

The First United Methodist Church of Fort Collins Foundation, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation, created in 1986 by the Charge Conference, for the primary purpose of soliciting, receiving, administering, and dispersing money and gifts for the ultimate benefit of our church.

The following Foundation Board members have again made the decision to serve on the Board of Directors in 2016. Please know each of you is acknowledged and appreciated for your continued commitment to the Foundation!

John Allum	Recording Secretary
Dave Brown	Vice Chair Investment Committee
Judy Sayre Grimm	Vice Chair, Grant Program
Steve Holland	Chair, Grant Program
Don Lybecker	Treasurer
Rick Norton	Long Range Planning Committee Representative
Pam Raab	Corresponding Secretary
Charles Revier	Investment Committee Chair
Dan Smith	Chair, Endowment Committee
Bonny Thomas	Large Donations Committee Representative
Stephen Zink	President

In addition, Pastor Charles Murry will continue to serve as an “ex-officio” Foundation Board member. The two Trustee representatives, whose names are unknown as of this writing, will be selected by the Board of Trustees during their first meeting in 2016.

If you are interested in helping to grow the capabilities of the church Foundation by making a tax deductible contribution, please contact Stephen Zink, Foundation President, at 970.980.3037 or svzink42@gmail.com. You may also want to speak with one of the Foundation Board members listed above to learn more about the good work of our church Foundation.

Senior Wise

2016 Double Nickel Lunch Calendar

January: no Double Nickel lunch this month!
(But we will be meeting every other month during 2016.)

February 12: Singalong with the Season
with Esther Parsons

March 11: Journey in Ministry
with Cynthia Paquette

April 8: !Zumba!
with Joe & his teachers
from Fort Collins Senior Center

Monday at the Movies for early 2016:

January 25*	<i>Selma</i>
February 22*	<i>Inside Out</i>
March 21	<i>Imitation Game</i>
April 18	<i>Chef</i>

*These are on 4th Mondays due to church closure; all others are on 3rd Mondays.

For more information about these and other senior ministry activities or to sign up for the Seniorwise email mailing list, contact Linn Zink, Senior Council member, lczink@gmail.com or call 970-689-3047.

Why I Give

by Yvonne M. Knight

I was asked what motivates me to give to First United Methodist Church of Fort Collins, Colorado. I moved to Fort Collins and found this church to be my church home. The Bible instructs us to give a tenth of our earnings and 1/7th of our time and talents to God and to our church. God always provides and gives us more than we ever give Him. The ministers give us a wonderful message of God's love and guidance for us. There are wonderful classes and groups that provide Christian fellowship to us. Our Church's Wider Missions go toward programs that help people in our community and in the world proclaiming God's love and our Christian witness to love God and others. That is what motivates me to give to our church—to keep our church strong and to leave a legacy for generations to come.

Why I Give

by Stephen Zink

Generosity with our gifts to the church is one way of connecting to God's purpose and meaning in our lives and a way of acknowledging our gratitude and appreciation. As Christians and as members of First United Methodist Church Fort Collins, we are called to support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Being a part of our church makes a difference in our own lives as we participate in weekly worship, small group programs, and volunteer in some of the many ministries of our church. Through our gifts, we regularly witness our church making a positive difference in the lives of our church members, and we also see how our church reaches out in numerous ways to serve our local community and the world at large.

What motivates our family to give to the church? By giving to this active Christian community at First United Methodist Church, we have a much bigger impact for good on the community and the world than we could ever have by ourselves.



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Hey, Hey - We Are Listening!

by Martha Conant



During October and November, Pastor Charles, Pastor Vivian and members of the Transition Team listened to more than 120 members of our congregation! At the nine Listening Circles, people shared with each other what brought them to FUMC, what keeps them coming, and what their hopes and dreams are for our future.

At each group, people were inspired when they heard the dreams of others and realized how much we all value our church community. People often mentioned our outstanding music, our traditional and contemporary worship services, our welcoming congregation, our many opportunities for service, and our many opportunities for fellowship and community.

Some of the dreams people have for our future include more intergenerational opportunities, more small groups for fellowship and study, a willingness to re-think the Sunday morning schedule, and meaningful sermons and worship. Everyone who attended a Listening Circle felt it was worthwhile. If you haven't attended a Circle, there will be plenty more opportunities starting in January. Stay tuned for more details!