



CIRCUIT WRITER

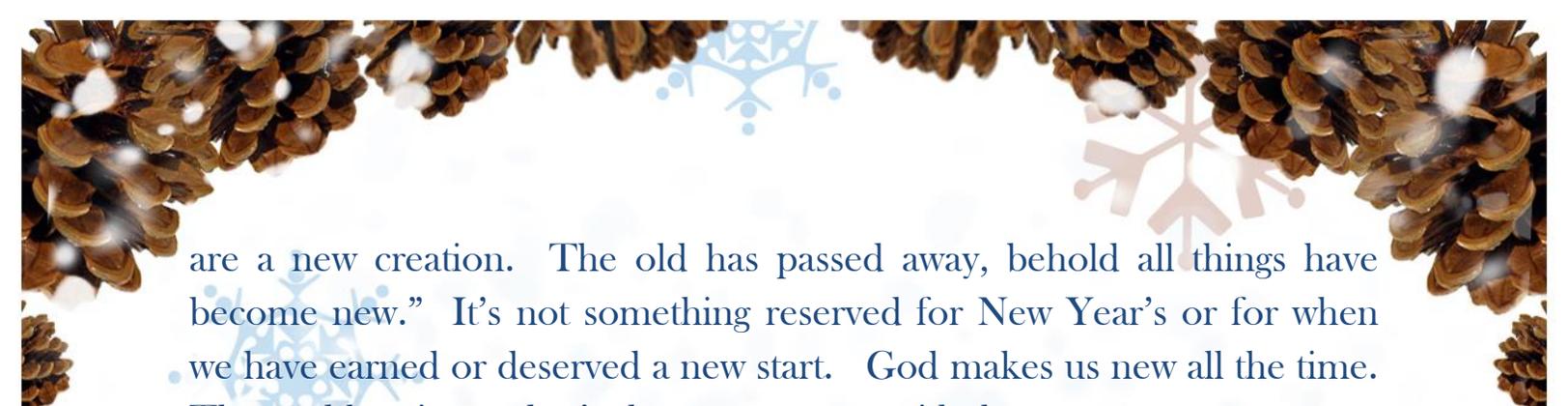
Monthly Newsletter of the Erlanger United Methodist Church
January 2016



It's hard to believe it's New Year's again. Most of us (certainly I) get freaked out because time slips away so quickly. If not that, we get freaked out because we are expected to make resolutions that we know will not be kept for more than a couple of weeks, and we'll feel guilty because we failed. (What a downer!) This holiday is a stark reminder of that. This year I have tried to focus in a different direction. This year I am going to focus on being grateful that God gives us another chance to have a new beginning.

Really, God does that not only with every day, but really with every breath. "Behold I make all things new," the Bible says (Revelation 21:5). The Bible also says, "God's mercies are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23) and of course, from II Corinthians 5:17 - If anyone is in Christ, they





are a new creation. The old has passed away, behold all things have become new.” It’s not something reserved for New Year’s or for when we have earned or deserved a new start. God makes us new all the time. The problem is, we don’t always cooperate with the process.

I hope this year is a year when we all let God make us new. Let’s not hold on to comfort zones and stifling traditions and laziness that keeps us from growing and changing into the people God wants us to be. Sometimes change is hard, but if it is change that takes us on a journey toward God, it will be liberating and invigorating, and we will not want to turn back **EVER!**

Let’s be thankful for the new beginning God gives us – every year, and every day, and yes, with every breath. It’s a great place to live and move and have our being (as it says in Acts 17:28).

See you in church!



Pastor Mark

**MAKE A NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION TO JOIN US FOR
DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY**

Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. beginning February 2

We will begin our study of the New Testament, which is a wonderful and exciting place to read. We did the Old Testament during the fall, but you can join us for the New Testament even if you haven’t done the fall study. We have plenty of study guides (either for purchase or to borrow). You will learn all kinds of things about God, about the church, and about yourself as well. It’s a great way to put God first in your life. To sign up, see the Pastor or call the church office (727-2136)

Fri	1 st	New Year's Day – Office closed	
Sat	2 nd	9:00 am	Methodist Men's Meeting
Sun	3 rd	9:00 am	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 am	Sunday School / Tone Chyme
		10:30 am	Worship
		4:30 pm	Devotions
		5:30 pm	Youth
Wed	6 th	12:00 pm	Evangelism / Caring Team
		7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thur	7 th	11:00 am	Women in Mission
Sat	9 th	10:00 am	Calendar Meeting
Sun	10 th	9:00 am	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 am	Sunday School / Tone Chyme
		10:30 am	Worship
		4:30 pm	Devotions
		5:30 pm	Youth
		6:00 pm	Children's Ministry Meeting
Mon	11 th	6:15 pm	Finance Committee
		7:00 pm	Administrative Board
Wed	13 th	10:30 am	Children's Chapel
		7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	17 th	9:00 am	Communion / Chapel
Human		9:15 am	Sunday School / Tone Chyme
Relations		10:30 am	Worship
Day		4:30 pm	Devotions
		5:30 pm	Youth
Mon	18 th	Martin Luther King Day – Office closed	
		6:30 pm	Trustees Meeting
Tue	19 th	1:00 pm	Grace Edgett Board Meeting
Wed	20 th	5:45 pm	Worship Meeting
		7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	23 th	5:00 pm	Manna Mission Meal
Sun	24 th	9:00 am	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 am	Sunday School / Tone Chyme
		10:30 am	Worship
		4:30 pm	Devotions
		5:30 pm	Youth
Wed	27 th	10:30 am	Children's Chapel
		7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	30 th	10:00 am	Mission Purpose Day
Sun	31 st	9:00 am	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 am	Sunday School / Tone Chyme
		10:30 am	Worship
		4:30 pm	Devotions
		5:30 pm	Youth

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Women In Mission News

We hope each of you have had a blessed Christmas. What will this New Year bring? All of our project and mission concerns are not a one time and done. These concerns and needs are ongoing perpetual. We exceeded our goals in 2015, but so much help continues to be needed. We found much of our efforts focused on the needs of Ida Spence Mission.

We thank each of you who have kept our requests for help in your prayers, with donations of money, items and supplies.

We delivered to Ida Spence Mission in May 150 pairs of flip-flops. At the end of July, we delivered 37 backpacks filled with school supplies (plus a box of extra supplies). While our church was giving out "take home meals" on October 31st, we also had bags of laundry detergent, bleach, cleaner and hand sanitizer to give each person. These cleaning items totaled over 365 containers.

WIM remembered 4 individuals with donations to various mission in their memories. Helen Wilson and Gerri Mellott were remembered with donations of \$200.00 each to UCV and the Laws (Congo). A donation of \$200.00 to Manna Mission was made in memory of Dwight Roberts. The memorial to Ben Mellott was donation of \$200.00 divided between UCV and the Good Samaritan Fund.

We had 2 guest speakers, who each received \$50.00 Gina Cornelius from Ida Spence and Roger Batik of Master Provisions.

WIM met 10 times for meetings and an extra time to fill the school backpacks.

We made donations to 13 different missions and missionaries from pledges of over \$2,000.00 These donations included Master Provision \$100.00, Methodist Mountain Mission \$200.00, TMM Thailand (The Morrissey's Blessing House \$250.00). The following 6 organizations each received \$125.00: Garden of hope, Wesley Foundation, NKU (Vine and Branches), Red Bird Mission and Henderson Settlement.

We added a donation of \$40.00 (from our Sunshine Fund) to the Pastor's Cake jug to go over our goal of \$1,000.00.

We appreciate all who made pillow case dresses for the Operation Christmas Child Boxes. Then there were those who repaired and made new Chrismon ornaments for our tree and wreaths, and a BIG thank you to all who brought supplies for the Sager Brown Disaster Relief kits.

Red Bird Mission is another ongoing project with the collection of Labels for Education and Box Tops for education. These labels are on many products check your kitchen and cleaning supplies, cut out the labels and place in the mission drawer #1.

Women who would like to join us the 1st Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m. are welcomed. We look forward to productive and successful 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,
Martha Ashcraft
WIM Chairperson

ADULT MINISTRIES

Each year several Road Trips and Events are planned for our enjoyments and fellowship. In 2015 we saw the film Jerusalem at the Omni max in Union Terminal Museum Center, lunch at Schoolhouse Restaurant in Camp Dennison, lunch at Greyhound Grill before tour of Garden of Hope, visit to Potter's Ranch for lunch and music program by Miami Valley Christian Academy School Jazz Band, and Christmas luncheon at Grey hound Grill completed the year.

The Annual Fall Yard, Craft and Bake Sale are a fundraiser to support United Christian Volunteers. An ongoing request from UCV is for larger size (4-5-6) diapers and wipes for children. These can be placed in Mission Drawer #9.

The Pastor's Cake Auction for the Annual Ida Spence Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser is promoted by Adult Ministries. The goal of f Ida Spence Mission was to raise \$10,000 toward their annual budget. According to the December District Newsletter \$10, 900.00 was raised. We had the cake jug raised for many months to reach our goal of \$1,000.00 to support this cause. Our total was \$1,304.21.

Through donations received by Adult Ministries we are able to make contributions to various missions.

We thank everyone who helped in any way to make this a great year. Pray that we can reach even higher goals in 2016 to help these in need.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joy Hamilton
Adult Ministry Chairperson



Methodist Mountain Mission

PICK UP DAY FEBRUARY 2, 2016

Please have your items at the Church NO later than February 1st.



Thank you so much for responding to our pleas for financial help due to weather-related problems. Your generosity simply overwhelms me!

We still, of course, take all those other wonderful items you give. What is listed above is in short supply here at the Mission.

Thank you!

Urgent Needs List

We are in need of several items to be used in our

Processing Plant:

Hand soap for the restrooms, Bath tissue for the restrooms, Garbage bags - 13 gallon and up (we even have a can that uses 40 gallon), Paper towels, Dust mops, Regular mops, Brooms, Good rubber bands (to put pairs of shoes together), Safety pins, Coffee, Creamer, Coffee cups

AND WE NEED LOTS OF BANANA BOXES
(These stack so well in the Warehouse -- and we have run very low on them)

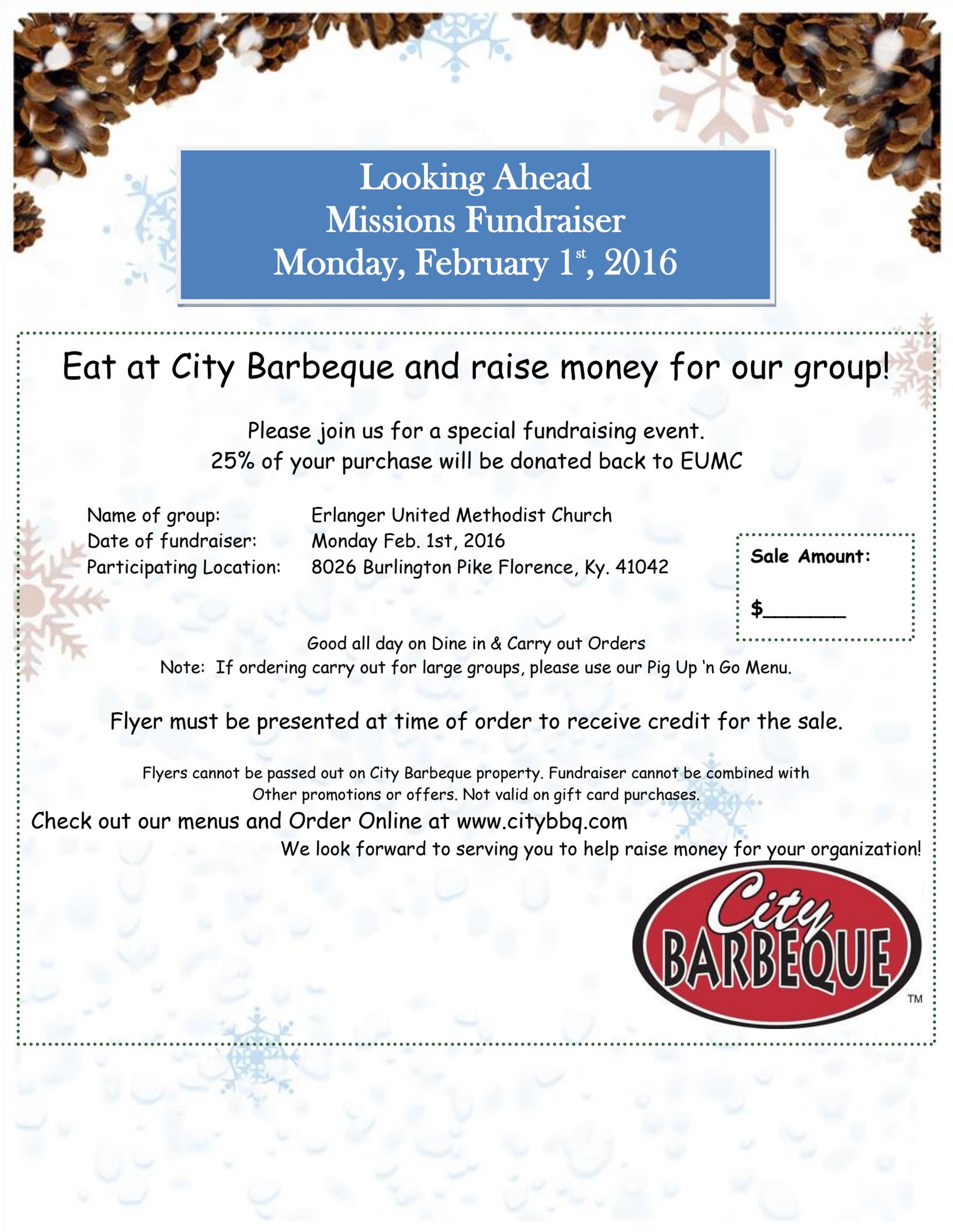
AND Men's and Children's Clothing - both summer and winter



FIND YOU'RE INNER ARTIST!



While on the mission trip to Sager Brown some of our team created some artwork, they had such fun, and created such wonderful works, they decided to host a Painting Fund raiser here! All ages and skill levels are welcome! Join us, Saturday, January 23rd, at 9:00 a.m.; we will have someone come in show us how to create something beautiful. At the end of the day, (around noon) you will have artwork ready to hang in your home. The cost is \$25.00, all supplies will be provided, and you will only need to come ready to paint. See the signup sheet in the church office.



Looking Ahead
Missions Fundraiser
Monday, February 1st, 2016

Eat at City Barbeque and raise money for our group!

Please join us for a special fundraising event.
25% of your purchase will be donated back to EUMC

Name of group: Erlanger United Methodist Church
Date of fundraiser: Monday Feb. 1st, 2016
Participating Location: 8026 Burlington Pike Florence, Ky. 41042

Sale Amount:

\$ _____

Good all day on Dine in & Carry out Orders

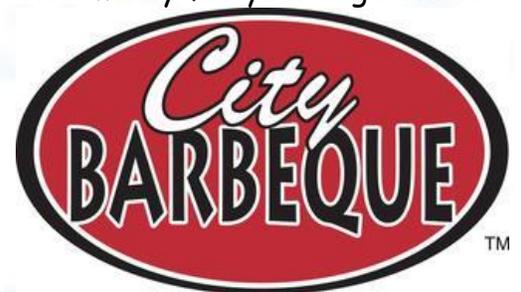
Note: If ordering carry out for large groups, please use our Pig Up 'n Go Menu.

Flyer must be presented at time of order to receive credit for the sale.

Flyers cannot be passed out on City Barbeque property. Fundraiser cannot be combined with
Other promotions or offers. Not valid on gift card purchases.

Check out our menus and Order Online at www.citybbq.com

We look forward to serving you to help raise money for your organization!



Erlanger United Methodist Church Prayer Chain 2016

Please contact Eleanora Wettig at 859-331-3295 or Mary Swanson at 859-727-1253 to put a prayer concern on our church prayer chain. Eleanora or Mary will then contact the first person of each prayer cell. When you receive a request, please pass it on immediately to the name following yours. If you have to leave a message, please continue calling down the line until you reach a person. Thank you.

Church - 859-727-2136
Parsonage - 859-727-2401

Cell 1

Mary Swanson - 859-727-1253
JoAnne Gillespie - 859-282-6028
Sue Lambert - 859-525-1525
Lou Shelton - 859-630-4869
Nancy Johnson - 859-371-2042
Mary Sharp - 859-415-1443
Doris Doyle - 859-727-3010

Cell 2

Eleanora Wettig - 859-331-3295
Ann Abney - 859-342-8527
Wilma LaBare - 859-727-2835
Carolyn Conley - 859-371-7017
Pat Barbour - 859-342-8366
Bill Howard - 859-727-2504
Terry Combs - 859-491-4130



Hi Folks.

As we look back on 2015, we realize our accomplishments would not have happened without you. Your participation in our events is much appreciated. In addition to our donations to other charities, which were \$2000.00 in November, we were able to donate \$500.00 to the United Christian Volunteers. **Thank you for a great 2015.**

Thank You!!!

Sunday, January 24, 2016 we will have a soup/grilled cheese dinner after church with a free will offering. Our next fundraiser will be the Spaghetti Dinner in March. More details will be provided later.



We will also have a fundraiser at LaRosa's in Crescent Springs on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, Lunch & dinner. The UMM receive a portion of their proceeds for their mission work.

Canned goods update for the United Christian Volunteers. **Thru December 28, 2015, 5,067 food items have been delivered. This is an all-time record.** Our goal for 2016 is 6,000 food items. Emphasis in January 2016 is on "Breakfast Items". There are many folks in the local area that can't afford enough food for their families. Your support has gone a long way in helping this cause. Thank you. Whatever you bring will be greatly appreciated.

We would like to invite all men to join the Erlanger United Methodist Men. Our next meeting is January 2, 2016, Saturday, 9:00 am at Erlanger UMC in the Asbury Room.

Thank you and GOD Bless you all.

The mission of the General Commission on United Methodist Men is to assist men to know Jesus Christ, to serve Him, to grow spiritually and seek daily to do His will.



3 Questions to Show Who Is Really LORD of Your Money

By J. D. Greear

I rarely meet people who would consider themselves tight-fisted. Most of us would like to think of ourselves as generous—even if the evidence suggests otherwise. But greed is like bad breath: The person with the problem is often the last one to know it. So we need some help revealing where our true loyalties lie.

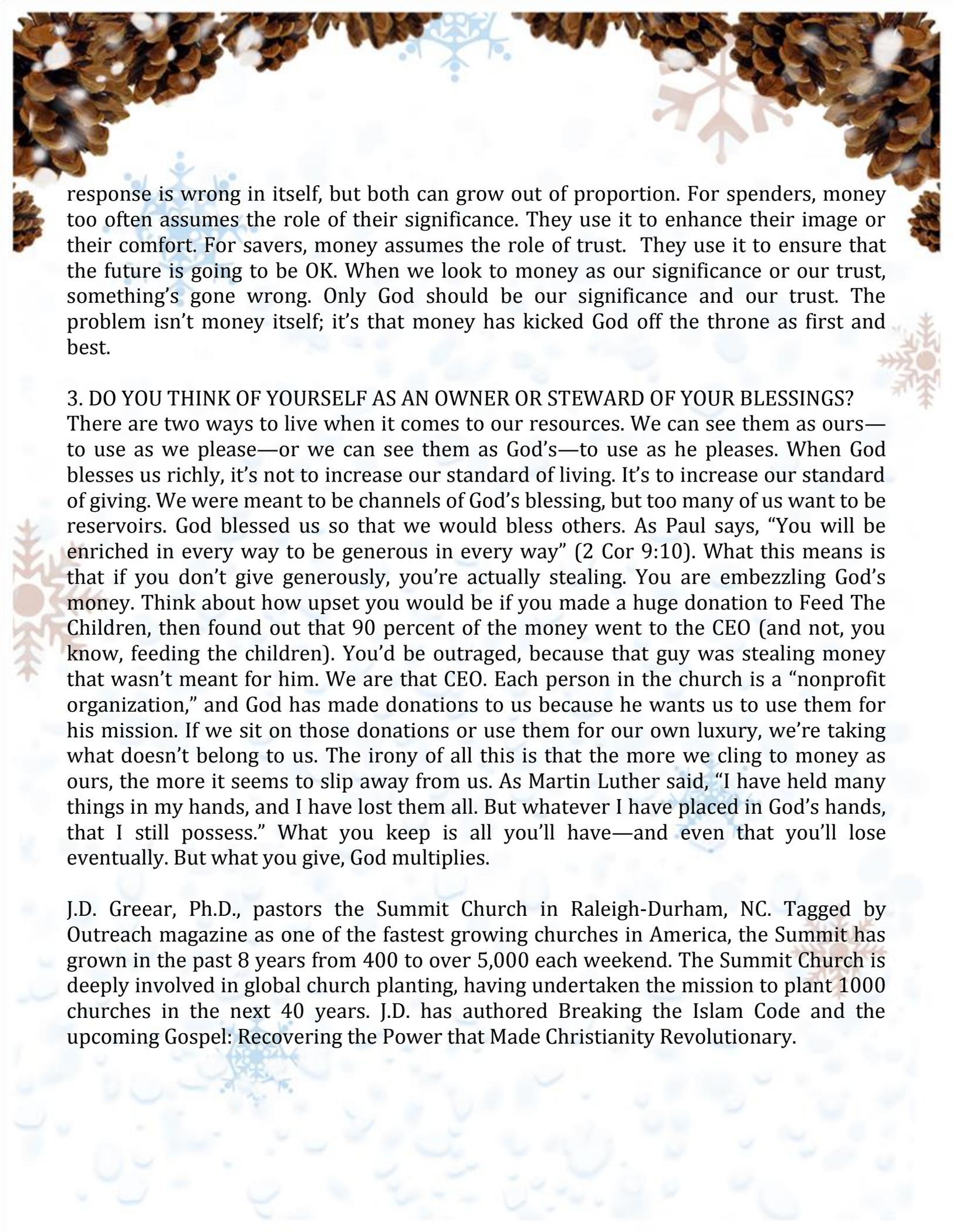
A key way to do that is by asking diagnostic questions. Here are three that reveal what kingdom you are really living for:

1. WHAT IS “FIRST” IN YOUR DECISIONS?

The closest I have to a life verse is Matthew 6:33: “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Before I left for college that was the verse my dad gave to me to guide my future. “All these things ...” he said, “that includes money. That includes your career. It includes your wife, if God gives you one. It includes your children. And all of that has got to come second.” This question should be at the heart of every decision that every Christian makes: What does God want me to do? I know that sounds simple, but it’s surprising how often the opinion of God doesn’t even register as relevant information for many Christians. Ask what God wants—for your money, your family, your career. And do just that. Always prioritize the kingdom of God, and God will supply all that you need.

2. DOES GOD GET THE FIRST AND BEST OF ALL YOU RECEIVE?

I recently noticed something in the story of Cain and Abel that has really rocked me. In Genesis 4, both Cain and Abel made offerings to God. But there was a key difference: Abel gave the “firstfruits” of his flock; Cain, in contrast, made an offering from the field after the crops had come in. Abel, you see, gave the firstborn of his flock before knowing how many more animals there would be. He gave to God first, but that giving was a big risk. Cain, on the other hand, waited to see how much he had, and only then did he give. In other words, Abel gave God his first and best; Cain gave God out of his excess. And only Abel’s offering was pleasing to God. Whatever you give your first and your best to reveals what is truly God in your life. It may not be the biggest line item on your budget. It may not be a gift that would make jaws drop. But we all give our first and best to something. It’s that part of our life that gets top priority. And that shows what we treasure most. Imagine you suddenly got \$1,000. Where would it go? Chances are you’d want to go in one of two directions with it. Either you think of new stuff you can get with it (the spenders), or you would want to stash it away (the savers). Neither



response is wrong in itself, but both can grow out of proportion. For spenders, money too often assumes the role of their significance. They use it to enhance their image or their comfort. For savers, money assumes the role of trust. They use it to ensure that the future is going to be OK. When we look to money as our significance or our trust, something's gone wrong. Only God should be our significance and our trust. The problem isn't money itself; it's that money has kicked God off the throne as first and best.

3. DO YOU THINK OF YOURSELF AS AN OWNER OR STEWARD OF YOUR BLESSINGS?

There are two ways to live when it comes to our resources. We can see them as ours—to use as we please—or we can see them as God's—to use as he pleases. When God blesses us richly, it's not to increase our standard of living. It's to increase our standard of giving. We were meant to be channels of God's blessing, but too many of us want to be reservoirs. God blessed us so that we would bless others. As Paul says, "You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way" (2 Cor 9:10). What this means is that if you don't give generously, you're actually stealing. You are embezzling God's money. Think about how upset you would be if you made a huge donation to Feed The Children, then found out that 90 percent of the money went to the CEO (and not, you know, feeding the children). You'd be outraged, because that guy was stealing money that wasn't meant for him. We are that CEO. Each person in the church is a "nonprofit organization," and God has made donations to us because he wants us to use them for his mission. If we sit on those donations or use them for our own luxury, we're taking what doesn't belong to us. The irony of all this is that the more we cling to money as ours, the more it seems to slip away from us. As Martin Luther said, "I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." What you keep is all you'll have—and even that you'll lose eventually. But what you give, God multiplies.

J.D. Greear, Ph.D., pastors the Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, NC. Tagged by Outreach magazine as one of the fastest growing churches in America, the Summit has grown in the past 8 years from 400 to over 5,000 each weekend. The Summit Church is deeply involved in global church planting, having undertaken the mission to plant 1000 churches in the next 40 years. J.D. has authored *Breaking the Islam Code* and the upcoming *Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary*.

December 2015

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2015

The Tale of Two Brothers!



Our Original Children's Class in 2007



Our very first Bible Memory class in 2008



Memory Class 2014
(Jeremie seated left front;
Emory top row second from right).

After a year of the Bible Story Class my Assistant Director and I realized that some children just stood out, so we felt led by the Holy Spirit to offer a Bible Memory Class to a select few and thus began that class.

As we chose the class we called out the name of Jeremie but he was NOT who we thought he was. He was just a little tike! Then we asked the boy we really wanted what his name was and it was Emory. We had chosen his little brother Jeremie by mistake! We realized that we could not tell the little fellow that he could not come to the class so we let him remain. That was a God mistake on our part. Over the last 8 years Jeremie, even as small as he was, has been our best and sharpest student!

In the top right picture he is in the middle-front with the blue vest on and his brother, Emory is in the front with the light green shorts.



Emory receiving Certificate in 2015



Jeremie receiving Certificate in 2015



Jeremie in 2015



Emory in 2015



Emory and Jeremie 2015

All of our students in the 2014-2015 year received their certificates. However, Jeremie and Emory were the only ones who received theirs 'with distinction'! Both young men have been excellent students.

My prayer for them is this: A well to do extended family member has flown them to Kinshasa for further education. They are now being exposed to ideas and temptations that they have never before experienced. I pray that the Word of God sown into their lives, "...will not return void...". We pray the Word that has been sown into their hearts will bear fruit and in the years to come they will be able to live and apply those verses and books of the Bible to their daily lives.

Our prayer for each of you is that you will have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2016!

Appointment Congo
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Web: appointmentcongo.org

Paul and Marty Law



RETURNS TO NORTHERN KENTUCKY

Family Promise is returning to Northern KY. FPNKY is one of the only social service organizations in Northern Kentucky that keeps entire families together. Restarting FPNKY will provide families with training and support to better their lives, including job training, a professional case worker, and something as simple as a mailing address. The goal is to help these families obtain the life skills that make a stable home life possible.

Below is a description of Family Promise.

Our core program is a way for communities to address the challenge of family homelessness by using existing resources. Not only does this make the program cost efficient, it makes it effective. Family Promise is not just

about getting families into housing, but addressing all the underlying issues and using the community to keep them in housing.

How it Works The resources are already there. In the community there are congregations that can provide space in their buildings to serve as temporary homes. Day centers, where families can take showers, receive case management and look for housing and jobs, can be located at a house of worship or agency. There are multiple options for transportation to get families from the host congregations to the day center and back. With volunteers giving their time, making meals, and sharing hospitality family homelessness is addressed without the creation of expensive shelters. Across the country, people have realized that this innovative approach truly makes a difference for families experiencing homelessness—and more than 160,000 volunteers.

These volunteers are the core of the program. They share food, spend the night, play with children and lend their passion and expertise to help families get back on their feet. They prove that motivated people can solve family homelessness..

A Community Response In every community, these core elements exist. By bringing the community together on the issue of family homelessness, Family Promise is able to address a major social problem in a holistic, effective way. Once the community becomes engaged, people understand the root causes of family homelessness and take steps to address them. As a result of Family Promise Affiliates, more than 1,000 community initiatives—housing programs, homelessness prevention, childcare and much more—have been created.

A Long-Term Solution On average, 75% of the families we serve will gain long-term housing while in the program, in nine weeks. Not only does this high success rate mean many more families stably housed, it is also a tremendous cost saving to the community as diversion from far more expensive interventions. Our approach of keeping families together, identifying their strengths, partnering with the community for solutions means that families are at much lower risk of returning to homelessness.

The Bottom Line Family Promise changes lives. We change lives for the more than 50,000 children and their families we serve each year, giving them the ability to realize their true potential. We also change the lives of our 160,000 volunteers, giving them a meaningful outreach right in their own communities.

Please visit the national website of Family Promise at www.familypromise.org

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

A group of people have begun the re-starting of Family Promise of Northern Kentucky. We are anticipating a late 1st Quarter opening.

Erlanger UMC has already committed to participate in this program as a HOST Church. (We will be using the facilities at St. Agnes during our weeks of hosting). We already have a small group of people who have generously volunteered their time and resources as we move forward with this program. We will also have the assistance of a couple of other Churches that will provide us with support.

We are putting out a request for volunteers from our Church. Below is a simple list of a few of the “volunteering” support we will need.

- 1. Overnight Hosts to stay with the guests (2 per night)**
- 2. Dinners**
- 3. Sack lunches**
- 4. Carry-out type of breakfasts**
- 5. Driver of a van/bus**
- 6. Set up and tear down of sleep area**
- 7. Laundry duties**

We will gladly give out as many details as you would like about this program and our need for volunteers. Feel free to contact Jackie McPeters 859-307-9391 for more information or questions.

Most of us enjoy a relatively stable family life. There are many others whose circumstances in life do not allow them to even imagine a stable home life. Our participation and contributions to FPNKy will help families see a peaceful, stable family life as a possibility. We can be sure God will bless our efforts to help some of the least ones among us.

Sincerely,

The Missions Committee

BE WARM, BE KIND

MISSION PURPOSE DAY

Saturday, January 30th

10:00 am

This will be a time to explore who we are and what we're doing. This will help us make sure that our ideas of ministry and our practice of ministry are consistent. We will take some time to look at how God is calling us, what we are doing to fulfill that calling, and how we can better focus our work in the future. This is important and prayerful work, but we need to take some time like this once in a while to make sure we are staying on track and listening to God's spirit as we work. I would encourage you to take a day like that for your personal life every now and then, too. See the sign up in the Home Street vestibule or in Bulletin.



January Birthdays

(No January Anniversaries)



Mike Markey	01/07
Greg Steenken	01/07
Thelma Martin	01/08
Patrick McMahan	01/09
Mary Sharp	01/10
Sue Wells	01/13
Sue Lambert	01/22
Tiffany Herbers	01/23
Wanda Ballmer	01/26
John Gillespie	01/26
Brenda Herbers	01/26
Grace Herrmann	01/26
Connie Evans	01/29
Chuck Love	01/29

