

First United

Methodist Church of Lancaster

November 14, 2016

Dear FUMC Friends:

Yesterday in worship, we considered together the Parable of the Dishonest Manager (Luke 16:1-19), and the lessons we can learn from “a bad man’s good example.” We saw that, through that parable, the Lord is calling us to be “shrewd” in our living and our giving – to be intentional, planned, even downright *calculating* – in order to achieve the Kingdom-goals that he has placed in our lives.

When it comes to our giving, that means having a plan, both individually and as a congregation, to use the financial resources God has entrusted to us, so that we can effectively serve Christ and his people in our community.

Unfortunately, many of us aren’t very intentional about how we go about giving – or spending in general. So many people don’t have a budget, or save for retirement, or have a regular plan for giving and supporting things they believe in.

Well, we can change all that. I invite you to consider prayerfully your financial stewardship in general, and your giving to our church in particular. Maybe it is time to make some decisions, to create a plan, to be intentional – even a bit *shrewd* – about how we use our resources.

Please consider prayerfully what your plan for giving will be in 2017. Then bring your commitment card to worship next Sunday, (November 20) or mail it in to the office.

In Luke 16:10, Jesus says, “*Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.*” Let’s show ourselves trustworthy of all that God has placed in our hands, and as a congregation to become more effective stewards and servants of Christ to our world.

Pastor Joe DiPaolo