

Canaan Times

Canaan United Methodist Church

IN EVERY SEASON CHRISTIANS ARE REJOICING,
PRAYING, AND THANKING
REV. MACK C. MCCLAM, PASTOR

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NASB).

The journey this far into the year has been a very difficult one for many of the members of our congregation, our families, our country and around the world. We have just celebrated, and hopefully will continue to celebrate the days ahead as days of Thanksgiving. The Thanksgiving season seems to roll right into the season of Advent. For we have celebrated Thanksgiving and then on this past Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent. It is far too obvious; it seems, for anyone to miss the connection between celebrating Thanksgiving and moving into Advent. It seems most appropriate as we come to the end

of the year to be thankful, regardless of the path that our journey has taken.

We must remember the words of the Apostle Paul as he urge the church, "to give thanks in all things." You will notice that the words of this text speak of attitudes and actions Christians are to have. This would mean that Christians have to do more than maintain control of their feelings. They must maintain control of their attitudes and their actions. The Thessalonians needed to stay on top of their behavior at all times.

You will notice that Paul was commanding Christians be consistent in their attitudes and actions. They were not to do the things mentioned in this text in good times only. They are not things that we should display as the

result of some satisfying experience that occurs every now and then. They are to be a permanent part of the attitude and actions of Christians. Rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks are to occur regardless of our circumstances.

When we think of the coming of Christ into a world of sin for the singular purpose of saving the sinners, we must give thanks. When we consider His journey from a stable in Bethlehem to a cross on Cavalry's Hill, all for us, how can we not be thankful? He knows the roads that we travel and He has promised to be with us all the way. How difficult can our journey be when we have the presence of the Divine Company Kipper?

Sometime, in the midst of our apparent trage-

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays:

- Jaikeem Snipes—1
- NaQuan Johnson—2
- Eleanor F. Simmons—2
- Sharika Smalls—2
- Malcolm Smith—3
- Jasmine Foy—4
- Ida Smith—7
- Yvonne Bowens—9
- Aaron Williams—11
- Harriet Thompson—11
- Sarah McLean—17

- Rev. Muriel Scott—17
- Robert Ancrum—18
- Jaylen Thompson—20
- Carrie Geddis—20
- Jermaine Ancrum—20
- Queen Bailey—24
- India Geddis—26
- Gwen McClam—31

Anniversaries

- Derwin and Pamela Daly—3
- Elmer and Wilhelmina

Thompson—8

- Geary and Tawanna Barnes—13
- Marion and Doretha Jenkins—23
- Harold and Donna Ancrum—23
- Dana and Stoma McQuiller—26
- Matthew and Sudie King—27
- Clement and Victoria Singleton—31

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. ~ 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

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dies, there are so many hidden blessings. Who could see salvation from a across for all humankind? How can we not be thankful?

One of the most talked about subjects at this point in the journey for us in this country, and as the media informs us in other nations as well, is the economic conditions. From near and far, hopeful politicians running for office and hopeless individuals running for lives is upon strengthening the economy.

I am continuously amazed that in spite of a struggling economy, the lines still form outside of “Best Buy” and still loops around the corners of “Wal-Mart” while folks wait for the doors to be open to spend in the midst of our complaints

about what we don’t have. I long for the day when we will, as a nation, give as much attention to our spiritual bankruptcy. I long to see the day when the lines will form outside of the sanctuary, not for a wedding or a funeral, but folks are waiting for the doors to open so that they might come in and worship the God who always provides.. Strange, isn’t it, that we push our way into the stores to buy gifts with the money that God has provided and we drag ourselves into the church where Christ invites us to “come and buy without price.”

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk with-

out money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. Isaiah 55:1-3 (NRSV)

Rejoice this Christmas, pray in every season, and always be thankful for what you have!
Merry Christmas,
Rev. Mack C. McClam, Pastor

BLAKE'S FINANCIAL CORNER

EVELYN BLAKE

Proverbs 13:11

"Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow."

6 Tips For Last-Minute Christmas Budgeting

By Amy Bell | November 18, 2009
<http://www.investopedia.com/financial-edge/1109/6-tips-for-last-minute-christmas-budgeting.aspx?view=print>

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. All of your friends and neighbors have decked their halls with boughs of holly, hung their stockings with care and purchased and wrapped every last gift before placing it under their perfectly decorated Christmas tree. You, on the other hand, have done - well, nothing. You have yet to buy a single present, stocking stuffer or Christmas card. On top of that, you forgot to save up enough cash to cover Christmas gifts. Oops!

Some may call you a procrastinator - you may argue that you're just super-busy. Nonetheless, it's time to figure out how you're going to pay for this year's Christmas gifts. Here are six last-minute Christmas budgeting tips for you master procrastinators... err... busy people.

- **Make a List and Check it Twice** - Make a list of all your family and friends who have been good girls and boys. Once you decide who is deserving of a gift from you, determine how much money you can realistically afford to spend. Then, designate a set portion of the total amount for each person on your list. For example, let's say you have \$600 to spend, and you need to buy gifts for ten family members and five friends. You may decide that you'll spend \$40 on each person on the list. On the other hand, you may want to spend \$50 on each of your family members and \$20 on each of your friends. No matter what, stick to your initial budget, and don't spend money you don't have.
- **Avoid Overspending** - Many holiday shoppers let their emotions get the best of them, and they end up overspend-

ing. Maybe you feel terrible that you don't visit your mother enough, so you decide to spend \$300 on a fancy bracelet for her. Don't fall prey to holiday guilt. Not only will overspending break your budget, but you'll also set unrealistic expectations. In other words, your friends and family will begin to expect lavish gifts from you every Christmas. Next Christmas, when you're still paying off your credit card bills from this holiday, your dad may wonder why he received a luxurious watch from you last year, and all he got this year was a measly pair of socks prominently marked "Irregular."

- **Pay in Cold, Hard Cash** - One way to force yourself to stick to your holiday budget is to pay for all your gifts with cash. Simply withdraw the amount that you can afford to spend on your holiday gifts. When that money is gone, Christmas shopping time is over. When you pay with a credit card, it can be easy to lose track of exactly how much money you've spent. An extra \$5 here or \$12 there may not seem like a big deal when you're paying with plastic. However, when you have a set wad of dollars in your pocket designated for Christmas gifts, you have a visual, concrete reminder of how much money you have left to spend. Therefore, you'll be less tempted to go over budget on each individual gift.
- **Become a Lone-Wolf Shopper** - People who shop alone generally spend less money than those who shop with friends and family members. Not only can a shopping partner cause distractions and break your fiscal focus, but they may also pressure you into buying items you really don't need. If Sally says you look just like Angelina Jolie when you try on that pricey leather jacket, how could you say no? Which brings us to our next tip.
- **Don't Buy Presents for Yourself** - When you're out shopping for friends and relatives, you're bound to come

across some glorious item that you absolutely must have. However, remind yourself that this is the season for *giving*, not *receiving*. If that doesn't console you, you could always call one of your other procrastinating family members and tell him to add the item to your Christmas wish-list.

- **Get Creative** - If you're really strapped for cash this Christmas, consider giving out non-monetary gifts. For example, you may offer to paint your grandmother's kitchen or babysit your best friend's son. Create hand-made or computer print-out certificates that say things like, "Good for One House Cleaning," or "Dog-Sitting Gift Certificate," and enclose them in a card. You could also save bundle by baking cookies, brownies and other Christmas goodies to give to give out to neighbors and co-workers.

Even if you've waited until the last minute to save up for gifts, it *is* still possible to avoid bankruptcy this Christmas. Whether you're a procrastinator, ridiculously busy or just downright forgetful, these six last-minute tips will help you stick to Christmas budget and stay out of the red.

****Brain Teaser****

(Your brain needs exercise too. Use it or Lose it!)

Roxanne is shorter than Russell but taller than Kyle. Who is the tallest?

Kyle
Roxanne
Russell

(Answer in next month's newsletter)

*Answer to November's brain teaser:
36!*

Canaan United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

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WWW.CANAANUMCINSC.COM

Gossip

My name is Gossip. I have no respect for justice.
I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives.
I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age.
The more I am quoted, the more I am believed.
I flourish as every level of society.
My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves
against me because I have no name and face.
To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the
more elusive I become.
I am nobody's friend. Once I tarnish a reputation, it is
never the same.
I topple governments and wreck marriages.
I make innocent people cry in their pillows.
My name is Gossip.
By Corazon R. Santiago

THE FENCE

There was a little boy with a bad temper.

His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, to hammer a nail in the back fence.

The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Then it gradually dwindled down.

He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when

the boy didn't lose his temper at all.

He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence.

He said, "You have done

well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence."

The fence will never be the same.

When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one.

You can put a knife in a man and draw it out.

It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there.

A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one.