

# The Spader's Speaker



From Interim Pastor

Kirk Shipley...

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*"I give not because I have to give, but because I need to give" Anonymous*

Recently I received a draft of the fall stewardship letter and was shown recent Time and Talent sheets. They reminded me how less anxious life has been when working toward the Old Testament tithe to church and charities I find important. As an Army officer I came close to a tithe off the top. If nothing else it helped me prioritize spending (though I confess to occasional impulse spending). I stopped thinking in terms of giving from disposable income during seminary figuring required tuition and fees equaled giving. Money worry increased. Hearing a sermon on stewardship by Pastor Scott Dunfee led to rethinking. I began setting aside a % from house cleaning, seminary janitor and reservist training income. Priority in spending became clearer and worry lessened. Except for lapses when relocating and between assignments regular giving to church and charities important to me has been the rule.

Overall that is the rule for people in general. In a doctor's office several years ago a magazine had one of those list of twenty things that made life happier

and longer. On the list was an active participation in one's faith community. Other readings confirmed the importance of giving.

In Nebraska a parishioner Portia Hermansen provided a chapter "The Rewards of Tithing" from a book by Cliff C. Jones, Chairman of Jones & Babson an investment firm Winning Through Integrity. In an age that was quite focused on generating wealth through investment over invention and innovation the titles of the chapter and book looked intriguing.

He was quite realistic on what should be counted as income. For example loans repaid you were not income. He treated farm income differently than other income saying it should be figured on net rather than gross income, largely because it is a business that buys retail and sells wholesale. He cited a 1978 Gallup poll which asked three questions:

1) Do you give one-tenth or more of your income to a church or charity? 2) Do you know someone else who does? 3) If you know people who tithe, do those people have serious financial problems?

The poll revealed 22% tithed; 46% knew someone who did, while 53% did not know anyone who did; 15% did not know if people they knew had financial difficulties or not, Of those who did know something of their friends or relatives finances, 13% knew of people who tithed who had financial problems, 87% did not have financial problems. Tithing was a positive for most.

Equally important is the change in sense of happiness in our post-modern attitudes emphasizing building my financial empire above all else (don't get me wrong, I believe planning for retirement is important). Again in the late 1990's in Christianity Today Rodney Clapp wrote an essay citing a University of Chicago Research Opinion Center result showing from 1957 to 1988 people seeing themselves as very happy has declined from 35 to 29%, and those saying they were pretty well satisfied dropped from 42 to 30%. A 77% well satisfied country in 1957 has become a 59% well satisfied country by 1988.

God gives the command for giving, not to maintain institutions, but for our well being. Cliff Jones

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concluded "Giving and happiness go hand in hand." I guess I should not be surprised. Jesus said "Give and it will be given to you." Luke 6:38

- Kirk Shipley

### Building Fund

As construction on the social hall nears completion, we would like to update you on the amount in the Building Fund. Through September 24th there is \$14,672 in the fund. Prayerfully consider making a contribution. The drywall on the interior of the social hall is nearing completion, painting will soon follow. Siding is being installed on the outside. The Building Committee has met and plans for finishing touches are being made.

### Do You Have an Article to Contribute?

All of us are baptized ministers of the gospel, and all of us have something to share. If you have an article or announcement for the bulletin or *The Spader's Speaker*, please send it to Whitney Meyerhoeffer, who compiles both the bulletin and *Speaker*. Send it to: [wmeyerhoeffer@gmail.com](mailto:wmeyerhoeffer@gmail.com).

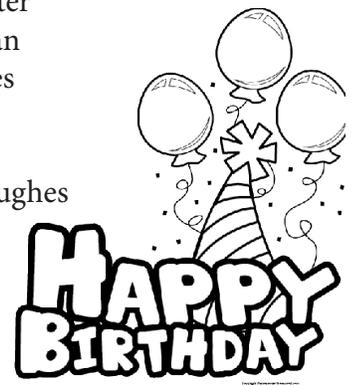
## Upcoming Events

**Reformation 500 Worship Service at Massanutten Presbyterian Church  
October 15 at 3:00 pm.**

This will be a joint service with Trinity, St. Jacobs and the Keezletown United Methodist Churches

## Take a moment to wish someone well on their special day!

October 7	Eric Miller
October 8	Sandra Harman
October 9	Glen Showalter
October 21	Opal Bowman
October 21	Richard Rines
October 24	Eva Coffey
October 28	Carolyn Eye
October 29	Anna Gae Hughes



### Weekly Word from God

October 15th – 19th Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Matthew 22: 1-14</b>
October 22nd – 20th Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Matthew 22: 15-22</b>
October 29th – Reformation Sunday	<b>Matthew 22: 34-46</b>

### Worship Leader Schedule

Date	Worship Assistant	Piano	Ushers/Greeters	Lectors
Oct 15	Ann Royer	Maria Archer and Eric Hedrick	Glen Showalter and James Eye	Alvina Martin and Linda Showalter
Oct 22	Nancy Bradfield	Maria Archer and Eric Hedrick	Mark Lambert and Glen Eye	Alvina Martin and Linda Showalter
Oct 29	Ian McNeil	Ann Royer	Ann Royer and Carolyn Randolph	Alvina Martin and Linda Showalter