



# Bethany Stewardship News

## December 2013

### What is Your Best Christmas Present?

A few years ago I recall reading an online article by Dr. Robert Leahy (*Director, American Institute for Cognitive Therapy in New York City*) who wrote of gratitude:

*"It's the holidays and you are wondering what to give those people in your life who are special. Or, you wonder what you might get. Giving and getting. What wonderful Christmas joy this seems to be. 'So, what did you get?'"*

*I have a suggestion for a gift -- a gift that you can receive and give at the same time. It's called 'gratitude.' What you can do is think about the people that you love, the special people, and contemplate why they matter to you. What would life be like without your best friend, your partner, your mother or father, your kids? Imagine that they no longer existed and now you had a chance to get them back -- but only if you could prove that you really were grateful. What would you miss about your best friend? Think about the conversations, the memories, the laughter, and the tears -- you both shared. Now think about how grateful you are for having him or her in your life. Now, tell them."*

This strikes a chord in the themes we articulated as part of our stewardship campaign as well as the Christmas season. God has appointed us Stewards not just of money, but of all things! Gratitude for such power would be a perfect gift to give this season. What has God given you that you are grateful for? Tell someone! For me, I'm grateful for the simple old and broken down lamp on my desk at home. I'm most grateful for this when I visit India and see families without electricity sitting by fires at night, keeping away the mosquitos from their hovel. I'm thankful for my several Bibles. I'm most thankful for these when I see the working poor in Abu Dhabi from Africa who can't read and can't afford a book let alone a Bible. I'm grateful for my pleasant life and loving spouse—even more so when I visit friends who are unemployed, coworkers suffering from cancer, and relatives who struggle to make ends meet—and always will. It may be cliché, but you have had a wonderful life...how will you show God and others your gratitude? (Jon Twing)

### Our Ministries

Hope Chest  
Food Pantry  
Quilters  
Good Samaritan Fund  
UI Lutheran Campus Ministry  
UI Hospital Chaplaincy  
Riverside Bible Camp  
Shelter House  
Kids Against Hunger  
Angel Tree  
Mbakweni, Tanzania

### Ongoing Needs

#### Hope Chest

**Now accepting:** Winter Clothes, especially children's; monetary donations to purchase clothes.

#### Food Pantry

Please pick up the latest list as you come in the door from the parking lot

#### Good Samaritan Fund

Monetary donations to help those in need in our community

#### Fellowship

Please help with this important Hospitality Ministry by signing up on the Bulletin Board by the Kitchen

*God's Work,  
Our Hands!*

## Thank You!

To all that continue to donate much needed clothing, and food.

To everyone that donated money this year to the EPIC Chemo Bag project.

To everyone that has donated quarters to the Malaria Campaign.

To all of our members that continue to faithfully fulfill their pledge commitments.

To all who participated in the Trunk or Treat event.

To everyone that donated money or purchased gifts for the Angel Tree families.

To all who provided cookies for the Cookie Walk, or helped in any way with the event.

To everyone that helped at the Hanging of the Greens Service, and the Children's Christmas Program.

## Did You Know...

In the past year we've delivered 107 bags of food to the Food Pantry.

We've collected \$275.26 so far this year for the Malaria Campaign. Keep those quarters coming!

In the past year the Hope Chest has helped 110 people needing clothes, and 20 children needing school supplies. The remaining school supplies were donated to West Branch Elementary School.

During 2013, the Quilters group of 8 ladies made 200 quilts.

\$466.77 was donated for the EPIC Chemo Bag project this year.

The net profit for this year's Cookie Walk was \$990.05

**Sunday morning fellowship** after church is an important part of our ministries of Fellowship, Hospitality, and Stewardship. All you have to do is look around on Sunday to see how much people enjoy talking with each other, and meeting new people after worship. Relationships and connections are important to all of us. Especially for our church members, since we might not see each other the rest of the week. Providing drinks and snacks for Fellowship doesn't have to be anything elaborate. Something to drink and a cookie to eat is just fine. If one or two people provided the "snack" each week, at most you would only have to do it twice a year. Remember, what's provided to eat at Fellowship isn't as important as the fellowship itself.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

## Ministry Highlight

### The West Branch Food Pantry

The West Branch Food Pantry provides non-perishable food, toiletries, and paper products to people in need in our community.

The Food Pantry accepts donations of all the above items, as well as cash donations to purchase special items.

Clients may schedule an appointment once per month to pick up food and other items.

The Food Pantry also provides special holiday food baskets at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

### Stewardship Committee

**Chair:** Nancy Bruns

**Members:**

George McCrory

Laura Twing

Jon Twing

Neil Korsmo

Chris Korsmo

David Poppen