



## More Month at the End of the Money?

Part of growing disciples who make disciples is growing in our understanding and practice of good financial stewardship, generosity and our capacity to give. We want to be able to provide for the security of our family and avoid the stress that comes with financial worry. Beyond our own needs we would love to give more to support ministry and to help others, but we barely seem to be able to keep up with our own bills each month. God can help us go from surviving, to thriving and giving, like no one else.

Start the new year off right with an opportunity to learn about God's plan for personal finance. This January, Fifth will be offering the Financial Peace University class, which teaches the life-transforming message of faithfully living by God's financial principles in every area of our lives. Did you know there are over 800 verses in the bible talk about money? God's ways of handling money still work. The timeless lessons taught in scripture are every bit as relevant to us today as they were when they were written.



Financial Peace  
class co-leaders  
John Leegwater and  
Paul Henderson

The Financial Peace course, presented by national Christian author Dave Ramsey, has been taught in tens of thousands of churches and is impacting hundreds of thousands of families. The class is highly entertaining for everyone, with a unique combination of humor, informative financial advice and biblical messages. Couples who take the class together learn how to communicate about budgeting, spending, and saving and get on the same page about their money. However, the class will benefit singles, couples, newlyweds, families, empty-nesters, retirees, everyone.

(Continued on pg. 2)

## Time, Talent and Treasure

*The Christmas story - the story of Jesus being born in a manger, shepherds coming to visit and kings following a star to find this infant child - is a story filled with stewardship messages. As you remember the Christmas story this year, talk about the stewardship lessons we find with your family.*

### Part 3 of 3: Lesson from the Wise Men

*Just worshipping Jesus isn't enough.*

The Wise Men present an entirely different message than the shepherds. Like most of us, these were men with many blessings. They are praised in the Christmas story not just for coming to worship Jesus but also for bringing Him gifts. The lesson is that just going to church is not enough. We also are expected to bring our gifts with us.

O Come Let Us  
Adore Him



The Christmas season is a time of excitement and anticipation for young and old. It's a season to reflect on our lives and to remember that God's kingdom became tangible to us in Jesus that first Christmas long ago and that Jesus has promised to return. Even those who do not yet have a personal relationship with Christ seem to be more open to spiritual things at this time of year. As you make your plans for celebrating Christmas, consider inviting a friend, co-worker or family member to join you at one of the upcoming opportunities for worship.

### Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

#### Family Worship at 5:00pm

Multi-generational worship with drama, multi-media, dance, children's choir and worship band.

*(Childcare available through age 3)*

#### Candlelight Worship at 11:00pm

Service of Lessons and Carols with Scripture readings, choir, organ and handbells.

*(No childcare)*

### Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

#### Worship and Communion at 10:00am

followed by fellowship time.

## Quick Links

Message Audio

[www.fifthrc.org/media/media.html](http://www.fifthrc.org/media/media.html)

Home Page

[www.fifthrc.org/index.html](http://www.fifthrc.org/index.html)

Adult Ministries

[www.fifthrc.org/ministries/adult/adult.html](http://www.fifthrc.org/ministries/adult/adult.html)

Children & Youth

[www.fifthrc.org/ministries/children/children.html](http://www.fifthrc.org/ministries/children/children.html)

Worship

[www.fifthrc.org/music\\_worship/music\\_worship.html](http://www.fifthrc.org/music_worship/music_worship.html)

## More Month at the End of the Money? (continued from pg. 1)

The class will be co-lead by Fifth members Paul Henderson and John Leegwater, who have both been through the class with their spouses and have seen the benefits. John says "I think it fits into our vision at Fifth because everything we have, money, things etc. all belong to God and we are just managing it for him. I feel that if people have the right tools and mind set about money, we can really change our personal futures as well as the church and even beyond."

The class starts Wednesday, January 11, and will meet every Wednesday for 13 weeks, from 6:30pm until 8:30pm. There is an optional dinner served at Fifth on Wednesdays at 5:45pm (cost \$5 per person), as well as childcare and children's programming. Contact John Leegwater at [john@mtcrestoration.com](mailto:john@mtcrestoration.com) or Paul Henderson at [paul@roosein-assoc.com](mailto:paul@roosein-assoc.com) for more information or to register. You can also register for the class directly from the Financial Peace web site. One registration covers a family unit: an individual, a couple or a couple plus their teen-aged children. Scholarships are available to assist with the nominal course fee, if needed.

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## Ministry Multiplication

When it comes to the strategy of planting new churches, some might ask, "Will another church really help? Why not just grow the churches we have? Can't we work on filling the empty church buildings before we start talking about planting new churches?" In short, some wonder why church planting is so important. The answer is very straightforward. New churches focus on the development of people:

*New Churches Connect Diverse People*

The United States is growing more diverse with each passing year. The diversification of youth subcultures has mushroomed and is leading toward a more diversified overall culture. Every people group needs to hear the gospel in a way that connects to their own culture and context, and new churches are able to contextualize their ministry to the culture of the group they hope to reach.

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## Special Offerings

It is our practice at Fifth to receive a special offering after we celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month. Our Pastoral Deacons partner with our Global Mission Team in deciding how these offerings will be distributed. Four offerings per year are directed toward some international ministry, and eight are focused either locally or nationally. We would like to begin publishing the results of these offerings so that we can celebrate together all God is doing through us as we support mission & ministry outside the walls of Fifth Church.

### November

- Gideon's International, sharing copies of the Bible with people around the world - \$976

### Thanksgiving

- Latin American Leadership Development, developing leaders for the rapidly growing church in Latin America - \$2722
- Reformed Church World Service (RCWS), to assist RCA churches on the East Coast devastated by hurricane Irene - \$2722

### December

- Fifth Church Benevolence Fund, assisting those in financial need in our congregation and community - \$ 5810

Thanks for your generous support of these efforts to follow Christ in mission in a lost and broken world!

## Mid Week Meal & Activities

There will be no mid-week meal or activities Wednesday, December 21 or 28. The normal Wednesday schedule will resume Wednesday, January 4, 2011.

**Note: Chancel Choir (6:30 pm), Kings Kids (6:30pm), and Worship Band (7:30 pm) will still meet today.**

## Sunday School Opportunities

### Children and Youth Education:

Will resume Sunday, January 8, 2012

### Adult Education:

Will resume Sunday, January 8, 2012.

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**The office will be closed Monday, December 26 and January 2.**

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## Moment for Mission



Please pray for all our missionaries and their families around the world as they make plans for the new year. May they be filled with wisdom, generosity and love, and in this coming year may many of their friends and neighbors be touched by the Holy Spirit and find new Life in Christ!

## Community Life

### 2012 Offering Envelopes

If you would like to receive a set of offering envelopes for 2012, sign up in or call the church office at 245-9247. Please note: If you contribute cash donations to Fifth, you MUST use a personal offering envelope (or a generic envelope with your name on it) in order for the church to give you a receipt for tax purposes at the end of the year.

### Name Tag Sunday

If you were here Sunday, December 4 you might have noticed the table with name tags and sharpie markers. The first Sunday of each month we would like everyone to take part and wear a name tag. Please participate and get to know who is worshipping with us as a family.

### Knitted / Crocheted Items for Mulick Park School



Do you knit or crochet? Would you consider making some mittens, hats and/or scarves? These items will be donated to children from impoverished homes who attend Mulick Park School. The knitted / crocheted items will be placed on the Angel Tree after the angels are removed. Items may be purchased from a store are greatly appreciated.

Do you need yarn? An easy pattern? Or don't know how to knit and would like to learn? Contact Lori Kane, 949-9700 or [lkane-321@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lkane-321@sbcglobal.net).

### 2012 'Dine With Nine' Groups

Dine With Nine is an intergenerational group where Fifth folks and friends meet for meals and fellowship at homes or restaurants once a month, or as set by the groups. Everyone is invited! All you have to do is sign up for any of the following options:

- Dine with Nine combination (restaurant and potluck)
- Breakfast Only
- Potluck Only
- At Fifth with Babysitting
- Dessert Only
- For Snowbirds (we'll place you in a group that begins when you return).

To sign up for Dine With Nine: email/call Diane Jones at [diane@cjonesgroup.com](mailto:diane@cjonesgroup.com), or 942-7615.

## Women's Ministry Opportunities

**Apples of Gold** is starting Monday evening, January 9 and continuing for six weeks. This is a cooking and mentoring program, but it is more than that. A sense of fellowship and nurturing develops among the women. A number of women who have participated in the past have said that they have really valued this aspect of the program. Take a minute and ask yourself if this program is something that would be helpful for you or someone you know (sister, friend, grand daughter, niece, neighbor, college student, single or married). This can be a life changing experience. At this time, five women have signed up for the program, but we need more to carry the program out. Applications are at the hub. Financial aid is available if needed. Contact Betsy Broene at 942-1683 or [broenefam@comcast.net](mailto:broenefam@comcast.net) for more information. Deadline for sign-up is Sunday, December 25.

In January, all of the Bible studies will be continuing.

**Mom's Time Out** will continue the "Jonah" study with "Girl Interrupted" as their theme beginning Tuesday, January 3 at 9:15am. Contact Alesha Burgess at 460-2394 or [chitara30@hotmail.com](mailto:chitara30@hotmail.com) for more information.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study** will resume January 11 at 9:15am. They will study "Me, Myself, and Lies" by Jenni Rothschild, which focuses on filling our minds with the defining words of God's vision of and for us. This study includes a DVD. Contact Kimber Sprik at 452-7793 or [kimberlk@comcast.net](mailto:kimberlk@comcast.net) for more information.

**Thursday Evening Bible Study** is a 8-10 week study that begins Thursday evening January 12 at 7:00pm using the study guide from John Stott's series called "Jesus Christ". Please contact Sue Sandison at 956-7786 or [sandissm@comcast.net](mailto:sandissm@comcast.net) if you will be joining the study, so that a study guide can be ordered for you.

**Circle Bible Studies** will continue their study of Romans on January 17.

## Children's Ministry

**The Gate—where kids meet and learn to live for Him!** (Sunday mornings)

The Gate provides an opportunity for kids to meet God through a number of different ways: interacting with volunteers, participating in lessons, worship, and creative expression. We use small group/ large group formats during the service and rotate between learning stations for the 11:15am hour. The Gate is for children ages 4-4th grade.

### GEMS (Girls Club) & Boyz Clubs

Children ages 4yrs-6th grade meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm. Check in starts at 6:25pm. Contact Krista Batdorff at [kbatorff@fifthrc.org](mailto:kbatorff@fifthrc.org).

## Student Ministry

### Junior High (JHAF)

- Sunday Mornings: 11:15am in the JHAF room.
- Wednesday Evenings: 6:30 - 8:00pm in the JHAF room.

### Senior High (YAF)

- Sunday Mornings: 11:15am in the YAF room.
- Sunday Evenings: large group at 6:00pm in the YAF room.

Questions? Contact Christian Verwys at [christianverwys@gmail.com](mailto:christianverwys@gmail.com).

## Worship Arts

### Jubilation Ringers:

The Handbell Choir rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 7:00pm. Check it out! Contact Colette Akers at [cmainenow@gmail.com](mailto:cmainenow@gmail.com).

### Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir rehearsals are Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. You are invited!

### Liturgical Dance

Meets Sunday evenings in the sanctuary at the following times: 5:00pm (7th grade-high school); 6:00pm (2nd-6th grade) No experience is necessary! Contact Sue Wilson at 247-4976 or [www.930egr@aol.com](http://www.930egr@aol.com).

### Kings Kids

King's Kids Choir (grades 1-6) rehearsals are at 5:15pm Wednesday evenings. Questions? Call or email Miss Janna at 245-9247, x20 or [jkooi@fifthrc.org](mailto:jkooi@fifthrc.org).

## Prayer & Encouragement

**Person to Remember:** Nedra Bryker who lives at 801 Meadowwood St, Greensboro, NC 27409.

**Remember in Prayer:** **Lee Daane** who is scheduled for hip replacement surgery on Wednesday, December 21 and cancer surgery on his nose January 5; **Nicholas Kerns** who is recovering from eye surgery; **Ruth Nieusma** recovering from a fractured pelvis and a broken collar bone; **give thanks** for all the **missionary friends** and **Christian co-workers** around the world, as they demonstrate in word and deed just what Christmas is all about. Be with missionary families that can't be together for Christmas.

### Thank you

The pastoral deacons would like to say a big THANK YOU to all who donated gifts to our "Angel Tree" this year. Through Clancy Street Ministries, Fifth Church sponsored ten families with a total of 40 children. These families were blessed by your donations of food, toys and clothing for Christmas. Thank you for taking part in this "bless the world" opportunity!

I wish to thank the kind folks of Fifth for remembering me again this season with their lovely cards and expressions of good will. You truly are God's ambassadors of warmth and blessings. God bless all of you.

*Sam Hartley*

Thanks to everyone for all you prayers, cards, visits, meals and acts of kindness during my knee replacement surgery.

*Elaine Stevens*

### Email Address Change

**Alesha Burgess**

[alesha@ernestlorraine.com](mailto:alesha@ernestlorraine.com)

### January Birthdays

80 and over

1 **Marolyn DeBruin**

8 **Frances Hage** (90)

14 **Nina Zoet** (94)

25 **Marian Dykema** (80)

Missionaries

13 **Murray Moerman**

15 **Beth Harrison**

21 **Sharon Moss**

25 **Rick Peterson**



**Sunday, December 25**

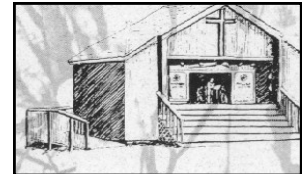
**Title:** "The Name Lord"

**Text:** Luke 2:8-20

**Preacher:** Verlyn Verbrugge

**Leader:** Verlyn Verbrugge

[www.driveinchurch.org](http://www.driveinchurch.org)



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### Unsubscribe

If you would like to remove your name from our mailing list, email Renae Kindle at [rkindle@fifthrc.org](mailto:rkindle@fifthrc.org) and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

### Deadlines for Information Submission

- eNews@fifth: Monday, 12:00pm
- Worship Guide: Wednesday, 10:00am

Contact Renae Kindle at [rkindle@fifthrc.org](mailto:rkindle@fifthrc.org)

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