

## Some Thoughts on True Wealth

Someone gave me a pure, one ounce silver coin as a Christmas present. I will treasure it always! One ounce of pure silver, I understand, costs about \$14 dollars (give or take) at current market values. I've started reading and studying about gold, silver, and the finances because things seem to be costing more and more with less and less to show for it. The economy is always in the news. Add on top of that the fact that I didn't win the most recent lottery so things will remain for me what they are!

A recent devotion came across my desk (I'd like to give complete credit here for these thoughts to Glenn McDonald) that has a direct bearing on finances. I read it to the youth program kids just last evening. It's worth sharing. It has to do with the Washington Monument. The Washington Monument, now in existence for over 100 years, remains the tallest freestanding stone structure in the world. The monument's designers wanted to honor Washington in an extraordinary way so they decided to cap the monument with the rarest (most expensive) metal that existed at the time.

The capstone of the Washington Monument is only 9 inches tall. It's not made of pure silver. It's not made of gold or even platinum. The capstone of the Washington monument is made of pure... 100% Aluminum.



Aluminum! You see there was a time that scientists didn't know how to produce Aluminum in large quantities. Napoleon Bonaparte once hosted a banquet where the most honored guests were given Aluminum utensils while the rest of the guests simply had to eat their soup with gold spoons. As it turns out, a few years after the completion of the Washington Monument, metallurgists figured out how to turn an ordinary rock into all the Aluminum the world would ever need. It turns out that Aluminum is the third most prevalent element on earth, almost as common as dirt! Today we can go to bed knowing there is more Aluminum in our rooftop gutters than on top of the Washington Monument!

This all points to one of life's greatest challenges which asks the question, "What are things really worth?" This past Sunday I asked the Congregation to consider the questions, "Who are you?" and "What do you want?" As the dollar continues to buy less and less and

as countries around the world are beginning to feel the pressure (and even some are collapsing) of economic strain, silver seems like a pretty decent investment.

I read this week that Illinois is in a big world of hurt in that it can't even payout its lottery ticket winners! Silver and gold! Do you know what the Bible says about gold? It tells us that heaven's streets are paved with the stuff! (Revelation 21:21). The Bible always seeks to declare the true value of things over and opposed to the voices of humankind which seek to influence us differently.

In heaven, gold is only worthy of the soles of our feet, yet each and every one of us as human beings, the Bible tells us, were worth Jesus dying for! The definition of being rich isn't how much money we have or even how much gold or silver we can put in a safe, but rather something far greater. Being rich is having God at the exact center of our lives and hearts and knowing when we have God, made known through His only Son Jesus, we have everything worth having.

With hearts aflame,  
H Dick

### Thank You Notes....

To our church family. We want to thank everyone for your cards and prayers when we lost my mother just before Christmas. She was a special lady and will be missed by many. - Morris & Marsha Mills

To the First Presbyterian Church: Thank you so much for your gift to the women's fund for the Omega Project. We passed the \$175,000 mark! We believe we will be able to start construction by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for partnering! In Christ, David A. Case

You're the BEST! Thank you to everyone who called, sent me cards, sang "Happy Birthday" to me, brought a lovely plant, and baked awesome cookies (which I DID share!)? Thanks, also, for the lovely flowers from the church family! You have all made my birthday a GREAT one, this year, and I'm thankful for the new friendships I've made at FPC! What a blessing you are! Thanks! Elaine

### News Bits...

**Grieving? Know someone who is?** GriefShare - a support group/seminar - meets here at FPC, 7-9pm for 13 weeks. Due to the inclement weather on the 19<sup>th</sup>, GriefShare was postponed a week, and just started on the 26<sup>th</sup>, so if you're interested in attending, call Mike at 755-7685. It's not too late!

The **Lent Task Force** will meet on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. All are welcome to attend and help with planning for the Lenten season. A representative from each of the following ministry teams should also plan to attend - Christian Ed, Facility, Fellowship, Mission, and Worship.

With new elders and deacons - and with changes on some ministry teams - it's almost time for a new church directory. If you have updated information (phone, email, address), please let Elaine know asap, then be watching for directories in the next couple of weeks in the narthex, or in the office.

Just so you know -- the Session has a change in schedule! They are now meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, at 6:30pm, in Room #1.

Beginning with our traditional **Ash Wednesday pancake dinner on February 10<sup>th</sup>**, we will begin a series of six **Wednesday events (February 10<sup>th</sup> through March 16<sup>th</sup>)** which will include a light dinner at 6pm and a short (30 minute) presentation at 6:30pm by one of the various local mission organizations our church supports through our mission budget. This is not a fund raiser. Come enjoy fellowship and a meal. This is also not potluck - you will not need to bring food. Instead, bring a friend to enjoy a meal and hear the great things that are going on to help those in need in our community. The full schedule will be

published soon, and will include organizations like Churches United in Ministry, The McPherson County Food Bank, Omega House Men’s and Women’s Shelters, Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Westminster Woods Camp, and others. Will you consider making this a part of your Lenten discipline this year? And, bring a friend!

Join us for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual **Battle of the Chefs Omega Soup Cook-Off** on **Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** at the 4-H Building. Lunch will be served 11am-1pm. Dinner, from 4:30-7pm. Soups and desserts will be provided by local churches and businesses.

**Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in February...**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Linda Heidebrecht
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Lana Birzer
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Ellen Davidson
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Rachel DeWitt, Allan Sents, and Edith Young
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Morris Mills and Randy Voran
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Britney Brooks and Marsha Mills
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Joel Morey
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Evana Reynolds
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Ian Ediger
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Happy Anniversary...Mark & Linda Heidebrecht
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Carolyn Naylor
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Cheryl Canfield and Lucille Hand
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Megan Morey

<p><b>“Come to the Waters” Ladies Circle</b></p> <p>Questions? Crystal @ 241-3559</p> <p><b><u>Wednesdays @ 6:30pm</u></b></p> <p>February 17</p> <p>March 16</p> <p>April 20</p> <p>May 18</p> <p>June - no meeting</p> <p>July - no meeting</p> <p>August - no meeting</p>	<p><b>“Come to the Waters” Ladies Circle</b></p> <p>Questions? Crystal @ 241-3559</p> <p><b><u>Thursdays @ 10am</u></b></p> <p>February 18</p> <p>March 17</p> <p>April 21</p> <p>May 19</p> <p>June 16</p> <p>July - no meeting</p> <p>August 18 - Perkins Brunch</p>	<p><b><u>February Ushers</u></b></p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> - Cindy Griggs</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> - Cindy Griggs</p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> - Willard &amp; Carolyn Childres</p> <p>28<sup>th</sup> - Willard &amp; Carolyn Childres</p> <p><b><u>Usher Supervisor</u></b></p> <p>Jeff Warren</p> <p><b><u>Meals on Wheels Drivers</u></b></p> <p>Curtright, Moennich, Gant, Bohnenblust</p> <p><b><u>Deacon on Duty</u></b></p> <p>Judi Gannon</p>
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