

moral perspectives

Rev. Charles Erickson

Is wealth the best legacy to pass on?

It's always been a difficult issue. For thousands of years we have tried all sorts of ideas, but have never found any satisfactory way of disposing of distributing our wealth and goods at the time of death.

A fundamental cause of all the trauma and dissonance caused by the transfer of wealth and possessions to the next generation is our basic assumption that it is our wealth and possessions that are the most valuable in our lives and the legacy we want to pass on. If we didn't attach so much importance to our possessions (material goods) and wealth, we wouldn't have so much trouble detaching ourselves from it in the process of dying and death.

It's my understanding that the Biblical concept of the Jubilee year (having all the land returned for a new distribution every 50th year) was never fully implemented. However, it was an attempt to say something about ownership et al. For the earlier Old Testament agricultural community, the land always belonged to God. The people never owned it in the sense of ownership today. They were the stewards of the land — managers, custodians, caretakers. And it was their intention to make that clear in the way they related to the land. They would never own it forever and forever. They would care for it, they would till it and they would give it back for reassignment after so many years.

THE ASSUMPTIONS are correct in the Biblical narrative, but we may find fault with the process. We might say it sounds too "Socialist" or "Communist."

Saying that we are only stewards is one thing... making it a principle for land ownership is quite another.

Quite frankly, I don't see much possibility for a change in our practice of ownership. We shall continue to believe that everything we purchase is ours to own and control. At the time of our death we shall believe and assume that our wealth and material possessions are the most important legacy to the generation after us.

In his book "Seven Arrows," Hymenotus Storm tells us that the Plains Indians regarded the Medicine Wheel as their most important legacy to the generations following after. A way of looking at life, the Medicine Wheel was "a mirror in which everything is reflected." For them it was the path to integrity, understanding and insight. Teaching the next generation its vision and way was the greatest gift they could pass on.

It's a pity that we think so little of ourselves as human beings capable of love and thought, and so highly of all those things made of earth and dust. We might feel some relief at making careful plans for the distribution of our wealth and possessions at the time of our death. And we might agree that these legacies are also "a mirror in which our values are truly reflected." More serious consideration on this subject should persuade us that we have no reason to be surprised if the next generation thinks no more of us as human beings than we think of ourselves. What we are as the people of God is the one thing we don't pass on to the next generation.

That Blessings May Shine on You. Come to Church.

For Church Directory Advertising Information
PLEASE CALL 644-1100 Ext. 217



ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
165 E. Square Lake Road
Birmingham Hills
12 blocks west of Woodward
Worship 10 AM
Nursery Provided
Rev. Guenther C. Branstetter

EVANGELICAL FREE
1001 E. Longview
New Meeting in the Birmingham Community House
300 S. Ave.
9:30 am Sunday Service
10:30 am Morning Service
Pastor: Rick Heston
334-0718 - Heston, President

HOPE LUTHERAN
39200 W. 12 Mile Road
Farmington Hills
Worship 9:30 AM
V.H. Messenbrink
Pastor

St. Paul's Lutheran Missouri Synod
20805 Middlebelt at 8 Mile
Farmington Hills • 474-5875
The Rev. Hagen E. Unger, Pastor
SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:30 & 11 AM
BIBLE CLASSES 10 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE CLASSES 10 AM
Grades K-8
Wayne C. Dorkach Principal
474-2488

Orchard United Methodist
20450 FARMINGTON ROAD
Between 12 and 14 Mile Road
826-3820
MORNING WORSHIP 10 AM
Pre-School Child Care
MINISTERS
Robert L. S. Brown
Nancy A. Woycik

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
31112 Grandview
Farmington Hills • 474-6973
Worship 10 AM
CHURCH SCHOOL 10 AM
Nursery Provided
Rev. Arthur L. Spotted

The Congregational Church of Birmingham U.C.C.
Woodward at Cranbrook
Bloomfield Hills
Worship and Church School 10:00 AM
Nursery Care Available
Barter-Free
MINISTERS
The Rev. Charles O. Erickson
Carol D. Grim

BEVERLY HILLS UNITED METHODIST
20000 W. 13 Mile at Evergreen
• 646-8777
Worship: 10 AM
CHURCH SCHOOL: 10 AM
(Nursery thru High School)
Minister: John W. Bray

UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1385 S. Adams • Rochester
378-0400
Worship Service: 10 AM
Nursery Provided
Barter-Free Access

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH
625-6506
Worship & Pre-School
CHILD CARE: 10:00 AM
Dr. Samuel F. Stout, Pastor
United Methodist in Affiliation
Ecumenical in Spirit

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM
1001 West Maple Road
Ministers:
F. Morgan Roberts
Charles A. Summers
D. William Melvor
Darryl L. Baker
Stuart D. Broberg
Gerald S. Crawford
Morning Worship and Church School 10:00 AM
Nursery Provided

CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST
30300 Woodward, Livonia
Pastor: Gerald Fisher
1:45 am. Adult Worship Service
10:00 am. The Church School
1:15 pm. Second Worship Service
5:45 pm. Youth Meeting
7 pm. Sun. Eve. Service
7 pm. Wed. Adoration Service
We try to provide for All Services

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
1589 West Maple at Pleasant
Ministers: Robert P. Ward • Douglas W. Vernon
• Ronald K. Fulton • Charles H. Beynon
Worship Services
8:30 AM and 10:00 AM
Child Care 8:30 and 10:00 AM
No Church School in August

Who Are Those Joyful Christians?
The members of the OAKLAND AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
12 LONESOME LANE
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35205
REV. PAUL MOORE, PASTOR
804 OAKLAND AVE., PORTLAND, ME 04257

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
American Baptist
Bates and White
Birmingham
Robert J. Middleton
MINISTER
CHURCH SCHOOL
8:00 AM
Worship
10:00 AM
644-0550

CENTRAL WOODWARD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
2810 W. Big Beaver at Adams Hwy
Church School:
9:30 AM
Worship: 11:00 A.M.
Minister:
Robert H. Boyte
644-0512

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN ALC • FARMINGTON
23025 Glen Road
3 blocks S. of Grand River
3 blocks W. of Farmington Rd.
SUMMER SCHEDULE
Worship (Nursery) 8:30 AM
Pastor C. Fox

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH • L.C.A.
6255 Telegraph North of Maple
BIRMINGHAM
9:15 Sunday Church School
10:30 Sunday Worship
The Rev. C. W. Rucker, Pastor
646-5227 • 646-4119

Cross of Christ LUTHERAN
Corner Long Pine & Telegraph
Bloomfield Hills
Worship:
8:15 • 9:45 • 11:15
EDUCATIONAL HOUR: 9:45
Nursery • 6th Grade
Junior/Senior High and Adult Bible Classes

Northbrook Presbyterian
14 Mile & Lashor Road
SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 AM
- Nursery Provided -
Pastors:
M.L. Dunkleberger
Peter Moore
642-0200

THE COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH
1800 W. Maple Rd. in Birmingham near 45th
955-9557
9:45 a.m.: CHURCH SCHOOL • 11:00 a.m.:
Worship Service
6:30 p.m.: EVENING SERVICE
WEDNESDAY
7 PM Prayer & Bible Study
8 PM Adult Choir

THE LORD'S HOUSE A Full Gospel Church
36824 Ant Arbor Trail
Newburgh
522-8463
Pastor Carl J. Forsyth
Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Evening Service 7:00 pm
Wednesday Service 7:30 pm
Open Every Day 9:00 am
Until 11:00 pm
Children's Ministry at
Every Service
24 Hour Prayer Line 522-8415

SUNDAY SERVICES:
Christian Education 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Evening Service 6:30 pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm
A Nursery is Provided For All Services

OTHER ACTIVITIES:
Ladies Bible Study
Childrens Brigades
Youth Program

DETROIT FIRST CHURCH of the NAZARENE
Pastor: James Conner, Youth: Robert Anderson, Music: Rod Butcher
Located at 11275 S. 8 Mile with entrance at 21600 Hogarty Road
Church Office 248-1870

CHRIST CHURCH
EPISCOPAL
LONE PINE AT CRANBROOK
THE REV. ALAMUS N. THORP, JR., RECTOR
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Sermon
(Church School and Nursery)
(Morning Prayer 2nd and 4th Sundays)
Weekday Eucharist
Tuesday 10:00 AM
Wednesday 7:00 AM
CHRIST CHURCH

NARDIN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
29887 West Eleven Mile Road
Just West of Middlebelt
478-8860
Farmington Hills
Worship Service: 10 AM
"CAN WE BELIEVE THE PREACHER?"
Dr. William Ritter
Dr. William A. Ritter, Pastor
Rev. Jeffrey Dinkler, Assoc. Min.
Joey May, Director of C.E.
Mr. Melvin Rookus, Dir. Music

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
12 Mile and Farmington Roads
Behind Crowley's
Worship 8:15 and 10:45
Sunday School & Bible Class 9:30
Pastor: Rev. T. Richard Marels
Church Phone: 653-3380

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
26275 Northwestern Highway near Lashor
Southfield, MI PHONE: 356-1660
United for the worship of God
and service to Humanity
Rev. Mark P. Jensen, Senior Minister
E. Neil Hunt, Minister of Education
Dr. Harry Langford, Dir. of Music
Worship Service and
Church School: 10 AM
No Stairs Nursery
CHURCH CENTER DR.

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
34500 West Eleven Mile
Farmington Hills • 477-5033
8:00 A.M. School 10:00 A.M.
Worship 11 AM and 5 PM
WED. MEET CLASS 7:00 PM
Nursery Provided at All Services

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL
3001 N. Adams (N. of Big Beaver)
BLOOMFIELD HILLS • 474-2290
Worship 10 AM
H.F. (Jack) Brown, Pastor

Brightmoor Tabernacle
26555 Franklin Rd. • Southfield MI
(at 895 & Telegraph - Just West of Holiday Inn)
Sunday School: 9:45 AM - Morning Worship: 11:00 AM
Celebration of Praise: 6:30 PM
Wed. Adult Prayer & Praise - Youth Service 7:30 PM
A Charismatic Church where people of many denominations worship together!
Thomas E. Trask, Pastor

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
MORNING WORSHIP 10 AM
WARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVONIA
Farmington and Six Mile Roads
422-1150
Worship and Sunday School 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 AM
"LOST AND FOUND"
Rev. Wallace W. Hostetter
7:00 PM
"PHILADELPHIA - THE LOVING CHURCH"
Rev. Willard L. Davis
Wednesday 7 PM: Summer School of Christian Education
Sunday Service Broadcast
9:30 AM • WMUZ-FM 103.5
AIR CONDITIONED SANCTUARY
Nursery Provided at all Services

DETROIT LUTHERAN CONGREGATION
290 Fairground at Ant
Arbor Trail • Plymouth
Donald W. Lahli, Pastor
477-1316
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM
ALSO FIRST SUNDAY
MONTHLY 8:00 PM
As scheduled services in English
French language service scheduled monthly third Sunday at 10 AM.
Also available at any time

FIRST APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN
26325 Halstead Road
at Eleven Mile
FARMINGTON HILLS
SERVICES
10 AM EVERY Sunday
7 PM First and Third
Sunday of Each Month
7 PM Sunday Song
Service
Last Sunday Each Month

GOD HEALS.
Many people have found this true, not only in Bible times but today. If you'd like to hear some personal experiences of healing, visit our Wednesday evening testimony meeting. We'd love to have you come.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BIRMINGHAM
191 Chester at 19th
Sunday Service and Sunday School
Wednesday Testimony Meeting
Reading Room at 325 E. Maple
Opens Daily at 9:30 AM • 644-7035

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST FRANKLIN-MEADOWLAKE
Maple Road at Intersect
Sunday Service and Sunday School
Wednesday Testimony Meeting
Reading Room at 4501 Orchard Lake Road in Pine Lake MI
Opens Daily at 10:00 AM • 651-7146

gerontology

A. Jolayne Farrell

Adjusting to bifocals takes time, practice

Dear Jo:
I have been fitted with my first pair of bifocals and am having a problem adjusting to them. When I walk and look down at my feet I get off balance and am afraid of a fall. Could you give me some suggestions as to how I can adapt to them?

Dear Mrs. K.:
Most of the many millions of people who wear bifocals have had to make some sort of an adjustment to them in the beginning, so you are not alone. First of all, make sure that your frames have been properly adjusted so that the lenses are in the correct position. Do not hesitate to return to the professional who fitted you with them for an adjustment.

It is important that you wear your bifocals continuously for the first week to two, even though you may feel you don't have to wear them for certain activities. When walking, avoid looking down at your feet. You're right, this can cause you to lose your balance, and I'm sure you don't usually look down at your feet when walking anyway.

Lastly, one of the hardest things to do with new bifocals is to read the newspaper. To do this, fold the paper in half or quarter size and move the paper rather than your eyes until you are able to read it comfortably. In a few weeks time, you'll wonder how you ever "coped" before you had your bifocals. Good luck.

Dear Jo:
I had a thorough physical exam, including several tests, by my doctor four months ago. I haven't heard anything back from him or his office. Should I just presume that I am fine and all that tests were normal?

Dear Concerned:
Presume nothing. Call the office and make an appointment for a followup visit. You are responsible for your own health and you should know the result of your physical examination and the tests.

Dear Jo:
My mother, age 74, has had some mental problems over the years, but has always been able to manage pretty well on her own. She says she is fine, but we (the family) all see changes in her appearance and lifestyle. Should we be worried about her? How can we tell if a person is mentally ill or not?

Dear Miss R.:
Your letter does not give me enough information about your mother's physical and mental health for me to know whether you should be worried about her or not. Since you and your family have noted some changes, perhaps

some straight talk with your mother about how she feels and how she is managing is necessary. A professional physical or mental evaluation may be needed.

To answer your question as to how you can tell if a person is mentally ill or not according to the psychiatrist, Eric Pfeiffer, mental illness is present when a person is unable to meet his or her physical, mental and/or social needs, or can do so only with pain, suffering, and considerable personal discomfort. Although some older people are mentally ill, mental illness is not a part of growing older. Should any of the above apply to your mother, you should assist her in getting help.

Dear Jo:
My grandfather has taken up windsurfing. He has been an avid sportsman, particularly in water sports, his life; but at age 83, I think he has gone too far. Should I encourage him or discourage him?

Mrs. J.

For our readers who are not familiar with this new and popular sport, windsurfing is sailing on a surf board. It is something like surfing, something like water-skiing and something like sailing but different.

To answer your question better, I decided to take a windsurfing lesson myself. I'm age 47 and have some background in water-skiing and sailing. The three-hour lesson was somewhat grueling, but not exhausting as we were able to pace ourselves according to our energies and abilities.

After several tries, which included falling into the water from the board from all angles — even once or twice emerging up under the sail — I was able to actually sail (windsurf) although it will take a few more hours on my own to really get the "hang" of it.

The instructor said windsurfers are of all ages from age 10 and up. When I asked him "how far up?" he arranged for me to meet an expert windsurfer, Crawford Gibbs, age 70.

Gibbs took up windsurfing approximately four years ago when he was sailing in the Caribbean. Gibbs suggests that before anyone takes up windsurfing they should go (several times) to the beach and just watch, then if you still want to do it and a water-skiing go for it.

He recommends that you take lessons from a pro, "they've got the whole sport down to four easy steps."

The key to the whole sport really is good health — although according to Gibbs it's really have to see or hear all that well.

So, Mrs. J., I think you should encourage your grandfather to continue.