

Sermon Title: Shake It Up
Text: Hebrews 13:16
By: Rev. Terry Carty
Date: 07-31-11
Place: Kingston Springs United Methodist Church
Season: begin Stewardship Focus; end VBS Shake It Up

Main Point: The importance of 'giving happily' in our spiritual journey of discipleship.

Sermon Puppet Skit

Chef: Scraps, do you remember what you brought into the Shake It Up Cafe' kitchen on Tuesday?

Scraps: You mean the snails?

Chef: I'll never forget it - what were you thinking?

Scraps: I needed them to make the French dish, Escargot. Remember? Everyone say it with me: Ess! (Waits for response) Car! (Waits for response) Go! (Waits for response) Escargot! (Waits for response)

Chef: Well, did you learn anything?

Scraps: I sure did! I learned not to leave the snails on a plate while I was chopping the other vegetables. They got away! But I also learned that just giving something away isn't enough. You should want to give, and give with a happy heart.

Chef: That's a good lesson! Our Chefs' our Bible Bite for that day says it best: "Don't forget to do good and to share what you have, because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices." (Hebrews 13:16) God wants us to give happily!

Scraps: In the spirit of giving happily, I went back to the homeless shelter with my pockets full of snails. For some reason, no one wanted them. (Shakes head) They're missing out!

Chef: thanks Scraps. You have been great at the Shake It Up Cafe' this week.

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It has been a great week - a good way to begin my second year with you. We have much to celebrate about - we have been 'shaking it up' all year long!

A lot seems to have happened in the past year. The Ark has moved from the midst of the tragedy of our flood to being on the verge of moving into a new building with the Thrift Store they have dreamed of.

Here in the congregation we have seen a flurry of activity that it has been difficult to keep up with. The growth in numbers of youth on Wednesday evening created challenges that were met by Gerald Himmer providing space for our youth to meet. And many adults have responded to the call for volunteers. Just as we were making plans for the summer we got another shake up when our youth director suddenly resigned to go to another church. Even then, youth and adults stepped up to be the leaders until we



I believe with all my heart that this church does not have a financial problem. Many people have told me this year “we at KSUMC don’t give very big offerings, but when there is a need we always meet it.” Well, over the next few weeks I want us to think about more than just paying our bills and helping our neighbor’s needs. I want us to think about the importance of giving in our own spiritual lives. I want us to consider intentional giving toward the greater needs of the church and of our faith commitments.



This week we will send a letter to your homes (yes, a real letter with a real stamp on it!). It will go out to all who are part of the KSUMC family. That includes those who have are on the official roll and those who have participated in our ministries. We are all on this journey of discipleship and need to consider our intentional giving.

The letter will announce a low pressure campaign throughout August to think about our financial giving to the church and make a plan for systemic and intentional giving. We are not even going to push you to increase your giving - just to follow through on your good intentions. [SMILE] Of course we will not turn down anyone who decides that you have not been giving enough!

At the end of this intentional giving emphasis, we will ask you to let the church know an estimate of how much you intend to give. We will not work on the 2012 church budget until we have a sense for how much we can anticipate. We must move beyond a crisis spending mode toward a growth mode.

This is a bold move, asking you to think about your intention to give to God’s work through this church. But faith growth requires bold decisions and bold actions. Some of you have a lot to think about this month - school starts back, we go back to our post-summer routines. But I ask you to set aside time to think about your faith commitments particularly by thinking about your financial commitments to the work of the Jesus Christ through his Church.