

Christ Notes, January 12, 2012



What Would Jesus Buy?

Our sermon last Sunday was a little unusual. At least it was for me. Money and economics seem to be among those subjects that don't often get mentioned in the same breath as the practice of our faith. And yet I can't imagine a more important element in the lives of the people God created and loves! So we're going to keep going for a while in this same vein and continue the discussion for a little longer.

On Sunday, we talked about the stuff we buy. We covered three main points: 1) We buy a lot; 2) Our purchases have consequences; and 3) it is often difficult to know those exact consequences when it comes to any given purchase; as a result, it is difficult to know the right choice to make. So the question "What Would Jesus Buy?" is sometimes (though not always) a hard one to answer.

But a better question might be "What DID Jesus buy?" Not much, it would seem, if you look to the biblical text for specific purchases that Jesus made or lists of things that he owned. The few times the Bible speaks of Jesus acquiring food or drink, he created it out of thin air – as in the feeding of the 5,000; or he transformed something else – as in the water turned to wine at the wedding in Cana. Interestingly, though he might have helped to consume these things, both of these stories are about Jesus making things for other people.

In all of Jesus' travels, I can't think of a single purchase he made that was recorded, or any reference to any possession he might have had. While Jesus didn't appear to be anti-commerce, even he got angry enough to turn over tables when the buying and selling diminished the purpose of the temple, and by extension, the purposes of God. That doesn't completely answer the question of what we should and shouldn't buy, but I think it does hint that less is more. It should certainly make us question very deeply the necessity of our acquisitions, as well as their far reaching effects.

Also, while we can't always know all that has gone into the production of some of the goods that we buy, it is important to know as much as we can. Here are a couple of resources that can help you learn more about some of the issues involved. [The Story of Stuff](#)

www.storyofstuff.org) is a set of videos that can be watched online and the website includes lots of additional resources and information, some of which I used in my sermon on Sunday.

Interestingly, [Sunday night's broadcast of This American Life](http://www.thisamericanlife.org) (www.thisamericanlife.org) touched on this topic as well. It included a radio adaptation by Mike Daisey of his one-man show "The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs." Daisey visited factories in China where electronics were being produced for western countries. His delivery of the story is entertaining though some of his findings were sobering. It's worth a listen.

Living the Christian Life was never meant to be easy. It is especially complicated in our multi-faceted, modern world. We are called, however, to stay true to our calling no matter what; to honor God in every aspect of our lives. This means that we think deeply about our actions that have far-reaching repercussions, and we take the time to know as much as we can about the things we do and the things we buy. I realize this might be new territory for a lot of us, but I'm willing to try. Are you?

See you Sunday!

Blessings,

Rev. Nancy

Do you have a comment? Visit this and other materials on our blog! Christumc-roswell.blogspot.com/

Your help is Needed

It's time to UN-decorate the sanctuary and put away the tree, wreaths and garlands. Please come on Saturday morning at 9 am. This is not strictly an altar guild activity. All members, men, women and children can help. The more the merrier (and the sooner done). Thanks!

Saturday, January 14, 9:00am, Sanctuary

Administration

Church Leader Training

Make your plans to attend our church-wide leader training. On Saturday, January 21, all committee members and chairs are invited to a time of learning and conversation. We will discuss the roles of each work area and best practices for working together to move our church forward in ministry! Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Saturday, January 21, 8:00am – 3:00pm; Sanctuary

Sanctuary Building Clean Up Day

Our mission in the United Methodist Church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ. One of the most important ways we do this is through the hospitality we offer to those who are new to our church or our faith. Because our building is the first sign of hospitality that a visitor receives, it is important to maintain its appearance. In an effort to show the greatest possible hospitality to our visitors and guests, we have scheduled a day to clean and organize several areas of our sanctuary building. On January 28, items that are no longer needed in public areas will be moved to storage or disposed of. If you have any materials or property in the sanctuary building, you may wish to remove them before this date. If you are interested in volunteering for the Clean Up Day, please call or e-mail the church office.

January 28, 9:00am – 3:00pm, Sanctuary Bldg.

Ministry Fair

On Sunday, January 29, CUMC will have a Ministry Fair. This is a great opportunity to learn about the work of the church and to get involved! Displays will be placed around the church with information about various ministry groups. If you lead a committee or ministry area, get your displays ready and prepare to inform and recruit! If you are not involved in ministry at CUMC, join us on Sunday, Jan. 29th to find how you can be!

Sunday, January 29; Before and after worship; Sanctuary Building

Outreach

Christ UMC Blog

Christ United Methodist Church now has a blog! A blog, derived from “web log” is an easily-updatable website that shares writings and other materials, giving readers the opportunity to respond. Our blog will be used to share our Christ Notes devotions, Children’s Sunday School lessons, and other informative and inspirational materials. This is one more opportunity for our church to be present on the web and to reach others with the love of Christ! Check it out at www.christumc-roswell.blogspot.com.

Fellowship

UMW Breakfast

UMW will meet for breakfast on January 14th at 10:30 at a new restaurant, Phish Phood. It is a faith based organization with a three page breakfast menu. The owner has given us discount coupons for our first visit. It is located on Woodstock road next to the Wendy’s at the intersection of King and Woodstock (behind the Bank of America). 11255 Woodstock Road , Roswell , Please call Alice Blanco to give a head count 770-605-9938 or e-mail aliceblanco@bellsouth.net.

Saturday, January 14, 10:30am Phish Phood

UMW NEWS: The LaDeDa Circle will meet next Tuesday, January 17, at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Carole Yeske, 275 Hollyberry Court, Roswell. All women who attend Christ UMC and their guests are invited.

Tuesday, January 17, 10:30am

On Sunday, February 12, a Valentine luncheon will be held to benefit the Murphy-Harpst Children's Center in Cedartown, Georgia. Soup and salad will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following church services. The cost per person will be \$5. Children 6 and under will be free.

Sunday, February 12, Fellowship Hall

Spiritual Development

Monday Night Bible Study

Join Tim and Lee Read as they lead us in "Looking at Luke". The Gospel According to Luke has everything a book club could ask for – victors & villains, Beelzebub & beatitudes, Christmas & Easter, miracles & murder, conspiracy & confession, sacraments & sacrilege, parables & Pharisees, disciples & demons, redemption & resurrection. And it's non-fiction! Make it your New Year's resolution. All are welcome!

January 16, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Pastor Nancy is available for short term counseling. While she is often in the office, appointments are the best way to secure some time.

Just call the church office at 770-993-3945.

Children & Youth Ministry



Safe Sanctuary Training for Sunday School volunteers

If you have signed up to help with the children's Sunday school, thank you. There are still opportunities for more people to help, contact either Fez (fezekasaige@gmail.com) or Lisa Wille (lisa11675@gmail.com).

Safe Sanctuaries training January 15 immediately following the church service: If you are signed up or think you will be helping in any children's or youth ministry you are required to attend this training. Safe Sanctuaries equips us to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our children and youth. Volunteers must commit and comply with the guidelines specified in Safe Sanctuaries. The training is valid for 2 years. If you have previously taken the training and are not sure if you need to be re-trained please contact Maggie Franz (maggief Franz@juno.com).

Sunday January 15, 12:30pm

Please check out the link below to view the Children's Lessons plans in addition to CUMC news. Thank you.

christumc-roswell.blogspot.com

Additional Safe Sanctuary Training

In Classroom Training, January 22 at 10:00am. All volunteers get to sneak a peak into the classroom. Please report to the Sunday school class downstairs at 10 am. Share in the Sunday school activities for the morning and have fun interacting with our wonderful young disciples. Lisa Wille will send out reminder emails for our volunteers for this training as well the day you have specifically signed up for.

January 22, 10:00am

Worship

God Money and the Global Economy

Money affects all of us. Ask anyone whose lives have been changed by the recent economic downturn. Ask anyone who lives in a developing nation. How we use our money – whether we spend, save, invest or give it away – will impact in our lives, as well as those of people a world away. In this new sermon series, learn how God views money, how we as Christians can honor God in our financial lives, and how a bad economy cannot rob us of the abundance God would give us.

This week:

January 15 – In Search of Security

Sundays, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Last week we received contributions of \$3,182

Floral Ministry:

Altar Flowers are placed in celebration of our Family in Christ Church. The flowers and bud vases are gifts to the honorees to take home as a token of the love that we share every day but especially on our "special days".

We don't want to miss a single birthday, anniversary, in memory of, special recognition (job promotion, new job, new grandbaby, niece, special friend, thank you, etc.). You tell us what you want to celebrate! Please help us to not miss anyone!!!

Contact Marcia & Phil Moser at 770-516-4452 or moserma@bellsouth.net

Members/Friends Service Directory In these hard economic times, we can help our brothers and sisters in the Church by utilizing their businesses for necessary services.

Joanne Rooks Mom's Table, a prepared meals company with locations at 1207 Canton St., Roswell. View the menu at: www.MomsTableOnline.com .

Mary Jane Warren Stone *Fine Art and Illustration*. Realist portraits of people, animals and places, and exhibits and illustration in support of educational and environmental concerns. Please contact Mary Jane at 770-578-8881

Chrissie Thead Christina's Interior Finishes. Her company offers color consultations, decorative painting and faux finishes for walls, ceilings, cabinets, mantles and furniture. www.christinasinteriorfinishes.com or 404-317-2090

John Clark private music instruction for piano, voice, and composition; classical, rock, and jazz styles; trains students to read music as well as play by ear. www.JohnClarkStudio.com or call 404-218-9150.

Steve Musker Private music lessons are available on trumpet, trombone, baritone and tuba. Teaching experience in both individual and group settings. For information call 770-518-4499 for details

Maggie Franz Avon Representative Contact Maggie at 678-939-2851 or email her at www.youravon.com/maggi Franz

Kirk Smith Home Improvements Inc. Home Repairs, Renovations and Additions. Call Kirk Smith for a free estimate Office # 770-565-0489 or Cell 404-787-4340

Fez Saige Life/ Transition Coaching. FREE January workshops Addressing the Unique Challenges of Stay at Home Moms Going Back to Work. January 24 and 26th, 9 to 10:30am. RSVP using the contact form on the website: www.coach2accomplish.com or on the Facebook page event: @coach2accomplish.

If you have an announcement to submit to Christ Notes, send it to roswellchristumc@yahoo.com. Submissions should be no more than 100 words and may be subject to editing.