



United Methodist Church of Vista

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From Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Pastor's Ponderings

'Where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.' Matthew 6:21

It is fall and so the time when we look toward the next year. Every year at the church we ask for your pledges and set our budget. Every year we prayerfully consider what God is calling us to do. There is so much we are called to do in this community. Our hearts are big and bold, but I wonder if our treasure will follow.

A letter requesting your prayerful consideration for giving in 2017 is in the mail. You should be getting it soon, if you haven't already. Our finance committee has been talking about stewardship of our resources all year. They read a book titled, 'Not your parent's offering plate.' Consequently, we are trying to do things a little differently. We are keeping the talk about financial giving in church light. We know it's uncomfortable to talk about money and Christmas is coming soon with all those demands on our pocketbook.

Since I've arrived at Vista, I've been blessed and impressed by your generosity. You are a people that give your time and your talents in so many ways. You care for one another when you discern a need or concern. We've had too many memorial services this year, as we've remembered and committed our church friends and family to God. But even in times of grief and sadness, you are there supporting and loving one another. You are generous and bold in your caring.

As the election season wears on and the end can't get here soon enough, we have seen the deep pain in our nation and region. We've seen people yell and argue in personal ways that are demeaning. We've seen groups of people demoralized. How do we heal our national conversation? I believe it starts from our faith community. You and I are the people to lead conversations of respect. No matter 'what side of the aisle' you are on, you are welcome at our church. Our church is a place for people to come and have sanctuary and raise their family. Our church is a place where we care for those who are retired and those who are homebound. Our work as a congregation is the healing balm for our world!

We've got work to do for families and children, through music and worship and fellowship and service. Would you please prayerfully consider filling out your pledge card to help continue our work? If you are able to increase your pledge a little, it will make a difference. If you can't pledge, but are able to give a one-time gift, that helps too. We know that there are many places and good organizations asking for your financial support, and so I want to say 'thank you' for remembering your church!

Grace and peace to you!
Pastor Leigh Ann Shaw