

Simple Gifts--September 27

THERE'S POWER IN SIMPLE GIFTS

Scripture: **Mark 12:41-44** "The Widow's Mite"

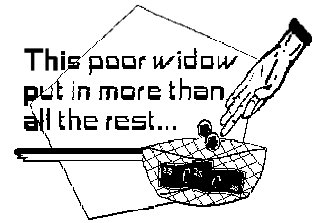
"Simple Gifts" is a great theme for this booklet. It made me think again of the priceless gift, the ultimate gift that God gave each of us through the life and sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ. We can never give gifts back to God to match his perfect gift to us.

So, what we who are Duke Memorial United Methodist Church (and all Christians) do in response to God's great gift is to give simple gifts in His name.

Through IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network) many of "our people" play host at the church to homeless mothers and their children for several weeks each year. Through Stephen Ministry and the Hospital and Shut-in Visitation Ministries, people of our church show God's love through visitation and simply caring.

Through meaningful services of worship, Christian education, Singles Ministry, missions, finance, trustees, etc., people give the simple gift of their time and abilities to continue the work of Christ in Durham and far beyond.

To give our money in accordance with how we have prospered (You knew I'd get to that, didn't you?) is also a necessary response to God's love. Remember Jesus' comment about the widow's offering of two copper coins a penny . . . "She gave more than anyone else because she out of her own poverty." There really is joy in giving.



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It is inspiring to see the simple gifts and powerful love shown through the lives and service of our fellow Christians. What a blessing it is to be part of this wonderful local church, and of this worldwide family of faith.

PRAYER: Father. Thank you for all the faithful Christians at Duke Memorial and elsewhere who respond to you in love and service in so many ways. May I be counted among your faithful children as well. Amen.

By Don Underwood