

Simple Gifts--October 3

Luke 6:38 – “Give, and it will be given to you....., For the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you”.

During the middle of the twentieth century, the common entreaty by those seeking charitable gifts was “give till it hurts”. In 1963 when the leaders of Duke Memorial planned the campaign to raise funds for the construction of the Educational Building for our church, a wise leader suggested a more appropriate phrase: **“Give till it feels good!”**

Isn't it reasonable to believe that God feels good about all the gifts God has provided for us, God's children? I pray that we never forget that “every good and perfect gift is from God, handed down from above”. As we consider our tithes and gifts for the coming year, it is entirely appropriate that each of us take pleasure in contributing our share of support of the activities of the church. It matters not where my interests are directed: youth, music, missions, or any other of our efforts to share Christ from the heart of Durham, I feel good about the successful results of the combined efforts of our congregation.

Oh yes, on the pledge Sunday in 1963 that culminated the education building campaign, there were a lot of Duke Memorial people who **“felt good”**. The entire cost of the facility was underwritten that day. Nearly fifty years later we daily witness the blessings of that building and share in the joy of those who provided it.

As we share in the opportunity to continue in ministry to our congregation and our community, I pray that we will each **“feel good”** in our role.



Prayer: Gracious Heavenly Father, keep us ever mindful of your gifts to us as well as your promise that, as we give, will gifts be given to us. Amen.

by Bill Self