

LIVING LESSONS

“...the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the lord’s favor.’ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down...”
Luke 4: 17-20

Jesus had a vision - his life was intended as a gift for all humankind. During Lent, we’re called to spend forty days pondering this gift. We bask daily in anticipation of the fulfillment of the Cross on Easter Sunday when we celebrate the gift.

Lent brings the lesson of sacrifice – of doing without something for the sake of others, and of thankful celebration for the gift. Christ’s life is this living lesson. And although we can’t be more giving than God, let’s look at some ways *people* give.

If you’re reading this, you probably know about tithing (10% of what you earn goes to God). Hopefully, you also know about proportionate giving - you increase your current giving little by little as you’re able. Some of you may have additional resources and give major gifts and many of you have left bequests to your Church.

New idea! You could make a gift of say, \$2,000 right now, receive a charitable tax deduction and a check each month (quarterly, semi-annually, annually) in the same amount until you die, and *still* leave more than 60% of that original \$2,000 to God’s work. Not bad. You receive a stable income and help others for years. It’s called a Charitable Gift Annuity and we write them. *And*, your gift is invested in accordance with *The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church*.

A Charitable Gift Annuity is an opportunity for *you* to be a living lesson of sacrifice because your gift will last long into the future. Let us help you get started! See our ad in this issue of *The Link* and call Art Davis at 1-800-272-0113.

