

cause moral collapse. Without this balance all my energy could be spent devising ways to save money, all my conversation centered on what I don't have, all my time given to investigating bargains.

At the other extreme I could be overcome in the small, petty work of consumerism. Balance means I cannot preoccupy myself with the materialistic part of life at either end of the see-saw. I want to enjoy life to the full, to see God in little things like a summer of camping, the spotted fawn on the edge of a thick-  
et, the freshly cooked corn on the cob, or a brand-new best seller.

I would like to believe I have this lifestyle all together. Ten years from now I will discover, as I have in the past, that I am still a beginner on this journey. But as a pilgrim in process, I am certain of one thing, life consists of more than filling one's closet...much more.

—Carol Thompson, excerpt from Messenger (1991)

*See art work in printed version.*

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

**Cover Art:** Colored marker drawing done in 2002 for Katherine Lutjens by Anne Woodson (1962-2011), daughter of Hurvey and Dorothy Woodson.

Old Orchard Church  
November 17, 2013 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

*See art work in printed version.*

For where  
your treasure is,  
there your heart  
will be also.

Matthew 6:20

## Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of All Wealth

Jesus is Lord of our loves,  
Rightly ordering every relationship around the hub,  
Love divine.

He is also Lord of our wealth—  
of what we earn  
of what we own,  
of what we invest.

He who is Lord of the rich earth blesses us  
With those pleasures money can buy,  
And we are enriched.

But as our supreme Treasure,  
He commands that we let no inferior treasure own our hearts.

Lay all you count as yours at God's feet.  
His are the cattle on a thousand hills,  
His is the cash in a thousand banks.  
Offer him your wealth,  
And Christ will be glorified,  
The world will be blessed,  
And you will be enriched forever.

### Today's Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 112

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:13-21

## Christianity in Ephesus, Christianity in St. Louis Series Sermon

“The Kingdom's Speech: Words That Build Up” (Part 3)  
Ephesians 4:29-32; 5:4

*Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching*

## The Skeleton in My Closets

One of our great contemporary myths is that money cannot buy happiness. It can. An afternoon of window shopping at Bloomingdales really turns me on. I have no aversion to comfort, luxury, beauty, ease—all of which can be bought for a price. I like them.

As a Christian I always thought money and things were morally neutral just so long as I worked hard and honestly, and tithed what I earned. The rest was for me to do with as I pleased. Why not—wasn't God the Creator who had given us all things richly to enjoy?

And enjoying things richly I did aplenty; that is, until God called me to Spain. It was the lack of closets that shook me. Closets are symbols of excess; they're the place you store things you want but don't need. And we were to live in a three-bedroom apartment with only two small closets. Impossible!

My background never prepared me for such a dilemma. I have no idea how many closets were in my middle-class suburban home, but I know there were plenty, and they were always full. And never were the size and quantity of our closets brought up for moral questioning. I knew nothing of want. My delight was a prime rib dinner at the Country Club or a luxurious motel at Ocean City. Now, like most other missionaries I had known, I was shipping my affluence overseas. But where were the closets for all this stuff?....

The measure of Christian giving, wrote C.S. Lewis, is not tithe, but sacrifice. I have not really given unless through that giving I have had to give something up. If Jesus' example is our norm, then Lewis was right. The problem: how do I transfer this principle into my family's daily lifestyle?

One answer came last Christmas through the World Vision telethon. Their presentation of world need was so graphic that my two younger children could not watch the entire program. Later as the children and I discussed our responsibility to these destitute millions, they suggested we stop drinking Pepsi and give the money to World Vision. Not much money, but a sacrifice nevertheless.

The abundance of produce in Spain has made us all vegetable lovers. The children have learned to enjoy various dried protein vegetables such as black beans, lentils and chick peas. Now we have a number of meatless days every week. While no great sacrifice, we feel it important that our family begin to identify with a hungry world.

Like an intricately balanced see-saw, the Christian view of money and things is a tension between austerity and luxury. Too much emphasis on the austerity end and I fall into asceticism, while over-indulgence on the other end may