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JOURNEY

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GREATERTHINGS

>PHASEONE

...and they will do even greater things than these...John 14:12

Prayer Guide and Daily Devotional

*Greater Things Capital Campaign • December 2009-2011
6601 Woodlake Village Parkway, Midlothian, VA 23112 • 804.739.4535*

Week 5

November 21-27, 2009

...and they will do even

GREATER THINGS

>PHASE ONE

than these...John14:12

November 21-22 is Commitment Weekend. We pray you will use this time to reflect on how God is prompting your heart to respond to this important time in your life and the life of Woodlake United Methodist Church.

Saturday: Joshua 3:5-8, 14-17

Response:

Sunday: Joshua 4:1-7

Response:

Monday: Matthew 28:19

Response:

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 13:3

Response:

Wednesday: Matthew 6:5-13

Response:

Thursday: 2 Samuel 24:24

Response:

Friday: 1 Chronicles 29:1-10

Response:

Prayer: Life is Your Gift

Creator God, Life is your gift to me. Through baptism You invite me to share the gift of my life in service to others. Be with me as I choose each day to show Your presence in our world. Give me the courage and generosity to respond to Your love, to Your call. I pray especially for those who serve You in ministry through the good work of Woodlake UMC. May we bear the "Good News" to those in need. Keep us close to you. Open the minds and hearts of many other men, women and young people that may accept your challenge to build the Kingdom in our neighborhood and our world. For if not us, who? If not here, where? If not now, when? If not for Your kingdom, why? We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen (from the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter Stewardship: A Disciple's Response)

Prayer Guide and Daily Devotional

You may already have a rich and intimate prayer life and if so, thank you for keeping our church in prayer. We ask that you continue to pray for God's guidance and blessings to pour upon us and that his agenda for our church will be fulfilled. We know he is calling us to "Greater Things". Continue to seek his guidance as you consider how your household will respond to this capital campaign. This offers us a perfect time to reflect in a deeper way upon the many blessings He brings into our lives and to our church and community. Spend time with our Lord seeking His will for your expressions of gratitude to Him, but also to others who are blessings in your life.

For others of us, we are sometimes stymied as to what or how to pray, especially if the topic is tougher than most, like money. I often find myself feeling perplexed or conflicted about how to use the gifts and treasures the Lord blesses me with – I have to remind myself often whose I am and whose gifts and treasures they really are. It has been helpful to have some prayers to use as guides for my conversations with God, especially about giving and I also find this scripture helpful when I am unsure how to pray. In Romans 8:26-27 we are reminded – "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts, knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will." Keep that in mind – when we pray we are joined by the Holy Spirit and Jesus – when we pray God sees our heart and He answers according to His will.

Blessings,

Pauline Elliott

Greater Things Prayer Team

Experiencing Joy

Week 4
November 14-20, 2009

There is no formula, no quick accounting, no percentage target for a capital stewardship commitment. As always, the truest measure of stewardship is equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. Not everyone has the resources to make a million dollar gift, but every person can meaningfully invest in what God is doing at this church in proportion to their blessings.

If there is no formula for what one might give, then how does anyone gauge how “right” their commitment decision might be? Try the questions below to discover your own internal measures.

- **In a personal way, will this commitment make a difference in me?** *Will this commitment affect my life, allowing me to invest myself in the mission and ministry of my church?*
- **Is this a decision I am willing to take time to pray about,** *genuinely seeking God’s guidance in how God might work through me?*
- **Is this a decision I will have a significant conversation about—***with my family and with my larger family of faith?*
- **Am I thinking creatively about a comprehensive giving plan that represents what I am capable of giving?** *What assets and resources could I use as a gift?*
- **Will this giving decision involve a sense of sacrifice in my life?** *Do my priorities reflect my commitment to my church?*
- **Am I discovering a new joy in giving?** *There is something freeing and deeper about the life of grace that we never experience until we learn to give as freely and deeply as God gives to us.*

Take time each day this week to read the scripture and reflect upon God’s Word and how it is speaking to you and your life. How can you respond to what it is He is saying to you?

Saturday: 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

Response:

Sunday: 2 Corinthians 9:10-15

Response:

Monday: Mark 9: 35, 41

Response:

Tuesday: Romans 8:32

Response:

Wednesday: Philippians 4:19

Response:

Thursday: Romans 13:8

Response:

Friday: John 14:12

Response:

Prayer: My Offering to God

Loving God, I come to you in thanksgiving, knowing that all I am and all that I have is gift from you, in faith and love, help me to do your will. I am listening, Lord God. Speak your words into the depths of my soul, that I may hear you clearly. I offer to you this day all the facets of my life, whether it be at home, at work or at school – to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy. Give me the wisdom and insight to understand your will for me and the fervor to carry out my good intentions. I offer my gifts of time, talent and possessions to you as a true act of faith, to reflect my love for You and my neighbor. Help me to reach out to others as you my God reached out to me. Amen

Week 3

November 7-13, 2009

Take time each day this week to read the scripture and reflect upon God's Word and how it is speaking to you and your life. How can you respond to what it is He is saying to you?

Saturday: Matthew 25:14-23

Response:

Sunday: Matthew 25:24-30

Response:

Monday: Psalms 24:1

Response:

Tuesday: 1 Timothy 6:7

Response:

Wednesday: Psalm 23:1

Response:

Thursday: John 6:9

Response:

Friday: Joshua 24:15

Response:

Prayers: Live In My Life

May the Holy Spirit who gives gifts to all people flood your hearts with thanksgiving to God. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen (this blessing is from the Stewardship Network Resource Book)

Lord, I invite you to live in my life today. Here is my face – Smile through it. Here is my mouth – Speak to someone with it. Here are my ears – Listen to someone with them. Here is my heart – Love someone with it. Here are my hands – Touch someone with them. Here are my arms – Hug someone with them. Here are my feet – Walk with them this day. Amen

Praying the Scriptures

As we enter this time in our church of Greater Things, we are calling each person in our church family to a time of prayer and reflection. How to respond to this campaign will be best decided after spending time seeking God's guidance, seeking to understand His agenda for our church and for you and your loved ones. A powerful way to talk to God is to pray the Scriptures. It is especially helpful and effective when we are not sure what to pray and how to pray.

One of our discipleship objectives is for our church to spend more time in the Word. This is a great opportunity to seek God's voice and guidance as well as spend more time with Him in His Word.

Daily Devotional

We pray that you will spend time in the Word each day through this five-week journey. The scriptures found throughout this devotional guide are presented to help you accomplish both seeking God's voice as well as spend time in His Word. We have also provided a Prayer Journal in the back of this guide for you.

A suggestion – prior to praying these scriptures, find a quiet place and prepare your hearts and mind to spend time with the Lord, and remember – where God is present puts you on Holy Ground. Listen for the Word of God!

Romans 12:1-2: "Brothers and sisters, God, has shown you his mercy. So I am asking you to offer up your bodies to him while you are still alive. Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God. When you offer your bodies to God you are worshipping him. Don't live any longer the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect." (NIV)

Week 1

October 24-30, 2009

Take time each day this week to read the scripture and reflect upon God's Word and how it is speaking to you and your life. How can you respond to what it is He is saying to you?

Saturday: James 5:13-20

Response:

Sunday: Luke 22:39-46

Response:

Monday: 2 Corinthians 8:7

Response:

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 14: 22-29

Response:

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 29: 11-16

Response:

Thursday: Corinthians 9:11-13

Response:

Friday: Malachi 3: 6-12

Response:

Prayers: Giving In Grace

Heavenly Father, give grace to us, the living stones who form your Church. to reflect prayerfully at this special time on our love for You and our neighbor. Make us mindful of the many gifts You bestow upon us and we ask that your Holy Spirit will inspire and direct us in our choice of giving; remembering that we are only giving back that which is truly yours. Strengthen us, Lord, to meet this challenge according to Your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord who has given all, that we may live. Amen

Lord we know all things come from you, and we thank you for the particular material resources entrusted to us. Make us wise stewards, we pray, so we do not lavish our cash on passing glamour, but rather invest earthly gifts according to eternal values. Amen

Week 2

October 31-November 6, 2009

Take time each day this week to read the scripture and reflect upon God's Word and how it is speaking to you and your life. How can you respond to what it is He is saying to you?

Saturday: Matthew 16:21-28

Response:

Sunday: James 4:1-10

Response:

Monday: Luke 18: 18-30

Response:

Tuesday: Luke 12: 13-21

Response:

Wednesday: Matthew 18: 21-35

Response:

Thursday: Matthew 20: 1-16

Response:

Friday: Exodus 36: 1-7

Response:

Prayers: Becoming Like Christ

Reshape us, Good Lord, until in generosity, in faith and in expectation that the best is yet to come, we are truly Christ like. Make us passionate followers of Jesus, rather than passive supporters. Make our churches places of radical discipleship and signposts to heaven, then, in us, through us and – if need be- despite us, let your kingdom come. Amen

Lord, I willingly offer all that I have and am to serve you where you choose. Glorious and blessed God, father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever. Let this covenant now made on earth, be fulfilled in heaven. Amen (closing prayer in the Methodist Covenant service)