

## Brainstorming Summary for Fall Worship

Sunday, August 9, 2015

**Members present:** Mary Ivanov, Karen Post, Lynne Richmond, Jim Post, Roger Richmond, David Booth, Vicki Zuker, Ron Zuker, Betty Kinney, Glenn Chilson, Dena Chilson, Karen Booth, and Diane Thompson

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**September 13, 2015:** to be determined 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Scripture:** to be determined

**Synopsis:** Today will be a celebration of ministry and mission at LHUMC in worship and at Charge Conference (between worship services).

**Felt need:** To celebrate our ministry and mission

**Visuals:** Jellybeans

**Media:** "The Time You Have" by Ze Frank. Length: 2:44. Cost: Free. Synopsis: How will you spend the time you have? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOksW\\_NabEk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOksW_NabEk). **Comments:** Good illustration of the importance of actively choosing how to spend the time you have.

**Activity:** Mission Trip Sharing by both the youth and adult local mission groups

**Hands-on item:** One jelly bean

**Music:** "Do Something" by Matthew West

**Discussion points:** 1) This is also the day of the church picnic. 2) How will live out our "dash"? 3) Matthew West's song "Live Forever" (86,400 seconds) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhYqwKkzZwM>. 4) Rent's "Seasons of Life" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hj7LRuusFqo>. 5) Diamond Rio's "One More Day" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuE1XJ\\_uqOs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuE1XJ_uqOs).

### The "E" Word – Evangelism Means Sharing "Good News"

**General discussion points:** We hear members say, "We need more people here" or "I wish more people could hear this message." Well, it is up to us to invite people we know to church. This series has its roots in Get Their Name: Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships by Bob Farr. Through the VCI process, we have learned that churches that have followed Farr's recommendations have had surprisingly good results, i.e. many more guests and new members.

**Hands-on item:** Have the guest mug bookmarks available to hand to potential invitees. Other option: a business card (our need updating).

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**September 20, 2015:** "Come and See" 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Scripture:** John 1: 43-51      **Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael**      New Living Translation

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me."

<sup>44</sup>Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown.

<sup>45</sup>Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses

and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.”

<sup>46</sup>“Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

“Come and see for yourself,” Philip replied.

<sup>47</sup>As they approached, Jesus said, “Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.”

<sup>48</sup>“How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.”

<sup>49</sup>Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”

<sup>50</sup>Jesus asked him, “Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” <sup>51</sup>Then he said, “I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.”

**Scripture:** Matthew 9: 35-38                      **The Workers Are Few**                      Contemporary English Version

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went to every town and village. He taught in their meeting places and preached the good news about God’s kingdom. Jesus also healed every kind of disease and sickness.

<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them. They were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> He said to his disciples, “A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in.”

**Scripture:** Luke 10: 1-2                      **Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two**                      Contemporary English Version

<sup>1</sup> Later the Lord chose seventy-two other followers and sent them out two by two to every town and village where he was about to go.

<sup>2</sup> He said to them:

A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in.

**Synopsis:** Personal invitation is the most effective way to bring new people into a church. Jesus meets us where we are. His invitation to each of us is personal - to be in relationship with him. But it doesn’t stop there. When we experience that personal relationship with him, then we also take the initiative to invite others in the same way he invites us: “come and see.” Our challenge today is much the same as it was for the disciples - that there are many who could be invited, but not enough people inviting. We cannot wait for people to come through the church door; we must engage people where they are in the world.

**Felt need:** To invite people into a relationship with Jesus

**Visuals:** Invitation (written or Evite/Facebook even). Pictures of places around Muskegon: coffee shop, bar, lake, restaurant, symphony, hospital, school

**Media possibilities:**

- Foot washing video (taking the Gospel into the world on a busy street). We used this on 9/28/14 and 4/2/15.
- “It’s Your Move.” Length: 3:25. Cost: \$14.99. The world is full of people hurting, searching and hoping for more. What are you going to do when it’s your move to step in and show them the light against all the darkness of the world? Will you make that move?

(<https://skitguys.com/videos/item/its-your-move>). **Comments:** 1) It's a good message, but quite long. 2) Maybe it needs to be long so that we have time to internalize it. 3) It might seem long because it makes us uncomfortable. 4) The waitress has a good point, "How uncomfortable are you willing to make yourself?"

- "It Starts with an Invitation." Length: 2:11. Cost: \$19.98. People are especially responsive to an invitation to your church services when invited by a friend, co-worker, family member, or neighbor. (<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/56427/it-starts-with-an-invitation>) **Comments:** While it shows how inviting someone makes all the difference, it does make it look pretty simple.
- "Anytime – 82." Length: 1:43. Cost: \$17.98. 82% of unchurched people will accept an invitation to your church by someone they already know. (<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/9258/anytime-82>) **Comments:** It does pique your interest about the significance of 82. It is dated (My Space reference). Use the statistic without the video.
- "Invite Somebody." Length: 1:14. Cost: \$19.98. Everyone has excuses as to why it is so hard to invite people to Church or to an event; but it is really just the awkwardness of being human that stand in our way. This video will help you remind them, of how important it is, just to "be there" for others. And from that invitations come naturally. (<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/32178/invite-somebody>) **Comments:** We did not preview this as a group.
- "Bold Evangelism Quotes." Length: 2:53. Cost \$19.98. Powerful evangelism quotes from renowned Christian leaders encourage your congregation to boldly share their faith. <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/40875/bold-evangelism-quotes> **Comments:** We did not preview this as a group.
- "Invite 2." Length: 2:15. Cost \$20.00. Reach across barriers to invite people to church on a weekly basis. (<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/33887/invite-2>) **Comments:** This show the importance of persistence. It bridges generational and language difference. How you ask people to church matters.

**Activity:** Cards in the bulletin – one side with FRAN acronym (Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbors). Invite people each week to put down names, praying for those people and then inviting them. Other side – space to write things like why they like their church, what it means to them, how to sum up in 25 words or less why they think church is important to them.

**Music:** #569 "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"; #572 "Pass It On"

**Discussion points:** 1) We will focus on John 1, especially Philip's "come and see" offer to Nathanael. 2) Why do we find it difficult to talk about our faith? Is it because we consider religion to be part of our private life? Some topics, like religion and politics, seem to be taboo? It challenges our uncertainties? We don't have all the answers? 3) We need an elevator speech, a short explanation of "this is why I go to church" or "this is why my faith matters." 4) It is easy to stop pursuing someone if they don't say yes right away. In cold call marketing, a 3% return is considered success. We shouldn't give up so easily. 5) Relationships matter.

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**September 27, 2015: “Know Your Own Story – and Tell It!”** 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Scripture:** Galatians 1: 13-24                      **Paul Called by God**                      Contemporary English Version

<sup>13</sup>You know how I used to live as a Jew. I was cruel to God’s church and even tried to destroy it.

<sup>14</sup>I was a much better Jew than anyone else my own age, and I obeyed every law that our ancestors had given us. <sup>15</sup>But even before I was born, God had chosen me. He was kind and had decided <sup>16</sup>to show me his Son, so that I would announce his message to the Gentiles. I didn’t talk this over with anyone. <sup>17</sup>I didn’t say a word, not even to the men in Jerusalem who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went at once to Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

<sup>18</sup>Three years later I went to visit Peter in Jerusalem and stayed with him for fifteen days. <sup>19</sup>The only other apostle I saw was James, the Lord’s brother. <sup>20</sup>And in the presence of God I swear I am telling the truth.

<sup>21</sup>Later, I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. <sup>22</sup>But no one who belonged to Christ’s churches in Judea had ever seen me in person. <sup>23</sup>They had only heard that the one who had been cruel to them was now preaching the message that he had once tried to destroy. <sup>24</sup>And because of me, they praised God.

**Scripture:** Philemon 1: 4-7                      **Thanksgiving and Prayer**                      The Message

<sup>4</sup>Every time your name comes up in my prayers, I say, “Oh, thank you, God!”

<sup>5</sup>I keep hearing of the love and faith you have for the Master Jesus, which brims over to other Christians. <sup>6</sup>And I keep praying that this faith we hold in common keeps showing up in the good things we do, and that people recognize Christ in all of it. <sup>7</sup>Friend, you have no idea how good your love makes me feel, doubly so when I see your hospitality to fellow believers.

**Synopsis:** Taking the time to write down our story in a way that makes it easy to tell is important as we seek to make disciples. Our story is unique, and God is glorified through our story. Sharing faith with honesty and integrity helps others to know God’s grace, and telling our faith story helps us to grow in faith.

**Felt need:** To know and tell our own faith story

**Visuals:** Pinterest quote: Your story makes you special. Live it. Tell it.

**Media possibilities:**

- “Penn Jillette on Sharing Your Faith (Proselytizing).” Length: 4:25. Very interesting observations from a self-avowed atheist. <https://vimeo.com/52957285>. **Comments:** Note how many times he described the man who gave him the bible as kind, nice, sane, and that he looked him in the eye. Jillette was very complementary. He posed an interesting question: How much do you have to hate someone to not proselytize if you believe?
- “Testify.” Length: 4:02. Cost: \$20.00. Nicole’s simple testimony reminds us of the often quiet power of God’s call. (<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/6029/testify>) **Comments:** 1) Her friends sensed the change in her. 2) She referred to having “a hole in her heart.” 3) She seems so young and perky and yet she still had a list of the things for which she needed a clean start and forgiveness.
- “A Story to Be Told.” Length: 1:56. Cost: \$17.98. The story of Jesus is a story the world needs

to hear. And what if God wants to tell that story through you?

(<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/17491/a-story-to-be-told>) **Comments:**

This video uses the word “evangelism.” It includes excuses we make about why we don’t invite people to church, then points out that the world needs to hear God’s story and He wants to tell it through us. (we liked that last part). This was a favorite for many viewers.

- “An Atheist Finds Answers.” Length: 6:09. Cost: \$15.00. A former atheist shares her testimony.

(<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/47225/an-atheist-finds-answers>)

**Comments:** Due to technical difficulties, we were not able to watch the whole thing, but it showed promise. Note from Karen: She also says she had “a hole in her heart” and that she tried filling it with lots of different things that did not satisfy.

**Activity:** Share testimony. Everyone needs to write down his/her story. Consider offering time to share it with another person during worship.

**Music:** #156 “I Love to Tell the Story”; #593 “Here I Am, Lord”; “Words I Would Say” by the Sidewalk Prophets

**Discussion points:** 1) 1 Peter: Give a reason for the hope that you have... 2) “Testify” and “An Atheist Finds Answers” both tell their stories from the perspective of being a new believer. What about those of us who grew up in a church or have believed for a very long time? How do we tell our stories? 3) Powerful example: Take a list of sins and tear it up during the message. Matthew West did this during the song “Forgiveness” during Unity. 4) Glenn recalled that two of his college neighbors who were active in Campus Crusade never asked him to join them. Lack of evangelism is not a new problem. 5) The VCI churches that have used Get Their Name and followed through had surprising success. 6) This demonstrates that extending invitations are up to us. It is not impossible. Points to other successes to show that things we thought weren’t possible have been accomplished. Examples: New signage, decluttered sanctuary and hallways, and spruced up Fellowship Hall. 7) Many people have never been inside a church. 8) Telling our stories changes us too. 9) Pastors and funeral directors note that it is very obvious which families have no faith by the way they react to death.

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**October 4, 2015: “Get Out of the Way!”**

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Scripture:** Luke 19: 1-10

**Zacchaeus the Tax Collector**

Today’s New International Version

<sup>1</sup>Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.

<sup>2</sup>A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup>He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

<sup>5</sup>When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” <sup>6</sup>So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

<sup>7</sup>All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

<sup>8</sup>But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back

four times the amount.”

<sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

**Synopsis:** Zacchaeus is a model of total transformation. His encounter with Jesus changed his life completely. We cannot predict how God will move in people’s lives, and we have to remember that God does the work of transformation. Our witness is vital, but God is at work in ways that are surprising and unexpected. Our role as followers of Jesus is to invite, make room, and witness to God’s grace in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

**Felt need:** As followers of Jesus, we must invite, make room, and witness God’s grace in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

**World Communion Sunday, Bring a Friend Sunday, CROP Walk**

**Visuals:**

**Media possibilities:**

- “Paper Heart.” Length: 2:07. Cost \$17.98. Using only construction paper and stop-motion animation, this simple video tells the story of a heart transformed from stone into one that beats for God and those he loves.  
(<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/25186/paper-heart>) **No comments.**
- “New.” Length: 2:20. Cost: \$20.00. Becoming a “totally new creation” is a promise that God gave to all who believe. (<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/62026/new>) **No comments.**
- “Close Encounters.” Length: 1:03. Cost: \$15.00. God is always ready to meet us where we are and transform our lives.  
(<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/39396/close-encounters>) **Comments:** May be intimidating to first time worshipers.
- “Transformed.” Length: 1:07. Cost: \$19.98. With the feel of a Summer Blockbuster, this drives home what it means to not transform to the world , but instead, to be transformed!  
(<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/14403/transformed>) **Comments:** May be intimidating to first time worshipers.
- “Jesus and Zack.” Length: 1:46. Cost: Probably free. Cartoon.  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUQWsYwu3F4>) **Comments:** Quirky and cute. More appropriate for first time worshipers. Coffee hour connection: Zacchaeus brownies.

**Activity:** Holy Communion

**Music:** 2167 “More Like You”

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### **How We Think About Money or Money Matter: Earn, Save, Give**

Jesus talked about many things, including money and treasure. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, sought to give clear direction on how followers of Jesus should relate to money. In one of his sermons call “The Use of Money,” Wesley offered three directives:

“Having, first, gained all you can, and secondly saved all you can, then give all you can.” In Scripture, “the love of money,” not money itself, is call “the root of all kinds of evil.” Money itself isn’t the issue, but our relationship to it – how we view money, how we use it – is the bigger

issue. It's a spiritual issue, and giving is a spiritual discipline.

These two parables may provide an overall theme:

Luke 16: 1-13 The Parable of the Dishonest Manager

Luke 12: 13-21 The Parable of the Foolish Farmer

**General discussion points:** 1) Like last year, we will ask people to pledge their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. 2) Jesus talked about money all the time. Wesley wrote about it frequently too. Why do we have such a hard time talking about it? 3) Ask for testimony on how giving has changed people's lives. 3) How does our paying down the mortgage fit in the spiritual discipline of giving? 4) Growing in giving is not about meeting the budget, but about growing in faith. 5) How many pledge cards were sent out? How many were returned? 6) For some people, the "Steps of Giving" chart is a useful tool. It encouraged the Booths to take the next step. It does not give information about who tithes (gives 10% of income). 7) We often think of money horizontally (comparing our giving to others) rather than vertically (looking at how much we are giving back to God). 8). Pledging is an act of commitment, which is an act of faith. 9) Ministry Shares: Where do they go? How much goes towards administration? How can we show the value of being part of a connectional system to our congregation?

**Symbol:** Heart. Jars.

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**October 11, 2015: "Earn All You Can"**

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Scripture:** Proverbs 31

Contemporary English Version

<sup>1</sup>These are the sayings that King Lemuel of Massa was taught by his mother.

<sup>2</sup>My son Lemuel, you were born in answer to my prayers, so listen carefully. <sup>3</sup>Don't waste your life chasing after women! This has ruined many kings. <sup>4</sup>Kings and leaders should not get drunk or even want to drink. <sup>5</sup>Drinking makes you forget your responsibilities, and you mistreat the poor. <sup>6</sup>Beer and wine are only for the dying or for those who have lost all hope. <sup>7</sup>Let them drink and forget how poor and miserable they feel. <sup>8</sup>But you must defend those who are helpless and have no hope. <sup>9</sup>Be fair and give justice to the poor and homeless.

#### **In Praise of a Good Wife**

<sup>10</sup>A truly good wife is the most precious treasure a man can find! <sup>11</sup>Her husband depends on her, and she never lets him down. <sup>12</sup>She is good to him every day of her life, <sup>13</sup>and with her own hands she gladly makes clothes. <sup>14</sup>She is like a sailing ship that brings food from across the sea. <sup>15</sup>She gets up before daylight to prepare food for her family and for her servants. <sup>16</sup>She knows how to buy land and how to plant a vineyard, <sup>17</sup>and she always works hard. <sup>18</sup>She knows when to buy or sell, and she stays busy until late at night. <sup>19</sup>She spins her own cloth, <sup>20</sup>and she helps the poor and the needy. <sup>21</sup>Her family has warm clothing, and so she doesn't worry when it snows. <sup>22</sup>She does her own sewing, and everything she wears is beautiful.

<sup>23</sup>Her husband is a well-known and respected leader in the city.

<sup>24</sup>She makes clothes to sell to the shop owners. <sup>25</sup>She is strong and graceful, as well as cheerful about the future. <sup>26</sup>Her words are sensible, and her advice is thoughtful. <sup>27</sup>She takes

good care of her family and is never lazy.

<sup>28</sup>Her children praise her, and with great pride her husband says, <sup>29</sup>“There are many good women, but you are the best!”

<sup>30</sup>Charm can be deceiving, and beauty fades away, but a woman who honors the Lord deserves to be praised. <sup>31</sup>Show her respect—praise her in public for what she has done.

**Synopsis:** This may sound very strange to our ears, and yet Scripture consistently lifts up the positive results of hard work, and Wesley was clear that each of us has a calling to pursue. We’re called to gain all we can by honest industry, with common sense, without paying too high a price - not at the expense of your health, your soul, or your neighbor - and by honoring God.

**Felt need:** Value hard work and work hard

**Visuals:** Jars (from October 18, below)

**Media possibility:** “Kimberly.” Length: 4:45. Cost: We own it. Last used 8/31/14. How one woman integrates her faith into work. (<https://deidox.org/film/woman-integrates-faith-and-work/>)

**Activity:**

**Music:** #344 “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

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**October 18, 2015:** “Save All You Can”

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Scripture:** Matthew 6: 19-24

**Treasures in Heaven**

The Message

<sup>19</sup>“Don’t hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars.

<sup>20</sup>Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it’s safe from moth and rust and burglars. <sup>21</sup>It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

<sup>22</sup>“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. <sup>23</sup>If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!

<sup>24</sup>“You can’t worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you’ll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can’t worship God and Money both.

**Synopsis:** There is wisdom in saving - in gaining all we can gradually. We’ve seen the outcome of some who “come into wealth” quickly. “Get rich quick” isn’t a formula for fruitful living; rather, making wise investments is a part of being a faithful steward of all of God’s gifts. Prudence in terms of our finances is an important characteristic in a world where we wait for nothing and we want it all - and we want it now! How do we make a plan that honors God as the Giver of all and that we can follow consistently and faithfully?

**Felt need:** To invest wisely

**Visuals:** Pinterest ideas for encouraging saving: Three jars labeled give, save, and live (<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/70368812899520794/>); or save, church, and fun (<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/103864335132170597/>).

**Media possibilities:**

- “The Skinny on Tithing.” Length: 3:56. Cost: \$15.99. Money. It’s a touchy subject...especially



in church. This humorous video by the Skit Guys takes the awkwardness out of the discussion. (<http://skitguys.com/videos/item/the-skinny-on-tithing>) **Comments:** Many good points. We like it.

- “World vs. Christian Tithing.” Length: 2:19/ Cost: \$15.99. The Skit Guys wonder if maybe the world “gets it” more than Christians when it comes to giving and sacrifice. (<http://skitguys.com/videos/item/world-vs-christian-tithing/>) **Comments:** Also good. Interesting observations on the cost of keeping up with technology.
- “Free After Four.” Length: 1:55. Cost: \$20.00. This split screen video illustrates the meaning of “saving to give.” (<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/53303/free-after-four>)

**Activities:** Introduce a 10-10-80 plan (10% for God, 10% for the future, 80% to live on).

**Music:**

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**October 25, 2015: “Give All You Can”**

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Scripture:** Mark 12: 41-44

**The Widow’s Offering**

New International Version

<sup>41</sup>Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.

<sup>42</sup>But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

<sup>43</sup>Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup>They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

**Synopsis:** Jesus’ teaching on how we use money is powerful when we consider proportionate giving. He is much more concerned with how our giving personally affects us rather than how our giving affects the church or anyone else. Our giving to God should be sacrificial and make a difference in our lives. Charitable giving is important, but faithful stewardship is a deeper, transformational experience. It affects every part of our lives.

**Felt need:** To give proportionately

**Commitment Sunday, New Members Received, Reaffirmation of Holy Baptism**

**Visuals:**

**Media possibility:** “Two Copper Coins.” Length: 2:09. Cost: We own it. Last used 11/8/09. Visual liturgy of the woman who gave her last two coins to the treasury.

(<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/7826/two-copper-coins>) **No.**

**Activities:**

**Music:** #399 “Take My Life, and Let It Be”; #354 “I Surrender All”

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**November 1, 2015: “No More Tears”**

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Scripture:** Revelation 21: 1-6

**The New Jerusalem**

Contemporary English Version

<sup>1</sup> I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared, and so had the sea.

<sup>2</sup> Then I saw New Jerusalem, that holy city, coming down from God in heaven. It was like

a bride dressed in her wedding gown and ready to meet her husband.

<sup>3</sup> I heard a loud voice shout from the throne:

God's home is now with his people. He will live with them, and they will be his own. Yes, God will make his home among his people. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. These things of the past are gone forever.

<sup>5</sup>Then the one sitting on the throne said:

I am making everything new. Write down what I have said. My words are true and can be trusted. <sup>6</sup> Everything is finished! I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give water from the life-giving fountain to everyone who is thirsty.

**Synopsis:** Revelation is full of strange images, but the idea of an end to grief captures our hearts. We trust in God's promise to make all things new - maybe not right now - but ultimately. God is with us even as we grieve. There will be peace and comfort.

**Felt need:** To find comfort in God's promise of "no more tears"

**Visuals:**

**Media possibilities:**

**Activity:** Holy Communion, reading names of those who have died since last All Saints Day

**Music:** "There Will Be a Day" by Jeremy Camp; Chris Anderson wrote an instrumental song for his mother, Gayle Anderson, "Don't Cry," which was played during her funeral. We have permission to use it.