

Pastor D's Letter December 26, 2021

If you are like most people, the last two weeks of the year are a flurry of activity. One of those activities is giving. Not just Christmas gifts, but last minute giving to charities before the year ends. These include mission outreaches, or your college. Many people give last minute to their church (time to get caught up on that pledge). In Arizona people give to tax deductible charities that count toward their State Taxes. Those can include schools or organizations like Crossroads Mission or Arizona Baptist Children's Services (which are mission partners of our church).

The reasons for giving are varied. Some people give because they have learned to be generous. Others give because they have been taught it is their Christian duty (a tithe to the church). Some give to get the tax break. I believe the best reason to give (cheerfully) is because we are stewards of God's gifts.

One of my favorite hymns was written by William Walsham How. The hymn is called: "WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN." The first two verses go like this:

1 We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

2 May we thy bounties thus
as stewards true receive
and gladly, as thou blessest us,
to thee our first fruits give

ALL THAT WE HAVE IS THINE ALONE, A TRUST, O LORD, FROM THEE!

That is the definition of Stewardship. Recognizing that all we have is from the Lord and then using all that we have to glorify God. I like the way that How reminds us that as we RECEIVE God's blessings we GIVE in response to God's blessing.

This Christmas as you make your last minute donations, remember, you are sharing God's blessing with others.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

And now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
So that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13)

Dr. D

NEWS UPDATES

- Join us for **Fellowship after church** in the Fellowship Hall.
- **No WWN Bible Study this Wednesday.**
- **MASKS ARE OPTIONAL** IN WORSHIP! Be considerate of those who choose to wear masks and maintain social distance.

- If you cannot come in person, we continue to broadcast our **SERVICE LIVE** every Sunday at 9 a.m. on <https://www.facebook.com/SierraVistaPresbyterianChurch/>. Our account is public. **YOU DO NOT NEED A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO WATCH.** If you come to worship in person or watch at home, **invite a friend to join you.**
- If you watch on Facebook, **Worship sheets** are available on our website at <https://www.sierravistayuma.com/> under the NEWS Tab.
- If you wish to receive the monthly **newsletter** or know someone who wants to receive **Pastor D's Letter**, contact the church office with your email information.
- **THANK YOU for your CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT** of the church by giving in person, mailing a check, or giving ONLINE. **Remember** all 2021 gifts must be postmarked by December 31, 2021.