

From the Pastor's Desk



A sixteen year old boy was living in a small town and on one occasion his mother sent him to a florist to pick up flowers for the dinner table. He had to carry the flowers through town from the store to his home, and he was embarrassed to do this. He was afraid that his friends would see him and call him a sissy for caring flowers. A few year later he was in love with a young woman and returned to the same florist shop, purchased a bouquet of flowers for his beloved, and carried it through the same streets without shame. "I was no longer concerned with what anyone would think of me," he said. "I was just thinking of her, of how happy she would be to get flowers, and how happy I was to be the one to bring them to her."

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Most of us know what it is like to love someone so much that we want to give them things. The motivation for such gifts is not primarily obligation but desire—we give not because it is something we have to do but because it is something we want to do. A young man in love does not stop to ask, "Does she need flowers? Maybe school supplies would be more practical." No, the flowers symbolize the love in his heart and his billfold easily opens to pay for them.

As I write this article, my dog Joey is sitting at my feet. All he wants is to be with me and receive some of my attention. The other day he chewed a hole in his favorite ball and I found myself going to three different stores to find another one like it! I wanted to spend money on him and found it to be a joy to do so. And this is for a dog! What joy you with children must feel when you can purchase something for your child that brings them delight.

Joan and I recently went to Ouray, CO to celebrate our tenth wedding anniversary. Normally, we are very careful about money spent on motels, food and entertainment. But not in Ouray! Celebrating ten years of love and companionship loosened up the pocket book and the money was well spent.

Financially supporting the church is easier when you're in love and full of gratitude for God's many blessings. It is money well spent and you're thankful for having the opportunity to be part of the work of Christ through our many ministries.

Martin Luther said everyone needs to experience three conversions—of the heart and mind and purse. Billy Graham said, "When people get their attitude toward money right, it seems to straighten out every other area of their lives." Neither Luther or Graham were interested in fundraising when they said these things. They were interested in helping people have deeper, more meaningful, and more spiritually satisfying lives.

Your generous response to this year's Pony Express stewardship program will be greatly appreciated. See the next page for more information about this year's program. Thank you for all you do for our congregation.

~PB