

As a practical rather than spiritual matter, remember that Sunday, March 9, is the day to “spring ahead” and set your clocks an hour later for Daylight Saving Time. We lose that extra hour of sleep we gained in the fall. Don’t miss church!



An Interesting View of Charity

One of the most widely referred to sections of the Jewish *Mishneh Torah* is the section dealing with Tzedakah (Charity). In *Hilkhot Matanot Aniyim* (Laws about Giving to Poor People), Chapter 10:7–14, Maimonides, a famous 12th-century Spanish physician and Jewish scholar, lists his famous Eight Levels of Giving (where the first level is most preferable, and the eighth the least):^[50]

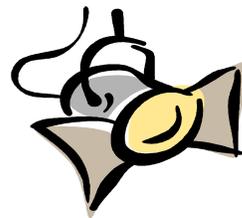
1. Giving an interest-free loan to a person in need; forming a partnership with a person in need; giving a grant to a person in need; finding a job for a person in need; so long as that loan, grant, partnership, or job results in the person no longer living by relying upon others.
2. Giving tzedakah anonymously to an unknown recipient via a person (or public fund) which is trustworthy, wise, and can perform acts of tzedakah with your money in a most impeccable fashion.
3. Giving tzedakah anonymously to a known recipient.
4. Giving tzedakah publicly to an unknown recipient.
5. Giving tzedakah before being asked.
6. Giving adequately after being asked.
7. Giving willingly, but inadequately.
8. Giving "in sadness" (giving out of pity): It is thought that Maimonides was referring to giving because of the sad feelings one might have in seeing people in need (as opposed to giving

because it is a religious obligation). Other translations say "Giving unwillingly."

Found by Channing Horner at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maimonides>

Our First Sunday offerings all seem to relate in some way to one or more of the first four ways of giving. Certainly Episcopal Relief and Development is a fund with an impeccable reputation which, in addition to providing emergency disaster relief, strives to give to people in ways that allow them to begin living without having to rely on others. The Child Care centers of the Diocese of Botswana and Our Little Roses home also work to provide education to children and young girls which will help them to become self-sufficient. All of our other recipients also fit in some way at least one of those first four.

Assuming that the second suggested translation of number 8 is the correct one, as seems most reasonable, it is the only one to avoid, and surely we never give our offerings unwillingly.



In Appreciation Parishioner Spotlight

To **Jim Fall** we owe appreciation for his having returned to Maryville and to St. Paul’s after ten years as Executive Director of the Montana Newspaper Association. He is once again working on the Maryville Daily Forum of which he was formerly the editor and once again serving on the Bishop’s Committee at St. Paul’s, where he has often shown his ability to sum up and clarify a long discussion in one or two



sentences. He shares some of his talents with Northwest students as adjunct professor in Mass Communication. Always a courteous gentleman, Jim was frequently the one to escort Betty Wilson to the communion rail as her eyesight and strength diminished. He is also a good chili cook. Even as His Honor, the current mayor of Maryville, he is still willing to take care of the church's trash as one of his contributions to the good of the community. Thanks for it all, Jim.

Sacred Hills
Days of
Celebration

Birthdays

Dave Taylor	3/4	
June Dias	3/16	St. Paul's
Wesley Holland	3/23	St. Mary's
Greg Hall	3/28	St. Mary's
Bill Cox	3/29	St. Mary's

Anniversaries

Richard & Lauren Leach-Steffens	3/17	St. Paul's
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An Interesting Perspective

If you will take the time to read these. I promise you'll come away with an enlightened perspective. The subjects covered affect us all on a daily basis. They're written by Andy Rooney, a man who had the gift of saying so much with so few words. Enjoy.....

I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned.... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned.... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've learned.... That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've learned.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned.... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've learned.... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned.... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned.... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned.... That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

I've learned.... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've learned.... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.

I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on

top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

Writing for the e-Beacon

If anyone would like to contribute congregational news, a seasonal reflection, or a bit of history to the Beacon, send it either to Louise Horner at lhorer@cebridge.net (to avoid possible duplication) or directly to Diana Taylor at stmop@embarqmail.com before the last week in the month. Due to costs, long articles will be sent via e-mail but not included in the printed version, so keep them short if possible.

