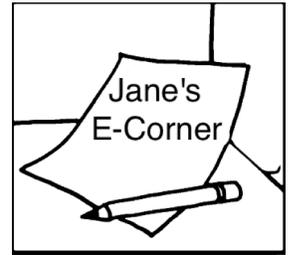


# Weekly Wednesday Devotion

7-31-13



***I am reading this week in Luke 12:13-21***

*Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable, "The land of a rich man produced abundantly, And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this. I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample good laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry. But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be? So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.'"*

Moving has reminded me how much stuff I have--I found boxes that I hadn't unpacked the last time I move. And common sense tells me I don't need all this stuff. But my attachment to the stuff rejoices that I have lots of storage at the parsonage for all my stuff. If I keep it up, I'm going to have to build a barn to store it in. And thinking about my stuff gives me a little sympathy for this guy in this scripture who builds the larger barns. But just because I understand him and can identify with his barns doesn't mean we are right about all our stuff.

I have received (and maybe you have too) the message in my life that I can have it all. And for many years I believed that. This Scripture reminds me that the more stuff I have the more blessed I am and the more I should share with those in need. I find myself asking if I am (and we) like the rich man building the barns to store his grain. Are we ever satisfied with what we have and say "Enough--can't take any more." This parable asks us to think about our stuff-- How much do we really need? And when we have more than we need what do we do with it? Perhaps when we have a more abundant "crop" than we have expected: a good year in business, a bonus, a windfall, perhaps we might thank God from whom all good things come and give, even if just a portion, to those whose crops have failed while ours have flourished. AMEN.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Steve Robinson and his family in the death of his grandmother, (his last living grandparent) Ruth Robinson, Jenkins KY.

Baby Ava Grace Bowling who is still in NICU at JCMC. Ava is growing--she is up to a little more than 2 pounds. Praise God! And keep them in your prayers.

Billy Walker's mother, in Nashville, who fell and broke her pelvis late last week.

Those who are suffering in our faith community and elsewhere

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The House is coming down! The Trustees are continuing to diligently work on the plans for the demolition of the Henley property next door to the church. We have an ambitious goal of 30,000 that we are trying to raise to bring the house down. Please prayerfully consider your gifts and contribute to this cause. This property will allow us to expand our ministries and hopefully assist us in making disciples!

Praises for the Food Pantry distribution last Saturday. Our dedicated volunteers set a record in giving out more boxes than ever before! I believe it was 127 families we helped this month. Thank you First UMC for your gifts that make this ministry a possibility.

Do you have the gift of teaching? We are looking for a teacher for a newly forming 5-6 grade Sunday School class. I hope you will prayerfully consider if God is calling you to this important ministry to our older elementary/up and coming youth. Brandy and John have big plans for this group!

"Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words." St Francis of Assisi

Blessings,  
Jane Taylor  
First United Methodist Church  
Johnson City TN