

that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly." We should seek the approval of God and not the glory of men.

Our giving should not only include material possessions but we must first give ourselves to God. We are told in Romans 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." If we will first give ourselves to the Lord, we will have no problem in being liberal in our giving. Our liberal giving is part of worshipping God "in spirit and in truth."

Please continue to pray for the Primary School as they seek a new Headteacher

Advance dates – CAR TREASURE HUNT – SUNDAY 13TH JULY

Church Barbeque – Sunday 27th July

Birthdays in July – 2nd James Cainey, 5th Beryl Barclay, 6th Isla Souter, 14th Lily Adman ,Pam Barnfield & Malcolm Hicks, 15th Beryl Fedder, 18th Judith Eagles, 19th Grace Henderson, 20th Eleanor Cainey, 23rd Sylvia Hughes, 26th Richard Parry, 29th Geoffrey Pulsford, 30th Jon Lymoss, 31st Benjamin Sims

Anniversaries – 6th Lesley and Malcolm Hicks, 15th Trisha and Ray Pallister, 30th Clare and Jim Midgley

Please pray for Golden Years, Holiday at Home..... This will be held on Tuesday 15th – Thursday 17th July

Forthcoming worship

Sunday 6th July – 10.30 Young People

Sunday 13th July – Mrs Jane Parsons

Sunday 20th July – Mr Archie Rowe

Sunday 27th July – Rev Michelle (Holy Communion)

Sunday 29th June – Review of Giving
Sunday

Welcome to worship. We pray for a Spirit-filled time. May there be many blessings today.

Please stay for  coffee afterwards

If you would like prayer, our prayer team will be available after the service

Our preacher today is Rev Michelle Ireland

Today we continue to thank God for the gifts and resources that He has blessed us with.

Below I have written some thoughts which correspond to our service today. Please take them home and read them, and pray over them.

I praise God for all the different ways in which the people of God here at Bath Road Methodist Church serve Him faithfully through the generous use of their gifts and talents. Last week we were reminded of how people have felt called to do different things for Him- in spectacular ways and in seemingly ordinary ways – but the results have always been for His glory and for the growing of his Kingdom.

Please continue to pray about how you might respond to God's love, how might he be calling you to serve Him.....

2 Thessalonians 1:11

To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power

Today we consider another way of giving – through our financial offering

The way we give is an indication of our love for God. All things belong to God. God says in Psalms 50:10, "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills." Everything we have received has come from God. God has only loaned them to us. John 3:27 says, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from above." We can never out-give God. In Luke 6:38 we read, "Give and it shall be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." We give so the Lord's church can better carry out its mission here on earth. The world must be **evangelized**, and the church must be **edified**, and the **needy must be helped**.

Giving is a command of God. In 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 we read, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given **orders** to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also. On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper that there be no collections when I come." We see the giving here was to help the poor saints in Jerusalem. Notice also they were to make a regular collection every first day of the week.

Because of everything God has given us, including His Son to die for us, we should be anxious to give back to Him. In 2 Corinthians 8:12 we read, "For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have." God expects us to give what we are able to give. How can our love for God be real unless it is expressed in our

obedience and our giving? Our giving is an expression of love, and act of praise, and sacrifice to God.

How we give is an indication of where our priorities are. Jesus says in Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth and rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Where is your heart?

Since we can't out-give God, we should at least be liberal in our giving. As we read in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give **as he purposes in his heart**, not grudgingly or of necessity; for **God loves a cheerful giver**." Our giving is to be planned. We should not give because we feel we have to give. Nor should we resent that we need to give to please God. We should be glad that we can give to the Lord.

We should never try to impress other people with our giving. If we do we already have our reward. Giving needs to be a private matter. We should not seek recognition for the things we do. Jesus says in Matthew 6:1-4, "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen of them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,