



Christ Church of Atlanta  
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## Newsletter – November 2011 – Jan Robinson

### Wise Investments

It is hard to ignore the ongoing news and analysis of our national economy amid the turmoil of the stock market, the downturn in the housing market and increased unemployment. Toss in the upcoming presidential race of 2012, and there is no way to escape hearing about the crisis at hand. Investments are losing value. People are losing their homes to foreclosure. The state of the economy has caused many to question the wisdom of their past investments and has shaken the confidence and “security” of many. What about us as Christians in this economic environment?

Jesus has some challenging words for us: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21

Are we investing in that which is temporal, or in that which is eternal? How are we utilizing the resources entrusted to us by God? How are we using our time, effort, talents, abilities, knowledge, and financial assets as opportunities are made available to us in our families, our neighborhoods, our schools, our church, our jobs, our government, etc.?

It has been said that two things last forever: the Word of God and the souls of people. There are many opportunities at Christ Church to “invest wisely” in things of eternal significance. There are the obvious opportunities of attending Sunday School and the worship service. But there are other ways:

- On September 30, a few members of our church gathered in downtown Decatur to celebrate the opening of the new space of the Decatur Pregnancy Center (formerly called The College Women’s Center). The enhanced space will increase the opportunity to reach women in crisis pregnancies with hope, wise counsel and with the Word of God. Our church has supported this “mission” with “Baby Bottle Boomerang” drives the past two years, helping to make a difference in the lives of the women and of the babies they choose to carry to term.
- At the E. Rivers Good News Club (GNC), we are learning about David, A Man After God’s Own Heart. On October 25, we had a pirate party. We talked about digging for buried treasure—in God’s Word. The memory verse was “The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.” (Psalm 119:72) GNC has given our church an opportunity to invest wisely—in the lives of our club kids, which will impact their families, school and community.
- There are many Bible studies and small groups at Christ Church. The newly-formed small group for mothers of young children is a way of investing in the future of the basic building block of the church and of our entire society—the family!! Another new small group is for Kairos moms. Led



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by Alison LeCraw and Heather Werle, the group is discussing the “Age of Opportunity” (parenting children through their teenage years).

- Another opportunity to invest in the lives of children comes to us once a year through Operation Christmas Child. We “kicked off” our drive at a “Shoebbox Party” on October 23 for the children of Christ Church and their families. Kids began to fill shoeboxes at our gathering, and took them home to complete. One mom told me that her kids were excited about their boxes and were discussing what they are going to add to them. Investing in lives of children...and families...who are facing the challenges of disease, poverty, war and natural disasters.

This last opportunity is one in which everyone can take part. Our goal is 100 boxes to reach 100 children. Will you choose to invest in the lives of children, helping to bring them hope and the greatest gift of all—the good news of Jesus Christ?

*- Jan Robinson, Director of Children's Ministries*

The mission of Operation Christmas Child: "to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ."

Brochures with complete instructions (including suggestions for what to include in the box) are available at church. You may also go online to [www.samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ) for instructions and labels. Packing a shoe box is simple:

- take an empty shoe box and wrap both top and bottom (separately) with colorful wrapping paper (or use a similarly-sized plastic box with a snap-on lid.)
- pack with gifts such as toys, hygiene items, school supplies, hard candy, lollipops, gum, mints (put candy and gum in a ziploc bag), T-shirts, ball caps, sunglasses, flashlight with batteries, etc.
- Include a \$7 check made out to Samaritan's Purse in the donation envelope and put in the top of your box. [There is the option to “follow your box” by going to [www.samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ), clicking on “Follow your Box Donation” and making the \$7 donation per box online. You will be given a barcode label to put on your shoebox, and then you will receive an email about where your shoebox ends up.]
- Tape your label on the box, making sure to check the appropriate gender and age category: boy/girl 2-4 years old; 5-9 years old; 10-14 years old.

NOTE: If you would rather contribute financially to help with shipping and other costs associated with delivery of these special shoebox gifts (instead of “stuffing” a box), you may do so by giving online ([www.samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ)) or by making checks payable to Samaritan's Purse (please put Operation Christmas Child on the memo line).

Bring your shoebox to church any Sunday between now and **November 20<sup>th</sup>**.