

**Welcome!**

We openly invite you to come and experience some of the dynamic spirit of the people of Sneedville United Methodist Church. Whether you are a member of the church or a visitor hoping to learn more about us, you'll find a variety of information available. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to come and experience our church first-hand.

**Worship with us on Sundays:**

10 am Sunday School for all ages  
 11 am Morning Service  
 6 pm Evening Service

**Vision Statement:**

Sneedville United Methodist Church seeks to honor and follow God By growing in the faith God gives us, including learning in many ways and at all ages, and finding and using our gifts to reach our full potential as individuals and as a community of faith; By expressing our faith boldly in outreach and mission to our church, our community, and the world; By growing in the love God gives us to praise God joyfully in worship, to care deeply for each other, and to express this sacrificial love in service, fellowship and reconciliation; So that we reflect to the world the radical love of Jesus Christ, our Lord.



**Ministry of the Church:**

NOWA (Nuture, Outreach, Witness, Age Level Ministry)  
 Aletha Hildebrant, Diantha Hodges, Charlotte Wolfe, Jackie Merritt, Sandy Columber, Heidi Taylor, Terry Wolfe, Sally Morris, Angie Rasnic

**Worship Committee:**

Phyllis Ripley, Diantha Hodges, Aletha Hildebrant, Emma Holmes, Rebekah Hall, Kent Columber

**Contact us! We welcome your interaction, Comments and questions.**

**Pastor:** Craig Hall, PO Box 163, Sneedville, TN  
 423-733-1518  
 csh1970@netzero.net

**Lay Leader:** Randy Holmes, Nora Alder Drive, Sneedville, TN

**Church Council:** Steve Hodges, PO Box 657, Sneedville, TN  
 423-733-4195  
 stevejubilee@bellsouth.net

**NOWA Chair:** Sally Morris, 1179 Duck Creek Road, Sneedville, TN

**Words From Rev. Craig Hall:**

We invite you to come and bask in the presence of God and embrace the holiness of his truth. Here you will find love and acceptance and will discover that we strive to practice the words of Jesus to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves (St. Mark 12:30-31). We are excited about this appointment and have already witnessed the Holy Spirit moving in the midst of this great work. We welcome you to come and experience the Word and to join us at Christ's Table.

**"I look upon the world as my parish."**

John Wesley



**Hancock Manor:**

Our congregation conducts our mid-week bible studies at Hancock Manor, the local nursing facility at 6 pm on Wednesday.

**Hancock County Jail:**

Our pastor is conducting a Bible study on Friday evenings at 7 pm with the inmates. Please pray for this ministry.

**Overhome Clothing Center:**

The Overhome Missions Clothing Center has been established to share the love of Christ through providing adequate clothing for less-advantaged school-aged children, for burn-out victims, and for lower income families in and around our region. The new center will be located adjacent to Hancock Central Elementary School for accessibility to children and their families.

Overhome Clothing Center, under construction



**Jubilee Project:**

Jubilee Project is a United Methodist Mission dedicated to community service, development, and empowerment in Sneedville, Tennessee. While it exists separately from Sneedville UMC, the organizations work side by side to improve the quality of life in our community. To learn more about Jubilee Project, please visit it's website: [www.jubileeproject.holston.org](http://www.jubileeproject.holston.org)

Rejoice  
 Celebrate  
 Praise  
 Glorify

**Sneedville United Methodist**




*Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord (Heb. 12:14)*

Visit Us At:  
[www.sneedvilleumc.holston.org](http://www.sneedvilleumc.holston.org)

# March 2009

## Taxes, Tithing, and Lambs

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Basic Conversational Spanish @ 6pm NOWA Meeting @ 5pm	<b>5</b>	Jail Ministry 7PM <b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	Disciple IV Bible Study 7-9pm <b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Basic Conversational Spanish @ 6pm	<b>12</b>	Jail Ministry 7PM <b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>BIRTHDAY'S NEWT BAGLEY REBEKAH HALL</b>						
<b>15</b>	Disciple IV Bible Study 7-9pm <b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Saint Patrick's Day	<b>18</b> Basic Conversational Spanish @ 6pm	<b>19</b> <b>BIRTHDAY'S CHELSEA AND CLAUDE</b>	Jail Ministry 7PM <b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>PALMER COLUMBER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY IS MARCH 21 AT MIKE GIBSON'S CABIN. EVERYONE IS INVITED. PLEASE RSVP 733-5189</b>
<b>22</b> Lunch after church Celebrate spring	Disciple IV Bible Study 7-9pm <b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Basic Conversational Spanish @ 6pm	<b>26</b>	Jail Ministry 7PM <b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
		<b>BIRTHDAY RUTH SEAL</b>	<b>BIRTHDAY SANDY COLUMBER</b>			
<b>29</b>	Disciple IV Bible Study 7-9pm <b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

The entire tithe of the herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod—will be holy to the LORD.  
-- Leviticus 27:32

John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" -- John 1:29

I might not know you very well, but I bet we have something in common. I hate tax time, and I'll bet you do, too. I just spent an entire morning doing my taxes. This year, I used TurboTax, and I have to admit that it made the entire process a lot easier. In the past, I've taken all my info to various tax preparation services and have let them straighten it out. Unfortunately, almost every single time I've done that, there have been errors on my tax return that have required amendments. That is extremely frustrating -- when I pay for a service, I expect it to be worth my money and done correctly. So this year, I decided just to do it myself.

Looking back at my expenses and income over the course of the year got me thinking about money, budgets, and keeping on a good financial course. I admit that I have trouble with that. First, I don't earn a lot. I'm very grateful to have a good job that I enjoy, but I couldn't make it on my own income right now, especially with two kids to support. Of course, I'm in college and I'll graduate in about two years, and that will change. Second, I don't feel any sense of entitlement to share my husband's income, even for household bills, so I end up spending more of my funds -- over 85% -- on our bills and expenses. There are a lot of reasons why I feel the way I do about his money, not least of which is the fact that for the first nine years of our marriage, I didn't have a job outside the home. Now I earn my own money, and I'm very happy about it -- not only can I take care of some of our household expenses, but I can meet my own needs and am still able to tithe 10% of what I make. My husband doesn't attend church and doesn't tithe -- he doesn't want me to give to the church from his income, so I don't -- but he does have a local charity he supports with small gifts a few times a year.

And that brings me to the next reason why I'm thinking about money. I got a raise this year, so I needed to recalculate my tithe. Most of you probably know what tithing is, but for those of you who don't, tithing is giving ten percent of your income (usually) to your church. For churchgoers, any other contributions made are considered to be "second-mile giving." Yesterday, I was looking at my paycheck and considering the amount I received and the amount that ended up going out in taxes. And I was wondering about which amount I should calculate my 10% from. In the past, I hadn't really tried to calculate a percentage -- I just looked at what I brought home every two weeks and took ten percent from that. So I went online to Biblegateway.com to see what the Good Book says about tithing, and I found twenty eight references right away in the Old Testament. After reading those, I sat down to think about it. After all, the part of my money that goes to taxes is something I won't see -- unless you can count watching sessions of Congress on C-Span. But I kept returning to Leviticus 27:32, and thinking about how it says that the tithe is holy for the Lord. Holy -- that means belonging to or derived from a Divine Power. So the money I am able to earn already belongs to and comes from God! That's when I realized that the money I give to God's church needs to be the first 10%, not the last. Before the government gets a share, and before I do, God should get His share, for the work of His kingdom in our world. So I figured up my tithe from my gross wages, rather than from my net, which is something I never really thought about before. It didn't change the amount by much, but it made it right, and that makes me feel good.

I know that there are plenty of people who don't tithe. There are lots of churchgoers who give money every Sunday, but don't necessarily give 10% of their incomes. Some of them don't feel compelled to tithe; some of them counter the argument for tithing with the idea that that's what paying taxes is for. And some people might feel guilty about giving less than 10% but they also feel that they just can't afford to give it. I used to fall into the last category, but for the past three years, I've made more of an effort to give my full amount, though I have to admit that I fall short, especially if I miss church on Sunday. This year, I've made a commitment to God and to myself that even if I have to miss church on Sunday, I'll mail my tithe before it gets spent on something else. If you can't afford to give ten percent and just give what you can, well, there's not much I can say to that, because you know your finances best, and that's your decision (though I think you should prayerfully reconsider). To the people who don't tithe because they don't believe in it, I want to talk about lambs.

Yes, I know, these days, we don't generally count our income in livestock, but that isn't what this is about. If you're a Christian, you know that John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God. Now, when you and I think about lambs, we're probably thinking about cute, innocent, curly-coated, little baby sheep, but that isn't what John meant. He was thinking about sacrifice, about the lambs that were given to God on the altar. When he called Jesus the Lamb of God, he was referring to the way that Jesus would die, to literally "buy" us out of our slavery to sin and death. It wasn't an easy death, either -- we all know what happened on the cross at Calvary. Talk about giving. And not just ten percent, either. Jesus gave his life -- he gave everything -- for you and for me.

Think about it. On the one hand, we have Jesus, born to be a living sacrifice to take away the sin of the world. On the other hand we have 10% off the top of your paycheck. Weigh it. Who gave more? And can you really justify giving less than God has asked for?

*Written by: Amy Deinson*