

Newsletter of the  
Association of Retired  
Ministers and Spouses



# To ARMS!

NOVEMBER 2020  
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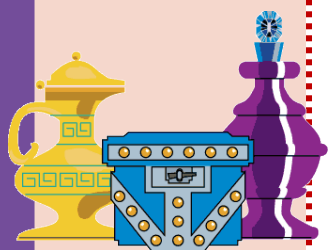
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## The Real Value in Giving Gifts to Treasure

by the Rev. Alvin J. Horton

For the last several years of his life I visited Clyde Fogleman at the United States Soldiers and Airmen's Home in Washington, D.C. Sometimes we would visit in his room; sometimes he would tool around the tree-lined campus in his electric wheelchair while I raced along beside him. Almost every visit we would find our way to the chapel where he would sit at the organ and let his fingers dance across the keyboard, allowing some of the most wonderful music to find its way to my ears.

He had been a chaplain's assistant in the army most of his adult life and he knew how to make an organ sing.

He and his wife Zera had given me a home when I was a teenager, when I was in need of foster parents. In his last years, I became his only child. I would take our three sons to visit their "Grand-daddy Clyde" so they could share with him each new piano melody they had learned since their last visit. He followed their

progress with rightful pride and satisfaction.

He was not a perfect man. Nor was I a perfect son. He suffered severely from paranoid schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. He drove his caregivers to the brink of their own sanity with his recurring bouts of anger and hurtfulness. **There were times I wanted to turn my back on his aggression and walk away, never to return to that place of pain where he lived. But I did return, bearing gifts of time and affection and concern.** He had given me a home when I needed it; it was the very least I could do to offer in some measure the return of his favor.

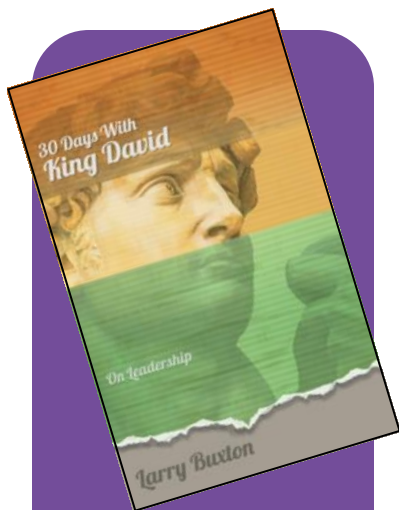
When he passed away, I had no idea how much he had given me during all those years of trying to give to him. Not until he went away did I realize how much he sustained me with his unconditional love. Not until his keyboard was silenced did I realize how much music he had brought to my soul.



I wonder if that's what the magi felt after they returned home from giving their gifts to the Christ Child. I wonder if they felt, as I do, that the real treasure in giving is not what we give away but what we in our giving ultimately receive.

When all the Christmas decorations are put away until next year, perhaps we would do well to remember all the people in our lives who gave us the real treasure of the season, the gift of themselves. **Indeed, as the Covid-19 pandemic casts its shadow over this year's celebrations of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, let us not forget the gifts we have already been given to treasure.**

The magi received a king wrapped in the common clothes of a young child, just as I received a gift from a man untimely confined to a wheelchair. Like the magi, I have learned that the real treasure in giving is what we often unexpectedly receive.



## Hear what leaders say about the book:

“From the blockbuster arc of David’s life, Larry Buxton assembles 30 short chapters on key leadership traits... [and] helps us see how David either exhibited these values or catastrophically failed to achieve them.”

*Senator Tim Kaine  
Democrat*

“We need to meet David again through Larry Buxton’s wise retelling of these stories—so that we all can lift up the best values in leadership in our institutions, our nation and our world.”

*Andrew Card  
Republican*

## New book explores leadership traits to emulate

# Thirty Days with King David

In turbulent times, King David united a nation—and his wisdom can bring us together today. That’s the premise of *30 Days With King David: On Leadership*, a new book by the Rev. Larry Buxton, pastor, educator, and leadership coach. It offers a month of readings plus ideas for small-group discussion.

David ranks among the world’s greatest heroes and is honored by Jews,

Christians and Muslims alike. In his book, Buxton shows us how David embodies 14 crucial values shared by effective leaders to this day.

Just as the first volume in this series invites readers to spend *30 Days With Abraham Lincoln*, a unifying figure in American history, Buxton’s book is a call for everyone to remember values that unite us. It’s dedicated “to everyone

who believes that the character of any leader is of critical importance to our nation, our institutions, congregations, and homes.”

Buxton sends out weekly videos, applying the book’s themes of character and integrity to current events. Subscribe via the website. The book is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and [www.larrybuxton.com](http://www.larrybuxton.com).



*Larry Buxton*

## Three ARMS Proposals

Your ARMS Board of Directors present the following proposals for your consideration. If you agree, you need not respond. However, if you do not agree, please send an email to John Price at [jchprice83@gmail.com](mailto:jchprice83@gmail.com).

### **Proposal Number One (Nominations):**

The following are nominated for ARMS Board officers and members for 2021:

Steve & Susan Hassmer,  
(Sunshine Correspondent), Co-Chairs  
Keith & Linda Motley, Co-Vice Chairs  
Susan Brack, Treasurer  
Larry & Judy Mann, Secretary  
Gale & Harry Kennon, Retreat Consultants  
John & Cathy Price, Past Co-Chairs  
Al & Cheryl Horton, Newsletter Editors  
Bobby Kay Wash (Class of 2022)  
Larry & Nancy Tingle (Class of 2022)  
Kathleen Monge (Class of 2022)  
Jim & Carolyn Noland (Class of 2021)  
Richard & Diane Galbreath (Class of 2021)  
Steve Bird (Class of 2021)  
Ed & Marian Garrett (Class of 2021)  
Frank & Lynne Jennings (Class of 2021)  
Alexis & Mark Fathbruckner (Class of 2021)  
Bob & Susan Parks (Class of 2021)

Also, suggested **annual donations of \$10.00 each** will again be gladly received by Susie Brack, Treasurer, 128 Glenwood Cir., South Hill, VA 23970. (Make your checks payable to the United Methodist Virginia Annual Conference, for ARMS donation.)

Thanks for your prayerful consideration of these proposals.

In Christ,  
**John & Cathy Price, Co-Chairs**

### **Proposal Number Two (Gift to Virginia Annual Conference):**

As suggested by a number of Board members and in light of a balance of ARMS funds in excess of \$25,000, we propose that we send to the Virginia Annual Conference the amount of \$5,000 to support apportionments for Pensions and Benefits. (This is partly in light of the fact that ARMS receives annually \$5,000 from Pensions and Benefits.)

### **Proposal Number Three (Gift to Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center):**

Considering the generous treatment Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center has given ARMS over the years and the shortage of funds they are experiencing during this time, we propose that ARMS send them a gift of \$1,000.

# How to Wear a Mask Properly



**Wear** your mask all the way up, close to the bridge of your nose and all the way down under your chin. The mask should fit snug around your face without gaps.



**Do not** leave your chin exposed



**Do not** wear a mask loosely with gaps on the side



**Do not** wear your mask so it covers just the tip of your nose



**Do not** push your mask on your neck



**Do not** wear the mask below your nose

## A Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask

by the Rev. Richard Bott  
Presbyterian Church of Canada

**C**reator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing this cloth.

Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.

Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds be filled with your love.

In your name and in that love, I pray.

Amen.

**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!  
WEAR A FACE MASK.**

## In Memoriam

remembering those who have died since our last report *August 2020*



### Retired Clergy

Robert L. McIntyre (05/17/19) RA*	Aug. 7, 2020*
Alfred G. Stables (07/23/30) RE*	Aug. 17, 2020*
Milford C. Rollins (03/04/25) RE	Sept. 13, 2020
Clay B. Tucker (08/02/32) RA	Oct. 2, 2020
Lee B. Sheaffer (11/17/32) RE	Nov. 5, 2020
Vernie Barrow (03/04/31) RE	Nov. 8, 2020

### Spouses of Retired Clergy

Suzanne W. Righter (Rev. James Righter)*	July 28, 2020*
Linda S. McKenney (Rev. William McKenney)	Sept. 22, 2020
Martha S. Erbach (Rev. William Erbach)	Oct. 2, 2020
Karen M. Parks (Rev. Charles Parks)	Oct. 3, 2020
Louise Wagner (Rev. R C Wagner)	Oct. 18, 2020

### Widows/Widowers of Deceased Clergy

Sarah C. Sudduth (Rev. Henry Sudduth)	Sept. 28, 2020
Royale Lazenby (Rev. Ashby Lazenby)	Oct. 1, 2020
Betty R. Hensley (Rev. Holley Hensley)	Oct. 24, 2020

\*Not listed in last ARMS newsletter report



*Return Address:*  
1200 Pulliam Street  
North Chesterfield, VA 23235

**Board of Pensions & Health Benefits**  
**Virginia Annual Conference**  
P.O. Box 5606  
Glen Allen, Virginia 23058  
Phone: 800-768-1100

*To Arms!* Is published on line via RetireeNet, ClergyNet, SpouseNet, and sent to ARMS members upon request.

### Want to support ARMS?

Send suggested donation of \$10 per person to:

Susan Brack,  
Treasurer  
128 Glenwood Cir.  
South Hill, VA  
23970

Make check payable to "Virginia Conference UMC" with "ARMS donation" in memo line.

## A Pandemic Thanksgiving Tips for a Different Kind of Holiday\*

**I**n the Coronavirus era, Thanksgiving, like most everything about our lives in 2020, requires some alterations to keep the day of thanks safe.

The Centers for Disease Control has published ways to celebrate with care, including what we already know: wear masks, wash hands frequently and follow the six-foot rule.

Check out these other suggestions:

**Enjoy a small dinner with only people who live in your household.** If the weather cooperates, consider moving your dinner outside.

**Go virtual.** Share recipes with friends and family for favorite dishes. Then gather online to share the meal together. No travel required.

If holiday shopping is part of your Thanksgiving tradition, **shop online** rather than in person for maximum safety – and ease (i.e., no fighting for parking spots).

**Watch sports event, parades and movies from home** rather than in-person where gathering in crowds may put you at risk.

**Start new traditions.** Creatively consider what you can do this year to make the holiday memorable.



**At the core of your Thanksgiving celebration, keep the main thing the main thing.** Call up loved ones to express your gratitude for them, mail out cards, or participate in a gratitude activity, such as making a list of what you are grateful for and sharing the list with your family and friends.

**"Give thanks in all circumstances,"** (1 Thessalonians 5:18) tells us, even in a pandemic.

*\*Edited from an article by United Methodist Communications. Published Nov. 17, 2020*