



## Monthly Stewardship Sermon December 2009

**T**he United Church of Christ ([ucc.org](http://ucc.org)) had an article on their website in January of this year which dealt with the new wave concept of “re-gifting.” This time of year, we think about all sorts of giving. At some Christmas parties we are giving white elephant or gag gifts. There are gifts we give at the office for people we don’t really know. Sometimes we receive those uncomfortable gifts from people who are giving with an agenda. All of this giving is supposed to remind us of God’s gift to us in the person of Jesus. The internet article is something to consider in our stewardship reflections for December.

The contemporary term “regifter” invented on an episode of the NBC sitcom *Seinfeld* called “The Label Maker,” was no compliment, since the offending character was caught giving away something he had received! Currently the fine art of regifting has several etiquette websites. The successful regifter should re-wrap the present, refrain from using it first, and avoid giving it back to the original giver.

In fact, our lives are full of this practice—we do give what we have been given. We give from our emotional gifts; we give from our skills and aptitudes; we give from the love we receive. A newer term is “paying it forward.” An older term—“tithing.”

As we consider the gift of salvation given to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we must concede that our God is a giving God. We celebrate His love for us in this season beside the manger of Bethlehem. We act out this love by giving and receiving all sorts of “gifts.”

As pastors, we acknowledge the nostalgia and the sentimentality of this season, but we should also be challenging the church with the truth of the Gospel, there is something holy in GIVING.

