

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



While we have some strong, loyal supporters of the Scrip/Gift Card Program in our congregation, we don't come close to our potential for making this fundraiser work to help Tapestry meet its long term goals.

"An organization of 150 families easily spends between one and two million dollars per year on food, clothing and other essentials. If these families use scrip for these purchases, they can raise as much as \$40,000 to \$80,000 per year for their organization --without spending an additional penny."

Dave Burgess, Vice President, Great Lakes Scrip Center

What Tapestry approximately earned this past year = \$4,800

After reading this announcement, please choose to participate, and prepare two lists: 1) holiday shopping and 2) the day-to-day shopping/gas/restaurant/personal care essentials you KNOW you'll be using during the coming week and next. With your checkbook, bring to Tapestry this Sunday or when you next attend services.

Be sure to read A Personal Note from Robin Barr at the end of this email. And now, announcing.....

**The First Annual 2006
All-Purchases-With-Scrip Drive**

What are scrip and gift cards?

Gift certificates used just like cash. Tapestry purchases them from a reseller at the gift card's face value less a discount anywhere from 2% to 25%, depending on what discount each specific retailer offers.

For example, a 1 lb box of See's Candy, costing \$14.10, earns us 25% of that price. T.J. Max offers gift cards in \$10 and \$25 amounts, each earning Tapestry 7%.

If you wish to give someone \$30 in merchandise from T.J. Max, you would purchase three \$10 gift cards.

(For the rest of this announcement, we'll simply refer to scrip and gift cards as "gift cards")

Why purchase gift cards at Tapestry?

Because they benefit *you* as a less stressful and time-consuming way for gift shopping, benefits Tapestry as we work to build our *assets*, and the recipient can pick what they *really* want.

Are gift cards too impersonal?

Gift certificates (or scrip or gift cards), once the choice for a shopper unsure what to give, or who lacked the time to shop, have become important holiday staples.

- A growing number of gift givers and recipients alike are selecting gift certificates as a favorite holiday gift.
- Surveys indicate: 80% of teenagers see giftcards as a first-choice gift, and 70 percent of adults like receiving gift certificates
- According to the *billingsgazette.com*, "It means a \$50 gift card at Best Buy spent before Christmas is only worth \$50, But if spent *after* Christmas, it may be worth \$75 or \$100 because of markdowns."

• From a participant of an online bulletin board: "But perhaps a better debate would be gift vs. gift certificate. Who do you trust more to get something you want? Your family or yourself"?

NEED SOME OTHER REASONS TO BUY GIFT CARDS?

1. Stuck for some ideas? Double click on the attachment to this email entitled Gift Ideas. It makes suggestions for Mom's, Dad's, the babysitter, etc. You may also find this document by following the link below, then look to the upper right under HOLIDAY HINTS and click on "Gift Ideas".

<http://tapestryuu.org/scrip.htm>

2. For \$1, on Sundays after each service, we'll custom gift wrap it for you in a clear gift bag stuffed with festive packing material, a few candies wrapped in foil, the gift card(s) of your choice, and tied closed with a ribbon, stars, and sprig of hollyberries or other decoration appropriate for the recipient. This will give your gift card a more substantial presentation and reflect the thought that went into it.

3. Do you prefer to shop online or by mail order? Some retailers, although not all, allow the gift card to be used online, or by phone, in place of a credit card. A few that do: 1-800 Flowers, Amazon.com, Lillian Vernon, Napster 15 Song Download, Shutterfly, YourGiftsYourChoice.com.

4. For people on your list who live out of state, there are numerous national retailers offering gift cards.

5. It's less stressful than fighting crowds, standing in long lines, and parking at the malls.

6. Less driving, lower gasoline usage.

For your convenience, the following resources are available to you:

1. List of Merchants by Product Category

Double click on the attachment to this email OR follow the link below, then look in the upper right corner, HOLIDAY HINTS, and click on List of Merchants by Product Category.

<http://tapestryuu.org/scrip.htm>

2. List of Merchants sorted Alphabetically

Click on the letter of the merchant name you are looking for.

<http://www.glscrip.com/retailerlist/index.aspx>

3. Gift Ideas

Double click on the attachment to this email entitled Gift Ideas. It makes suggestions for Mom's, Dad's, the babysitter, etc. You may also find this document at the link below. Look in the upper right corner, HOLIDAY HINTS, and click on "Gift Ideas".

<http://tapestryuu.org/scrip.htm>

4. Holiday Gift Worksheet

Double click on the attachment to this email OR follow the link below, look in the upper right corner, HOLIDAY HINTS, and click on Holiday Gift Worksheet.

<http://tapestryuu.org/scrip.htm>

If you can't make it to Tapestry anytime soon, feel free to order gift cards at any time by calling or emailing Dana Freeman:

Email: danafreeman@cox.net

Phone: (949) 425-8495

A personal note from Robin Barr

I have to admit, I'm one of the reasons why our scrip/giftcard program earned only \$4800 this past year. Rarely would I purchase scrip.

I certainly have a pattern of spending which would have easily accommodated the use of it each week. I often eat out, I grocery shop,

Mother's Market is a frequent stop, there's often a birthday gift to buy, personal care items to purchase, a weekly gasoline fill-up (Arco, where I purchase gas, offers a gift card), and do a fair amount of online purchasing from Amazon.com for myself and as gifts.

I perceived it as a hassle. I'm not always ready to plunk down cash for something I don't need this moment, and never felt I had the time or patience to look through a long Merchants List.

The rare times I did purchase scrip, I kept it folded in the currency section of my wallet to remind myself to use it, which made the wallet more bulky.

I wasn't attending church regularly to buy it, and, if I'm going to be honest, didn't want to make the effort to simply consider - "Ok - what shopping do I KNOW I'm going to be doing later today or this week?", or "Where am I likely to eat out for lunch, or other times during the week?" or "Who do I need to buy a birthday present for now?". And *what* was my excuse for gasoline? It shouldn't come as a surprise that I use it.

Agreeing to help Dana Freeman through the holiday season, necessitated giving my attention to scrip/giftcards, learning a little more about how the program works, and familiarizing myself with the Merchant List, all of which created a subtle shift in perception.

Suddenly, there was an internal **YES!!** each time I found something I could use a gift card for. It became somewhat fun. Since I'm all about convenience, I like that I can call or email Dana with my order in case there's a line at church. Even if I don't attend church, I can easily swing by to pick up the scrip after services or find another way to get it. I've learned to have my check already made out, which is a timesaver.

One last somewhat personal thought - What I have financially pledged to Tapestry this year is what I could afford, but less than what I would preferred. I have calculated, on the conservative side, that with the scrip buying I plan to do over the next year, my contribution to Tapestry will increase by \$3,200, without my spending any additional money. Now *that* feels good.

If you were like me, not or rarely participating, include it in your routine of what you do to plan and spend your day-to-day shopping dollars during the week. A shift in perception is all it takes.