

## **Using Resources for God's Glory**

### **By Susan Benfield**

**Psalm 24:1-2: The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and all who dwell therein. For he has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters.**

Psalm 24 is one of the royal psalms. According to the Nelson Study Bible, it “describes the Lord's entrance into the holy city, and may have been sung when David brought the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem.” The Study Bible further notes that this psalm is often linked with Psalms 22 and 23, as all three speak prophetically of the Lord Jesus.

Verse 2 of Psalm 24 “draws on the language of Genesis in which God calls the dry land to rise from the watery abyss.” As I read this, I was immediately reminded of the striking photographs sent back to Earth from astronauts. The images are breath-taking. The pictures leave me in awe of the vastness of space, as well as the miracle of life on this planet.

A few years ago, after teaching line dance classes at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, I took a few minutes to admire their new sanctuary and the artist's renderings for the rest of the campus. I told one of my dancers that I was impressed with the depth and breadth of the church's future building plans. Brenda looked a bit surprised, looked me straight in the eye, and stated, “We are a missionary church. Mission and outreach are what we do. These changes will help us to do more. We believe that is what God wants us to do.” She said this in such a matter-of-fact way that I was taken aback. Why, of course! I was looking at the beautiful new buildings and seeing the benefits for members, while the members were envisioning the opportunity to further their outreach.

At Unity, we can see a new sanctuary as a building for us or as a resource to serve others. We want to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, and glorify His name with our worship, works and service. A new sanctuary and additional space for classrooms will allow Unity to continue to serve God in these ways.

Ted and I invite you to reflect on this scripture and think about how the earth and everything in it belong to God. Think about how we, as a congregation, can gather strength from this scripture and how we can use the resources that we have been given for God's glory.