

THE PRACTICE OF STEWARDSHIP: A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

The practice of stewardship begins with hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is the power of the Holy Spirit working through Word and Sacrament that changes our hearts and wills so that we become the generous children of God.

The practice of stewardship continues by providing opportunities for people to live out their faithful and joyful response to the Good News of Jesus. Stewardship is everything that we do after we say, "I believe".

The practice of stewardship involves the way we speak of Jesus and our faith. Paul says that we are "stewards of the mysteries of God" which have been revealed in Jesus. As good stewards of the Good News of Jesus we speak confidently, yet humbly, of what Jesus has done for the world and for us. Our participation in worship and the Eucharist "proclaims the death of Jesus until he comes again".

The practice of stewardship involves the way we devote our time and energy in daily life to God by serving others. As we are faithful in our vocations (family, citizen, job, member of a congregation, student, friend, etc.), we serve God with our activities of daily living, some of which occur within the congregation, but **most of which occur outside of our congregation.**

The practice of stewardship involves the way we care for the earth. As people who share in dominion over the earth, we exercise responsible and careful management of the earth's resources. We value the creation not only for its usefulness to us, but also for God's evaluation that it is "very good".

The practice of stewardship involves the way we manage our financial resources. As people who have received all things as gifts from God, including personal talents, skills, interests, and the ability and desire to develop these, we share a portion of what we have been given with others. Proportionate giving has been the Biblical way of determining how much we are going to **faithfully manage for the benefit of our own lives** and how much we are going to **faithfully and generously give away for the benefit of others and the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus.** We seek to grow in giving to and through the tithe (10% of our income).