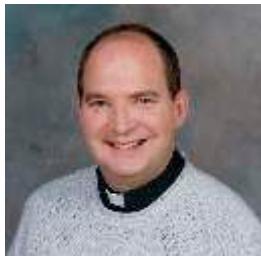




FALL
2019

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE PEOPLE OF
ST. GEORGE'S OF FOREST HILL
ANGLICAN CHURCH
www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

THE DRAGON FLYER



I want to thank you for taking the time to read this letter about stewardship. You need to know that I am deeply grateful for all that you have done for the life and the ministry of St. George's. I appreciate your time and talent and energy. I know that some people give to the church through their time, talent and treasure and in a wide variety of ways and amounts. I am deeply grateful for whatever way you are able to share yourself with the life of the church. The following is not a lecture about "giving more", it is an explanation about how our giving connects with our spirituality.

Let me begin this message by acknowledging that there are often three topics that cause tremendous controversy in the church and in our homes. The first source of conflict is discussions about money. The second is household or church responsibilities and the third is intimacy. I guess I should be relieved that I've been asked to talk about money. Let me get directly to the point. I am convinced that we are all responsible and called by God to support the congregation of which we are active members. We are responsible to give a reasonable level proportionate to our income and circumstances. Here is the challenge: our circumstances change constantly. It would be reasonable to sit down as a family or as an individual during the next few weeks, and prayerfully consider a pledge to the work and ministry of the church and do one's level best to fulfil that pledge in the course of the year.

Secondly, I am convinced that joyful Christians will often be moved by scripture and the Holy Spirit to give beyond their pledge, to provide support for outreach, missions and international ministries. I would consider this sacrificial giving. As one author put it, "The first is support and the second is sacrifice: the first is our duty and the second is our delight." (Mark Allan Powell)

If I were in your situation, I think I would want to know a response to the following questions: What are the expenses of the church? What do we mean when we talk about the cost of the community's life and mission? The truth of the matter is that we are paying hydro, heat, building maintenance, building repairs, salaries, new programs, new activities as well as sustaining all the programs that you have loved and cherished in past years. We are a dynamic, energized and enthusiastic parish that is growing quickly. Did you know that we have grown by 29 families in the past two years? This means that we need to respond to the needs of an ever-growing community. In other words, we need to maintain the facilities, sponsor the programs and sustain the services of our church family.

Mark Allan Powell outlines 10 basic principles regarding Christian giving, ie: time, talent and treasure. He has modified these principles from the advice that St. Paul gives in his letters. The following are Mark Allan Powell's thoughts and reflections from his book *Giving to God*:

1. Giving is both a duty and a delight; something we ought to do and something we are pleased to

...cont.

this issue

VBS - To Mars & Beyond

Wardens' Message

Reminders & Save the Dates

Parish Life

...Continued

do. (Romans 15: 25-26)

2. Giving need not to be hampered by difficult circumstances, for even those who suffer affliction and experience poverty may exhibit generosity (2 Corinthians 8: 2)

3. Giving is to be voluntary, not under compulsion (2 Corinthians 8:3, 9:5-7)

4. Giving should be proportionate to one's income and circumstance, as each is expected to give according to his or her means (2 Corinthians 3: 11-13)

5. Giving can also be taken as a sacrifice, as some will feel inspired to give beyond their means (2 Corinthians 8:3)

6. Giving is a privilege, something we appreciate being able to do as a result of God's grace (2 Corinthians 8:4)

7. Giving involves more than the financial contributions; we first commit ourselves to the Lord and to the church at large (2 Corinthians 8:5)

8. Giving may involve making a pledge that the giver is committed to fulfilling over time (2

Corinthians 8: 1-11)

9. Giving is to represent a personal commitment; each person is to make up his or her own mind about how much to give (2 Corinthians 9:7)

10. Giving is conducted in faith that God will provide for those who give (2 Corinthians 9: 8-11)

Did you know that there is evidence to show that people find spiritual freedom through the letting go of their possessions? This is at the very heart of the good news of biblical stewardship. Many of you already give beyond our operational budget. Many give sacrificially to our outreach and mission projects. I want to outline three spiritual benefits for sacrificial giving. First, giving away our time, talent and treasure is an act of worship. We are giving away something of value as an act of devotion to God. Do you remember the bible story where the woman poured a bottle of costly perfume onto Jesus? She gave up something she valued to show her love for Jesus. We are invited to surrender a portion of our finances and/or our possessions as a sacrificial act of love for God.

Secondly, we give our time, talent and treasure to demonstrate our faith and confidence in the worship programs and activities of the church. It is an act of faith based on what we believe. It is the affirmation that all things come from God and all things belong to God. We are putting our faith into practice and

believing that God will bless the gift.

Thirdly, giving our offering is a spiritual discipline that frees us from the tug of materialism that draws us away from God and makes us vulnerable to believing that things are more important than faith. This is a special type of giving and it may feel a little radical. I'm sure you've heard the term "cheerful sacrifice". My observation is that those who give of their time, talent and financial resources receive many blessings and although that's not the motivation, it is often the result.

This letter is an introduction to a year-long dialogue about the principles, values and ethics of stewardship. Please consider this my personal invitation to prayerfully examine the opportunity of making a pledge to your church and its future. During the next several weeks you will receive a Stewardship Pledge letter and Pledge Form. We would be most grateful if you would prayerfully consider your pledge for the ministry of the church for the next year.

*Yours in Christ
Rev Dr. Stephen Hendry*



MaryLynn & Heather - Monica Place Gala



Monica Place June Gala Volunteers

Parish Life

Stewardship 2019

Dear Friends,

I am writing this both as a Warden of the St. George's Forest Hill as well as the Co-Chair of the Stewardship Committee. I have spoken in the past about the three Ts of Stewardship: Time, Talent and Treasure. Through the three Ts, our Faith Community via its numerous Ministries has accomplished a lot both internally and in the outside community.

Today this is about Treasure. Sixty years ago (or more) churches would say "this is how much we need". That is no longer the approach used, but it does not mean the 'need' isn't there. This Congregation is doing a lot, but could do more with increased givings.

Our average Givings are about the same as the national average. For the last five years, Givings have been almost flat with a modest 1% increase p.a. whereas inflation was 50% more (9% inflation 2014 to 2018) than the Givings increase. In 2018 we squeaked through financially with a small surplus, but this was a result of cost reductions and onetime gain, otherwise Givings were down by almost 7% as compared to Budget. For 2019, we budgeted a modest 3.4 % increase in Givings over 2018, but as of June 2019 we are 3.8% below Budget (and are \$50 per week less than 2018).

We are asking you to please: (1) submit a Pledge for your planned 2020 Donations and (2) prayerfully consider increasing your financial gift to support our Ministries by 10%. For those who give between \$250 to \$750 annually, the 10% increase works out to only a Loonie per week. For those who give between \$750 and \$1,750 per year, a 10% increase translates to a Twoonie per week. And for those who give more than \$1,750 p.a., the 10% increase is a Starbucks Venti Latte per week.

For the Fall, there will be letters about Stewardship, the mailing to each Household a 2020 Pledge Form, a letter from the Committee with a return envelope, Stewardship Homilies; and a Guest Preacher. All are designed to culminate with the Ingathering and Blessing of the 2020 Pledges on All Saints Sunday Nov. 3rd.

*John D. MacKellar
Stewardship Committee Co-Chair*

FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH



Summer is coming to an end and the leaves on the trees will soon be turning colour. Like many families, my own family has been going through some trials this past year. Near the end of July, my oldest granddaughter lost her father very suddenly at the age of 46 years. During her time of grieving she remembered a poem that John Shaw read at Mary's funeral. She had me read it also. This is what I am going to share with you at this time and I encourage you to read it slowly to let the words resonate within you.

*Slow Dance
David Weatherford*

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round, or listened to rain slapping the ground? Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight, or gazed at the sun fading into the night? You better slow down; don't dance so fast; time is short; the music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly? When you ask, "How are you?" do you hear the reply? When the day is done, do you lie in your bed, with the next hundred chores running through your head? You better slow down, don't dance so fast; time is short; the music won't last. Ever told your child, we'll do it tomorrow, and in your haste, not see his sorrow? Ever lost touch, let a friendship die, 'cause you never had time to call and say hi? You better slow down; don't dance so fast; time is short; the music won't last. When you run so fast to get somewhere, you miss half the fun of getting there. When you worry and hurry through your day, it's like an unopened gift thrown away. Life isn't a race, so take it slower. Hear the music before your song is over.

Take some time and ponder this poem...

Deacon MaryLynn

Save The Date!

Week of Sept 1

September 8

October 5, 6

Oct 8

Oct 11

Oct 26

Sat Nov 2

Sat Nov 16

Nov 22 & 23

Nov 29

Bible Studies Resume

Start Up Sunday: Blessing of BackPacks, Sunday School Registration & BBQ - Love & Kindness through faith, the arts and our community



Waterloo Deanery Youth

Turkey Supper

Concert- Music with Cameron at Thompson Hall

Children's Community Closet 9 –noon; Messy Church 4 -6

Concert @ 7:00 with Pleasant Ridge

Christmas Market

Youth Retreat

Euchre Night

Blessing the Backpacks



Lay Readers Team June 2019



Kindness with Grace & Grayson



Kiss the Cook June Picnic



You've Got Mail!!



Storytelling with Fr Stephen



Thankful - Cayden & Lacey



Summer Service - Looking for Angels!



St. John's Ice Cream



Ensign Josh

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