



Core Value: Stewardship

"Tending the Orchard"

Fall 2016 Sermon Series

So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures.
James 1:17-18

I love that line from scripture, "Every desirable and beneficial gift comes from heaven." That means that all that we are and all that we have is from God. In Luke, we are reminded that "to whom much is given, much is expected." (Luke 12:48) In the coming weeks, we will talk much about what that means for us individually. When we as a church declare stewardship as a core value, we are saying that God has given us so much, we must care for it all.

Each of us, as a part of the body, plays a role in caring for the Body of Christ. Our financial resources and our building are marvelous gifts from God. We have the blessing and privilege of using our gifts in order to do ministry and change lives for Jesus Christ. Conscientious care of our building and finances is central to our being the best we can be as a church. Each member of this church body is welcome to ask questions and offer ideas regarding our budget and building. We all have a responsibility for what God has entrusted to us. We are all called to be good stewards in simple things like turning lights off as we leave a room, recycling, and being careful with spending. And we are called to be good stewards in big things like giving financially to our church, giving of your time to care for the building, and lending your skills to a committee.

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Stewardship involves careful use of our resources, but it also means that we are generous with what God has given us. God's great abundance is meant to be shared as well as it is put to effective use. Good stewardship requires that we look at the needs of the community and the world and ask ourselves questions. What does God need from us as a church? How can we use what God has given us to bring about God's kingdom? What role can I play a role in this important work? Our gifts and resources are the foundation to determine how best to do God's work. God has given us much, and expects much in return.

Questions for Reflection:

- How has God called you to be a good steward?
- What needs do you see in the world that our church can address?
- How can our resources lay the foundation for addressing those needs?

Prayer

Thank you God for all you have given. Use me to steward your gifts and glorify you.

Amen.