

Stewardship Sunday (November 16, 2014)
What will you do with the abundance God has given you?
Sermon Notes by John LeCompte

Mark Twain – “There are two types of public speakers...The nervous and the liars”

(2nd service...Thing about you guys moving and Dena getting good at Kijiji...)

“What will you do with the abundance God has given you?” Linda in the money minute and Ann in the Stewardship letter...

Got me thinking...why this organization...why do we give our time, talent, and treasure here...What is the Church to each of us...

...Our vision is to be caring people committed to building community, growing with God and serving the world through Christ's example.

A young member told me why he goes to church...When things in life go wrong...people who have faith and a strong relationship with the church are better equipped to handle it...

And old pastor of mine saidwe rejoice together (like we did last night)...and unfortunately at times we weep together...

Hebrews 12:24-25: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works."

1 Timothy 5:1-2: "Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren."

Starting to sound a lot like another group that we belong to:

...FAMILY – And in being part of a family we must be good Stewards...

1 Corinthians 4:2: "It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful."

Christian stewards seek the heart of God in faithfully, joyfully and gratefully managing all the gifts God has given.

Dena and I moved St. Simon's two years ago when we moved to Canada...with our two children Christian and Ava. We have been so blessed to be part of this family and witness the commitment you have to god and each other and how you share the abundance that god have given you.

1 Peter 4:10: "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

2nd Corinthians 9:6-7: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. We would like to have 100% participation in our pledging campaign like the widow in the gospel reading

this am...It is not the size of the gift that is important. God looks at the heart, not the hand—the giver, not the gift

We as a family have done an excellent job of improving our financial position. We went from a deficit to a small surplus and have managed to continue this...All while getting more people than ever on EFT. In addition to this as good Stewards of the funds under Darcy's leadership we have made significant improvements to our facilities including:

- New Kitchen
- New Flooring
- New Painting of the Sanctuary
- New Sign
- Prayer Garden for 50th anniversary
- Just to name a few...

"Time is a gift. God gives time to us with certain expectations of how we'll use it. However, our free will allows us to do whatever we want with it—good or bad. We can cherish our time, but we can also neglect it. We can hoard our time, but we can also share it. We can invest our time, but we can also squander it..." (Steve Ganger in *Time Warped—First Century Time Stewardship for 21st Century Living*).

"You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving" [Amy Carmichael (1867-1951), missionary to India].

Two resounding examples of this kind of giving with abundance exude in Robyn and Janine in what they do with our young people.

Speaking as a father of two young children...who know more about technology than we do...it is important to give them a strong moral compass outside the home...to instill in them the values of charity, compassion, and Christianity...I know of no better role models than Robyn and Janine...thank you for giving of your abundance to Christ.

One of the things I feel most blessed about is having my son Christian take part in Kerr street ministries...what an amazing Example of sharing our abundance that Robyn facilitates this for our young people and the community.

We are also blessed to have him serve on Sunday mornings and thankful to the people who have mentored him. Raising a teenager is never easy, but we are very pleased with the man he is becoming and his involvement in this church is a big part of that.

As we look around St. Simon's we find so many other examples of giving of our abundance...

Psalms 95:1: "Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation."

Ephesians 5:19: "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord."

Gary and the choir - Thank you for sharing your abundance of talent and time in the music that you bring us each week...and John, Bill, Andrew, Tony and the other Guitar Heroes...thank you so much for giving of your abundance of talent. These gifts truly help to enrich our lives and strengthen our experience here at St. Simon's.

Hebrews 13:16: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifice."

Proverbs 19:17: "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

Hebrews 13:2: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Bronwen and Cheryl your efforts in sharing your abundance with others in our Outreach program here at St. Simon's is truly amazing. You inspire us all and stand as a shining example to our children.

There are so many examples of others in our family sharing the Abundance that god has given them.....Remember the world asks: "What does a person own?" God asks, "How does a person use what he or she has been given?"

"No one has ever become poor by giving" (Anne Frank).

"If there can be any truer measure of a man than by what he does, it must be by what he gives" [Robert South (1634-1716), English clergyman].

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving" (Mother Teresa).

Thank you all for letting us be a part of this wonderful Family...Thank you for sharing your Abundance with us...

Please prayerfully look at you own life and how you can share your Abundance to serve God and this family.

God bless you all!!