

Stewardship

After a recent congregational survey it was noted that our Chapel's fifth most agreed upon Core Value is...

*Together we faithfully share our time, talents and treasure
to further the mission of our Chapel.*

Time is a very precious gift from God. Each of us has been given enough time to accomplish God's purpose for us on this planet. Some of us feel we don't have enough time for all the things we want to do and all the things God is calling us to do. Yet, everyone is given the same amount of time each day. The question is: How do we choose to use our time? During Stewardship Season we are encouraged to use our time to further the mission of our Chapel.

*The Chapel Mission Statement: To serve our community by preaching, teaching, and living the
gospel of
Jesus Christ.*

Our talents are very precious gifts from God. All of us have been blessed with various talents, whether we are aware of them or not and whether we have worked to develop our talents or not. Of course, it is usually not possible to develop all of our God-given talents. Ideally, we can and should develop some of them and use them wisely to faithfully serve God, our Chapel family, and the people of our community.

We may think that we have earned and actually own the treasure we have acquired but even that is a precious gift from God. While the Bible has about five hundred verses on prayer and fewer than five hundred verses on faith, there are over two thousand five hundred biblical verses that deal with money and possessions. Without apology, our Lord Jesus said more about money than he did about any other subject, including Heaven and Hell combined. Why do you think there is such a biblical emphasis on the stewardship of our financial resources? Perhaps it is because the world tells us to find our happiness and peace through wealth but scripture challenges us to find the desire of our hearts in the Lord and to be content with the treasure God has entrusted to us.

Being encouraged to give of our time, our talents, and our treasure to faithfully further the mission of our Chapel is a common Stewardship theme...one that we joyfully embrace or maybe stoically endure each Fall. However, there is an even more important word in our Core Value statement on Stewardship than this overused trio and that is the word...together.

As individuals we only have so much time to give to the ministries of the Chapel. Each of us has talents but none of us, by ourselves, has all the talents needed to shepherd our Chapel through an entire year. All of us are building, creating, or sitting on some amount of financial resources but none of us can singlehandedly fund all our Chapel's efforts to serve the needs of the people of this community. But, together...faithfully sharing our time, talents, and treasure, we can preach and teach and live the good news of the love of Christ with all who can be blessed by God through our efforts and self-sacrifices.

This concept of the power and strength of "togetherness" was recognized six years ago when the vision statement that was to guide us as we boldly sought to move our Chapel into the future was adopted by the congregation:

Growing into God's Call...Together!

Only by combining all our time, talents, and treasure can we be the church in this place, share our love for God, and be the light of Jesus to our community. What is most certain is that it will take all of us working together, giving together, and praying together.