

“DEFINING STEWARDSHIP”

Stewardship 2020

One of my favorite definitions of stewardship is “Everything we do after we say, ‘I believe.’” For me, stewardship is an all-encompassing concept, calling for the proper use of all the resources that God has given us, whether it relates to our time, talents, or financial resources.

Gratitude knows no season. Generosity is a year-round expectation for all Christians. However, we are conditioned to define ‘stewardship’ as a Fall campaign and to confine it to a few weeks, designed to fund a congregation’s operating budget. When we define stewardship in this limited way, we’re misunderstanding our Christian mandate, and putting God in a very tiny box thus diminishing His call on our lives.

The Christian path of proclaiming and responding to God’s generosity is a year-round calling. Being good stewards is an essential job for all congregations. When stewardship is understood as the right use of the resources God has given us, it touches all aspects of our lives.

Stewardship – and, at this time of year, pledging our financial support – is the foundation on which our Church life is built; our worship, outreach, music ministry, children’s programs, the care and maintenance of our grounds and buildings. Pledge income represents the vast majority of St. Andrew’s operating budget. It is the act of pledging that helps us plan for how we allocate resources to our various ministries.

Stewardship and pledging is not so much about giving away part of our possessions as it has to do with accepting the responsibility for possessions that have been entrusted to us by God. We are not the owners. We have been given these resources by a generous God who calls us to manage them wisely. We are stewards of God’s grace, not masters of God’s riches.

In every aspect of our church life together – our youth programs, outreach, buildings and grounds, and all our other ministries – there’s a lot more to be done. With God’s help, we can, and will, meet this challenge.

Blessings+

Chuck Ingersoll