Good morning Grace! I am Butch Patteson. My wife and I moved here this spring. I'm now on the Property Committee and was asked by stewardship to talk about volunteering. That "talent" thing.

Talent is most commonly thought of as a skill or ability, but in the Bible, it's also a currency. So we could think of our talents as spending ourselves for the good of all.

And while you may be unsure about volunteering, if you're worried there isn't a task you can do, or if you think you don't know people well enough to figure out where your talents are needed or whatever…let me assure you, we're all needed. There is a lot of volunteering happening in this church; people performing the functions of our committees, opportunities to serve our neighbors outside the church; little jobs and big jobs here in the church building; many, many people here today volunteer in some capacity. And still more volunteers are needed. There is absolutely a way that we can use your talent and time to do God's work here.

In the catechism of the Church, big C, a sacrament is described "as an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace". Embodying leadership by volunteering in the church is not only a vital need for the health and wellbeing of the church, it is also is an outward and visible sign of our faith. It sustains the church for the people and sustains the people of the church.

Last week Sabrina talked about the HEART of the church. The sustaining of the church. In the ancient world, the heart was considered the center of one's personality. In Latin, heart is "cor", c-o-r, or in French c-o-u-r, and from that root we have many words in our language. One of my favorites is **courage**…to have courage is "to have heart," and to **encourage** someone is "to give heart." From this we also get **record**, "to learn by heart," and **accord**, "to be of one heart."

Volunteering, giving of your self, your "heart", your inner self, is using yourself for the good of others, for the good of the church.

That is one of the qualities that makes us Christians.

Our church, our community, has many needs. Showing leadership by taking on responsibilities, volunteering to help, being open to the needs of the church, helps fulfill those needs, and, showing that leadership, that heart, helps to encourage others. To give them your heart.

If you have questions or want to know more about how you might help, or you want to find your opportunity to help sustain the church: talk to someone around you, write a note on the Tear and Share slips we put in the collection plate letting us know of your interest, call the church office, or email Katherine, our Parish Administrator. In the narthex there are some flyers about the Property Committee. This church is a complicated piece of property. Little jobs, big jobs, you can only imagine how much there is to get accomplished. Other committees are listed on the back of the flyer. My name and number are on the flyer, and I can use your talents for the good of our church.

See you in church. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.