**Stewardship January Article**

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and Thrivent Financial the **LCOC Gratitude Brunch on November 18th** was a meaningful and successful time of sharing stories of thankfulness, good food and fellowship while giving back to the community with 231 pounds of food collected for ACTS. Everyone there also was inspired by the super videos filmed by Daniel Owusu featuring Jennifer Brooks from Neabsco Elementary, Sonya Wichelt, moms from the homeschool group that meets at LCOC, and Mohammed from Iraq whose family has enjoyed welcoming hospitality here. Each shared what God's love and work here have meant to them.

The Untrim a Tree initiative is completed and 20 children from the Kerrydale area of our community and 4 others from Neabsco Elementary will have a merrier Christmas thanks to the love and generosity shown by our members.

Everyone who was part of Breakfast With Santa was blessed to meet, have fun with, and share love with the 150 or so children and parents who attended. The smiles and happy buzz of activity were priceless. Again, another ministry made possible through the generosity of Thrivent Financial and YOU!

The excitement and opportunities will continue on into 2019-our 50th anniversary year! We will be featuring remembrances of what has been accomplished over the last five decades, fun events, and more opportunities to make new connections towards our goal of 50 new, actively engaged people at LCOC. The New Connections Campaign will also feature ways to generously provide for LCOC to become even more up to date and vital and do God's work in the community even more effectively. People want to be part of something bigger and are often just waiting to be asked. Please be part of this!

In the coming year we will be working on more connectivity within our service areas too as Daniel Owusu joins the Council as the Stewardship Chair and Patti Beattie moves to Evangelism. We will be having these areas work together and will need everyone's help and support to invite and engage people to service for our generous and powerful God.

Please continue to share your gifts and talents as the Spirit leads in the variety of ministries provided through LCOC. Thank you also for your generosity in your financial commitment and consider using the Vanco option which can be accessed online at: <https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco> if you haven’t already done so. Please consider becoming a Thrivent member as well and if you already are a member and use Thrivent products, make use of the Action Team funds that are available to help fund LCOC’s ministry projects.

Let us continue to share our love and gifts and make new connections through the Holy Spirit every day, and everywhere we go.

With love,

Patti Beattie