

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

God calls us as disciples of Jesus Christ to be generous in all of our relationships and commitments. Stewardship implies that we have the responsibility to care for something which is not totally our own possession. We acknowledge that all we are and have is a gift from God. A disciple practices generosity as a spiritual discipline in response to God's grace and love. Our ability to give and be generous emerges from a spirit of thankfulness and not obligation. Generosity as a spiritual discipline develops with repeated action. Whether rich or poor, we each have opportunities to learn how to be generous. We share with a sense of gratitude rather than indebtedness. When we are in service to others, we are in service to God. Our expression of love for God, self and others includes prayer, service and sharing through the proper use of our time, talents and treasure.

Stewardship is:

- a matter of living out our vocation as Christians
- the proper and generous use of our time, talent and treasures
- all that we do with our lives after reciting our baptismal vows
- about joyfully returning to God a portion of that bounty which God has bestowed upon us
- a relationship with God that both receives and gives, making all things possible
- an act of love, freedom and generosity - not an act of obligation, duty or social expectation
- inherently an expression of devotion to God, from whom all blessings flow
- primarily concerned with the development of individuals and their place as members of the Body of Christ
- concerned with the vocational development of the individual
- based on respect for individuals and their place in a community of faith
- the generous spending of ourselves in the fulfillment of our baptismal covenant
- a vocation to be worked out with, and within, the whole Body of Christ, the Church
- a belief that offerings stem from people's commitment to their faith and community
- an invitation to everyone to be generous according to their ability