

On Stewardship

When the Stewardship Committee approached me with the task of addressing you on the subject of annual giving, I thought that I, of all people, may be the least qualified to admonish the congregation on the matter of financial generosity. But when I think back to the words of other members who have spoken on the subject, I recall the abundant evidence how this small but remarkable parish has brought hope, meaning and joy into the lives of many members. Moreover, St. Davids has reached out into the community not just in the form of prayer and positive intention, but has made tangible material contributions that touch the Community at large.

When I take all these factors into account, it makes it much easier to address the issue of Stewardship and its impact on each and every one of us.

My first realization is that the word Stewardship has little meaning to us other than the way we use the term in the sense of conscientious giving. The term clearly came into being in the context of Monarchy, and the role of Stewards as part of the infrastructure that upheld the Sovereign as head of the Realm.

But we who are no longer subjects of Monarchy have lost our sense of connection of the original sense of the term. Stewardship now applies to our sense of responsibility to uphold the things that we hold dear:

- Good stewardship in behalf of the environment
- Good stewardship in behalf of our families
- Good stewardship in behalf of our community and nation
- Good stewardship in behalf of the institutions that uphold our valued traditions, ethics, and faith in a Higher Power above us.

St. Davids is one such institution that deserves our care and patronage. Why? Does the Scripture not proclaim, “by their fruits shall you know them?”

Let St. Davids stand on its own record:

- Look around you and you will see a congregation that takes pride in standing fast for justice, service, and social inclusion.
- The Parish of St. Davids is not merely an assembly of disparate individuals, divided by ideology; but rather “Community” united by common cause; driven forward by the richness of our ecclesiastical tradition.

So, why should we embrace the imperative of Stewardship? I think it is because when we look around us, we see Community that Matters (in the Latin sense of the word *communitas*, community bound by unity of purpose); Tradition that Nurtures us, and Mission that makes us wealthy both in mind and Spirit. Those, at least, are a few of the reasons I think each of us should give serious thought to the matter of generosity because we know that the community of St. Davids is Community that Matters.

Thank you for your attention

Bob Dodd

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