



The First Word

THE PASTOR'S PEN (Disciples of Christ)



August 29th, 2018

“With a Grateful Heart”

As you perhaps know our church family will be using *“With a Grateful Heart”* as the theme for our 2019 Stewardship Campaign. Stewardship is such a positive description of the interaction between the Creator and the created ones. Stewardship speaks of the relationship we share as sisters and brothers in Christ, and how we understand God as the “giver of every good and perfect gift.”

So, it seems very appropriate to see our stewardship as a matter of the heart. Thus, we understand stewardship is closely connected with gratitude and that which gives life, health, strength and vitality. I came across a prayer that spoke to the positive and holistic understanding of stewardship saying:

*“God sing your song onto our lips.
God dance your Life into our lives.
O Lord who forever asks “Whom shall I send
and who will go for us? Bless your servants now
as we answer: “Here am I, send me.”
...Capture our hearts with an explosion of Love
that passes understanding. That we might touch
the hearts of this world to shalom.”*

Stewardship is about much more than paying the church’s bills. Rather we see it as a way to participate in the mission of God’s church. It can be seen as our opportunity to partner with God in changing lives.

In our giving we are seeking meaningful ways to “worship, witness and work for the glory of God.” As a church we are encouraging one another to step up our giving that our budget for ministry will be a platform where the gospel is shared and celebrated.

In our worship service during the campaign we will be singing the hymn *Give Thanks* each Sunday and one of our members will be sharing a stewardship moment as we encourage and celebrate every opportunity to come before God “With a Grateful Heart.” I look forward to sharing this part of the journey with you.

Grace and peace,

Don McLaughlin

