

TIME TO THINK STEWARDSHIP!

Yes, St. Philip's, we are blessed again to have the opportunity to think stewardship, our humble **response to God's great love** for us in Jesus Christ our Lord!

You have been asked to pledge your financial support for the Lord's work, here at St. Philip's and beyond - and what a wonderful opportunity that is!

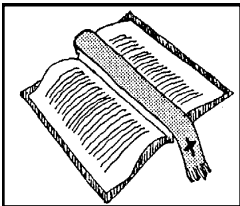
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Of course, stewardship is not just about money. It is really about a **style of life** which embodies our **thankfulness** to God for everything we have received from Him.

Stewardship really recognizes that our entire life is a gift from God. We've said it before, and we will say it again and again, because it is so important to understand: **We really own nothing!** Everything is on loan to us from God!

In the Scriptures, God is never depicted in miserly terms. God is always extravagant in His grace and goodness, even overwhelming, in that He showers His blessings on both the sinner and the saint, the ungrateful and the grateful!

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I know of no Scripture that encourages God's people to be anything but generous toward the Lord and others. I know of no Scripture that directs God's people to be cheap and stingy. Never is miserliness held up as an example for us.

I know of no saint who is an example for God's people because he or she did little on behalf of Christ. No one is complimented for doing as little as possible. Nowhere are God's people instructed to wait until they have everything they want, before they are generous with their lives for others.

Stewardship is really a reflection of our faith in, and gratitude to, the God whom we say we love and serve. On the basis of that, **how can we be anything but willing and enthusiastic witnesses** to God's generosity and love to us?

Let us seize the moment, and gladly take the opportunity to **grow in thankfulness to God**, as we pledge our "thank you" to God at St. Philip's.

a reflection
of faith and
gratitude to
God