

Presentation on Stewardship
by Robert Lewis
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The banners for the bazaar are revised for the proper date each year by 2 brothers who own a sign company in Lorton, Va. Chances are very high neither brother will ever attend our bazaar or see this church. Years ago they were customers of mine and I asked if they would make the needed changes to the banners. They said yes but refused to take any money. After that bazaar and each one since, the church and Eleanor and I have given them a gallon of stew. Hannah always holds out 2 quarts and we add 2 more from what we buy. For the 2 brothers it is an act of helping with no thought of anything in return. They really like the stew which they make into a lunch for their employees and just a thank you would be sufficient. This interaction is stewardship..... it is giving without expectation of anything in return.

Although we are all.... already into Bazaar mode, the stewardship committee is recognizing that stewardship is continuous, a year round part of our life together and we know the bazaar is that work in a highly focused effort. So what follows is one member of that committee's thoughts based in part on sermons given to us by Emily:

- ❖ Life is physical, spiritual, practical, surprising, deadly and wonderful. And hundreds of other adjectives with colorful exclamations.
- ❖ Church is community, worship, music, prayer, work, faith, sad and joyous. And being about discipleship for Christ.
- ❖ Faith is believing into the unknowable.
- ❖ Giving is letting go for other things and other people.
- ❖ Budget is about time and money. About how much is enough. And which type of budget: finance this first and that last, the ordering of importance.
- ❖ Is church support a number, a percentage, a gift or an obligation?
- ❖ Knowledge is the numbers needed to keep the church and its works going.

- ❖ Wisdom is using all of the above to understand and then deciding to act.
- ❖ Stewardship is a lifelong thank you to God for the past, this moment and the future. Our thank you is our pledge.
- ❖ Through prayer and faith and work and by the Grace of God: Stewardship is how the work gets done.

We are here because of the faith, prayers, work and contributions of people we never knew.

Think and Pray about the Life of Christ, your life and the life of Church of Our Saviour for today, next year and where you want it to be after we are no longer here. Then decide where you are in the Stewardship of this church and your life in the world.