

Reflections for Friday 17 April 2020

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

¹We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ²for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, ⁴begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints —

I listened to a webinar on funding ministry during social distancing, it was informative and really made me think about how we approach stewardship. I have long believed that stewardship is defined as everything you do after you say you believe. Stewardship becomes then a way of life and it involves all aspects of our lives.

At St. John's Windish we have been intentional about stewardship on a regular basis for a couple of years recognizing that it involves how we use our time, our talents, and our resources. One of the things I have learned is that people are generous givers when they are committed to your mission and see how you are making a difference in the lives of people. At this time when our buildings are closed our communities of faith are alive and working to transform lives. Think about how many people are reached by our live stream and recorded services. We are sending daily emails and mailing packets to those who do not have internet access. We are calling each other to see how things are going and identifying needs in our communities. We are thinking creatively about ministry in a time of physical distancing. We are proclaiming the Good News of our Risen Savior every day.

I am thankful and blessed to be a part of this emerging community of faith. It also means that even though I can not put an envelope in the offering plate I still believe in our mission and in the ministries, we are doing to transform lives. One way that I show my appreciation and support is to provide a weekly offering using an online app from Vanco. Technology offers us not only ways to do ministry and connect with each other it also allows us to be generous givers. I pray that you too would see the ways we are transforming lives in our community of faith and contribute financially. Whether you are a member of St. John's Windish and use the Vanco app or PayPal for members of the UPG your offerings are crucial to our ministries. Thank you for your generosity, you truly make a difference.

In Peace,

Pastor Suzanne