Stewardship Talk --- October 27, 2019

Susan Moss, Senior Warden

Shining Our Light:

> *You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.* Matthew 5:14-16.

St. David's stands as such a light in our community, thanks to each of you.
It is slightly daunting to follow Mother Liz's sermon on Stewardship last Sunday.
And now, to speak to you after our Junior Warden Hogan wrote so graciously about how each of us here at St. David's is a living example of light bearers.

It is easy for us to worry about whether we are doing or giving enough of our gifts and treasure. However, I believe in this chaotic, materialistic world around us that God is smiling on St. David's. We have been through some trying years, but let's take some time to consider where we are now. Consider the blessings! Our pastor, Mother Liz, our loving Deacon Debbie, We have a treasurer, Eric Seidelman, to oversee our financial health. And we have a faithful, talented, loving group of parishioners.
So now we are finding a new way to experience God's blessings by sharing our beautiful church and grounds with fellow Christians, 7th day Adventists and New Hope/Nueva Esperanza Lutheran congregations. These blessings have allowed us to share not just our facilities, but also our faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ during a time of scarce resources for many churches. St. David's is now a community space; a tremendous blessing as well as an awesome responsibility.

I am going to remind you that we are unusually blessed at St. David's by the absence of financial debt. Not the case for many congregations. That does not however, relieve our obligation to maintain our buildings and grounds. With help from New Hope Lutheran, we have been able to air condition our undercroft. That improvement will increase use of that space during the summer months. Think of the possibilities of offering hospitality to our surrounding community! (Thank you Hogan! Our blessed scientist, and grateful overseer of buildings and grounds)

And, although our "nesting" congregations have helped relieve the strain of monthly expenses, we must consider maintenance and improvements a necessary component to our continued relationship with them.

Our blessings require our gratitude along with the acceptance of our responsibility.
We are dealing with sixty-year old buildings that are in need of upkeep. It is important to develop a "rainy-day" fund. We would like to include that in our annual budget which will be presented in January. Hogan mentioned some of our more urgent concerns for rectory maintenance in his letter.
St. David's cannot afford to let that building deteriorate through neglect.
It is a valuable asset.

Stewardship is not just about "how much can I afford to give?"
That is a personal commitment between you and God. So I want to thank each of you who help in many ways to support St. David's with your time, talents and treasure.
We are a wonderful group of God's children, doing His work in this blessed place and in the world. We are a light in our community. Our obvious love for each other is manifested in our very outgoing Passing of the Peace on Sundays, so, thank you!

I am going to reiterate the mention of needing your talent. Sunday attendance is up! And we love to see that parking lot full of cars. It is great to see more people in the pews! That said, we need help with our services on Sunday. We need LEMS. We need Greeters. We need help with coffee hour and Altar Guild. We would love to re-establish our choir. Eric can always use help with Laundry Love.
Please prayerfully consider how your gifts and talents might help.
There will not be a grade on performance!

We are here at St. David's to do God's work. Not to do it perfectly, just to do it.
God created you and blessed you, and wants you and all his people to have joy.
So using your gifts to further develop your relationship with others will make you feel good and God smile.

In closing I would like to return to our reading today from the book of Sirach.
"Give to the Most High as He has given to you,
and as generously as you can afford.
For The Lord is the One who repays, and He will repay you sevenfold.

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