



## Stewardship Moment

Stewardship is about giving. Peter says in chapter 4 of his first epistle, verse 10-11, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." I must confess that upon first reading this, I felt compelled to follow this command, as a form of discipline that is required. In other words, I felt this verse pointed me to a "work" that should be accomplished in return for receiving grace. It wasn't until later, I zeroed in on the part that says we've each received a gift. What are these gifts we've received?

We have been given no less than eternal life (John 3:16). We have been given the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). And from the Holy Spirit we have been given spiritual gifts (Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12). In his Easter sermon, Pastor Rich spoke about victory, that is, Christ's ultimate victory, His victory over death. He said that because we have been given a relationship with Christ, "His victory can be your victory." Wow. We've been given a relationship with the Creator, and His victory. John Wesley spoke of "the means of grace," ways in which God works invisibly in us to quicken and strengthen our faith. Indeed one of the gifts we've been given is the transformation that is taking place, through the Holy Spirit. As Paul said, "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness, with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." (2 Cor 3:18)

After taking stock of "the gift each of you has received," Peter's command doesn't seem like a type of "work" at all. Sharing gifts not only is "a means of grace," but a small way to show honor for all we have received. Sharing the gifts we have received is quite simply a rewarding way to honor our Lord for all He has given us. The opportunity to honor someone with whom we have a relationship, someone who we care about, or someone we love is a rewarding and joyful opportunity. We have been given this opportunity, by simply sharing our gifts with one another.

Al Bradford



## Lenten Soup Suppers & Easter Egg Hunts

This year the attendance at the soup suppers continued to grow until the last several were averaging about fifty people. We want to thank all those who brought soup, salad, or bread (and many people brought food multiple times.)

The devotions made our time together more meaningful and we are grateful to Pastor Rich, Pastor Ed, Wes Hensley, Ellis Tiffany, Alan Bradford, and Amy Ochoa for giving us something to ponder each week. Thanks to each one of you.

We especially appreciate Nancy Hodge and the others who stepped in to take charge of the evenings when we were unable to be there. What a blessing to be part of such a loving, supportive church family. Thank you all.

These suppers were free but donations to feed the hungry in our community would be accepted. People were very generous and around \$730.00 will be divided between the Living Bread Ministry and the fund for the holiday baskets which our church provides. We know it will be appreciated.

Several people commented that the Lenten devotion books deepened their appreciation for this holy season. We hope that is true for others of you as well.

The Easter Egg Hunts are the responsibility of our committee but this year the major part of the work was done by Amy and some of the Youth. A big thanks to all of you who brought in the filled plastic eggs. It was fun to watch the youngsters enjoying looking for eggs after each of the Easter morning services. It is a joy to see so many young families at church these days.

Mary Netzer & Linda Archibald  
Co-chairs Family Ministries

