

## May 2017

Stewards of the gift of life. Being a steward is taking care of, maintaining and enhancing that which is given to you on loan...for a time...and for a specified purpose.

In our specific case as God's church, we have been called to manage the gift of our lives, with all of its many benefits, as well as its varied shortcomings to fulfill God's revealed purposes...a carefully "prayed up" vision.

It is critical element of my calling as your pastor to cast a vision that isn't too small or shallow or easy; for loving God with our whole selves — body , mind, spirit, passions, creativity, energy, courage and hope is a tall order. It calls us to a very high standard of being and relating, marked by spiritual maturity and self-sacrifice. It comes from knowing the depth of love God has demonstrated to us in giving His Son, Jesus, to die for us; and defeat death for us.

Remember Simeon and Anna in the Temple (Luke 2:21-38), they had been waiting and hoping their whole lives to give themselves, to something meaningful, and then Jesus was born...the long-awaited Savior of the world. We all look for and long for purposeful ways to invest ourselves. It's what gives life its zest and opens us up to love, and beauty, and joy. Many people have lost hope that they will ever find such fulfillment, but you and I know of it and are daily discovering it and choosing to live into it. This means we have something of vital and tremendous worth to share. We call it the Gospel or "good news", and we are stewards of this good news.

Every Sunday you come together at Skipwith Church because you have found significance, joy and mutual support in being stewards of your lives. Together we believe we are a part of something that is much bigger than ourselves...w way of life that promotes healing, wholeness and a sense of community.

So with your help I'm seeking to cast a "God sized vision" that will require you to bring all that you are and all that you are becoming to the altar. ..your faith, your intellect, your hope, your energy, your creativity, your money, your physical resources, your honesty, your compassion, your brokenness, your courage, your commitment...all of yourselves. To bring everything you are and to commit it to Christ is a growing

vision for us. This life we have is a gift. It is not owed to any of us. Let's choose to be faithful stewards (care-takers, maintainers, embracers and communicators) of it.

Throughout the month of May we will be challenged to grow in the many facets of stewardship. On Consecration Sunday, May 28, we will have the opportunity to offer tangible evidences of our desire to live and grow as faithful stewards of God's gift of life and faith and ministry.

~ PASTOR TODD