

August 2007

Dear Friends,

This year the scriptural focus of our stewardship campaign is Matthew 6:19-21:

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

Our relationship to the Father as His children is a most remarkable and incredible relationship. What a blessing it is to know that we are the Father's children and we can depend upon Him to meet all our needs. We can go before Him in prayer at all times, in all circumstances. Yet, it is so easy for most of us to allow other things to pull us away from the significance of that relationship and to vie for our attention. We seek temporary things for security and satisfaction rather than seeking a closer relationship with God.

The heart is the control center for life. The things we hold near and dear to our hearts represent our treasures. Scripture warns us how outside factors such as moths, rust, and thieves easily rob us of our earthly treasures. In today's world these outside factors may be a new car, stylish clothes, or the latest technological gadget. Such treasures are only temporary and can vanish all too quickly. God calls us to seek heavenly treasures instead. Seeking heavenly treasure means serving others and honoring God by doing so.

God truly has great plans for our parish community and ministry. Vestry members continue to work diligently seeking God's guidance for our parish mission and vision plans. Many new and exciting opportunities for serving others and honoring God are arising. Now is the time to reflect on the gifts that God has sent to our parish and to each of us individually. It is also a time to prayerfully consider where our treasure is. Do we treasure a deeper, closer relationship with God through serving others? Do we treasure working for peace and justice? Do we treasure being good stewards?

We have much to be thankful for as members of Saint Andrew's. We have a beautiful location and spacious facilities. We have a dedicated Vestry and a very knowledgeable priest. We have talented music leaders and a joyful choir. We have enthusiastic volunteers and ministry groups. All of these blessings are in Christ's name. When we give, we merely give back to God what is His own. All we have should be under the direction of the Lord and our stewardship should honor Him. Our giving to God should be "from the top" not from what remains. Sacrificial stewardship strengthens our faith and nurtures our soul. Prayerfully consider increasing your regular gift to St. Andrew's. Prayerfully consider allowing your heart to reflect the love of Christ Jesus to others through your

service. Remember that you are returning to God from the blessings he has sent you and commit to reaching the tithe as a minimum standard of stewardship.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Laurie Ayers  
Senior Warden