

“Stewardship”

by Fay Schroeder

Sunday, October 27, 2019 (Trunk-or-Treat)

We are in the middle of our stewardship campaign. You will soon be receiving another letter along with your pledge card. As you contemplate your pledge think of today's scripture as well. Your heart will always be where your treasure is. This was a stewardship theme a few years ago. Pastor Laura did not know this when she chose this passage.

One of my greatest treasures is my family. Many of you already know this because I talk of them so much. Another is the many friends I have. There have been many times in my life when I leaned heavily on the love and support of my friends from outside and inside this church.

This church has become a great treasure in my life as well. As I just stated, I am grateful for the love and support this church has given me through the last 40 plus years (not sure how that happened since I am only 29).

Our church is a wonderful treasure to so many in the community as well. There are so many of you that provide a lot of volunteer hours here as well as the community by singing in the choir, playing bells, teaching Sunday School, cleaning the yard, fixing things around the church, working at the food bank, Blessings in a Backpack, and Habitat for Humanities, to name a few.

We all know that our church is not just a building and it is not just the people either. It is both. We use our church for our weekly worship service, meetings, weddings, funerals, and many other community events such as Trunk or Treat, later today.

Now the part that we don't want to think about but need to in order to succeed. This year, we passed an expense budget of \$127,875.00 with an expected positive balance of \$1,609.00 with almost 90% of the income to cover the expenses from your pledges.

In 2020, we are expected to have higher expenses because we now have a settled pastor (yea!) and as usual all the other expenses increase due to inflation.

Your pledge is very important to the heart and treasure of our church. It helps not only to sustain the building, but it helps us all, young and old, to know the way Jesus wanted us to live treasuring God, others, and ourselves

For the year 2020, the Executive Board is diligently working on a balanced budget. This will only happen when all of us prayerfully contemplate on our pledge. I will never forget that during one of Russ Brown's stewardship moments, he suggested that those of us who purchase coffee at the more costly coffee shops skip buying coffee one day and put that money into the offering plate. That year, I thought of several other times that I spent money that could have been used for our church. I am sure that each of us has at least one time during the year that we could do this. I am not saying that you must, but it is an idea to think about.

When you receive your letter and pledge card, I hope you think of your treasures and remember that that is where your heart is as you complete your pledge.

Thank you.