

Children's Message
10.26.08

Good morning.

Did you notice on the front of your offering envelopes it says, "Steward's name?" I have to admit that I was expecting at least one person to ask me what a steward is by now. But not one person has. I guess that means that everyone knows what a steward is, right?

Let me see if I can explain. Have you ever been to a store and heard over the announcements, "MOD to the customer service counter, MOD to aisle three?" What's an MOD? Do you know? It's the Manager On Duty. So, what does a manager do? Right- they are in charge of the store and do all the duties to make it run smoothly and they do it because that's what the owner of the store hired them to do. Basically- they run the show for the owner.

If you look up steward in the dictionary- you may find the definition that says a steward is someone who manages a household or an estate for the owner. (Like a manager for a store.) Well, that's pretty close to what we think of as a steward here in church. A steward (which we all are) is the manager of the affairs of God on earth. That is a huge job. Managing the affairs of God on earth?! That is certainly asking a whole lot of us, isn't it? 'Cuz when I stop and think about it- isn't everything here on earth God's affair? I certainly hope we are getting paid well for that job!

And we are-just last week we talked about how everything we have is a gift from God- everything. And we talked about how giving back to God is our thank you note to God for all of those things. But being a good steward is truly more than just saying thank you. We have to say thank you *and* take care of those gifts.

Like our life. Every life is a gift from God. We have to take care of the life that God has given us. That's why we eat healthy food, wear a bike helmet, put on a seat belt. But it is even more than that. Being a good steward of life means that we have to use our gifts to care for the lives of others. Some people do that by being doctors or nurses, other people do that by working in a soup kitchen, other people do that by saving lives working in the police department or fire department or working for EMS.

And what about the gift of time? We have to be good stewards of that, too. Whatever time we have on earth is a gift from God and we have to use it well and wisely. And, in order to be a truly good steward, we have to give of our time, too. Every minute of every day can't be used just for you and what you want to do- remember we are "The Manager On Duty" for God's affairs, so we need to give time to help, somehow- maybe you are good at building- so you help at Habitat for Humanity; maybe you are a good cook- so you cook for OPEN M; maybe you're good at math- so you tutor kids who need extra help; maybe you're a great gardener- so you help keep the town beautiful by planting the town gardens.

And what about the gift of family and friends? That is a huge gift, too. In order to be the MOD, we can't just take our family and friends for granted. We have to care for those relationships by caring for those people. We need to listen, to love, to care, to help, to laugh with all of those people.

So now, when you see that line on your envelopes that says STEWARD'S NAME- you know what that means- that's you! So write your name in that space and do it proudly, knowing that's your job- YOU are the Manager on Duty here on earth for God.

Pastor Sue Ann, will you please lead us in a prayer?