

October, 2014

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Dear Members and Friends of Grace Church:

What an exciting time of year as the beauty of God's creation is evident in displays of spectacular colors throughout the Berkshire region. The children, youth, and farm workers are deep into the harvesting process in Gideon's Garden at Taft Farms. The many ministries of Grace Church are in full swing. And, not the least in these exciting times, we have welcomed The Reverend Janet Zimmerman along with her husband Sey, into the church and broader communities. Our prayers were answered in multiples as Janet accepted the Call from Grace Church as Priest-in-Charge.

"Walking the Way" Stewardship Narrative Series has been included in the Sunday Worship program, starting October 5 for six weeks, and online through Tuesday's Child. We hope this series will be a guide for prayerful reflection as we consider how intentional giving deepens our walk with Christ and supports life-giving ministries to our community and beyond. The Stewardship team is meeting throughout the year to keep focusing on ways to promote giving and sharing. This has been evident, over the last year, in the One Minute Sermons celebrating the wide range of ministries at Grace Church. More recently, this measure has broadened into a congregation-inspired Gratitude Moment each Sunday.

Your support of Grace Church means more than helping to pay operational bills. We are witnessing lives being changed for children and adults as they collaborate at Gideon's Garden. This spills over to the products they produce to support the food pantries in Great Barrington, Lee, and other locations. The recent series of Community Suppers is another aspect where Grace Church goes well beyond Sunday mornings!

The Stewardship team will be in intentional prayer that all will remain open to letting the Holy Spirit lead and guide each member and friend of Grace Church in a faithful response. We will pray that your giving will come from a deep abiding sense of gratitude for the gift of this community. This will culminate with the Ingathering on Sunday, November 9. If you are unable to attend the worship service that day, please return the enclosed pledge card to the church office.

With prayerful thanks, in advance.

Stewardship Committee

Viola Bagnaschi, John Cheek, Tom Doyle, Pat Edelstein

and The Reverend Janet Zimmerman