

STONE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

October 29, 2023

Stewardship Series

Beyond the Offering Plate: A Holistic Approach to Stewardship

"While work refers to labor, activity, exertion, and effort to produce, accomplish or affect something, we too easily equate it with a job.

The work of making our lives includes parenting, creating a neighborhood, serving on a church committee or school board, keeping a household, and visiting an elderly family member; all this is a kind of labor and effort that has purpose and needs to be valued." - Kathleen Cahalan

WELCOME Pastor Ben

PRELUDE *Homeward Bound* Marta Keen/
Loren & Donna Rhodes arr. Mark Wilberg

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by a prayer by Edward Hays) Pastor Ben

One: Family of faith, you are stewards of God's grace!

**All: The work we do in the world is done
in companionship with God;**

One: It embodies God's handiwork

All: In the joy of doing it for its own sake

One: In our releasing ownership of it,

All: In our invitation to others to share in it,

One: In the ways it draws us near to God.

All: Praise the Lord - we are stewards of God's grace!

*SONG *Praise, I Will Praise You Lord*[^] 76

SCRIPTURE READING I Peter 4: 7-11 Henry Elder

HOLISTIC STEWARDSHIP Carolyn Lidston, Deacons

*SONG *In My Life, God, Be Glorified*[^] Bob Kirkpatrick

In my life, God, be glorified, be glorified.
In my life, God, be glorified, today.

In my heart, God, be glorified, be glorified.
In my heart, God, be glorified, today.

In my work, God, be glorified, be glorified.
In my work, God, be glorified, today.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN Pastor Cindy

SONG *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*[^] 307 vs 1,2,3

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY Pastor Ben

CHORAL RESPONSE *You Call Us, Lord*[^] Jane Marshall
(see insert)

MESSAGE Stewarding Grace Pastor Cindy

*SONG *Lord, Speak to Me*^{^^} 499 vs 1,3,5,6

*SENDING Pastor Cindy

POSTLUDE *Lord, Speak to Me* Robert Schumann/
Loren Rhodes arr. Lani Smith

**Please Rise, as Able, in Body or Spirit*

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Let us know you were here!

Scan the code to fill out the

Attendance Form:



You Call Us, Lord^

Jane Marshall

You call us, Lord, to be a people set apart,
To feel with thoughtful mind and think with tender heart.
Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask
For faith in your unfailing grace to make us equal to the task.

You call us, Lord, to be good stewards of the earth;
To tend it as a place of blessedness and worth.
Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask
For faith in your unfailing grace to make us equal to the task.

You call us, Lord, to care for self and neighbor too,
To take the risk and dare to show what God can do.
Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask
For faith in your unfailing grace to make us equal to the task.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Are you in a job where you can be a grateful steward of your work? If not, are there ways your gifts are flourishing elsewhere?

Are there other places in my life - at home, at church, or in the community - where I do the work that is my calling?

Next Week on November 5th:

BAPTISM AND WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS!

Please make plans **NOW** to be part of worship to join in the joy of renewing our commitment to each other in the Stone community.

How might our Stone Church Community be and/or become a place that welcomes lifelong discernment, recognizing and embracing God's gifts among us?