Week 3, lay reader talk

(It would even more effective to have a member give a personal testimonial.)

**Stewards Living with Purpose**

This is the third week of our stewardship emphasis, **Everyday Stewards**. Today’s theme is “Stewards Living with Purpose.” As God’s people, we are called to work diligently in our service to others and to extend God’s kingdom. The Apostle Paul wrote, *“Be steadfast…always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain”* (1 Corinthians 15:58). God wants us to *“walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”* (Colossians 1:10).When we are productive people in His kingdom, we give God glory.

As Christians, we are called into ministry. Through faith we become more than just spectators. Just as Jesus ministered to the people of His time, we are to do the same today*.* Our ministries take place in our homes, in our neighborhoods, in our churches, and in our places of work. Jesus said, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”* (Matthew 28:19-20). Reaching out to the lost is at the very heart of our ministry. We have in Christ the saving truth of the Gospel that all people need to hear.

As people of faith, our purpose is not to live for ourselves but for Jesus Who *“died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised”* (2 Corinthians 5:15). In our lives as stewards, we can, with God’s help, put Him first in all things. *“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:31). When we serve, let us serve *“by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ”* (1 Peter 4:11).

When we commit our lives and resources to His service, we will hear Him say, *“Well done, good and faithful servant!”* (Matthew 25:23).