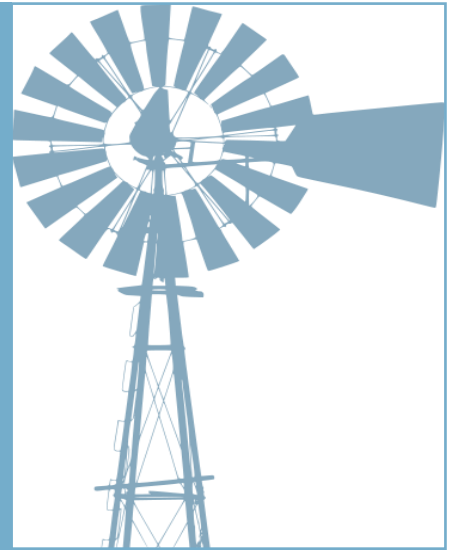


WINDMILL OCTOBER 2022 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—KERRVILLE

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES GROWING TOWARD

GOD-CENTERED WORSHIP • CHRIST-CENTERED SERVICE

SPIRIT-LED LIVES



Stewardship: A Life-Changer

By Pastor Jack Haberer

Stewardship Season is upon us. As one with three academic degrees in faith-related fields of study, I love to dig into the depths of historical and philosophical theology. But I also am bent toward practicality and clarity and community. I hang out with normal folks – most of whom don't think a whole lot about historical and philosophical theology. So, when we turn the calendar to the Stewardship Season, I get a great joy out of it. This is one of those places where theology and practicality join forces together.

My parents both had advanced degrees in their fields, but they also were practical people. One way they taught me to be practical was to regularly ask, "What are the five double-yous?" ...that is, the "5-W's": the Who, What, When, Where, Why ...and How ...of any subject at hand?

When it comes to Stewardship, here and now in our congregation's life, let's take a look at the 5-W's and how! Please allow me to put them in a different order:

What: Stewardship is a radical outlook on life. In our national, capitalist economy, we are taught to earn, to own, to purchase, to save, to repurpose, to sell, to borrow, to pay back, to give (especially via an inheritance). Life is commoditized, measured in such categories as cash-on-hand, liabilities, and equity. Or, simply, income-and-expenses. Stewardship embraces such commoditizing but flips it over: dare I to say, it turns it right-side up. It turns self-centered accumulation of goods into generous sharing of goods. It considers such matters from the perspective not of ownership but trusteeship. It considers the cash, debt, and equities from the standpoint of a business manager who is aiming to make one's employer, the business' owner, prosper. As a business



Give



Serve



Attend



Grow

Stewardship

manager you know that the cash register holds his or her money, not your own. And you know that, at the end of the month you will be compensated for the ways you have helped the owner to prosper. But, still, the business remains in the portfolio of the owner. And your job is to attain, to fulfill, and to live fully into your boss's trust. When applied in your personal and interpersonal family contexts, this turns an upside-down capitalist economy into a right-side-up Christlike economy.

Who: The first "Who" is the Triune God. The God whom we worship above all is the owner of every-

thing that our capitalist economy may claim to be ours. As followers of Christ, we declare that all we have has been entrusted to us and that our calling in life is to utilize it, cultivate it, multiply it, protect it, share it. And that "it" is not just our money but also our fixed assets (home, motor vehicle), our relationships – beginning with nuclear family members, our environment (inside and outside), our gifts (practical and spiritual), our vocations, our hobbies, our interests. The Who extends to all people living within our range of possible influence: fanning out from our town, to our region, our state, our nation, our world, even our cosmos. Stewardship cares for all those others.

Why: Stewardship is a principle built into God's creation and spelled out through all the holy books of our faith and, for that matter, of all monotheistic faiths. It simply is a driving principle of the world as God created it, speaking it into existence, and then directing the first humans to be stewards: "Be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth and subdue it." The best "why" about stewardship is that it really does turn our up-side-downs into right-side-ups. Many of our greatest stresses arise when we mismanage God's property, and all the more, when we worry about it all collapsing under us. We discover that stewardship is not just an obligation for us to follow but a set of precious promises of God's care for us to enjoy.

Where: Stewardship is a *modus operandi*, a mode of being wherever we are and wherever we go. It repeatedly asks, "What does God want me to do here where I find myself, where we find ourselves?" For those following our Lord, we follow Jesus to his church – the body of Christ – and live out our stewardship especially in that context, and from there into all the world around us.

When: Stewardship is a forever kind of reality. Once endorsed by us, we now are aligning ourselves with God's way of managing the lives, the land, the air, the relationships that God has entrusted to our care. And once we have joined with God's program, stewardship becomes one of the central life principles to guide our activities, our work, our play, our mindset always and forever. But it only works when we decide to embrace it. Until then we are striving against God's design, swimming against the flow, running against the wind. The best time to head in the right direction is now.

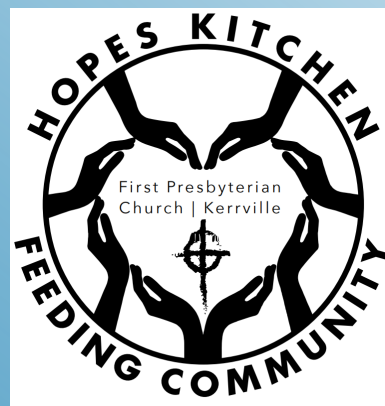
How: We commonly say that the primary commodities of stewardship are our time, our talents, and our treasures – to which, in recent decades, we have added, our environment, and our relationships. The

most easily measured of these is our money. And Scripture has provided us a benchmark: "the tithe," which is an Old English term for "the tenth."

It does not constitute a hard-and-fast, always-and-only law, but a guide, a standard that is commonly treated as the basic level of income that should be returned to the Lord and then distributed and utilized in Christ's service. Some of us committed to giving one-tenth of our income to the church offering plate decades ago and have not wavered from it. Others have never gotten close. The most common strategy to redress that shortfall is to increase the giving by two or more percentage points a year, targeting the 10% level within a few years.

Who: I already said "who" above, but I come back to it with one postscript: For those of us who, as Americans, are living on an income level in the top five percent of the world's population, the other Who are the other 95 percent. A significant amount of what comes into our offering plate gets sent out to mission partners who are serving the poor. And many aspects of our ministry are serving the less fortunate in our community as well. The exercise of Christian stewardship by us not only changes the trajectory of own lives, it changes the trajectory of those on the receiving end of our generosity. Stewardship. It's a good thing. A life-changer. A great season of the year.

Christ-centered service



AUGUST TOTALS

Foodbank Pop up Market:

Food was distributed to 140 families consisting of 489 individuals.

Hope's Kitchen:

95 meals served (including To-Go meals)

Yoga for Community

By Cheryl Smith

Have you been curious about yoga? Heard of its health benefits but a little nervous to try it? Or maybe you've given it a try but wished for a class that was more spiritually aligned with you?

Yoga has been practiced in India for thousands of years, primarily so the body could be comfortable during meditation. Brought to the States and expanded to a practice for all body types, it is also practiced by all faith groups, including Christians. In fact, the practice of yoga can complement Christian spiritual practices by preparing body, mind and spirit for meditation and prayer, as well as the physical benefits of stretching and strengthening the body and calming the mind through breath work and meditation.

As a certified yoga teacher, I have seen the physical and spiritual benefits of yoga through my own practice and others. As a result, I would love to pass on these gifts to our FPC and Kerrville community through a new class at FPC: Yoga for Community. YFC will be open to all levels of practitioners as well as an outreach to our community. To begin, we will have 1 or 2 weekly classes: one gentle/beginner class accessible to all, and one with more movement that would require participants be able to get up and down off the floor, with only easy movements (Level 2). We will meet in the basement of Schreiner Chapel.

PRAYING WITH MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT



All classes will open with a centering meditation followed by breath work, some movement for the body and finish with a longer relaxation meditation.

**Yoga for
Community will
be dedicated to
God's call to
"love your
neighbor as
yourself."**

Meditations will be scripturally based. "Yoga for Community" will be dedicated to God's call to "love your neighbor as yourself". We will practice self-kindness and extend that compassion to others in our community by taking free-will donations to be given directly (100%) to a pre-selected mission partner of First Presbyterian Church or organization within our community.

The mission of "Yoga for Community" will be to: honor our God with hearts of compassion, create a yoga community of health and wellbeing within our congregation and beyond, and extend our hearts and/or resources to those in need, outside our walls.



If you are interested or have questions, please contact Cheryl Smith at cheryl@lajunta.com or (830) 739-6971. Cheryl would especially like to hear of your practice desires and time preferences.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Rose Burton	1
Keaton Mitchell	1
Alicia Martin	1
Jan Veselka	3
Tom Hamilton	3
Hilary Mosty	3
David Jackson, Sr.	6
Kit Morris	6
Bryce Umfress	8
Carra Gray	8
Candi Bervinkle	9
Cynthia Vaughan	9
Adele Junkin	11
Suzanne Hawkins	12
Meredith Lutz	12
Paul Avery	12
Lee Jennings III	13
Emma Lenard	15
Alton Rhoden	16
Cheryl Sieker	17
Benjamin Lohmeyer	18
Melanie Houdeshell	19
Charles Sullivan	20
David Williams	20
Lois McHargue	21
Leeland Barnes	22
Brandon Havis	22
Arthur Bell	22
Priscilla Crozier	22
Donna Jackson	23
Tyler Mejia	23
Anne Turner	24
Tobin Parker	25
Sallie Armstrong	26
Jack Groff	27
Ann Ogle	27
Becca Huchton	27
Katerina Tuschak	28
Ann Brunsvold	28
Judy Ferguson	29
Carol Van Tuyl	29
Natalie Gray	31

Lighting the Path for Advent

By Audrey Mitchell

*"Your word is a lamp
to my feet
And a light to my
path." Psalm 119:105*

How do we live out our faith as disciples of Christ today?

This is a question worth considering. We take many steps towards thoughtful action. One way we address that question is through weekly church worship. In the sermon, Pastor Jack helps us to think about how the Bible, our faith and our experiences relate to how to live out our faith in our particular circumstances. He helps us take action to share the love of God in our community and world.

In our tradition, every church member is also considered to be a minister. We are all tasked with reading the Bible and considering how God's word helps us direct our steps. And we are told to encourage one another in this.

To that end, the Children's Ministry Team is asking the session and other experienced church members to share their thoughts on living out their faith today by providing devotions for a church wide Advent devotional.



We want this to be a truly unique devotional book. While reflections are welcomed, our contributors will be asked to respond to scripture passages in their own unique ways. Elders may be inspired to add their own artwork, or a poem based on the scripture passage. If there are children in the family, they

will be invited to contribute to the devotional. They may want to retell the Bible story in their own words or illustrate the passage. People may also want to include an Advent or Christmas tradition that is especially meaningful to them.

While the best devotionals usually come from one's own reflections, please know that helpful resources may be found in the church library and the education and pastoral staff are also available.

We hope this unique devotional will make the upcoming Advent season one of deep inspiration for all of us.

Later in the church year, we will invite families, children and young adults to contribute to a church Lent devotional.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 1

Fellowship 1
5:30 pm, Pint & Plow
7:30 pm, Cailloux
Theater

October 7 & 21

Grief Support Group
10:00 am, MSS (Manse)

October 9

"Homecoming and
Homegoing: Finishing
Well the Good Race
Set Before You."
With Rev. Rick Young
12:00 pm, Ryan Hall

October 13

Presbyterian Women
Day Circle,
10:30 am, Room 206
Night Circle
7:00 pm, Ryan Hall

October 22

Youth Lock-In
3:00 pm, FLC
Youth Room

Pastors:

Rev. Dr. Jack Haberer,
Interim Pastor, Head-of-Staff
Rev. Susan Montoya, Parish Associate
Eldon Sheffer,
Commissioned Ruling Elder

Ministry Staff:

Dr. Sabrina Adrian, Organist
Seth Lafler, Choir Director
Shannon Tuschak, Care Coordinator
Audrey Mitchell,
Director of Children's Ministry
Emily McAllister,
Director of Youth Ministries
Alyse O'Brien,
Director of Children's Music
Scott Russell,
Director of Children's Corner
Ann Reynolds, YES Center Director

Support Staff:

Mary Stone, Business Administrator
Alicia Martin, Asst. Administrator

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