

DO NOT TRUST IN YOUR RICHES, BUT IN HIM WHO RICHLY BLESSES YOU!

- a letter to the parish from Stewardship Chairs Rox & Robin Pollard

When we were asked to be this year's stewardship chairs, our first reaction was one of shock. Why us, we asked ourselves? The answer has become abundantly clear. First, we needed to look at our own lives and hearts with regard to stewardship. Second, we needed to look at Trinity through the lens of stewardship. In the short time since we began this process, both aspects of the journey have been incredibly rewarding.

What we have learned is really pretty simple and yet life changing. The most profound lesson is that all we have is "entrusted to us by God" with the simple expectation from God that we all will be good stewards. Whether God blesses us with a lot or a little, he gives us the opportunity to be good stewards with that blessing. God gives each of us 100% and only asks for a minimum of 10% back; we get to keep 90% - what an amazing return on investment!

Yes, Trinity needs our money to pay for salaries, programs, facilities, and the like. And yes, Trinity needs our money worse now than it has in many years, but this is not the real point. The real point is that God wants to see our faithfulness through our individual stewardship. That is the underlying theme of this year's stewardship campaign.

It is said that you can get a quick indication of a person's spiritual health by looking at their calendar and their checkbook. In other words, where do we spend our time and money? This fall, Trinity is providing us with many opportunities to plug-in, or as Dean Linder said recently, to "sync up" with God. There is a wide variety of engaging programs to promote and advance our spiritual health. These include Bible studies, teaching series, Sunday school classes for adults, youth, and children, church choirs, Wednesday evening fellowship dinners, and a variety of other options. Pick some of these and get more "T's" (for Trinity) on your calendar. Add some personal quiet time with God each day and the result will be a flourishing, growing, and

personal relationship with God in Christ that will be life changing! In addition, we will have a growing relationship with our church home . . . Trinity.

As we begin thinking about our 2010 pledge, let us focus on the percentage of our income, and not just a dollar amount. Soon we'll be hearing more about "Priority, Progressive, Percentage Giving". This is simply calculating a "percentage" of our income and making it the "first priority" in our individual offering to God in thanks for all of his rich blessings. When we focus on the first percentage of our income going to God, we are on our way to being the stewards he wants us to be. As it says in Proverbs 3:9 "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops."

We love Trinity for many reasons, but most of all for the community of believers we share our lives with here in this place. We have grown in our faith through our involvement with Trinity and are excited about all the growth opportunities we see in Trinity's future. We hope you will enthusiastically join us this year as we begin our stewardship journey toward "Priority, Progressive, Percentage Giving".