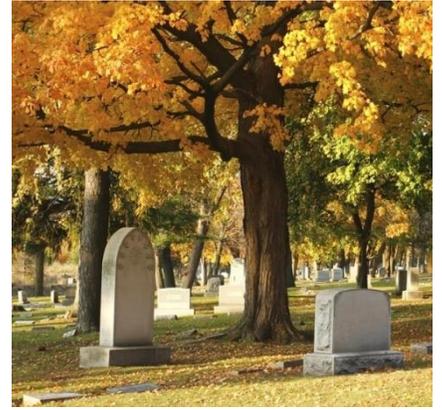


Stewards of God's Grace: September 2021

Stewarding beyond our lifetime

Did you learn about Solomon's Temple in Sunday School? Perhaps there were illustrations based on the details given in Scripture that showed the gold and precious stone used, the dimensions of the nave and vestibule, and the craftsmanship of the lampstands and ornaments. The grandeur of the Temple King Solomon built in Jerusalem was meant to give a glimpse of God's splendour to those who worshipped there. And it did so for hundreds of years.



But Solomon's Temple was not the result of Solomon's initiative alone. His father David had a passion for building a permanent place for God's worship when he was king. God, however, let King David know the time was not right. Yet David did not forget his vision nor neglect to provide for it. In 1 Chronicles 29, at the end of David's reign, he speaks about the project of building a house for God: "O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our ancestors, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people and direct their hearts toward you. Grant to my son Solomon that with single mind he may keep your commandments, your decrees, and your statutes, performing all of them, and **that he may build the temple for which I have made provision.**" David looked beyond his lifetime and saw that the work dear to his heart could be carried out by the next generation through his son Solomon. To help ensure its completion he made sure that the resources needed were at Solomon's disposal.

Faith enables us to have hope beyond ourselves to see how God's mission can be carried out by subsequent generations. Faith gives us a generosity of spirit to be stewards beyond our lifetime. That generosity of spirit is made evident when we leave bequests in our wills or through insurance policies to our churches, our diocese, national ministries or other charities about which we are passionate. Just as we provide for our loved ones through our wills we can also make provision for much loved organizations that manifest God's love and justice in the world. Through the Canadian Association of Gift Planners, Canadians are being encouraged to use the power of their wills to make a difference in their communities, our country and the world by leaving bequests to charities. Imagine what a difference to your church or the diocese it would be if you gave 5 or 10% of your estate to their mission and ministry! To learn more about this initiative, find great information and helpful tools go to <https://www.willpower.ca>. You will learn how to use the power of your will.

Your giving reflects who you are and how you want the world to be. Through bequests you might fund a justice initiative, an educational venture or a community outreach project you know will make a difference to future generations. You could also leave a gift to your parish or the diocese asking them to determine the area of greatest need and thereby provide financial resources for future ministry and needs yet unseen. However you give, now or in the future, do so in a way that reflects your faith, hope and love.

"Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name." *Psalm 63:3-4, a psalm of David*

Written by the Ven. Cheryl Toth, Stewardship Officer, Diocese of Qu'Appelle