

Stewardship 2018

Basketfuls Left Over

In the original Pony Express, messages were carried on horseback from the Missouri River to the Pacific coast. In BCMC's Pony Express materials are carried from one household to another in neighborhood clusters to gather intentions for the coming budget year. (Materials are mailed to non-resident and inactive members). The Pony Express runs from Stewardship Sunday on November 5 until November 19 when packets are returned during worship.

The theme for our 2018 stewardship process, ***Basketfuls Left Over***, emerges from the story of Jesus, the disciples, and the hungry multitude, found in Matthew 14:13-21. While Jesus engages in a ministry of compassion to this crowd of 5000+ people, the disciples are fixated on the sea of hunger before them and their lack of resources to meet the need.

The only solution the disciples can see is to send the crowds away. But Jesus sees a different solution: "You give them something to eat." The disciples can only scrounge up five loaves and two fish, hardly enough for this crowd. But when these meager resources are blessed, broken and shared by Jesus, there is enough for all to eat and be filled, and there are twelve basketfuls left over!

As we consider how best to financially support the ministry of our congregation, we, like the disciples, may find ourselves focusing on scarcity of resources in the face of presenting need. Jesus challenges us to refocus: "You give them something to eat." In these words, we hear an invitation to gather up our loaves and fish and offer them to Jesus, to be blessed, broken and shared. Trusting that it is God who abundantly multiplies the loaves, may we give of ourselves joyfully and freely, so that all might be fed.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Find the envelope with your name inside the packet.**
- 2. Find and study the contents of your envelope.**
- 3. After reviewing the contents, complete the intent form and sign your name.**
- 4. Keep the lower part of your completed intent form for your records.**
- 5. Place the upper part (church record) of your completed intent form back in your personal envelope (the envelope with your name on it.) Seal the envelope and place it in the packet. Check off your name on the list.**
- 6. Arrange a time to deliver the packet to another household on the list. If possible, take time to visit when you give the packet to someone. The list is arranged alphabetically. You do not need to deliver to the next person on the list if you feel it would be more expedient to deliver the packet geographically! If you need assistance, contact your captain.**
- 7. The last person on the list to receive this packet returns the packet to the captain before Sunday, November 19.**

Thank you for your participation!