

Stewardship 2020

A Community of Abundance

Acts 2:43-47 takes us into the heart of a community created by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. This creation is a tapestry of diverse members, woven together in unique ways to become an expression of God's generosity. We read that *"All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need"* (Acts 2:44-45).

For those of us shaped by a culture that values self-reliance and security, it's hard to imagine engaging in this practice. It hardly sounds fiscally responsible!

Yet this community was being shaped by another powerful force: The Holy Spirit, whose abundance of love, energy, wisdom, and courage filled this community so fully that clinging to what one owned seemed unimportant. More important was sharing so that all could experience the abundance that grew *"glad and generous hearts"* (Acts 2:46).

Our congregation is beginning our annual process of reflecting on how we might be conduits of God's generosity. We call this process *"The Pony Express,"* which is actually a communal practice that invites us to meet our neighbors as we reflect on what is ours to share--within and beyond this faith community.

As we enter into this process together, may the Holy Spirit's abundance of love, energy, wisdom, and courage fill us, as a community, so that we, *"with glad and generous hearts,"* might be freed up to share God's abundance with all.

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 17.**

Thank you for your participation!