

The Pastor's Report

Howdy Folks!

I hope you all had a sufficiently spooky and treat filled Halloween, that you are planning to exercise your privilege and responsibility to vote, and are eagerly looking forward to Thanksgiving at the end of the month (which, as Bob Duda would remind us...) means Christmas is just around the corner.

Now you know I couldn't let the November Newsletter go by without saying *something* about Stewardship!

This year we've been purposely more low-key about the stewardship drive. Fact is, if the church and pastor are not doing their job throughout the year no amount of bells or whistles is going to make much of a difference come stewardship time. However, if the church and pastor *are* meeting needs, doing the work asked and required of them, well then stewardship time is pretty straightforward.

If you haven't already, you will soon receive a stewardship letter and a pledge card in the mail (this goes out to all members and friends of the church). Please take a moment to consider the letter, and a few additional moments to sit down with yourself, or your spouse and consider how you can support our church. (A pledge card is also include in this month's addition of the newsletter.)

Now having said that, **let me say one more thing: thank you.** This afternoon, following lunch, I was sitting with Linda and we got to talking about the church, our family, the

state of the nation and our north country economy and this year's stewardship drive. As you might well imagine, stewardship means some-things to our family in addition to what it means to yours. We are very much aware that the blessings of our life here in Canton are due to all of you.

To say that we are grateful would be quite an understatement. I know full well your household budget isn't any more padded than ours. And yet **each year generous people like you pull off the miracle which is the financial existence of our church!**

My good friend Arleigh Jorgenson (the dog-musher) once told me, "*True humility is nothing we would ever choose for ourselves, but rather, it is something which is thrust upon us.*" To this sentiment I would also add that such true humility is very freeing, as it clearly articulates what one needs, what one receives, and to whom thanks for the gifts is to be given.

So this month I would end by thanking each and all of you for the very many gifts you bring to our church. Not just in financial terms, but also with respect to your time, your energy, your commitment, your generosity, **and especially for the spiritual depth you have come to which allows you to see the world in the largest of terms.**

Blessings! - Rev. Mike