*Faith in Action*

 *By Warna Reynders*

Giving is how we put our Christian faith into action. I’m not just talking about the giving of money. The giving I’m speaking of is the kind of giving that includes the resources of our time, our skills, our talents, our goods, and anything that God has blessed us with.

The Apostle Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians writes about this intentional, thought-out giving of putting our faith in action…

*“I want you to have all the time you need to make this offering in your own way. I don’t want anything forced or hurried at the last minute. Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you’re ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it, ‘He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon. His right-living, right-giving ways never run out, never wear out.’*

*“This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way; so that you can be generous in every way; producing with us great paise to God.” (2 Corinthians 9, The Message by Eugene Peterson)*

GOD GIVES each of us something that we can give away for the benefit of others. We are wealthy not always with money, but with our imagination, our talents, our compassion, our time, our hospitality, our joy, our patience, our love for the lonely, our gift of teaching, The list of “gifts” is endless.

Growing in our understanding of Stewardship as a Way of Life is realizing that giving is how we put faith in action!