*The Stewardship of Time and Talent*

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*Like good stewards of the manifold (varied and rich) grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen* 1 Peter 4:10-11

The past several weeks we’ve spent thinking about Stewardship as a Way of Life. Let’s take the next step and consider how the mindset of stewardship as a way of life is expressed in the stewardship of our time and talent. In the verses above the Apostle Peter reminds us that the stewardship of our time and talents is the wise and responsible us of the special gifts God has entrusted to each of us. It is believing that God has created each one of us with unique abilities and attributes – including our personalities, interests, motivations, life experiences, talents and skills, hopes and dreams – which make us who we are. We are one-of-a-kind creations of God with unique contributions to make in this world. Our lives have real meaning only when we use our gifts in accordance with God’s will. As we grow in stewardship, we grow in our relationship with God. We grow in our ability to hear and accept God’s call and to let our life be guided by God’s will, not our own desires and impulses. OUR LIVES ARE GOD’S GIFT TO US; HOW WE LIVE IS OUR GIFT TO GOD.