

Video: St. Jude's Stewardship Campaign 2018

The video opens with a view of the church at sunrise, followed by people arriving for the service, and the opening processional. While these scenes are being shown, the song "Multiplied" by Needtobreathe is playing:

[Music]

Your love is
Like radiant diamonds
Bursting inside us
We cannot contain.

Individual interviews with St. Jude's members:

Youth: What I like about St. Jude's is the community with the younger groups and the high school group and how we get to come together to teach about Christ and the Lord.

Youth: I appreciate all the people at the church that contribute to the activities in the youth group.

Michelle F.: What I really like about St. Jude's is how everyone is welcomed like family and it makes you really feel like you're a part of something, and no one has ever come into here and then felt like, you know, they didn't belong, no one has ever been treated like a stranger, everyone's always welcoming and friendly.

Maria S.: What I love about St. Jude's is I love spending time with the kids, they are my comfort zone, I love the activities that we do. Just a few of the things that we do are the canoe trips, we do the dinners over here, we also do lots of activities together; the parents' night out, and just spending time together as a youth group, to come together in fellowship.

Youth: What I love about being part of the St. Jude's family is that we all come together, no matter what's going on in our daily lives, we're all happy and wish peace upon each other.

Youth: What I like about St. Jude's is that within these walls you never feel like you're alone, you never feel like you have to go through something without having someone in there to prop you up, and that's what everyone does this church, they prop each other up when we feel like we need someone, that's what I love about St. Jude's.

Michelle C.: Stewardship to me means giving back. But really when you think about it, nothing that we have is ours anyway, it all comes from God. So we are stewards in that we are entrusted with what we have while we're here, and it's our job to be good stewards and do good things with the gifts that He's given us and to give them back to Him by using our time, our talents, and our treasures in the best way that we can to honor Him, and that's what stewardship is about.

Brenda H.: To me it's how you give back to God for all the blessings that He has given you; I mean, basically everything you have is provided by Him.

Kevin D.: So obviously it's important that the church needs you know, a certain level of, takes a certain level of financial support in order to operate, but it goes beyond just the support of the day-to-day operations of the church. It goes towards helping all of those ministries that the church really does outside of just being, you know, church on a Sunday.

Michelle C.: Our church just does so much for people around the world. There's a village somewhere that never had running water until we came together and made that possible. There are people who now own goats, and are able to sustain their lives and their families thanks to the people in this church and their generosity. We have raised money to help with hurricane victims; we have just done so much in the past two years, I'm just amazed, incredibly amazed, and it goes... that there's so much more than that though. It's more than just money, it's the people who give of their hearts and their time, and that really touches me to see that there are so many generous people here in this church. But if we didn't have the church, I don't know that we could do so much on our own individually as we can as a unit, and that's why it's so important to commit to not just giving of our treasure for these really important outreach projects, but also just to sustain ourselves as an organization, as God's people that come together; we're getting a place to worship every week, a place to come together and restore

ourselves, and prepare ourselves every week to go forth in the name of Christ and go in peace to love and serve the Lord. So I am so thankful for this church.

Dorothy B.: For me, stewardship is actually how we as Christians show our faith: through prayer, through sacrifice, and through being merciful. When you're merciful, it's more than just being kind and forgiving people for hurting your feelings, it is also when we joyfully share all our blessings that God has given us. Each Sunday when we bring our offerings to the altar we all sing and we praise God from whom all blessings flow, but part of us being individuals and being Christians and being brothers and sisters is to share joyfully what God has blessed us with, not only with the community and our family and friends but also with the church, so we leave a legacy of Christ's mission to those following us, and to me that's what stewardship is about; it's just how we leave Christ's legacy for the future generations.

Brenda H.: You know being a born and raised Episcopalian, and my dad being the priest, it's kind of been the central part of my life; I can't imagine it not being a part of my life. In particular the Episcopal Church, but if I couldn't have that, the church, you know, as a whole.

Michelle C.: I take my children to St. Jude's, obviously to learn about God, but they could really... I could pick any church in the area and they would learn about Jesus, who Jesus is, and God's love for them, but our church has something special and I'm

really thankful that they are growing up part of that. I'm thankful that my children, no matter what they decide to be with their lives, and no matter where their choices take them, they are taught in the Episcopal Church in particular that they can be anything, they can do anything, and I love that.

Youth: I like coming to St. Jude's Episcopal Church because it's not like some of the other religions where everybody has to believe the same thing; it's more like you can have your own perspective, and other people will understand that in the church.

Bert M.: This morning I was driving to DeFuniak on the Bob Sikes Road, and the clouds were up in the sky, and I've ridden down that road about twice a week for 40 years and for the first time there were spiderwebs between the utility poles, and they were just beautiful, and it wasn't just one, there were like a hundred, and I was looking at that and I said, that's the mystery of God and that is how God has revealed himself to me today. And so I was thinking about this talk about stewardship and I felt that helped me understand it better, in that stewardship is an opportunity where the bounty of God, that God's bounty is shown to us in many different ways. And so at St. Jude's there's two or three, or four different ways I thought about stewardship. First, the most obvious one and that's them about money, okay, and we have talent here, and we have people who have financial talent, and we have people who have less financial talent, and with that financial talent we have we are able to make contributions that help our programs. Our

priest was able to go to sabbatical, we were able to hire a youth minister to do wonderful things, we were able to bring in an interim priest to do this, and so those were very important things. It's, you know, if you're a bottom-line person, those are things you can understand. If you understand like, Boy Scouts, or the military, and lawyers, we talk of duty, okay. Stewardship is a duty, and you can think of it as a duty, and you can pay your money, and donate your time and talent as a duty. You think of giving back as the glory of giving back, and the joy of giving back, and stewardship allows you to give financially and of your talent and of your time. I'm always amazed when I read from the lectern at the talent that I see; I'm even humbled, frequently, by the talent that we have in St. Jude's. And so the stewardship of those who give of their time, talent, and money; that's what stewardship at St. Jude's means to me.

Michelle C.: I just I hope and pray that the people of our church stewardship to heart as much as they do all the other projects that we manage here, because it really is important just keep us going. Everyone knows we have to pay the bills, but there's so much more than that, and it makes everything else that we do possible.

The next scene is footage of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry speaking at the Stewardship in Perspective Conference of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, May 2010.

It's easy to worship, on one hand, it's another thing to get out there and follow as disciples on the other hand. It's easy to be a

member of a church, it's another thing to be a disciple of Jesus in community. Being a member of the church is just joining the club. All you gotta do is pay your dues. And that's what stewardship is not. It's not paying your dues.

Stewardship is about being a disciple, about following the way of Jesus, and one of the things I've learned about this is that this discipleship thing, if it means following in the way of Jesus, it means I follow in the way of Jesus. It means I follow. It means I follow; me. St. Paul said, present your bodies as a living sacrifice. He meant present "soma," your whole self, as a living sacrifice. When Paul talks about the body, he's not just talking about flesh, he talked about the whole self. Present your whole self as a living sacrifice. Discipleship is about presenting the whole self, following Jesus, loving like Jesus, giving like Jesus, forgiving like Jesus, doing justice, loving mercy, walking humbly with God like Jesus, and if I follow, that means everything I got goes with me. That means this (*wallet*) goes with me, and these (*credit cards*) go with me. Actually I'd be happy to give those away. But everything, and this (*phone*) goes with me, all of me.

Well, you say, that's nice, yeah. All of me. Billie Holiday used to sing this song, "all of me, why not take all of me, can't you see I'm no good without you." All of me. You who follow Jesus, that means all of you is going. It means your your money, it means your time, it means your gifts and talents, it means you, it means giving yourself over. It's easy to worship. It's something else to follow. Following means I give my life, however scared I am.

It means giving my life to the God of love.

Back to St. Jude's.

Eric K.: Stewardship is a way of giving back. I once had a minister that said it's easy to do stewardship, because you get a hundred percent and you only have to give back ten percent, so that's like God giving you a dollar, and you giving him a dime back. Would you accept the challenge?

The video closes with footage of St. Jude's in action. Scenes include:

Blessing of the Animals service

Choir singing at Christmas

Wednesday night supper

Children's choir

Back-to-School bash water slide

EYC working on an art project

Father Greg laughing while making an announcement

Members greeting each other during Christmas Eve service

Father Greg giving the Eucharistic Prayer

Presentation of thank-you gifts to Pastor V.

Grilling a picnic lunch during Back-to-School bash

The Sewing Guild ladies working on a project

Pastor V. falling in the dunk tank during Back-to-School bash

Time-lapse footage of clouds over the church

Jumping in the pool during the family swim party

3-6 year-old Sunday School class doing a coloring project

Water balloon toss during Pentecost Picnic
Rope swing into the water during family canoe trip
7-11 year-old Sunday School class working on a project
Recessional
Butterflies on the St. Jude's lawn

While these scenes are being shown, the song "Multiplied" by Needtobreathe is playing:

God of mercy,
Sweet love of mine
I have surrendered
To your design.
May this offering
Stretch across the skies
And these hallelujahs
Be multiplied.
Your love is
Like radiant diamonds
Bursting inside us
We cannot contain
Your love will
Surely come find us
Like blazing wildfires
Singing your name.

Transcribed by: Michelle Crawford