



Bethany Stewardship News

June 2013

Welcome to the first issue of the Stewardship Newsletter! The newsletter will come out four times a year; March, June, September, and December. Each newsletter will have short articles related to a specific Stewardship emphasis, as well as highlighting our ministries, ongoing needs, thank yous, and items of interest. The goal of our stewardship ministry is to help us grow in our relationship with God through the use of the time, talents, and treasures God has entrusted to us.

Environmental Stewardship

Psalm 24:1 says "The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." If we believe that God created everything and made us stewards or caretakers of His creation, then we must be mindful of using everything wisely.

So what can Christians do to be better stewards of the earth? We can speak prophetically, teach and model sustainable practices, work to clean up ecosystems and help protect God's creation. Environmental stewardship starts at home. Let's look at a few things that can be done:

- Save energy. Shut off appliances and lights when not in use, use CFL or LED bulbs, and stop drafts around windows and doors. Saving energy also saves money, which is another way of being a good steward.
- Recycle and compost. More items can be recycled than you think, not just paper and cans. Start a compost pile with food scraps and lawn trimmings. Avoid Styrofoam- it's not accepted in most recycling systems and takes 50 years to decompose in the landfill.
- Get involved. There are several environmental issues facing Iowans now: water quality, soil erosion, and climate change, just to name a few. Take action to clean up waterways, practice soil conservation and write elected officials.
- Consume less. Do I really need this thing or all this food? With resources already stretched to the limit, people in the developed world consume a disproportionate amount compared to the rest of the world.

Our Ministries

Hope Chest
Food Pantry
Quilters
Good Samaritan Fund
UI Lutheran Campus Ministry
UI Hospital Chaplaincy
Riverside Bible Camp
Shelter House
Kids Against Hunger
Angel Tree
Mbakweni, Tanzania

Ongoing Needs

Hope Chest

- Now accepting Summer Clothes
- Donations to Hope Chest Fund
- Watch for School Supplies list coming out in August

Food Pantry

- Please pick up the latest list as you come in the door from the parking lot

Good Samaritan Fund

- Monetary donations to help those in need in our community

Fellowship

- Please help with this Hospitality Ministry by signing up on the Bulletin Board by the Kitchen

*God's Work,
Our Hands!*

Thank You!

- To everyone that donated to the Noisy Coin Offering during Lent this year for Heifer International. We collected \$ 347.00. Thanks to Olivia Poppen and her family for raising and donating additional money so our Sunday School could actually purchase a heifer.
- To all of our EPIC youth and leaders for donating their time to assemble Chemo Bags to be donated to the Cancer Center at Mercy Hospital.
- To everyone that donated money toward the cost of the Chemo Bag supplies.
- To our EPIC youth and leaders for donating their time for outdoor cleanup and mulching around the church.
- To everyone that gave of their time in outdoor cleanup this spring.
- To everyone that volunteered their time weekly to clean the church.
- To everyone that donated to the Food Pantry and Hope Chest.
- To everyone that volunteered to give rides to people.
- To a member that delivered a refrigerator to a family in need.
- To everyone that donated their quarters to the Malaria campaign.

Stewardship In Action

A young, divorced mother with a small child is living in West Branch, trying to get her life back on track. She's attending school, living on her own, dealing with custody issues, and trying to make ends meet. She's taken advantage of the Hope Chest, the Food Pantry, and Pastor Chad's pastoral assistance. Thank you to the members of our congregation that have helped her with rides, furniture, and other needs. If our congregation wasn't able to help her, she would have a much more difficult time dealing with all of her issues, and making ends meet. By providing her with some of the resources for her everyday needs, we're ministering to her as Jesus said we should in Matthew 25.

Did You Know...

The latest government statistics show that there are 76 families in West Branch living below the poverty line.

In the past 6 months we've delivered 74 bags of food to the Food Pantry, and the Hope Chest has helped 50 people.

None of this would have been possible without your generosity.

The people of Bethany are answering the call of our Mission Statement by reaching out to others!

Introducing Fall Commitment event

The annual Time, Talent, and Treasure Commitment event will take place during **October** this year. It's entitled "**Found faithful, with little, with much, with all**". Watch for details in the next newsletter, and prayerfully consider how God is calling you to use your time, talent, and treasure.

Ministry Highlight

The Good Samaritan Fund was created to provide money that could be used by our Pastor to help persons in need in the community, or passing through the area. The Fund has written guidelines approved by the Church Council that must be followed in giving out any money. Money has been used for: purchasing a bus ticket, getting a motel room for the night, paying for gasoline for travelers, helping with rent, helping with utility bills, helping with car repairs, helping with medical bills, or helping with other large bills.

Stewardship Committee

Chair: Nancy Bruns

Members:

George McCrory

Laura Twing

Jon Twing

Neil Korsmo

Chris Korsmo

David Poppen