

## STEWARDSHIP 2017-2018

For those of you that might not know me I am Pete Morin. My wife Rachaele, Daughters, Claire and Ruby, and I sit in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row during the 10am Sunday service. We have been members of the church for the last 3 years. We were blessed to have Peter baptize our girls and again to have Libby preside over our 10-year wedding vow renewal this past June.

I was asked several months ago to speak today about stewardship. Those that know me well, for that matter even those that just met me, know that I am a man of very few words. When asked a particularly deep or challenging question I prefer time to process it before responding. I have spent a considerable amount of time reflecting on this topic. However, it was not until last Sunday while sitting in front of the generosity sign that I was truly inspired.

I considered the first time that I would have associated generosity with church. I was a very young boy when I began to wonder about the envelopes my mother placed in the weekly collection plate. My parents had 4 children, my mother stayed at home raising us and my father had a decent job but there never seemed to be excess. I thought then that it was very generous of my mother to give what she did. It was years later when I understood that her generosity was a symbol of her gratitude in God.

That lesson encouraged me to continuing the same tithing practice over the years. It was not until I came to St. John's that I was inspired to contribute in other ways. Not just me but my entire family; my wife Rachaele is a member of the vestry, I am the assistant treasurer, our family finds great joy in packing meals one Sunday morning a month, we enjoy helping at church gatherings, hosting coffee hour and I was recently inspired to volunteer to read the lessons and the prayers at church. These are all things that I was not comfortable doing before finding St. Johns. I know that you all understand what a special church this is. It is filled with a wonderful congregation, staff, clergy, and the list goes on.

I only hope that during this giving season that our gratitude in God inspires each and every one of us to be generous in a way that might not be common or comfortable to us. Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_*Stewardship Reflection given by Pete Morin on October 22, 2017*