

Our House

Good morning. My name is Tony Bergerson and I'm a longtime member here at St Anne.

I'd like to share my personal Stewardship journey with everyone

- 1) When I first came to St Anne, I was a visitor to this congregation, but this congregation didn't even have a home. We met in a rented store front and even a funeral home for a few weeks while this building was being completed. On the Sundays we came I would leave some cash on the offering plate if I had any in my pocket.
- 2) By the time this building was complete, I no longer felt like a visitor to the congregation, but I felt like I was visiting God's house when I entered the church building. I began to plan ahead to make sure I had some cash to leave as an offering each Sunday. Sort of like when you visit a good friend's house and you bring a bottle of wine or a dessert to share.
- 3) It wasn't until our kids began to attend Sunday School that I realized St Anne was Our House where God comes to visit with us. As such, we need to be good stewards and take care of Our House. It's up to us to pay the electric bill, mortgage and salaries, but being a good steward goes beyond that. It requires my time and talents as well. I volunteered to teach children's Sunday School. I helped out with the building and grounds team by mowing and trimming bushes before we hired a lawn service and eventually Dennis, our sexton. We also made donating to St Anne part of our monthly budget. We started small (about \$100 per month) and made a point to increase it each year. We set up milestones for ourselves to increase our giving. Since we both work, our first goal was to tithe the net pay from one of our jobs. Once that goal was met we kept setting our target a little higher until we reached the point today where we are cheerful givers.

One thing we have always found is that since putting God in our monthly budget, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 has become a reality for us.

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."