

Stewardship Commitment Testimony
October 11, 2009

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I was delighted when Bob Crawford asked me to consider giving this moment for Stewardship. I was delighted to share our love of this church & congregation, but frankly, slightly awed at the prospect of articulating how that love translates into the Seymour family's commitment to First Church.

This year's Stewardship theme is Commitment of Heart & Treasure.

Commitment *can* be viewed as a goal or target... but I also think we can look at Commitment as a Journey... a path that, like our faith, changes and deepens over time. Jim and I look at our commitment to the church in the same way. Our underlying love and devotion remains constant, but how that commitment 'looks' changes and grows each year.

When we were new members, I had a vision of "the church" as the workhorse of all the mission activities. It was difficult to see how the two of us, individually, could make a difference.

For me, serving with the Board of Deacons opened my eyes to all those individuals making it happen 'behind the scenes'. I was blown away by the commitment being given by so many in this church to our Lake County Missions. This was REAL work – roll up your sleeves and scrub the floors commitment And in working on those projects, we came to feel closer connected to them and the church.

A fair warning about commitment – it's not always comfortable... and sometimes it's just plain hard. On those days when Jim's alarm goes off at 2:30 in the morning to help the team serve breakfast for the guys at PADS, I don't think he'd call it comfortable. But the fellowship and fulfillment he receives from serving is comforting in a way nothing else can be.

Committing our treasures can be equally challenging. Particularly in this time of great need, we all want to believe we are offering our gifts in the most significant way. For our family, being a part of the process and seeing those missions at work, makes our gifts more meaningful and alive.

Each of us approach our journey of commitment in different ways. We all have different gifts of heart & treasure to offer. I invite us all to give ourselves some time this Stewardship season to embrace where we are on our journeys and prayerfully consider where God is leading us next year.