



ALL YOU CAN

A STEWARDSHIP SERIES AT SAINT PAUL'S UMC

Issue 8
Volume 6.1

Extra!
Extra!

Something to add to your day....words from
Pastor Joey!



Hope everyone is having a great week and staying cool!



Join us!

CHURCH CLEAN UP

Thur. Aug 20th @ 10 a.m.

Sat. Aug 29th @ 10 a.m.

My Mistake....I forgot to include in the newsletter on Tuesday. So Please come and help out on Saturday, August 29th at 10am



**PARENTS
Night Out**

FRI. SEPT 18TH 6 TO 9 P.M.

COST: \$25 FOR 1ST, \$5 EACH ADDITIONAL

AGES: 0-12 YEARS OLD

ST. PAUL'S UMC
301 N. BEARD AVE
SHAWNEE, OK 74801

SCAN TO SIGN UP!



From the Pastor's Desk

On Stewardship

"The Earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it: the world, and those who live in it"
- Psalm 24:1



Hello Friends and Family of Saint Paul's UMC,

It is that time of year again in which we set our eyes upon a challenging question for many of us: "How should we as Christians relate to money?" And I must admit that I, as much as many of you, find this to be one of the most difficult subjects to consider from a Christian perspective. Unfortunately, despite what some people may think, the Bible isn't always as clear on the subject as we often wish it was. Even worse, I, like some of you, have often been troubled by the number of times I've witnessed preachers and churches appeal to pledging and tithing as a measure of our faithfulness in a way that shames people when they haven't given according to the expectations of their church.

Simply put, I've got some baggage when it comes to money conversations, and I've been hurt before when the topic has been addressed by my church in the past; I'm sure some of you feel the same way. So when the leadership team and I talked about doing an annual stewardship campaign here at Saint Paul's, I decided I wanted to offer something different to our congregation this year. Instead of a series of sermons about the importance of giving to the church, I hope I can use the sermon time in the coming weeks to help us consider together what it means to steward our gifts, all of which the writer of the twenty-fourth Psalm is right to acknowledge come from God. Beyond just money, I want to be mindful of just how many other gifts there are in life that we are called to care for. As I remember that first line of a favorite old hymn, "All to Jesus I surrender, all to him I freely give," I simply want to invite us as a congregation to think about what it means to give our whole lives to God. Money is a part of that, of course, but I think if we get the big picture right, the money decisions become easier.

Unfortunately though, if we are to be good stewards of the church's and our own resources, we do have some responsibility to address money directly, and I believe God is calling us to consider the financial position of our church at this time in the wake of so many changes in the world and in our own house of worship these last few years.

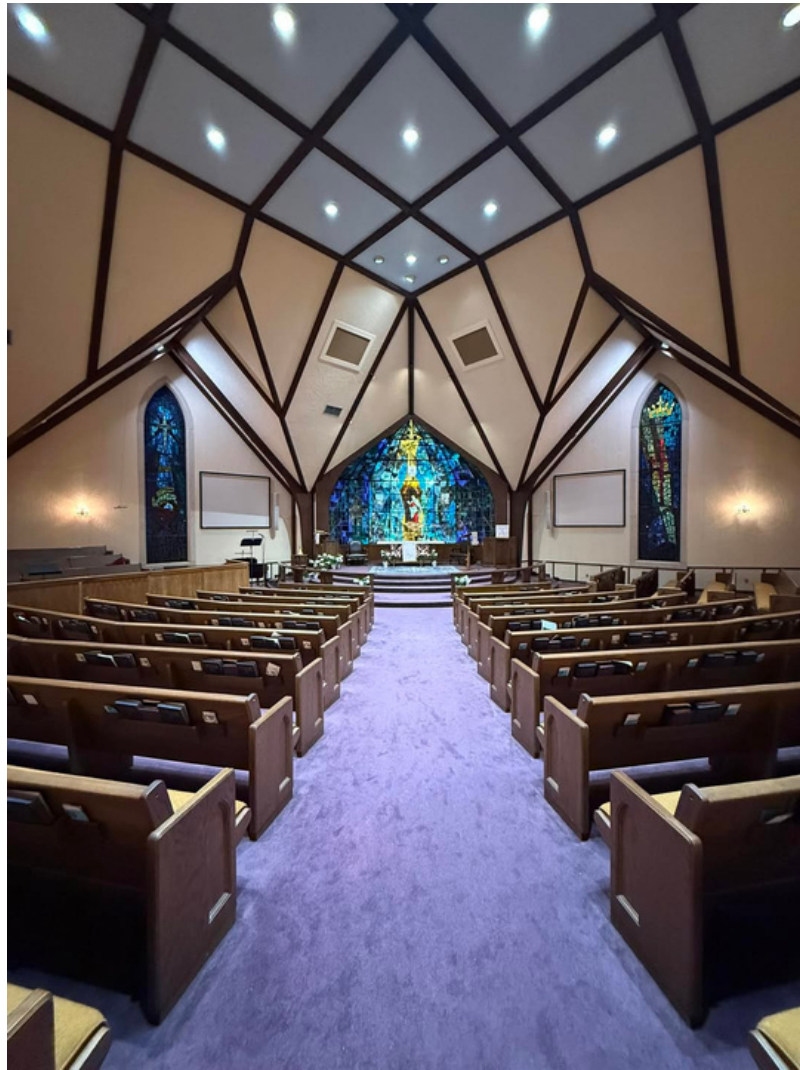
So I found a great deal of joy when I uncovered the wisdom of our tradition's founder John Wesley, who seemed to find a meaningful balance between the subjects of stewarding our lives and stewarding our money in a sermon called *The Use of Money*. Every time I read one of Wesley's sermons, I am surprised by how practical he can be while still holding so much theological depth. As I am still growing and learning, putting together a stewardship series for the first time as a pastor, I felt this was the perfect source to shape this series and guide our conversations.

So I am excited to use the next three Sundays to invite you to consider how you might steward all of the gifts of God in your life, including money, and how participating in the life of the church by giving or by service may be one way to care for those gifts.

means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." Each of the next three weeks we'll build on that teaching by exploring one of Wesley's three Christian rules for the use of money: "Gain All You Can," "Save All You Can," and "Give All You Can."

I've called the Stewardship Series, "All You Can," (I know, surprising). I hope you can come and be a part of it.

With Love,
Pastor Joey



Want a way to share your church? Let others hear the words of our pastor? If you are a Facebook person...you can share St. Paul's with your friends. Each week Pastor Joey shares an excerpt of his Sunday sermon with added music and subtitles. All you have to do is click on the SHARE arrow! ➡