

# A Stewardship Minute

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving  
An introduction of **Stewardship** to the congregation

December 2018

An article in this month's Stewardship describes birds in Australia called Bowerbirds. They are called that because the male birds build "bowers" that are large shelters made of almost anything handy: straws, flowers, moss, etc. Some nests are three feet high and fascinating to see. They create these nests because they want a protected chamber where a female can lay eggs, and where babies can be born and live safely.

The article draws an analogy to John the Baptist, who prepared the way for someone special about to appear. John believed that Jesus was about to begin his great ministry, so John kept telling everyone to "Prepare the way of the Lord..." (Mk 1:3) Advent is a time to prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus. The meaning of Christmas is about God loving the people of the world so much that he gave his Son as Savior. There has never been, nor will there ever be, a greater gift than God's gift of Christ to every person on earth.

The question is this: How should we respond to such magnanimous grace? Should not our response be giving of ourselves unstintingly back to God? Surely God's love should beget our love back to God and to all of God's creation, including other people on Earth? Shouldn't we give a healthy portion of our time, talent, energy, and financial resources to the many arms of God's Church that help the sick, the poor, the orphans, the hungry, the unemployed and others in need?

**Prayer:** O Lord, prompt us to respond lovingly to you and to please you in all things. Amen.

*"A Stewardship Minute" is provided as a supplement to the Stewardship newsletter as part of your subscription. It can be read by the pastor, stewardship leader or lay reader during worship to briefly introduce and remind the congregation about the principles of stewardship each month. It may also be edited to fit specific needs. Used in this manner, it can significantly increase the general understanding of true giving.*