



Stewardship Reflections

Abundance...Generosity...Gratitude

A Hampack mailing from the desk of Judith Johnson
offering stewardship thoughts, reflections and actions
for your personal lives and for your congregational lives

August 2009

ONE SMALL GIFT

Perhaps you've enjoyed a church potluck/picnic or two already this summer. If you have, then it may be easy to imagine: tables brimming with chips, watermelon, and an array of dessert concoctions; mouth-watering smells wafting from a barbeque; sounds of laughter and conversation; and the feeling of a full belly and a fellowship-enriched soul. We bring our humble gifts (e.g., that 3-bean salad that everyone loves!) to these events and we come away with far more than enough. These simple, often spur-of-the-moment gatherings have an uncanny way of offering us glimpses of God's great abundance and a foretaste of God's ever-emerging Kingdom/Kin-dom.

John's story of the "feeding of the 5,000" on a mountain side near the Sea of Galilee presents a picnic of sorts. It's a most unlikely picnic that defies all human economic sensibility. In it, possibly the poorest of participants (a young boy) offers his meager gifts and, in doing so, helps to unveil God's Grace to a world that hungers desperately for it. Through this child's small gift -- and mighty acts of stewardship -- Jesus reveals great abundance where scarcity was once the only foreseeable reality. May you too discover the "one small gift" that God is inviting you to bring - that humble yet crucial gift that will help announce to a hungry world that God's table is set and *all* are most welcome!

Written by Tanya Barnett & Tom Wilson

"excerpted with permission from *Radical Gratitude*, www.umfnw.org."

For reflection:

What is one "humble yet crucial gift" that God invites me to bring?