

Moment for Stewardship – South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

Lee Martin | Sunday, October 18, 2026

Good morning -

We KNOW that scripture calls us to be generous with our time and our treasure.

Second Corinthians 9 verse 7 says, **"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 -**

I wanted to share a small part of my story in figuring out what this scripture means.

Early in our marriage, Katherine and I decided that we were going to tithe and give ten percent away every month - It **was not** an easy task - after giving consistently for a few months, we heard a sermon on Second Corinthians, and thought - it hasn't felt cheerful so far.

Regardless - we continued to faithfully give as life happened - a job loss, more taxes, house payments, trips, kids daycare - **oh!** a cool new HVAC unit - and my personal favorite, an **encapsulated crawl space!**

Through it all, we kept giving monthly, and lived on what was left. ***More times than I can count*** God showed up in unexpected ways. A random refund - to the dollar!, a bonus check not on our radar, or an unexpected job offer - it was like God was sending us cheer!

Over time, it turned into cheerful giving. Our worries about money got smaller, and our trust got bigger - sometimes, we got to see what God was doing..... but many times we did not - it wasn't about the outcomes for us - it was about the trust and giving up control.

You may know that I have the privilege of serving on our center of hope breakfast ministry. I see God at work every third Saturday when we serve a hot meal to unhoused women and children, and for most of them, that's the only hot meal that they get each month. When you see their faces, their smiles, hear their struggles, know their stories, you realize our gifts of time and money go further than we will ever know - a request for scrapple, an ask for extra bacon, or a child wanting another pancake- this is one example of our gifts being multiplied -

The Stewardship Committee is asking us to prayerfully consider what God is calling us to give in support of His kingdom.

Let's commit to each other that this week - to stop, to pray, to listen, and decide in our hearts what God is asking us to give, both money and time.

Don't do it because you feel like you have to, Lets Trust God and see what new things he will do. I have NO doubt He is doing a good thing.