**Reflection for Monday,**

**October 30, 2023**



I looked up the meaning of “stewardship,” and the definition was pretty much as I expected:

*the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving*

I then looked up the etymology of “stewardship” and found out that it comes from the old English word for “*guard of the hall*.” Hmm. This appeals much less to me—conveying a sense of guarding what we’ve got, of managing and controlling.

Such a definition doesn’t match with Jesus’ practice of extravagant welcome, nor with God’s assurance of abundance. Stewardship, for me, is much more fluid and inclusive. I was talking with John and Nancy Thursby yesterday about how energy does not disappear from the world, it just changes form. This fits with my sense of God’s constant faithful energy to us: one story or possibility coming to life as another subsides or dies away.

Perhaps, then, our stewardship isn’t to guard but to *channel* these holy energies, first recognizing all that God gives and then working to nurture that precious “something considered worth caring for and preserving.”

When we are tired or change is coming too fast, it’s tempting to fall into a scarcity mentality. I believe God will always, even in tough times, guide us to an ethos of abundance. And that calls for celebration! So I hope you will join me in stewardship this week by pledging, by partaking of the auction offerings, by joining us for the after-church auction party next week (bring a potluck offering to share). I am grateful to unite with you in this beautiful community of faith where we—small though we are—are continually transforming God’s energies with a practice of stewardship that is uniquely our own.

In faith,

Elizabeth

**Some schedule changes for the coming weeks:**

The next Writers’ Group will meet Tuesday, November 28th.

The Scripture and Theology Group is on break until Thursday, November 30th.

The next Reading Group meeting will be at **4 p.m.** on Thursday, November 30th.

For that meeting, the group will have read the whole of *A River Runs Through It*.

All are welcome, just let Elizabeth or Katrina know so we can get you the Zoom link.

Elizabeth will be on vacation from November 6-19th.

**Advent will be here before you know it!**

Save the date: our Advent Workshop will be Sunday, December 3rd.

We also celebrate Advent, once again, with Wednesday night special events:

December 6: A joint service of Taize Music with the Good Table

December 13: Annual reading of *The Velveteen Rabbit*

December 20: Solstice service and labyrinth walk in the Fellowship Hall