

A Stewardship Moment from Janet Levesque, 2007 Stewardship Chairperson

In case you didn't check the calendar this morning, it is October 14th. I, however, have been stuck on September 25th for a few weeks now...

You see, last year for Christmas, I received this really lovely poetry calendar. It highlights a range of poets – classic to contemporary – Shakespeare to Skinner. I leave it on our kitchen window sill and read the poem of the day while I wash dishes. You can see it is waterlogged a bit. I'd like to share the poem from September 25th by Alison Luterman.

Consider the Generosity of the One-Year-Old

*Who has no words to exchange with you
and instead offers up her favorite drooled-on blanket,
her green rhinoceros as big as she is,
her cloth doll with the long blond pigtails,
her battered cardboard books, swung open on their soggy pages.*

*If you were outdoors, she would hand you a dead beetle,
a fistful of grass, a pebble,
by way of introduction or just because.
And if, a moment later, she wanted it back,
it would be for the joy of the game that makes of every simple object an offering:
This is me. Here is who I am.*

In the same way,

*The sun drapes a buttered scarf across your face,
a rose opens herself to your glance,
and rain shares its divine melancholy.
The whole world keeps whispering or shouting to you,
while you worry over matters of finance,
of "relationship,"
important issues related to getting and spending,
saving and hoarding,*

*though you were once that baby,
though you are still that world.*

I have been stuck on this poem for 19 days as I have considered our Stewardship campaign this year. I've been thinking of this church and the community my family and I have found here. It is no secret. This place is the sun, the rose and occasionally the rain. This place whispers to me often and sometimes shouts to me – challenges me and inspires me spiritually and emotionally, providing a sense of perspective as well as a deep connection to God.

As a congregation, we have so many exciting dreams in the coming year but fulfilling them

depends on the support of the whole FCC family. We can't fulfill those dreams with a fistful of grass, a green rhino no matter how big or a pile of pebbles.

So, I stand here this morning asking you to join me in making a significant financial commitment to our Church for next year. You will receive letters and pledge cards in the coming weeks. I know that you will give serious and prayerful consideration to this request. Whatever you decide will be right for you and will be very much appreciated.