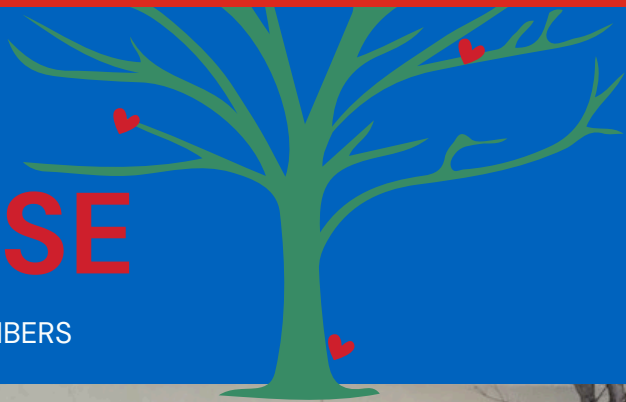


Abide in **LOVE** Live with **PURPOSE**

STEWARDSHIP 2025 | WEEKLY REFLECTION FROM OUR MEMBERS



STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

BY DAN COTTON

According to Dictionary.com, a steward is “a person who acts as the surrogate of another,” and they are responsible for “overseeing and protecting something considered worth caring for and preserving.”

Being a steward can take many forms: parents raising their children, teachers entrusted with the education of children, pet lovers taking care of their beloved (or sometimes, the pet taking care of the human!).

Ascension could not function without all of the people who work “behind the scenes.” These include the staff member who prints the bulletins, the ushers who assist during communion, the Food Pantry volunteers distributing food to those in need, Sandbranch water, refugee needs, and more. One person cannot do it all.

“For the body is not one member, but many. . . God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body. . . There are many members, but one body.”

There are many ways to give, including tithing, serving at Austin Street, giving to the Food Pantry, and working days to maintain the church buildings.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 SELECT READINGS

Proverbs 22:9

James 2: 14-17

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.”
(Proverbs 22:9)

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” (James 2:14-17)

It takes all of us to do the work of Christ. Some needs are blatant, others hidden behind the scenes. The audience sees the actors in the spotlights. What they do not see are the multitude of those who wrote the script, trained the actors, stood behind a camera, lit the stage, or swept up the aisles after everyone left.

Christ is our shining star, and we are the ones who work behind the scenes to bring glory to God.



During my lifetime, I have worked full-time in technical writing for a healthcare software company somewhere in the neighborhood of ("close enough for jazz") for 35 years. I am still there, but part-time now. (I have to be doing something!)

Before that, I worked in various fields: created jewelry for a wholesaler, video production for a ministry, produced/edited/released a PSA for Big Brothers in Austin, and others.

I even tried my hand at farming for a few years. At least I now know what not to do. Between the crop duster plane doing his landing pattern directly over our house (at maybe 200 feet), the goats that kept getting out of the electric fenced yard, the barn burning down (it was the oldest in the area, and empty at the time), and the trigger-happy neighbor, I have now settled down to less hazardous pursuits. One of which is Joan Romanosky, the best-est of all. Her devotion to Christ continually inspires me.

I now work part-time writing healthcare docs (same company) and spend my free time reconditioning kids' bikes for refugees, helping out with the Food Pantry, opening the church, and serving on PPE. These have given me much pleasure in knowing that, although the Body of Christ is many and varied, my little part can add to the whole Body.

On that note, I leave you with a nugget of wisdom: "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read." (G. Marx)