

Stewardship Journey from the Land of Not Enough

We all get these catalogues and magazines in the mail that are filled with pictures of things we must buy and bodies we will never have, trips we ought to go on, and cars we should drive. We live in the *Land of Not Enough* and these are the coins of the realm. These magazines and catalogues carry in them the constant message of our lack of what we do not have and cannot be. We live in a society that sells us our own unworthiness every day. How can we possibly practice generosity and a belief in abundance amidst a barrage of scarcity?

These are profoundly religious questions – of ethics, human worth, and security. And church is the best place for these discussions, gathered with others who share our values. Our congregation can provide a place to examine our materialist culture, to speak truthfully about our questions and struggles, to perhaps even be vulnerable in these questions, and to comfort and encourage one another along the way. This is the first step of religious stewardship.

And so, we invite you to participate our journey. We are leaving the Land of Not Enough and by learning on this journey to thank and worship, to care for the gifts we have been given and to share them, we will perhaps find that we arrive in the Land of Enough where we can understand how richly we have been blessed. The question is whether we want to live our lives fearfully, trapped in the consumer mind set of our era – or do we want to live lives that reflect our commitment to living our Faith.

On our journey, on Sunday's during the Lenten season, we will utilize material from "Stewardship of Creation: A Thirty Day Discipline" <http://www.webofcreation.org/Worship/devotions/CreationCare.pdf> as we explore how we can be responsible stewards of the earth God has blessed us with.

- † On Sunday, March 2nd our focus is on Power and Light as we hear about how Jesus healed the man born blind, as we recognize our Braille ministry's mission to "bring light to those in darkness", and continue our Lenten reflection on the Care of Creation by looking at responsible ways to light and power our homes.
- † On Sunday, March 9th our focus is on the Care of the Earth as we see Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb to new life and we reflect on how we are called to renew those parts of creation that are deadened by over consumption and pollution.
- † On Sunday March 16th we join the Palm Sunday crowds in welcoming "the one who comes in the name of the Lord and consider how we can speak out in God's name to advocate for God's creation and for ecological justice for all.

In addition, during our ACES (Adult Christian Education Series) program on Sunday mornings at 10am, we are watching segments from the DVD "Simply Enough" This DVD is a series of conversations between Tony Campolo, professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University, and Shane Claiborne, a former student of Tony's and co-founder of The Simple Way community in Philadelphia. This DVD challenges us to think about the foundations of Christian Life and voluntary simplicity. Their perspective is radical, yet thought provoking and we expect it will generate some lively conversation.

Scheduled programs include:

- April 27th – Simply Enough "Food"
- May 11th – Simply Enough "Stuff"
- September TBA – Simply Enough "Justice"
- October TBA – Simply Enough "Money"
- November TBA – Simply Enough "Celebrations"

