

A Message from
Esperanza's
Stewardship Team



Time, Talent & Treasure

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October 19, 2020

Dear Friends of Esperanza:

We hope you had a chance to read last week's mailing, which included your quarterly giving statement and information about the **Hope Starts Here** stewardship program. As you think about your pledge commitment, both this year and in 2021, we encourage you to also consider contributing time and talent to our shared mission. Over the next three weeks, we will be sharing giving stories from fellow members of Esperanza. We hope their experiences will help you imagine ways you can increase your support of our church.

This week, Congregation Council President Michelle Tinsley recorded her story about giving and serving in a video you will find at <https://myesperanza.org/stewardship-program-2020-2021/> And Liz Farquhar writes about her long-term service as the editor of our Words of Hope newsletter.

Fear often holds us back from doing the things that bring meaning and joy to life. In these uncertain times, increasing your financial contribution may seem infeasible (which may be the case for you). As for volunteering, people are often wary of getting themselves over-committed and stuck. But as Michelle and Liz attest, giving more of your resources, time and skills can greatly enrich your life!

You can get started this Saturday, **Church Grounds Stewardship Day**. Starting at 8 a.m., we will be cleaning the roof and gutters, trimming, weeding and planting, and painting the curb at our entrance. Bring your mask, water bottle, tools, work gloves, and non-electrical hedge and bush trimmers. Donuts will be provided.

If you can't picture yourself wielding a rake, you can find more opportunities at myesperanza.org, under News on the home page. Your Words of Hope newsletter will also keep you up to date. And watch the mail for your giving pledge card and a webform to pledge online if you like.

By joining together with other members and friends, we continue to be a source of encouragement and joy throughout our community. **Hope Starts Here!**

Sincerely yours,

Esperanza Stewardship Team

A Message from Liz Farquhar Time & Talent

Dear friends,

About 20 years ago, the pastor asked me if I would work on a newsletter for the congregation. My entire career had been in the communications field: newspaper reporter, columnist, media relations specialist, and finally, magazine and website editor. The opportunity fit my skills perfectly! I said yes.

Those first Words of Hope emails were created in Word, then pasted into email and sent to you in packets of about a dozen to avoid the spam police. In 2012 we moved the newsletter to Constant Contact, and things got better. A bright layout with color pictures replaced those plain text emails. This year a new design gave us more layout options, and it displays well no matter what device you are using: phone, tablet or laptop. The newsletter reaches 205 of you, and the list grows.

Words of Hope followed me into retirement, and tags along on my vacations and camping trips, through surgeries and funerals, every week no fail. It's part of my life now. Getting it done means keeping my reporter ears open for news, searching for images or shooting photos myself, and constantly asking church leaders for ideas. Yup – it's a job! But I love it, and here's why.

In our culture, it seems like we're never far from a sales pitch. The news is overwhelmingly disheartening. We're bitterly divided by politics. But when I'm with my Esperanza family—turning out the newsletter, working in a council meeting, discussing something with the Thursday Matters group, worshipping over YouTube—my mind clears and I feel better. When I finish a newsletter, I feel like I've accomplished something important. I've helped us stay connected as residents of God's kingdom.

I encourage you to look for your perfect fit at Esperanza. It doesn't have to be a big time commitment, and trust me – we will not ask you to do 20 years! But as a naturally shy person, I learned long ago that the best way to feel like I belong is to roll up my sleeves and do some work. Keep an eye on the newsletter for something that interests you. When you see it, say yes.

Liz Farquhar

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P.S. In case you missed it between the lines, I could use a hand!