



Heartbeats along the way: The Generous Heart

Acts 2:46-47. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Ever since the first Christian community, generosity has been a vital sign of Christian behavior. This generosity has always borne fruit for Christians and non-believers. Setting an example for the world of the love of Christ and the command to love one another was the single most important way the pagans learned about Christ. It wasn't just what was written or spoken, but what was lived that brought people to Christ. This generosity among the believers themselves created the capacity for generosity toward others.

Recently, we demonstrated generosity by giving substantially to our annual budget, by donating selflessly to the Letort elementary school students, and in joyfully providing generous Alternative Gifts to eleven special activities.

We are also generous with our time, serving others and volunteering in church activities. This is a very encouraging pattern that reinforces our desire to respond to God's incomparable generosity. As we think about our transition to the Spring Garden Campus, we have time to consider other ways we can practice and grow in generosity to our church family and to others, near and far. More than a new building, a church family with generous hearts will promote the good will of those who encounter us. And in turn, as in Jerusalem two millennia ago, the Lord will add to our number those who are to be saved.

"O Life-giving God, may our hearts enjoy and freely share the generosity You have shown us through the building of the Spring Garden Campus. Teach us to grow in sincere generosity of prayer, purse, and practice, sharing all you give us for Christ's sake. Amen."