

Maureen Kelly
Stewardship 2026-27

Good evening. My name is Maureen Kelly, and I have been around Epiphany a while. Doug Wolz, the business manager here at Epiphany, called me a few weeks ago and suggested I would be a good person to give this 'stewardship talk.' After a brief conversation, I noted I wasn't exactly in my seat with arm raised jumping up and down to be called upon - but I agreed.

As I began reflecting, I realized that I don't like the word 'stewardship.' Somehow I feel it is about giving/doing more and that however much I give or do there is the internal feeling that it is not enough. And that somehow there is an "accounting," an obligation, that must be met in order to "belong." And that is not my experience of how God works in our lives.

But I also realized, as I continued to reflect, how much my life and life view has expanded because of being involved/present here at Epiphany.

My passion is with exploring prayer, worship, spirituality and this chant we just heard, Flower of Life - **You the root, we the branches; God of Love on whom we thrive; You the root, we the branches, we will enflesh Your spirit of Life** - gives expression to what stewardship is - trusting in this love and being called to enflesh it on our lives

So, because of my own personal character, I have been involved in the shaping of worship, the growing of spiritually diverse practices - SoulLife, worship committee, retreats, facilitating RCIA, or OCIA as it is now known. Attending some of the formation opportunities to expand my understanding of my faith beyond 'school formation.'

I like cooking, so bereavement meals became something I do occasionally.

I am an immigrant and was on the 10% committee - as a worship representative - when we welcomed an Afghan family of 10 - no English. There's this sort of anxiety when one knowingly places yourself in a situation of vulnerability, definitely outside the comfort zone - No one spoke Pashtu- not even google translate. So, one relies on the relationship of kindness and gestures.

Here I also met Habitat - Chuck's team. Once I retired, here was an opportunity to become a volunteer and to meet many here whose spirituality is expressed with a hammer.

I didn't do all these things at one time, but over time. Listening for where there was an invitation and an interest in growing in life. There is, and has also been, times to say No - My job was eliminated, please hold my automatic contributions; or no - I can't do this anymore, it is increasing stress and that is not God's desire.

Love isn't only about giving but also about receiving and allowing oneself to be carried - against the American value of "doing it myself only." Love doesn't distinguish who gives and who receives, but exists in relationship, a field of care.

As I mentioned, I like to cook, and often host a gathering of friends for a meal. When an invitation is extended, it is important to respond. Even if it's I can't, because it respects the relationship.

So, we have these Time, Talent and Treasure forms. Please respond. Even it's "I can't." It helps us to know you/ourselves. - I'm overwhelmed, I'm struggling, I can be generous financially, I'm dealing with health issues.

This 'stewardship' thing is about who we are, how we may minister/serve others, and also how we might need to be met now in our lives of faith - becoming enfleshed As God's Love/Life now.

Thank you