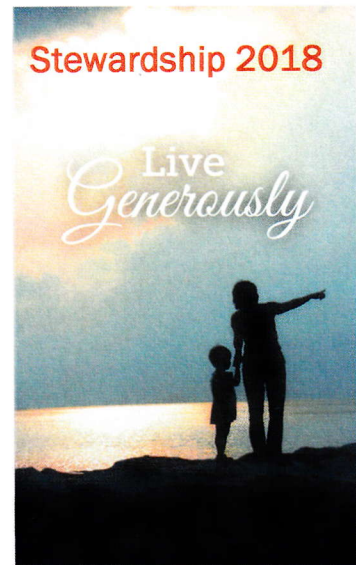


September 28th, 2017

Dear friends and family of Rideau Park United Church,

Why have I chosen the idea of appreciation for our 2018 Stewardship Campaign?

Building on John Scollick's theme last year of "Living Simply", I would suggest that daily appreciation enables us to live simply and fully. We discover that contrary to the illusion of consumer marketing, that indeed, we have enough "stuff". In fact, daily appreciation of who we are and what we have, unlocks our creativity to apply our resources in a truly meaningful way. The "Nearly New" sale is a prime example of recycle and renew. We can let go of our possessions, knowing they will make a significant difference to others, as well as creating essential space for ourselves.



Reality often depends on what is paid attention to. In other words, regardless of our life's situation we can choose to interpret it through a lens of optimism or pessimism, to search for the silver lining in any given situation. In Viktor Frankl's book, "Man's Search for Meaning", he describes focusing on one bright aspect in the sky, which enabled his survival during the holocaust.

According to author Melodie Beattie a positive perspective can transform "denial into acceptance, chaos into order and confusion into clarity." As Jesus demonstrated it can turn a meal into a feast. Appreciation transforms strangers into friends, challenges into opportunities, an existence into a meaningful life and disconnected situations into beneficial life lessons.

Deep appreciation makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and vision for tomorrow. There is no circumstance that is not responsive to the power of gratitude.

Rideau Park has been a beacon in the storm, a safe haven during times of illness and stress, an inspiration to nourish our spirit through music, worship and fellowship. We have a community of faith worth cherishing and preserving. May our financial gifts and blessings of time and talent overflow to sustain and grow our family in challenging times.

Thank you for your pledge and generosity which helps make all the wonderful things that happen at Rideau Park possible. Blessings.

Peggy

Peggy Rader
Chair, 2018 Stewardship Campaign