What does stewardship mean to me? Why do I give?

I think in the beginning, I gave out of a sense of duty and quite honestly maybe fear. That maybe God would be displeased with me if I didn't give to the church. Somewhere along the way, my giving became more of a "gift" to the future someone like me.

I think a lot about what Nativity has meant to me and my family. It has been my home away from home (Bham).

I also think a lot about the people who helped build this wonderful place in years past with their gifts. They didn't know me - they didn't know what Nativity would mean to me.

I think a lot about all the people from long ago who helped build our Church of the Nativity. All those stewards up until the time that I joined 31 years ago. This special place where my husband and I raised our 4 kids and taught Sunday school and ate a million dinners and studied the Bible (with the same group of ladies for over 25 years), and laughed and cried and grew spiritually and loved Jesus. In the beginning, Nativity was a little piece of home "far" from my Birmingham home. Now it is home. It is a familiar warm hug. I wish I could thank those before me for this true gift!

I think a lot about how those stewards who gave their time and money to this sacred place, did so just by faith. Never knowing who would eventually benefit from their gifts - big or small! Those nameless faith-filled souls just believing that by keeping this wonderful building's heart beating with the lights on and staff paid, that their gifts would help someone. I'm so grateful for them!

I wonder if the stewards of our past wondered about us! If they even had a clue what an impact that their gifts would make on thousands of lives and hearts and souls. That every offering would help touch and change those of us within these walls AND especially those outside of these walls! These faithful putting their faith in action, thereby helping Jesus' love move to people who don't think they deserve it! I wish I could tell show them what their contributions have done!

I wonder if those stewards before us would have believed our stories of how God is using this church to reach hurting and scared people, all because they cared enough to give. It's even hard for me to understand the impact our church is doing now.

I wonder how my gifts help toward Nativity blessings - present and future. I truly believe that anything I give makes a difference in my life and in someone else's life. What an exciting thought! That's what stewardship means to me!

Sincerely,

Mem Bryant

*Click HERE to make your 2026 pledge!