



Extravagant Generosity

In his book on the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, Bishop Robert Schnase reflects: *"Every sanctuary and chapel in which we have worshiped, every church organ that has lifted our spirits, every pew where we have sat, every Communion rail where we have knelt, every hymnal from which we have sung, every praise band that has touched our hearts, every church classroom where we have gathered with our friends, every church kitchen where our meals were prepared, every church van that has taken us to camp, every church camp we have ever attended - all are the fruit of someone's Extravagant Generosity."*

I'm sure we could add many other things to that list which have impacted our own journeys of faith. The point is this: Without the generosity of others, we wouldn't have the tools of faith that have shaped our lives. And so we can pause and be thankful. Thankful for the foresight of those who came before us.

How can we express our thanks? One way we can do that is by paying it forward. We need to give back fully and extravagantly if the Church is to continue to fulfill her important mission. Yet, extravagant generosity isn't just about the Church's need to receive, but about the Jesus-follower's need to give. Generosity is an essential part of our own spiritual maturity and growth. Generosity is a fruit of the spirit, worth pursuing.

We've all been the receivers of grace. We're the heirs, the beneficiaries of those who came before us who were touched by the generosity of Christ. They were inspired to give graciously so that we could experience the truth of Christ for ourselves. How will we share what we've been given with generations to come?

I'll see you in worship this Sunday as we explore this topic even further. In the meantime, I thank you for your faithfulness in giving to support the ministries of our congregation.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor David

May 25, 2017