



2017 Stewardship Witness Talk by Rich & Bobbi Earles

Rich: Since my wife does not feel comfortable with public speaking I told her I would come up for moral support and do most of the talking! For those of you who did not laugh you have not met my wife.

When Fr. Hauer called Bobbi to see if we would give the lay stewardship talk, he mentioned that many couples in the past have had just one person speak on behalf the family - thank you Fr. Hauer for giving me an opportunity to hand the baton off to my wife.

In all serious, we are humbled to have been asked to give the lay stewardship talk and thought of so many others in this parish that could easily be here in our place sharing their sage advice. Growing up we were both blessed to have families that showed us daily what it meant to be a good steward and part of a strong faith community.

Bobbi: For us time, talent and treasure are like pieces of a puzzle, when you are missing a piece the image is incomplete, and let's face it a little frustrating. The same is true of our faith life. Have you ever noticed when you dump puzzle pieces out, everyone gravitates toward the outside pieces, they are easy to find and usually fit together fast. Those outside pieces are the gifts God has given to you, essentially your talents. Many know what their strengths are and others just need a little encouragement. Take a moment and think about the many gifts you have received, these "talents" may seem small to you and easy to share, like fitting together the outside of a puzzle, but they make a huge impact on our parish community. You may even know someone at Resurrection you think would fill a need – take time after church walk up to them and encourage them to get involved. From ushering and reading to confirmation leaders and serving on the parish council, there are numerous ways to get involved and share your talents.

The middle pieces of a puzzle represent our "time." Think about it, we tend to grab those inside pieces and hold on to it closely as we look where it fits in to the picture...but if we hold on too tightly and don't put them down we miss an opportunity to place more pieces together. The same is true in sharing your time with others. Friendships have formed because of time we spent with others. Today everyone is busy and we know that time is a precious commodity, but we challenge you as you fill your calendar with family, school and work, don't forget to make time for God. Carve out time to pray as a family, help at the parish festival, a funeral dinner or take time to volunteer as a chaperone (trust me it's a learning experience). In the end you will find it is not only possible but spiritually fulfilling.

Then there are those unusually shaped pieces of the puzzle that really make you think about where they fit in, and when you finally figure them out everything else falls into place. That is your treasure and it is unique to each of us. Pope Francis says, "Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place, in many ways." We are all the beneficiaries of God's love in so many 'unexpected' ways and that inspires us to support our faith community here at Resurrection.

Resurrection is like the table you dump the puzzle pieces out on allowing you to fit each piece together into a beautiful image. Without the foundation of our faith we are simply pieces, but when we join together as a community our faith life and family feel complete. Please take time to prayerfully consider what pieces you can share with Resurrection. If you truly give it up to God He will help guide you on your faith journey and assist you in fitting together all the pieces of your puzzle. Thank you!