



2018 Stewardship Witness Talk by Travis & Maggie Kramer

Travis: Hello, we are the Kramers. My name is Travis and this is my wife, Maggie. We have been members of the parish for over 10 years. We have 3 children: Owen and Katherine are 9-year-old twins, and Anna, who is 4. They attend school at Resurrection. I am a police officer and Maggie owns her own dental practice. Like all of you, we lead busy lives. We are here today to talk to you about stewardship, and that all things we have are a gift from God. How we treat those gifts is important. Stewardship is often broken down into three categories of time, talent, and treasure.

Years ago, shortly after we were married, we talked about wanting to be “regulars” somewhere. We both watched “Cheers” years ago and loved the idea of having a place to go where “everyone knows your name.” For those who haven’t heard of Cheers, the whole show centered around a neighborhood bar. All of the employees and patrons of the bar greeted each other and joked around. There were, of course, some crazy antics involved and various character flaws that lead to constant hilarious situations. The regulars eagerly got to know any newcomers to the bar. Prior to having kids, we had achieved “regular” status at Starbucks in Asbury Plaza until the store closed. Although we met wonderful people there, we realized that a life centered around coffee wasn’t God’s ultimate plan for us. We set out for something more fulfilling and we have found that place here at Resurrection.

To become a “regular” takes TIME. We are here quite often. We help out with the core teams of TMIY and LIFT, I’m on the Parish Pastoral Council and Buildings & Grounds Committee, we are greeters, Katherine is in the Children’s Choir, and we are co-chairs of the next parish festival. We love to help out and have gone out of our way to find or make the time to help at Resurrection. We’ve recently heard in Father’s homilies that we must make time for what is important. We believe it is important to show our kids what can happen when great people come together as a Church and work toward the greater good.

Maggie: The next component is TALENT. This one is tricky. The CHEERS theme song talks about a place where everybody knows your name, but I am terrible with names. Talents are very different for each of us. Travis is organized and detail oriented. He is also far more outgoing than I am. I am better with figuring out how to make things work in harmony and to make people feel welcome. My kids also say that I have a bossy streak. We are both good at following through. When we say we’ll do something, it will get done. Even if it means getting up in front of the entire church and speaking...

Next comes TREASURE. Cliff and Norm had to pay for all that beer! In all seriousness, we get far more out of our experiences and the richness that we have in our lives here at Resurrection than we could ever give. Knowing that the money that we donate is helping the Resurrection community as well as those in need is what Jesus has called us to do. We tithe weekly through EFT. We used to write a check each week, but found ourselves scribbling it out as we were dragging the kids into the car. It didn't feel like a loving donation as we were losing our minds trying to get to Mass on time. We prayerfully consider how much we can give and have it pulled from our account. Easy as can be!

The Time Talent and Treasure packets are a great way to see what is going on in our Parish. There are so many opportunities to get involved. When we originally agreed to be Assistant Co-Chairs for the Parish Festival, we were told that we were crazy and should have said no. To be completely honest, it was one of the most fun and rewarding experiences we've had. We met so many new people. Each time we thought that there would be a shortage somewhere, someone stepped up and helped. We have a fantastic Parish and it will continue to be that way if we all help out by donating our TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE.