

# Stewardship is Belonging in Action!

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Stewardship Kaleidoscope  
Workshop C-16  
Tuesday, Sep. 24th 2024

Andrew Kukla



In the beginning...  
**MATTERS!**

Presbyterian by  
Mathematical Equation

High RESPONSE-ability

Son of a  
Small Business Owner

Kierkegaardian

"Messy Families!"



Discipleship

Membership

Belonging

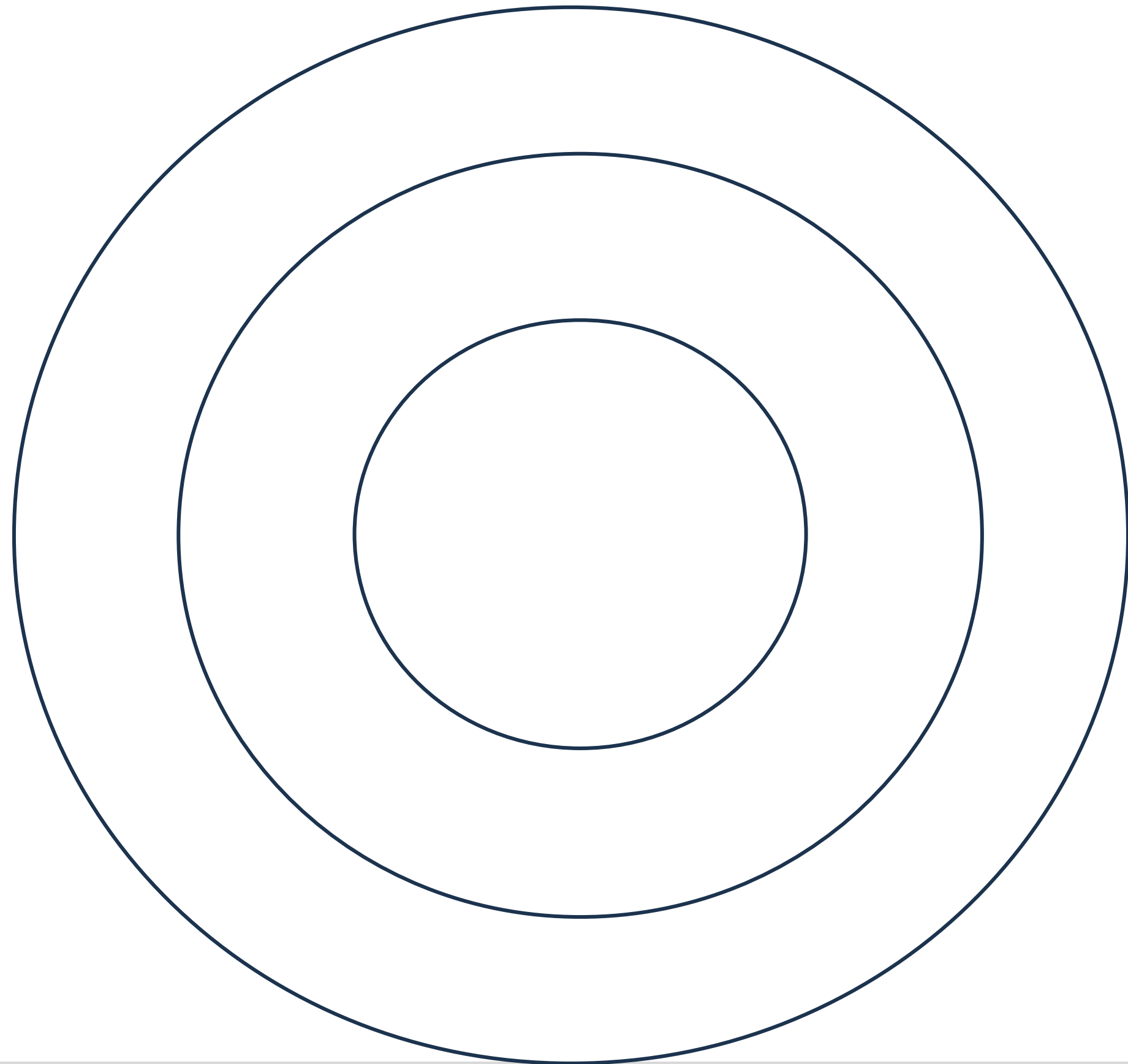
Attendance

Stewardship

Fundraising



What's in a name?



*We work towards  
what we measure!*

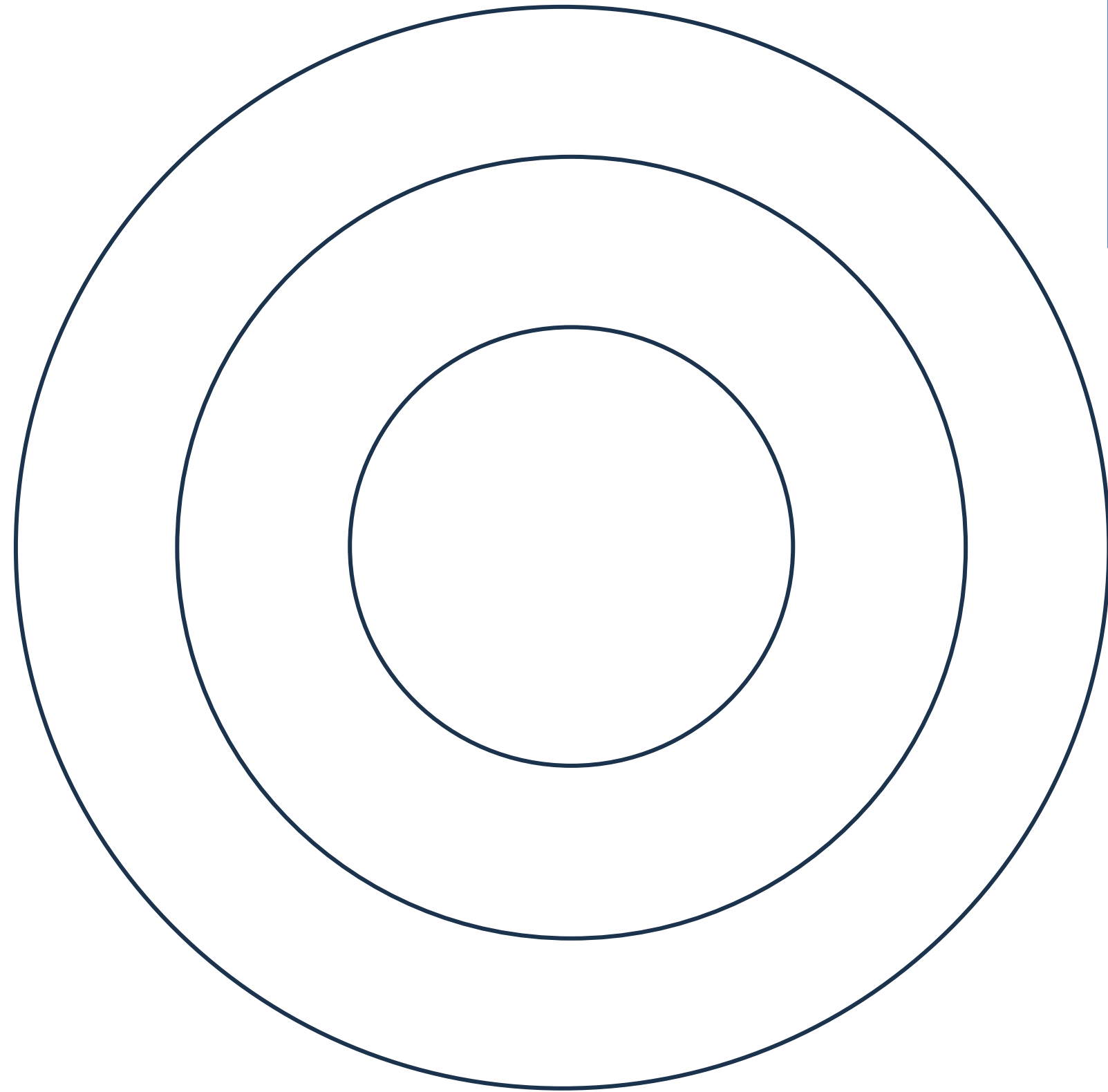
*Name your goals correctly!*

*Work towards your goal.*

*Don't get distracted!  
(remember to laugh)*

*Work towards your goal!*

# It's a Movement not a Moment



It is well known that Christ consistently used the expression “follower.” He never asks for admirers, worshippers, or adherents. No, he calls disciples. It is not adherents of a teaching but followers of a life Christ is looking for...

What then, is the difference between an admirer and a follower? A follower is, or strives to be, what he admires. An admirer, however, keeps himself personally detached. He fails to see that what is admired involves a claim upon him, and thus he fails to be or strive to be what he admires.

--Soren Kierkegaard

# A Patchwork Quilt of Scriptural Witness for Discipleship

"Pick up  
your cross  
**DAILY**"



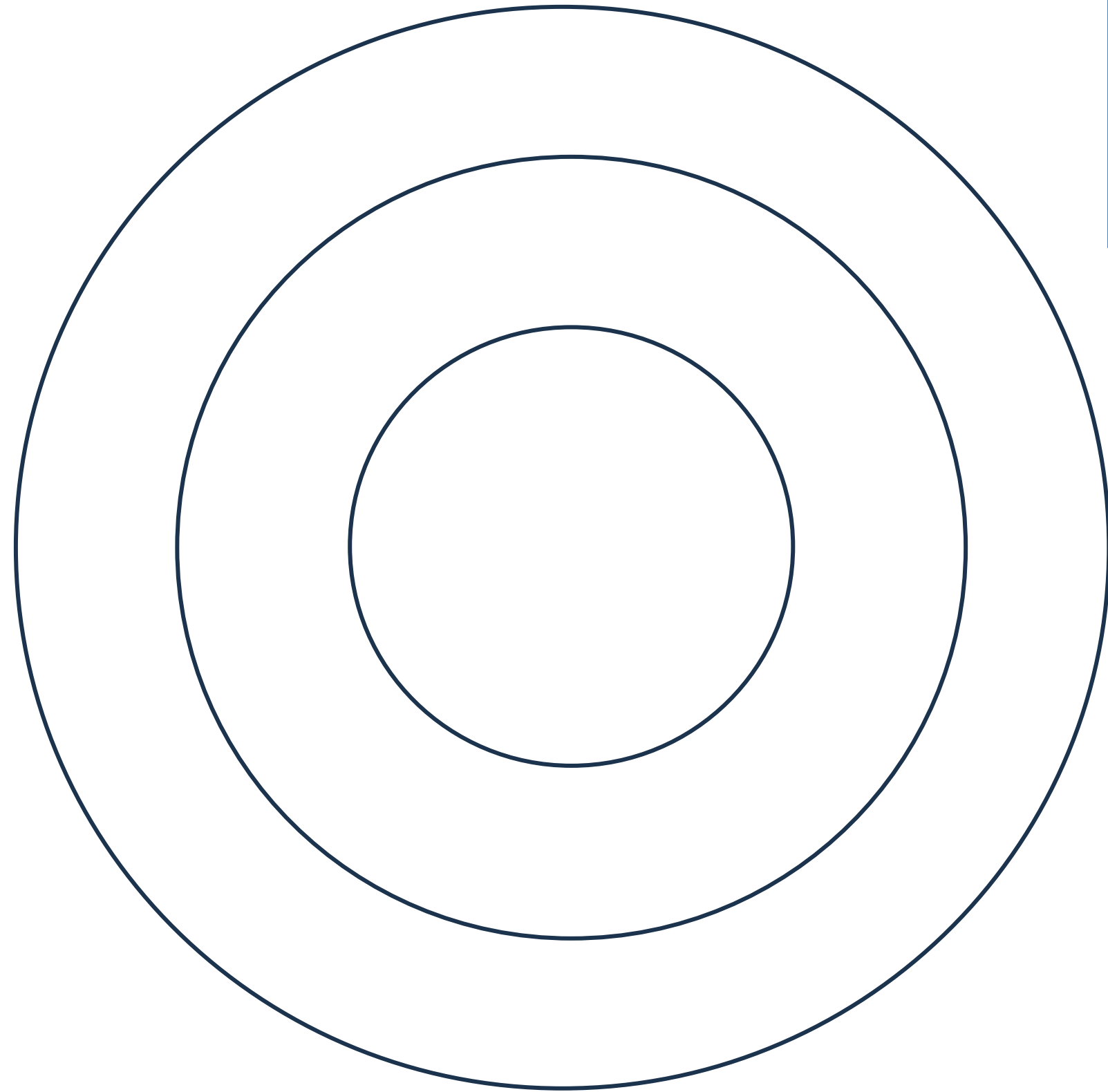
"Drop  
**NETS** and  
**FOLLOW**  
me."

"Sell all your  
possessions....  
**THEN?** Come  
**AND** follow."

"Where would  
we go... you  
have the  
**WORDS** of  
**ETERNAL**  
life?"

"No one who  
puts hand to the  
plow and looks  
back is **FIT**..."

“To thine own self be true”



Discipleship is about:

Orientation – what are working towards?  
(And who are we following?)

Identity – who we are and whose we are!

Formation – my yoke is... apostolic!

Take a moment –  
listen to the wild  
things...

...and before we  
move one:

What is unsettled or  
unsettling you?





"If you have a giving problem in your congregation,  
what you really have is a belonging problem!"

-Andrew Kukla

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Let's Go Back to the Very Beginning...  
...a very good place to start!

"Finally... THIS one is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh."

"By the waters of Babylon we sat... we fell apart... we sobbed...  
when we remembered...  
...home."

"Seek the welfare of the city in which you live  
because its welfare is your welfare!"

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First and foremost, to belong is to be related to and a part of something. It is membership, the experience of being at home... The second meaning of the word belong has to do with being an owner... To belong to a community is to act as a creator and co-owner of that community. What I consider mine I will build and nurture.”

"Commitment is the antithesis of entitlement and barter. Unconditional commitment with no thought to "What's in it for me?" is the emotional and relational essence of community. It is what some call integrity; others, "honoring your word." Commitment is to choose a path for its own sake. This is the essence of power. Mother Theresa got this. When asked why she worked with people one at a time rather than caring more about having impact on a larger scale, she replied, "I was called by faith, not by results." If you want to argue with Mother Theresa, be my guest."

“Community: The Structure of Belonging” by Peter Block

Are we ever going to talk  
about stewardship?????

# The tension of leadership and communal responsibility

"We love our habit of dependency and accept the culture of retribution because it reinforces the case from strong leaders - "strong" being the code word for autocratic... that leaders are the leverage point for building a better community. That they are foreground while citizens, followers, players, and anyone else not in a leadership position is background. This is a deeply patriarchal agenda, and it is this love of leaders that limits our capacity to create an alternative future. It proposes that the only real accountability in the world is at the top. They are the only ones worth talking about."

Community: The Structure of Belonging  
Peter Block

"Monasticism was represented as an individual achievement which the mass of the laity could not be expected to emulate. By thus limiting the application of the commandments of Jesus to a restricted group of specialists, the Church evolved the fatal conception for the double standard – a maximum and minimum standard of Christian obedience."

The Cost of Discipleship,  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer



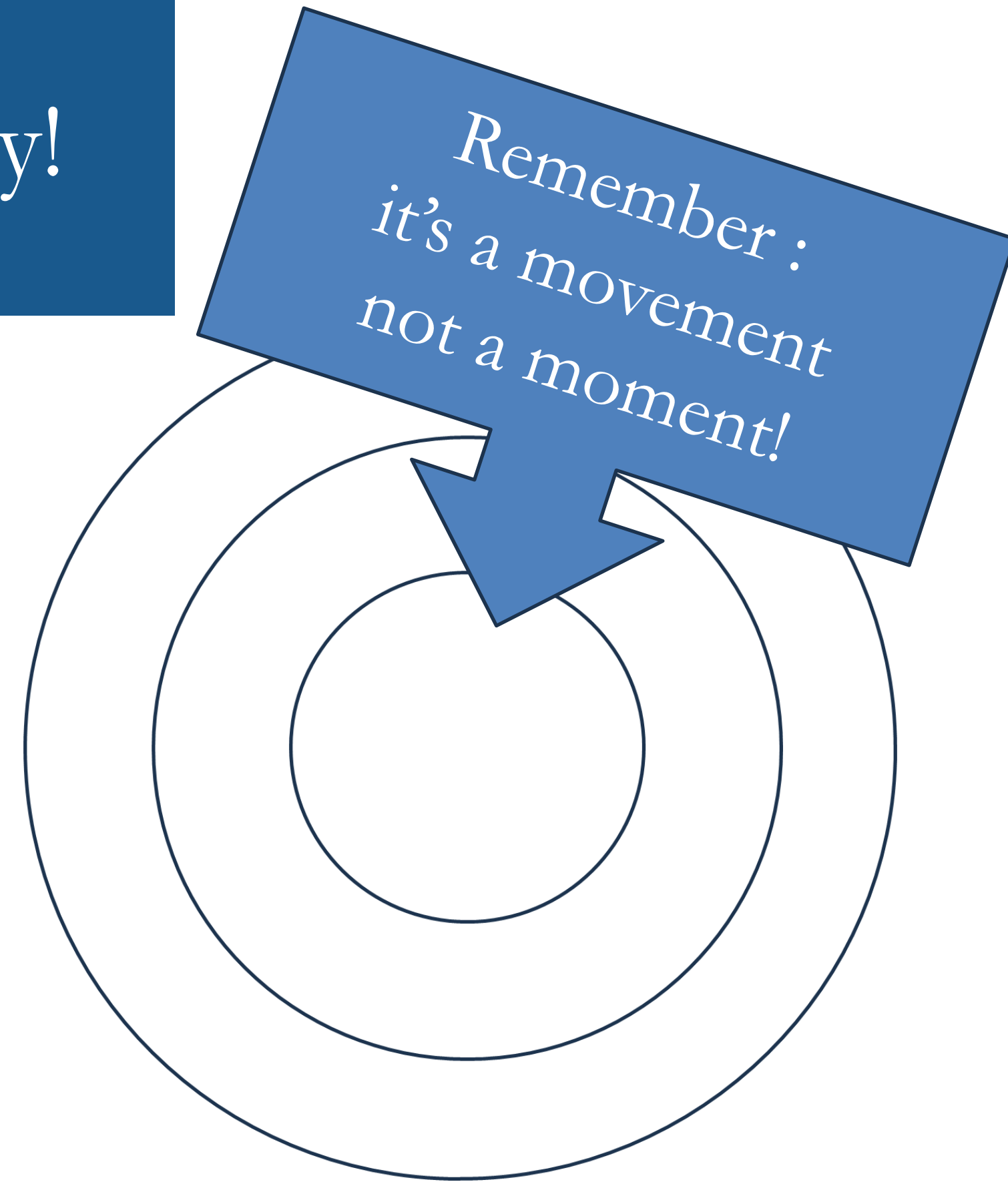
Mentors  
not  
Saviors

How is spilled  
water a  
litmus test for  
stewardship?



# Stewardship is RESPONSE-ability!

It is developing capacity for generosity when encountering stressful opportunities both positive (eustress) and negative (distress)!





It is not all  
about money...  
AND  
it also is  
not NOT  
about money!



Who benefits  
when we don't talk  
about money?

# Budgets are moral documents!

Response-ability and growing capacity for generosity and hospitality

...love of neighbors

...the welfare of the city

...understanding community as a life or death matter

This cannot be limited only to areas we are allowed to confront,  
or that are comfortable to engage!

Discipleship... Belonging... Stewardship are WHOLE life matters!!!

Called Community  
Consistent Vision  
Transparency  
Communication  
Collective Responsibility



Let's pause...

...catch our breath...

...see where we are...

# Some Tangible Ideas

## Context Matters

These are ideas, but what works for you will be **what grows from your soil!**

If you do annual stewardship, if you do a pledge campaign, if you pray and hope money just works out (not dismissing this, there is deep faith here) whatever process we have should be embedded in the idea that our **stewardship is the story of this congregation's purpose** – it is no less and no more than what God has called you to do together!

Remember that in all this you are not fundraising a budget – **you are creating ownership of a vision** and a calling... daily... with our whole lives!

People need a call to action, and guidance in how to respond... Moses had all the potential in the world... but **God had to coax it out of him...** pretty darn hard!

If you team generate ideas and leadership to tell that story and create opportunities for capacity growth in generosity and hospitality – in **RESPONSE-ability...** use creative people, story telling people, people who are authentic, and trustworthy...**your budget and finance group can all be auditors and bankers, NOT your stewardship instigators!!!**

Some Tangible Ideas

# Some tools I use... what tools are you using?

These are not about whole year  
ongoing and never-ending conversation of  
discipleship, belonging, and stewardship...  
this is about my annual stewardship campaign,  
it's a lot like fundraising...  
but embedded in this larger story!!!

- Begin with a personal letter
- Series and Sermon Teasers
- Wait to send a pledge card!
- Witness and Testimony.
- Share a budget... but in the background
- Call the question – make it a celebration!!
- Follow up... with everyone (not just members)!

Thank  
**EVERYONE**  
... no matter  
how late to  
the party



The 12+ campaigns  
I've curated in my 12  
years in my  
current context

2013 - Dreaming the Future

2014 - Living the Future

2015 – The Joy of Giving

2016 – Mission Possible #ALLIN

2017 – Make a Joyful Noise

2018 – Connected

2019 – Home

2020 – Taking Flight

2021 – Ripples: Start Something

2022 – What Are We Doing Here?

2023 – Woven

2024 – Cultivate

2025 – Live Your Faith Out loud

**Dreaming the Future**



**“I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth,  
do you not perceive it?”**

**Isaiah 43:19**

**October 28th**

**“Re-Membering the Past”**

Hebrews 12: 1-3, 8-14

“We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...  
let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.”

Hebrews 12:1

**November 4th**

**Mission Sunday**

Ellen Sherby, guest speaker and preacher

**November 11th**

**“Living into the Moment”**

Acts 2:14-21, 39-47

“Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and  
signs were being done by the apostles.”

Acts 2:39

**November 18th**

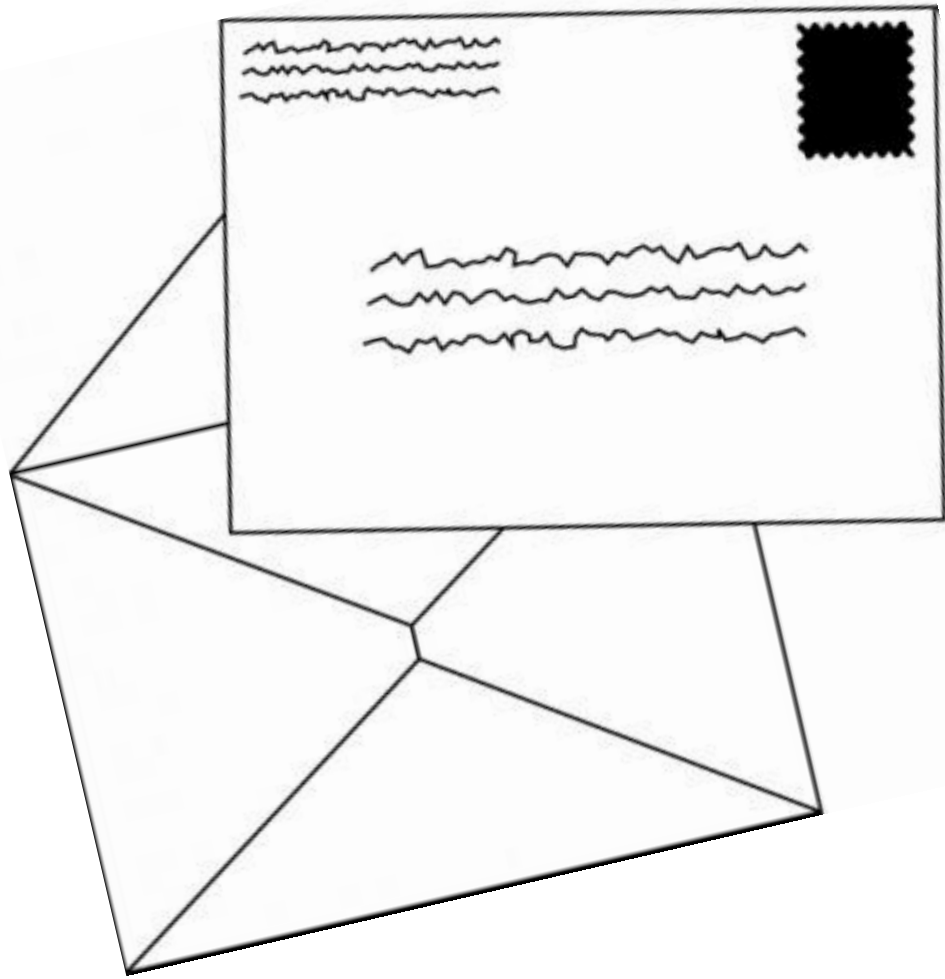
**Single Service at 10:30**

**“Dreaming the Future”**

Revelation 21:1-7

“Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will  
be no more....‘See, I am making all things new.’”

Rev. 21:4-5



Dear FPC Family and Friends,  
This month we have been talking about going #allin to God's mission in the world. Why? Because God has gone #allin to our lives and God calls us to do the same in the lives of one another. This concept is BIG! It's a way of life – the way of life we are called to as disciples of Jesus Christ. As we have progressed, we have talked about diving deeply into....



Stewardship 2018

"And I love it here more than almost any other place. It's so peaceful and I feel you can just really be yourself here."



# “What Are We Doing Here?”

A 4-Week Stewardship Series on  
The Six Great Ends of the Church

October 10<sup>th</sup> - Worship

The maintenance of divine worship.

The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of  
humankind.

October 17<sup>th</sup> - Nurture

The shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the  
children of God.

The preservation of the truth.

October 24<sup>th</sup> - Mission

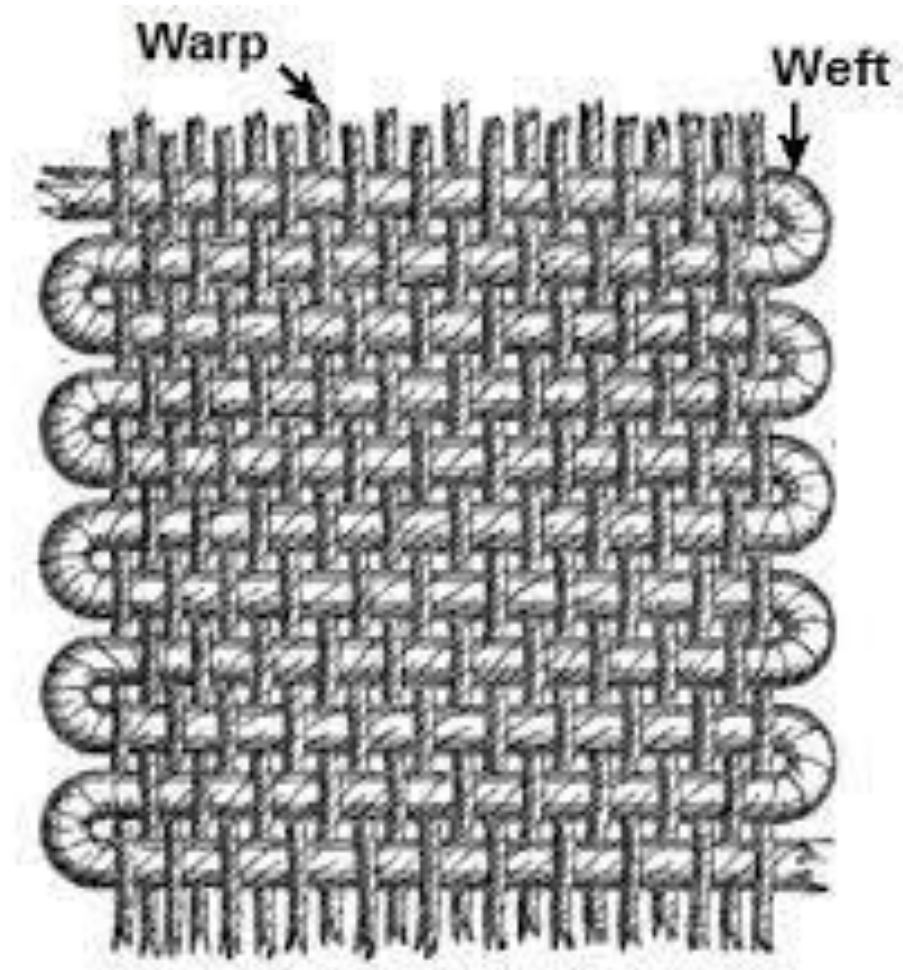
The promotion of social righteousness.

The exhibition of the kingdom of heaven to the  
world.

October 31<sup>st</sup> – Pledge Sunday

Reformation Sunday: A Chain Unbroken





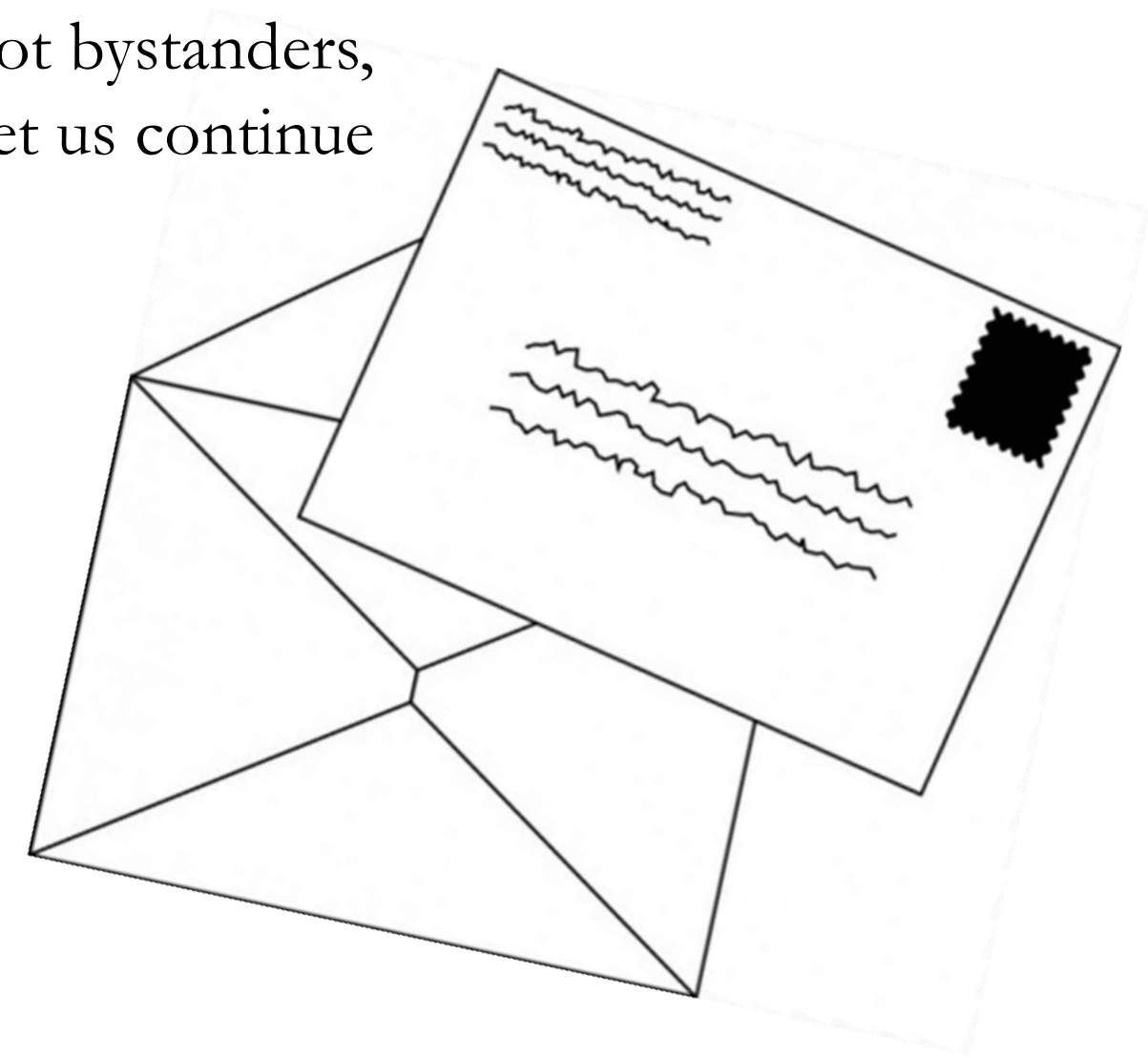
Thank you for your overwhelming response and passion for the good news of Jesus Christ! Thank you for being a part of our ministry team. Thank you for your generosity.

The pledge you turned in is a vital part of our shared work to be good news in our community. Your pledge is only the beginning, but it's an important first step. I hope that alongside this you are also exploring where and when and how you plan to deepen your connection to this community and your work to connect your neighbors to God's love.

We are a community with a culture of generosity and responsiveness. You are not bystanders, but those who stand up – and dig in to cultivate a world where all will flourish; let us continue to meet the calling God has put on our hearts in mission and ministry for 2024.

Grace and Peace,

Andrew



Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.

- Winston Churchill