

Money Minute – May 21, 2017

Hello! And thank you for this opportunity to speak to you as the new Stewardship chair. As I thought about what I wanted to do as Stewardship chair, the first thing that came to mind was that we don't have enough conversations around money in this church. So, I decided we needed to have a monthly conversation about it! This was to be the first of such talks. I was more or less prepared to go down the path of budgets and expenses and pledge numbers and so on. But then, as part of a leadership training course, I came across a Ted talk by Simon Sinek called "How great leaders inspire action" and it completely changed my plans.

To give you a quick summary of what he presented: He talks about something called the golden circle. Imagine three concentric circles with "What" in the outermost circle, "How" in the middle circle, and "Why" in the innermost circle. Sinek says most people and companies talk about the *What* followed by the *How*, whereas great leaders lead with the *Why* and then talk about the *How* and the *What*.

To give you an example, let's compare what Apple does that is different from, say, a company like HP.

HP says, "We make great computers. They're beautifully designed, simple to use, and user friendly. Wanna buy some?" Mmm. Meh.

Apple, on the other hand, says, "In everything we do, we believe in challenging the status quo. We believe in thinking differently. The way we do this is by making products that are beautifully designed, simple to use, and user friendly. We just happen to make great computers, and iPhones and iPods. Wanna buy some?" Absolutely!

So, today, I want to focus on the "why we do what we do." We, Sunnyhill, are like the beacon on top of the hill! Look around you today. These are challenging times. The very foundation of who we are as a people is at stake. People are being targeted for who they are, what they believe, who they love, or who they identify as! Income inequality is off the charts! Poor people are being targeted simply for being poor. They have no voice! Healthcare is being taken away from the poor and sick, so that some rich people can have more to buy that second yacht. The wall between religion and politics is crumbling and threatening to come down.

We are here to fight against these injustices! We are here to protect and speak for those who can't defend or speak for themselves. We are here to demand social justice! We are here to provide our community with a safe place to be who they are, believe what they want, and love whom they want. We are here to foster a community of compassion and love both within these walls and all around us.

And we do this by providing a safe sanctuary in a beautiful building. We do this by hiring a minister who is loving, compassionate, and inspirational. We do this by providing a wonderful

religious education program within these walls for the next generation so that they, in their turn, can take on this flame and continue the fight. We do this by hiring an RE director in whose hands we can entrust the education of our young. We do this by hiring a music director and coordinator who can bring us joy and inspiration through music.

But we can't do this without your time, talent, and treasure! We need your money, for sure, because that is what helps us provide these things. But we also need your time and talent. It takes a lot of volunteers to do all the things that must be done here!

So this is who we are at Sunnyhill, and what we do, and how we do it!

Wanna buy some?

--Chetan Chothani, Stewardship Chair