

## Stewardship 2012

### Sowing Seeds



While it is not an official period of the church year like Advent or Pentecost or even “Ordinary Time,” fall is traditionally the time when the church at large focuses on Stewardship. Just as it is spiritually rewarding to focus on the crucifixion and resurrection during Lent and Easter, so too, the fall Stewardship season can be spiritually rewarding as we reflect upon the blessings God has bestowed upon us and as we offer our thanks.

Those of you in worship on October 23 were treated to the cast of *Godspell* reenacting the parable of the sower and the song “*All Good Gifts*,” including the lines below.

*We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand ...*

*All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above.  
So thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord, for all his love.*

Throughout the fall, we will be reminded in worship of the many areas where our church has seen our seedlings fed and watered by God’s hands. We continue our personal spiritual growth when we respond to God’s goodness by giving back to our church and its many missions through the gifts of our time, talent, and our financial offerings. The Christian recording artist Michael W. Smith in his song “*Seed to Sow*” tells us that “God can use what you can give within the mystery of His ways” and that “everybody’s got a seed to

## ChristMarket@Wallingford

Can’t think of what to buy for the person who “has everything?” Is someone on your list committed to helping others or just doesn’t appreciate the commercialization of Christmas? Do you struggle to think of appropriate gifts for work colleagues or clients? Or are you simply looking to give some of what has been blessed upon you to those with greater needs at this time of year?

ChristMarket@Wallingford provides a completely different gift giving opportunity that can solve all of these questions. We provide a market place with a broad array of deserving (local and international) organizations and projects to which you can donate in the name of your friends, co-workers and family. The market will also include some wonderful free trade products if you prefer to hand someone a tangible gift while still sharing your blessings with others. The market has been hugely successful in years past, providing meaningful alternatives to traditional Christmas shopping, while raising awareness of the needs of others and raising significant funds to support those needs.

Beginning on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and continuing each Sunday through December 18<sup>th</sup>, Fellowship Hall will be set up as a shopping plaza with about 15 different stations. Some of the gift opportunities will be familiar from years past and some will be all new. As in years past, the prices will be in the \$2 to \$25 range. You simply shop the stations, learning about the organizations, projects and products from our volunteer interpreters, complete your shopping list and pay for your “gifts” at the check-out table. You will be provided with cards for each of the gifts you purchased that describe the organization or product. You can then send the card to the recipient of your “gift.”

See you at the Market!

