

LIVING GENEROUSLY

a stewardship narrative series presented by TENS

ALL SAINTS DAY

RICHARD FELTON

Could there be a greater definition of living generously than what is found in the sixth chapter of Luke's Gospel? "But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies." The gospel appointed for All Saints Day concludes with: "Give to everyone who asks and don't demand your things back from those who take them. Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you."

And Psalm 149 encourages us to praise God with dance, with the drum and the lyre because "the Lord is pleased with his people." Alleluia!

All Saints Day is a day to remember those who have gone before us as we joyfully strive to be God's disciples. We're called to remember them not simply as a way to honor their good work but to be inspired by them and their work. We are called to live generously — as they lived. The work of discipleship is ongoing.

As members of "The Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement" — as Presiding Bishop Michael Curry refers to us — we are called to be and make disciples. Tyler Edwards, the discipleship pastor at Carolina Forest Community Church in Myrtle Beach, S.C., and



reflection questions

- Who are the role models in your life for living generously, and living committed to faith?
- What qualities did or do they have that you aspire to replicate?

in gratitude for all that God has given us.

On All Saints Day, let us rededicate ourselves to doing God's work in the world just as those who went before us: sacrificing and giving of ourselves in joy and in gratitude.

author of "Zombie Church: Breathing Life Back Into the Body of Christ," says we are to make disciples, not converts.

Tyler makes a powerful distinction: Converts are new to the faith; that is where we all start. But disciples go further. "Converts go to church," he says; "Disciples are the Church."

"Converts are involved in the mission of Jesus. Disciples are committed to it."

"Converts cheer from the sidelines. Disciples are in the game."

"Converts hear the word of God. Disciples live it."

"Converts follow the rules. Disciples follow Jesus."

"Converts are all about believing. Disciples are all about being."

"Converts are comfortable. Disciples make sacrifices."

I've found that disciples willing to make sacrifices are committed to living generously. We are called to be and make disciples. We are called to generously live



Richard Felton is the Executive Director of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS). A cradle Episcopalian, Richard has worked with churches around the country in the areas of stewardship, planned giving and capital campaigns. Before joining TENS, he was the Vice President for Advancement at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific.