



## **Stewardship Reflection**

### **Jackie Hamilton**

My name is Jackie King Hamilton, and I grew up in neighboring Meade County. I am blessed to still have both of my parents, Howard and Elizabeth King as well as ten of eleven siblings. I went to grade school at St John the Apostle, then to public school in Brandenburg. I have been a parishioner here at St James since 2003 after moving here from Lexington. I am mom to four great kids and more importantly, Grammy to seven sweet grandchildren.

My earliest memories concerning stewardship began at St John's where we were encouraged to share part

of our lunches (those were the metal lunchbox days) with any classmate that had forgotten their lunch. There was a window between the area where the nuns and students ate and we could place a piece of fruit, snack, etc. there to share. It was a small gesture but laid the foundation for me.

Over the years of high school, other efforts like raking leaves for homebound parishioners or singing at nursing homes further cemented the idea that no matter how young or old, rich or poor, everyone had a talent to share with those less fortunate.

As I grew into adulthood, married, and started raising a family, my love of music always drew me to the music ministry at whatever parish my family attended. Whether it was part of an ensemble or cantering, I loved sharing this talent. Financially, I ascribe to the giving of the first fruits. Often, it is tough to set that 10% aside but I remember Father Chuck telling us many years ago that God's generosity will not be outdone. I have seen evidence of this in my life personally. Several years ago, Father Martin had made a plea for an increase in tithing. I had recently gone through a divorce and felt strained financially. But I prayed about it, upped my tithing, and figured I would cut something else out. The following week I received a raise that covered my increase in tithing. I could not help but feel God was right there with me.

I love to cook, so cooking for funeral dinners was a natural choice for me to help at St James. I also help with lecturing, donate at blood drives, and pray during adoration.

No matter how small you may feel your talent is, offer it up to God with your whole heart. Whether it is prayers, a talent or financial support, the blessings you receive will be many more than those that you offer. I love this parish and the people here. What a blessing to be part of this parish!

NOTE: By the time this article is published I will have moved to Lexington. I have started a new position in Lexington. I have absolutely loved being part of St James' parish and will miss it more than you know but all my children are in Lexington and these seven precious grandchildren as well; thus, I feel it is the perfect time to be closer to them.

Jackie King Hamilton