

My name is Dennis Scarry; I have been married to Jennifer for 22 years. We have two sons, Brad 20, and Kyle 15. I have been a member of this parish since 1991.

The focus of my talk today is Stewardship. Stewardship is the generous sharing of our time, talent and treasure. Stewardship of time includes the ways we worship God and develop our relationship with Him. Stewardship of talent focuses on sharing our gifts with others through service and sharing. Stewardship of treasure is the way we return to God from the fruits of our labor, by sharing both the money we have earned as well as our material possessions.

The focus of today's talk is the stewardship of time and talent.

So let's talk about time first. I am a cradle Catholic and going to mass every Sunday was instilled in me by my parents. However, during college and afterwards, going to mass was not a priority in my life, and I stopped going.

I graduated college, went to work in the suburbs of Washing DC, met Jennifer, got married (in a Baptist Church), and Brad was born.

We moved to Tallahassee in 1990. So 10+ years had passed and I might have gone to mass 10 times. Here I was.... married and had one son... happy with my life except for one thing. I felt a void in my life. I knew that void was my faith. The habits my parents instilled in me about going to mass began to pay off.

I started to go to 8am mass here at Good Shepherd. You know what? I always felt good after mass. This good feeling must have rubbed off on my wife Jennifer. One day, she asked if she could come with me. I was very happy. No happy doesn't describe it, I was ecstatic. Ask Jennifer about the look I had on my face.

We started going to mass together every Sunday. Then, along came son number 2, Kyle. Something inside me was churning. You see Brad had never been baptized and he was now 5 years old. I always felt bad about that. Now I had the opportunity to get both Brad and Kyle baptized.

When the day of the baptism arrived, I had much joy in my heart that day. Both grandparents were here and it was a special day. Later that day, my dad pulled me aside and told me how happy he was about the baptism. He told me it was an answer to his and my mom's prayers.

About this time I was invited to attend a Christ Renews His Parish weekend. I was very nervous. I am typically a shy and introverted person (or at least I used to be). The CRHP weekend blew me away. I was on a spiritual high.

I was like a sponge soaking everything up. I ended up becoming involved in the CRHP program and I looked to help in other ministries at Good Shepherd. I became an RE teacher also. I was spending much of my time at the Church. And I loved it. It was not a sacrifice, it was a joy.

I didn't have much treasure then, so I put forth my effort giving my time to God. I didn't know anything about stewardship, I was following my heart. I was an infant spiritually and I wanted to know more.

My lack of maturity in prayer and discernment would cause me to become overextended. A meeting at church, coaching a son's football team, work responsibilities... they all began to pile up. There was a yearning in my heart for something; I did not know what it was. I would attend men's retreats and go to other spiritual events, but my heart was not settled. I was growing in my faith,

like a teenager going to puberty; I was getting mixed signals about who I was and what I should be doing. In other words, what was my talent? What did God want me to do?

I helped with Life Teen when it first started here and I loved it, but it was not my thing. I still felt a yearning inside.

The cool thing about God is that he listens to your prayers. Sometimes he does not answer them right away, but he does listen. And one day he gave me the answer.

I was attending a men's conference at Thomasville Road Baptist Church a little over 6 years ago. It started on Friday night and ended Saturday afternoon. As I was driving home Friday night, I got the feeling that God was telling me something. He was telling me that we need to try and start getting a group of men together here at Good Shepherd. I shared this with a good friend of mine Saturday morning and he thought it was a great idea. During lunch, there were 8 or 9 guys from Good Shepherd and I shared my vision with them too.

The vision was eagerly accepted and we began the planning process for what is now known as Men's Ministry.

This is where my talent lies.

Men's ministry is very fortunate to have someone like Bob Schuchts helping out. Bob and I kind of have a system we have worked out. He is more the teacher and I share what is on my heart.

Yes there are times we have switched the roles. But Bob does the talking and I do the crying.

Men's ministry has had many other men speak to us from around the world actually. And yes, we have had females speak to us too.

It has been over 6 years since the Men's ministry group. During this time, a group of 15 – 20 men have met every Wednesday morning from 7am – 8am. We are blessed with the music of Bob Blythe....., and Fred Springer makes the coffee.

We have been blessed with a group of men trying searching for the right path to follow in this confusing world.

Most of my time and talent is dedicated to Men's Ministry and Men's issues. I am able to focus my efforts on one thing and not have it spread out to other things. I have found by having this focus, I can devote more time to my family, my prayer life, and my relationship with God.

I have been blessed in many ways by the men in our group. They have prayed for me and my family and helped me out in many other ways. I could speak for hours about the blessings I have received. Not to worry, my time has run out.

Let me leave you with one thought, sorry ladies, this is slanted toward the men. God has the most awesome set of power tools. Each tool has a specific purpose for the job it is doing.

We are the power tools of God, take the TIME... to find your purpose... your TALENT.... And God will use you to achieve his glory.