



WHAT DO YOU SEE NOW?

You know the drill. You go into the optometrist's office, you sit down, and soon to test your eyes you begin to look through different lenses. The optometrist says something like, "what do you see?" As you look at the chart at first, you can only see fuzzy letters. Slowly, however, the optometrist changes the lenses, asking, "how about now?" With each change, the letters on the chart begin to emerge more clearly. You can begin to see more accurately. What was fuzzy now becomes clear.

Sometimes we can look at what we have and it can appear fuzzy. It doesn't feel like we have enough. At the beginning or middle or end of the month the bills can come—the bills always come, right?—and we may feel that if we just had a little more money, then maybe we'd have enough. If we had a little more, our lives would be easier. If we had a little more, we'd be happier.

But God has shown us how we can change the lens. We can practice tithing—or tenting—what we have. And to practice the biblical tithe is to look and see more accurately. Giving 10% to God means keeping the 90% we have in a new way. Keeping the 10% aside for God means giving the 90% we have, spending it in the course of life with more gratitude and thanksgiving. 100% of what we make and do is ours to steward, and yet by tithing we can appreciate how the life we have, and all that we have, is also a gift from God. Of course, we can all say we know this without

tithing, and of course we do: but to change the lens, to tithe, is to know it-know it. The fuzziness disappears, and the writing on the wall becomes clear.



What do you see? We are a parish that holds up the biblical standard of tithing as a mark of being a contemporary disciple. To begin to practice the tithe may mean sacrifice. It can mean sacrificing our fears and

perceptions to trust in God. It can mean reordering our spending priorities and even a new course for our financial plans. But as you begin to tithe, you can be surprised by what you see now. The writing on the wall becomes clearer: You are enough. You have enough. Why? Because--and this is the writing on the wall that we can clearly see--God is abundant. Even though our fuzzy perceptions of scarcity and fears of not having enough may yet be with us, by the grace of God our eyes can behold by a new lens the abundance we have.

— *Nate*

WELCOME TO ST. TIMOTHY'S.

We are glad that you are here. Our newcomers and guests may use the "request more information" form on the back of the bulletin to learn more about our community, ask questions, or make comments. You may place your request in the offering plate, or hand it to one of the clergy at the door as you leave worship.