

Stewardship Sermon Starters

February, 2010

February 21, 2010
1st Sunday in Lent
Luke 4:1-13

In 1995 Pastor Rodger answered the call to begin a new ministry in the southern desert of Utah. He packed up his family, with some excitement and much apprehension. It was the middle of summer when they arrived. Suddenly, he understood a new meaning of the term wilderness. This community in Utah was a very far cry from his native Minnesota. High desert scrub brush, inhabited by snakes and scorpions, made up most of the backyard. The comment was often made that the heat was of a dry variety. However, 120 degrees is still 120 degrees.

As he listened to some of the local stories, he learned that the adjacent desert, in Nevada, had been the blast site for many nuclear experiments in the early years of atomic bomb development. It was still summer, but he recalled several Lenten readings about wandering in the desert. He began to wonder if this was a test? Or, was he being tempted?

Rodger often looked deep inside himself to find the strength to guide him in this new call. He found new dimensions of a faith that he did not know existed. He also learned that, like the ancients, he was not alone. The 30 some pastors, and leaders, of the other churches in town gathered monthly and became a support system.

In these Gospel verses Jesus from Luke, Jesus is alone and tempted. Have you ever found yourself in such a situation? This is often the time when one discovers their vulnerabilities, and a faith that they did not know existed. Both of these are gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is also a time when one can discover a sense that God is walking with us on our faith journey, and that in the Body of Christ we share a love for the lamb who is seated on the throne.