

YORKMINSTER PARK REFLECTS

Friday, October 2, 2015

A Reflection from Rosemary Aubert

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. – Ecclesiastes 3.1 KJV

Time is a great gift of the Lord. It is life. It is the space in which we know and love God, in which we try to learn His will for us, in which we accept, with humility, the wondrous world that He has allowed us to call home. For this reason, stewardship of time is of consummate importance.

In thinking about stewardship, wise and fruitful use, we can think of four organizing principles that allow us to make the best use of our time.

The first principle is to **set priorities**. Our greatest priority, of course, is to follow and serve the Lord. Then come our responsibilities to ourselves: to protect and maintain our physical health and our mental well-being. Next comes our family and our friends, our jobs, our citizenship in our own country and in the world. We must use our hours and our days to meet these priorities.

The second principle is to **achieve balance** in our use of time. It is easy to become obsessed with our work, our home, sports, hobbies, friends, the outdoors... The list, of course, is endless. But stewardship means that we use our time in a way that each aspect of our life receives the allocation of time appropriate to it, to the whole, and to our commitment to serve God.

The third principle of the meaningful stewardship of time is to **establish routines**. An orderly life, one in which each task has its allotted place means that no time is wasted trying to figure out what to do when or next.

Finally, the fourth principle of stewardship of time is to **allow spontaneity**. No life should be so constrained that there is no room for the unplanned, the surprising, the unexpected, the gift of God that we call joy.

There is a time to every purpose under heaven. The time is always now when the purpose is gratitude for every moment we have been granted.