

## **Stewardship: Holding On In The Middle Of Seismos**

*And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"*  
Matthew 8:23-27

In our Adult Education class at St. Thomas, we are discussing a book by Max Lucado titled *Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear*. In his book, Max Lucado states that Jesus chose a particular word for "storm" in this scripture passage – *Seismos*. Over the past couple of years, many of us feel like we have been in a great *Seismos* – event that has shaken us to our core. Some people in our diocese have lost their homes, jobs and life savings. At times, we can feel like the disciples in the middle of that chaotic sea. With a loud cry, we are saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing."

How can we continue to be committed stewards when resources are diminishing, and life seems uncertain? To put it simply, we move forward each day with God by faith. Faith is an expression of the fact that we exist so that God can dwell in us and work through us for the well-being of the whole creation. Faith is the way we relate to God, as we seek God's direction for our lives.

Yes, tragedy and catastrophic events happen during the course of human events. They are a part of life. They were in Jesus' day, just as they are in our day. When things are not going well around us, we get anxious and like the disciples, we become filled with despair and hopelessness. It is during those times that Jesus teaches us to endure. Steadfastness is the name of the game. Whatever you do, do not panic. Continue to trust in God for clarity, perspective and answers. God is a God of hope, and God never abandons us. God wants us to endure and keep the faith during the *Seismos* events in our lives.

*The Rev. James E. Taylor  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
North Charleston, SC*