

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

— 1 Peter 4:10



In our home, we try to eat locally grown food as much as possible. Regular trips to the farmers' market ensure a steady variety through the seasons. Before we moved into an urban apartment, we grew some of our own food. In the early summer, we feasted on amazing salads for weeks.

Eating this way guarantees rich variety, because the available vegetables and fruits change constantly. In the cooler months, we try new dishes as we seek to avoid monotony with winter vegetables. Summer brings tomato sauce, gazpacho, stuffed tomatoes and more. After all, the tomatoes have to be eaten!

I wonder if we might think about our ministries as “local” endeavors. Perhaps instead of pursuing our own desires and arranging what we are sure will fit with our hopes, we might look around to discover opportunities. I'm not saying that we should avoid global mission. Far from it!

It is tempting to create ministries based on some arbitrary idea. Let's start a coat drive! I want to launch a reading program! But what if we look at the needs around us first? Maybe we'd have more variety and discover ministry needs we didn't know existed. Perhaps we would discover a bounty of gifts in our selves or our congregations.

— Scott Gunn