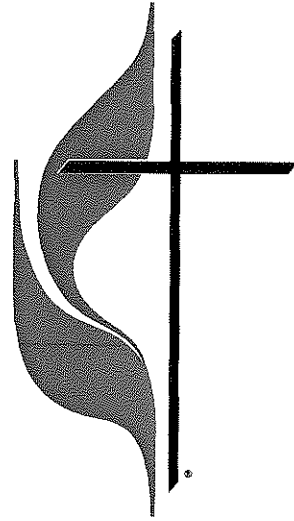


STEWARDSHIP MANUAL



STEWARDSHIP MANUAL

INDEX

	Page
Resources	3
All Good Gifts	4
UMCGIVING.ORG resources	5
Stewardship is -	9
Components of Wesleyan Stewardship	15
Qualities of the Christian Steward	16
The Role of the Pastor in Stewardship Development	19
Giving is the Key to Living	23
Stewardship: Scarcity or Abundance?	27
Year Round Stewardship	31
Proven Stewardship	39
Types of Annual Local Church Stewardship Programs	45
Annual Stewardship Campaigns	48
Ideas for Stewardship in Small Churches	51
Capital Campaign Consultants	53
Features Books	55
Bibliography	60
Cal-Pac Media Center Resources	76
Giving for the Adventure	77

Updated 11/07/08

Praise God,
the source of all our gifts!

RESOURCES

Here's a select list of stewardship Web sites and resources to help you to focus your efforts in effective stewardship and connectional giving.

- www.umcgiving.org
- www.umc.org
- www.gbod.org/stewardship
- www.gcfa.org
- www.umcfoundation.org

Connectional Giving Resources from United Methodist Communications:

- “Here I Am, Lord” (DVD002), a multi-menu DVD celebrating the work of the Advance for Christ and His Church
- Sharing God’s Gifts brochure/poster (100417), the story of the multiplying power of connectional giving
- “Giving Beyond Ourselves” (100084), a workbook on connectional giving for pastors and congregations
- “Who We Are” (100510), a 40-page handbook on the people of the United Methodist Church
- 2005-2008 Financial Commitment Book (100419)
- “Picture the Power” VHS tape (VID055) or DVD (DVD006), a resource that tells the story of the World Service Fund

To Order these resources from United Methodist Communications,
call toll free (888) 346-3862.

Stewardship Resources from the Center for Christian Stewardship, General Board of Discipleship:

- “Creating a Climate for Giving” by Donald W. Joiner
- “Full Disclosure” by Herb Miller –everything the Bible says about financial giving
- “Holy Smoke! Whatever Happened to Tithing?” by J. Clif Christopher and Herbert Mather
- “Right on the Money: Messages for Spiritual Growth Through Giving” by Brian K. Bauknight
- “That’s What My Mother Taught Me – And Other Ways Generous Donors Develop” by Her Mather

To order these resources from the General Board of Discipleship, go to www.gbod.org

Available from United Methodist Communications

FREE



You can order on line at: www.umcsgiving.org
click on "CHURCH STAFF" then "SUPPORT MATERIALS"
under Free Promotional Resources click on "online store"

Looking for help in educating your congregation about connectional giving? This is your one stop shop. Here can will find Mission Moments and More, downloadable resources, photos, logos, sermon starters and presentation materials. If you need assistance with any of the items, please

1. contact us and we will be happy to assist you.

FREE Promotional Resources

Visit our online store for free promotional resources on Connectional Giving.

Sermon Starters

John 6:1-13: "Problems—or Possibilities?"

Need an idea for a sermon on giving? Here's a sermon starter!

Matthew 25:31-46: "The Fine Line Between Sheep and Goats"

Need an idea for a sermon on giving? Here's a sermon starter!

Luke 10:25-37: "The Karma of Connection"

Need an idea for a sermon on giving? Here's a sermon starter!

Children's Sermons

Children's Sermon for Human Relations Day, January 20, 2008

Use this helpful Children's Sermon during your church's children's moment.

Children's Sermon for Native American Ministries Sunday, April 6, 2008

Need help talking to children about Native American Ministries Sunday? Use this help sermon - specially designed for children.

Children's Sermon for Peace with Justice Sunday, May 18, 2008

Need help talking to children about Peace with Justice Sunday? Use this help sermon - specially designed for children.

Children's Sermon for World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2008

Need help talking to children about World Communion Sunday? Use this help sermon - specially designed for children.

Children's Sermon for United Methodist Student Day, November 30, 2008

Use this help sermon - specially designed for children - to help explain United Methodist Student Day.

Children's Sermon for One Great Hour of Sharing, March 22, 2009

Here's a tool for explaining One Great Hour of Sharing during the children's moment.

Talking Points for Special Sundays

Human Relations Day Talking Points

Native American Ministries Talking Points

One Great Hour Talking Points

Peace with Justice Talking Points

United Methodist Student Day Talking Points

World Communion Talking Points

Return to top

Photo Gallery including Logos

Connectional Giving Graphics and Photo Gallery

Learning Opportunities

Turning Connectional Living into Connectional Giving
online course

This online course about how turn our connectional living as United Methodists into connectional giving that supports the shared ministry and mission of The United Methodist Church is a four-part exploration of why we give, the connectional nature of the church, the Apportioned and Designated funds of the church, and how you can make a difference in the world.

Open Hearts Welcoming Training from Igniting Ministry
online course

The "Open Hearts Welcoming Training" online course explores the basics of the Advertising and Welcoming Ministry of The United Methodist Church. Start or improve advertising and welcoming ministries and help your church live the promise of "Open hearts, open minds, open doors" by participating in this e-learning opportunity.

Web Ministry 101
on-demand online course

A regular feature of web.umcom.org, Web Ministry 101 consists of four training modules with supporting guides and resources, with information from updating your church's online Find-A-Church listing to establishing a user-centered online ministry and web team.

Weaving a Web of Connections: Using Internet Technology for Effective Ministry
face-to-face training

United Methodist Communications is pleased to announce this one and a half day face-to-face training event that brings together local church, district, and conference staff, volunteers, and pastors to explore how to develop a Web ministry and use Internet technology effectively.

[Open Hearts Welcoming Training from Igniting Ministry](#)
face-to-face training

The Igniting Ministry Team provides face-to-face training across the nation. Church participation leads to certification as a "Welcoming Congregation."

[Return to top](#)

Presentation Materials

[Sharing God's Gifts PowerPoint](#)

[Sharing God's Gifts PowerPoint Handouts \(pdf\)](#)

Mission Moments and More

[November 9, 2008—World Service Fund](#)

This Moment for Mission, Offertory Prayer and Newsletter Nugget is to be used for Sunday, November 9, 2008. Please feel free to use all the information given for your church publications and website.

[November 16, 2008—Special Appeals \(The Advance\)](#)

This Moment for Mission, Offertory Prayer and Newsletter Nugget is to be used for Sunday, November 16, 2008. Please feel free to use all the information given for your church publications and website.

[November 23, 2008—United Methodist Student Day \(Next Week\)](#)

This Moment for Mission, Offertory Prayer and Newsletter Nugget is to be used for Sunday, November 23, 2008. Please feel free to use all the information given for your church publications and website.

[More...](#)

[Return to top](#)

Financial Reports

[Financial Commitment Report](#)

[Apportionments to Annual Conferences for 2008 \(pdf\)](#)

[Financial Commitment Book](#)

Audio Clips

Celeste Sauls Interview

Fernando Cortez Interview

Joao Sambo Interview

Tshishinen Mutebchingej Interview

Video Clips

If you need a higher resolution file for any of the video clips listed, contact the Connectional Giving Team being sure to specify which video you would like.

A New Generation of Seminarians

Church services usually follow a familiar pattern of hymns, scripture readings, and a sermon. A new generation of seminarians hopes to shake things up a bit by bringing their Sunday messages into the digital age, with lights, cameras, Web pages and more. Reed Galin reports on a production class for preachers.

AIDS Orphan Endeavor

Most 8-year-olds we know go to school, play with their friends and have fun with their families. Life for Whisper Nyadongo of Marange, Zimbabwe, is quite different. Whisper already lost her father to AIDS, and her mother is critically ill with the disease.

Whisper is responsible for the care of her brother Washington, 4. But she finds comfort in the United Methodist Zimbabwe Orphan's Endeavor (ZOE), supported by The Advance (#982023). The project provides food, clothes and an education to Whisper and hundreds of other children. Your gifts through The Advance brighten Whisper's life and offer her hope for the future.

Best and Brightest

Who will be our future leaders? This video focuses on students receiving financial support through the United Methodist Student Day offering. Your faithful gifts help students achieve their dreams through a college education.

Stewardship is –

52 different definitions of “stewardship” for use in campaigns, weekly bulletins, newsletters, etc.

- 1) derived from an old English term "stye-ward" - or "keeper of the pigs." The concept of the stye-ward, however, is based on an older tradition of the entrusted servant who cared for all of the holdings of his master. What has your Master asked you to take care of?
- 2) the management of God's household. It is much more than making a pledge of money, it is the also the way we manage our lives, our gifts, our talents, our resources, and our time and energy. Stewardship is our "whole-life" response to God. What are your responses?
- 3) assessing the values by which we live and love on this earth. What do you value? When was the last time you measured your life against those values?
- 4) giving yourself to all those you encounter. This week, offer help to those you see that are in need of your love. Give a part of yourself to others.
- 5) a variety of things - like raising money for the church. But it also means taking care of yourself and others. Stewardship is taking care of the community around you.
- 6) thanking God for the blessings He gives us, and then giving as lavishly as we can out of that abundance.
- 7) caring for God's creation and using it in the service of God and man. Man is not to exploit it, waste it or spoil it.
- 8) a sharing of your best assets and gifts. If your stewardship actions were like a lunch time meal - are you sharing nutrition, proteins and vitamins, or are you sharing empty calories and unnecessary cholesterol?
- 9) putting your faith into action. Stewardship is not just putting money in the offering plate. It is not just recycling your soft drink cans. Take time to reflect on how much of your stewardship is just a habit and much is your active choice to put your faith into action.
- 10) being a "the Keeper of the Flame." You are the keepers of the flame. What will you give to keep the light glowing?
- 11) governing the earth responsibly under God's sovereignty. Adam was the first steward (Genesis 2:15). "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

- 12) understanding that the decision to share is your decision. God has given to each of us a portion of time, resources, talents and energy. As God has given to each of us, so are we asked by God to give to others. If we are to be good stewards, we must respond to that call to share.
- 13) serving others. Each of us has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So be good stewards of God's Grace and use your gifts well.
- 14) using all of our gifts in the best way we can. Almost all of our decisions have an effect on those around us. Wise stewards make sure that the impact they have on others is positive rather than negative.
- 15) using the world's limited resources to provide for the greatest good for ourselves and others. We each have limited resources and good stewards balance all of the resources at their disposal - time, energy, finances, prayer, gifts, and love.
- 16) supporting the budget of the local church. There are many needs in our lives and in our world that cannot be addressed unless the church is supported.
- 17) our response to God as we use our individual, unique talents and gifts.
- 18) taking good care of ourselves. In order to be good stewards of our families, our friends, our planet, and our finances - we need to be good stewards of ourselves. That means being able to say no to things that seem wrong, and taking time for yourself.
- 19) taking an inventory of all of the resources God has made available to us and then making conscious decisions about how each can be most effectively utilized. What are your gifts? How are you using them?
- 20) helping other believers put their faith into action. We share a basic faith in God and there are many ways that faith can be acted out. Are you comfortable with the ways you put your faith into action? Really?
- 21) managing your own family relationships well, and seeing that your children grow with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own relationships, how can he/she take care of God's world?
- 22) prayerful, wise and Christian use of our personal talents, our time, the earth's resources, our financial resources, the local church's resources, and even the regional and global church's resources. This is a long list that needs our thoughts and our prayers.
- 23) a sharing of gifts. A strong and committed faith might be one of your best gifts. Or perhaps your faith is growing and seeking. Either way, is this a gift that you are sharing with others - both at church and during the rest of your week?

- 24) "working for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." (Galatians 6:10) Stewards work and serve for the good of all.
- 25) giving away the "secrets" we know about God, because no one has all the answers as to who God is. We cannot keep our faith to ourselves.
- 26) NOT ownership - it is guardianship of the ownership.
- 27) letting your light shine out. God has given you a light. "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Stewards do not "hide it under a bushel," but rather they "let it shine, let it shine, let it shine."
- 28) "is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, talent, and material possessions, based on the conviction that these things are a trust from God to be used in the service and benefit of mankind, in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love." ((United Stewardship Council, 1945)
- 29) "our response to God's love." Hilbert Berger
- 30) giving to God "what's right" instead of "what's left."
- 31) understanding that you've been given special gifts for God's special purposes - and discovering, developing and using those gifts is a lifelong responsibility.
- 32) "what I do after I say I believe." Clarence Stoughton
- 33) "one's grateful and obedient response to God's redeeming love, expressed by the use of all resources for the fulfillment of Christ's mission in the world." (National Council of Churches Commission on Stewardship, 1964)
- 34) "the name we give to the practiced expressions of our faith." Thomas Rieke
- 35) being "an administrator of what has been put into our hands by God's grace." Edwin Biggs
- 36) a very personal responsibility and a very personal decision. Even though the needs and desires of others may influence us, no one but you can decide how you will be a steward of the gifts and resources you have been given. How can you respond better to God's call for being a good steward?
- 37) gratitude for the talents God gave us that have helped us accumulate our comfortable possessions. By sharing those possessions and that comfort, we support the cost of spreading His Word in this secular world.

- 38) "one's conscious, purposeful attempts to make appropriate responses to what one believes God has done in the past, continues to do in the present, and what one believes God is calling one to be, do and become." Rev. Tom English
- 39) being a receiver, manager, user, trustee and distributor
- 40) responding to John Wesley's call to "earn all you can, save all you can and give all you can."
- 41) a year-round focus that involves the entire life of the Christian
- 42) "an ongoing journey, not a final destination" Rev. Don Strait
- 43) serving one master faithfully. Many demands are placed on our time, energy and wealth. In the midst of all this, stewards remember who they are, whose they are, and why they were put upon the earth.
- 44) not only providing for the present, but also helping to build and provide for the future.
- 45) sharing your time, presence, gifts and services in the manner that fits with God's image. We have been created in God's image, and that image is centered on love and generosity.
- 46) helping our church grow for those that will follow after us.
- 47) paying attention to and caring for ourselves – physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- 48) "the management of estates or affairs not his own." Funk & Wagnall
- 49) "recognition that we are given the gift of life and are called to be managers of the good gifts that come from God" Rev. David Myers
- 50) your chance to reflect the image of a loving God
- 51) a life of lordship – not hoardship
- 52) caring more about giving than about getting

The New Testament Greek word *oikonomia* is translated "stewardship." This is a combination of two words: *Oikos*, meaning "house," and *nemo*, meaning "to divide, distribute, or apportion." *Oikonomia* has various meanings in classical Greek, but its most direct reference is to the administration or management of a household--for example, in matters of food and drink. The *oikonomos*, which is translated "steward," was entrusted with the responsibility of managing the business affairs of a household. The word often referred to a slave who was given responsibility over money, property, goods, or other slaves. So the word carries the idea of a trustee, one to whom something of value is entrusted. *Oikonomos* (steward) is used twenty times in the New Testament. *Epitropos*, a word referring to trustee, is used three times. *Oikonomia* (stewardship) is used seven times. But many teachings regarding stewardship occur in both the Old and New Testaments apart from the actual usage of stewardship words.

This picture of a servant-manager of something or someone not belonging to him/herself is the most obvious meaning of the New Testament passages (Matthew 20:8; Luke 8:3; John 2:8). But the idea also begins to take on theological and metaphorical meanings. In Luke 12:42ff, "steward" and "servant" are used interchangeably: Stewardship together with "watchfulness" are characteristic marks of Christ's true followers. The "master" referred to here is not an earthly king or lord, but Christ.

In the Pauline and other epistles, the Gospels' parabolic treatment of stewardship becomes almost doctrinal. In 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, Paul applies the concept of "steward" explicitly to himself as an apostle and implicitly to the Church at large.

In 2 Corinthians 9:11-13, Paul summarizes his understanding of stewardship like this: "You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God; for the rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of the saints but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God. Under the test of this service, you will glorify God by your obedience in acknowledging the gospel of Christ, and by the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others;..." (RSV).

Stewardship Preaching and Teaching Resources

- Exodus 25:2--Giving with willing heart.
- Exodus 36:2-7--Giving to the Lord in overabundance.
- 1 Chronicles 29:3-4--Personal treasures given to temple.
- 1 Chronicles 29:14--Giving to God what He has given to us.
- Psalm 37:21, 26--Giving generously.
- Psalm 50:23--Value of sacrifice and offering.
- Psalm 54:6-7--Giving out of gratitude for deliverance.
- Psalm 112:5--Blessing on generous.
- Proverbs 3:9-10--Honor the Lord with one's wealth.

Proverbs 22:9--Blessing for generous man.
Malachi 3:8-10--Stealing from God.
Matthew 5:23-24--Giving with clean heart.
Matthew 6:2-4--Private stewardship.
Matthew 6:19-21--Treasures on earth and treasures in heaven.
Matthew 23:23--Fullest measure of giving.
Mark 4:24-25--Those given much and those given little.
Mark 12:13-17--Paying taxes to government.
Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4--Widow's small offering.
Luke 3:11--Sharing with others.
Luke 6:38--Abundance rewarded those who give.
Luke 12:33-34--Selling one's possessions for the poor.
Acts 10:2--Devout centurion.
1 Corinthians 4:2--Need to prove faithful.
1 Corinthians 16:2--Giving on first day of week.
2 Corinthians 8:1-5--Persecution brought overflowing joy and generosity.
2 Corinthians 9:6-7--Sowing and reaping.
2 Corinthians 9:10--Giving from continuity of desire.
Galatians 6:6--Student sharing with teacher.
Hebrews 13:16--Share with others.
1 Peter 4:10--Using one's gift for good of others.



GBOD

 Stewardship

Components of a Wesleyan Stewardship
 By Bishop Kenneth L. Carder

« [Back to articles](#)

Offertory Prayers

Join the
E-Stewardship Forum
 Email Discussion

Contact Us
 stewardship@gbod.org
 877-899-2780, ext. 7054
 615-340-7015 (Fax)

[About Us](#)

1. Christian stewardship begins with a gifting God who owns everything and who is present in the world as grace.
2. Christian stewardship is our vocation to share in God's mission of compassion, generosity, and justice.
3. Christian stewardship is an expression of love for God and neighbor, a necessary component of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and integral to the church's preaching and teaching.
4. Community with, compassion for, and commitment to the vulnerable and those who live in economic poverty are constitutive of discipleship and stewardship in the Wesleyan tradition; and economic justice is measured by what happens to the under-resourced and the most vulnerable.
5. Stewardship includes generous personal sharing and the development and support of institutions, structures, public policies, and strategies that provide for the holistic needs of one's family, the under-resourced, and the global community.
6. Stewardship includes vocational choices that contribute to life and the health and wellbeing of the human family and God's creation.
7. Christian stewardship requires simplified living by choosing necessities for everyone over excesses for the few.
8. Leaders who model stewardship in the Wesleyan tradition in personal practices and institutional involvement are critical to the Wesleyan movement.
9. Economy is a spiritual issue and all economic systems, policies, and practices must be critiqued in the light of the Bible's understanding of creation as a gift to be nurtured and shared rather than a commodity to be exploited.
10. Christian stewardship is empowered by God's grace in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit who binds us in covenant with one another in anticipation of God's coming reign of compassion, justice, generosity, and joy.

Qualities of the Christian Steward

To lead others to Christian stewardship, prayerfully study the qualities of the Christian steward and the biblical references to them. (All references are from the *New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*.)

1. A Christian steward is *compassionate*.

Christian stewards are caretakers and caregivers. They concern themselves with the distribution of gifts and resources so that all might benefit (Genesis 2:4-9; Matthew 14:13-21; Matthew 25:31-46; 1 Corinthians 12:12-28; James 2:14-17).

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it (1 Corinthians 12:27).

2. A Christian steward is *content*.

Christian stewards acknowledge that their strength comes from God through whom they can do all things regardless of how many or how few material possessions they have (Philippians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 6:6-10).

I can do all things through him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).

3. A Christian steward is *generous*.

Christian stewards give whatever is needed and whenever it is needed (Proverbs 11:24-29; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 12:13-21; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Timothy 6:17-19).

They voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints (2 Corinthians 8:3-4).

4. A Christian steward is *grateful*.

Christian stewards value what has been entrusted to their care and protect and preserve everything as if it were their own, yet acknowledging that the earth and all that is in it belong to God (Psalm 24; Psalm 92:1-4; Luke 16:19-31; Philippians 4:6).

*It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name,
O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night* (Psalm 92:1-2).

5. A Christian steward is *loving*.

Christian stewards know that the Lord requires justice and kindness and humility, and they follow the two greatest commandments (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Micah 6:6-8; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:29-37; Luke 11:42; 1 Corinthians 13:3; 1 Corinthians 16:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 Peter 4:8-11).

[The scribe asked Jesus] "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:28-31).

6. A Christian steward is loyal.

Christian stewards serve God faithfully, remembering who they are, whose they are, and why they are here on earth (Matthew 6:19-21, 24; Luke 14:25-33).

“No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth” (Matthew 6:24).

7. A Christian steward is obedient.

Christian stewards obey God by setting aside a part of all their income for others (Deuteronomy 14:22-29; Deuteronomy 26:1-18; Malachi 3:6-18; Luke 18:18-30; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

[Jesus replied to the ruler]: *“There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” But when he [the ruler] heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich (Luke 18:22-23).*

8. A Christian steward is prayerful.

Christian stewards acknowledge the greatness and goodness of God through prayer, fellowship, study, worship, and reflection (Isaiah 40:28-31; Psalm 145; Jeremiah 29:11-14; John 6:25-40; Romans 12:1-21).

Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:12-13).

9. A Christian steward is responsible.

Christian stewards realize that caring for God's creation and wisely managing resources never ends (Genesis 41:37-45; Numbers 18:25-32; 2 Samuel 24:18-25; Matthew 28:16-20).

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded of you (Matthew 28:19-20a).

10. A Christian steward sacrifices.

Christian stewards follow Jesus' teaching to sacrifice what they have out of gratitude for their many blessings (Mark 12:41-44).

Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all that she had, all she had to live on (Mark 12:43-44).

11. A Christian steward shares.

Christian stewards have learned to distribute fairly so that none will be in need (Luke 19:1-10; Acts 4:32-35; Acts 20:34-35).

I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

12. A Christian steward is trustworthy.

Christian stewards can be trusted to make wise decisions concerning the resources placed within their care (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 16:10-13; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

From *Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation: Stewardship*, by Phyllis M. Bowers. (Nashville: Cokesbury, © 2000). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Praise God,
the source of all our gifts!

The Role of the Pastor in Stewardship Development

What is the role of the pastor in stewardship development? The pastor plays a key role in the development of a healthy stewardship program. A church's level of stewardship commitment is often directly a result of pastoral involvement. The following are key areas in which the pastor's role is crucial.

Leadership

"None of us went to seminary to become financiers," many pastors have said. True. But a lack of strong pastoral leadership will doom a church to mediocre financial stewardship at best. Strong leadership can be exercised at various levels:

- a) The pastor can set the tone and direction of stewardship efforts. Clergy should not chair their stewardship committees or campaigns, but laity will look to them for guidance and support.
- b) The pastor oversees the church's total stewardship program: year-round stewardship, annual campaigns, planned giving and capital improvement campaigns.
- c) By modeling her/his theology of stewardship, the pastor can lead the church to greater commitment to stewardship. In addition, pastors set an example of giving. Any pastor who desires increased giving from laity must increase his/her own level of commitment accordingly. One can't lead another in a direction one has never been.
- d) The pastor can encourage opportunities to give beyond the local church. Missional giving usually helps rather than hinders the church's income for its local ministries.
- e) The pastor can regularly make known the church's needs. If it is true that we all have a need to give, then laity will readily give to their church when presented with an opportunity to do so.
- f) The pastor interprets the church's theology of stewardship to new members. The end result may be for new members to perceive their own giving (time, talent and money) as a way to deepen their commitment, and to discover giving as a positive, spiritual discipline.

- g) Finally, the pastor as congregational leader can motivate her/his church members to become faithful and joyful stewards. Laity naturally seeks encouragement and inspiration from their pastoral leaders, and will often respond to a pastor's joy and enthusiasm.

Worship

As the primary gathering of Christ's body, worship affords a unique setting to educate and motivate laity. The pastor's role in stewardship development must include:

- a) Preaching. The pastor should preach several stewardship sermons (one about money) throughout the year. These messages must be positive and designed to inspire, motivate and educate. Preaching can be a primary tool used to elevate a congregation's level of giving.
- b) Missional/Stewardship moments. Preceding Sunday's offering, a brief anecdote, moment of thanks or informational "spot" can be used to uplift the importance of stewardship.

Nominations and Personnel

The pastor can exercise leadership here in two ways:

- a) Recruit a stewardship committee consisting of persons who are perceived as congregational leaders, who are good givers, and positive, forward-looking people who can help move the church toward responsible financial stewardship.
- b) See that key laity receive stewardship training on a regular basis. Also provide training in the use of annual campaign models.

Resourcing

The pastor may often be depended upon to resource her/his church's stewardship efforts.

The pastor should become familiar with stewardship resources, including stewardship consultants (local and denominational) who may be called upon to assist a church's stewardship program.

- a) The pastor should become familiar with various annual campaign models - faith pledge, consecration Sunday, "pony express," every member visitation, letter-writing, and telephoning. The pastor should learn the strengths and limitations of each campaign model.

b)

The pastor should also enroll in a national stewardship conference about once every six years as part of his/her continuing education.

Postscript

Is it wise for a pastor to know the giving patterns of members?

It is as important to know the giving patterns of members as it is their attendance pattern. Changes in their patterns are often the first (and only) indicators that a member needs pastoral care. Giving information should be held in strict confidence and never used for preferential treatment. But a pastor interested in the spiritual health of his/her members will not neglect noticing these important indicators.

*Praise God,
the source of all our gifts!*

GIVING IS THE KEY TO LIVING

By Rev. Tom English

Since my retirement, June of 1997, my ministry has been working with churches to grow givers' hearts and to enable the churches to have the financial resources to do what God is calling the churches to do. I have a great passion for this ministry. I believe it is a ministry that churches really need. I believe that there are enough financial resources in any church to do what God calls that church to do. I trust in God's abundance. God's generosity is sufficient to enable any community of faith to do God's work as it needs to be done. We must always plan and pursue the work of funding ministry with a clear recognition of God's abundance. It is that abundance on which we must rely, and in which we can surely trust, when looking for resources to do God's work.

Given the financial difficulties many congregations face, some are seeking new springboards to more adequately fund their ministries. The urgent cry of many congregations today is, "**Help! The same old ways are no longer working.**" The system is designed for the results that it is getting. If churches continue to do things the same way, churches will continue to get the same results. It doesn't make sense to expect different results from doing the same thing over and over. Conventional wisdom about giving and funding ministry is one of the main reasons churches are facing financial difficulties. Will Rogers was correct when he said: "*It ain't what people don't know that hurts them. It's what they know that ain't so.*" Old behavior patterns are hard to change; but if the Christian faith is about anything, it's about change.

To grow givers and to more adequately fund the ministries of the church, **innovation and risk are required.** Congregational leaders need to **shift the focus away from the church's need for persons to give and toward the giver's need to give generously, for the giver's own spiritual growth.** Too often churches have centered on financial issues to survive rather than on opportunities for ministry made possible by generous giving of the people. Increasingly people do not give to a budget. They give to support what they believe is meaningful and worthwhile. They give, not from their pocket books, but from their faith and their ability to identify with the needs of others. People give out of their excitement in seeing the church in ministry, in seeing lives changed.

Giving is an integral part of our walk of faith. Giving is an expression of the relationship we have with Jesus Christ and how that relationship is expressed in and through our churches. Giving is a spiritual discipline. At the heart of the matter is a spiritual issue. Whom do you serve? What are the ways you can express your allegiance to God? What is important to God? Churches need to focus on each person's spiritual growth and development, not solely on financial issues, assisting persons to grow in their faith and to become active disciples.

Persons need to be generous givers in order to be whole. Giving is a sign of the believer's spiritual pulse. It is an essential part of one's faith formation and growth as disciples of Jesus Christ. Giving is the core of human life. It is the key that unlocks the "Kingdom Life," the full, abundant life Jesus came to make possible. It is a way of living, a habit of the mind, a strategy for life. Give to live! Generous giving will change your life!

The Bible's assumption is that money and possessions are spiritual concerns and reveal more about a person than any other aspect of life. Jesus was so concerned that people would lose their very souls that he talked about their relationship with money and possessions more than he

talked about prayer or faith. 16 of 38 of Jesus' parables are about money and possessions. In the Bible there are about 500 verses that deal with prayer and about 500 that deal with faith. There are over 2000 verses dealing with money and possessions. **Money talk is "Holy Talk!"** The way a congregation talks about money and possessions, or avoids it, is a barometer of its financial health. Don't apologize for talking about money.

Materialism has pierced the soul of America. We are a greed driven society. Our consumer culture trains us to acquire whatever promises to fulfill our needs and wants, putting tremendous pressure to consume beyond our needs and resources. The coercive power of modern advertising manipulates our appetites for endless consumption.

Many are afflicted with *pleonexia*, a Greek word that means passion for more. If more is better, there is never enough. Those with a passion for more are in a race with no finish line, in a ball game with no final buzzer. "The secret to life is to know when enough is enough." (Dr. Vincent Ryan) Jesus teaches that to gain the whole world and lose our souls is great folly. He taught that life is more than for consuming, that **giving is the key to living.**

There is nothing wrong with making money, but as disciples of Jesus Christ we need to give so we can be set free from getting, so we can get control of our appetites and not become victims of our acquisitive instincts. We need to give so we can become part of something bigger and better. Jesus was very clear about money and possessions. Where giving is concerned, Jesus taught the principle of **graduated responsibility**, "from those who have much, much is required." We are to give based on our financial resources. The motto for the campaigns that I manage is "**not equal gifts, but equal generosity!**"

Most of the members of our churches are economically advantaged, financially fortunate. We have been richly blessed. Most of us are not rich, but we have "enough", and then some. The tragedy is that many in our churches live as if they are affluent and give to the ministries of the church as if they are poor.

We need to develop the understanding that everything in our life is a result of giving and receiving, receiving and giving. We cannot give until we realize, in the depths of our being, that we have first received God's blessing. All that we are, all that we have is a trust from God. Out of gratitude for what we have received, we give.

Albert Einstein lived his life based on a receiving ethic: "A hundred times every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life depends on the labours of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving." (Albert Einstein, *The World As I See It*, p. 1)

Cultivate an attitude of gratitude, grateful for all that you are and all that you have. When our hearts are filled with gratitude, we are thankful for everything. Gratitude acknowledges that we are the recipients of the generosity of others, of life, and of the Giving God. When we cultivate an attitude of gratitude and generosity, the only thing we can do with our life is to give it away. Jesus life and teachings makes this clear. All that we have is what we give away, the rest has us.

Money is a necessity for carrying out the ministries we are called to do as individuals and as communities of faith. We cannot avoid being involved in earning, collecting, spending, or giving it away if we want to participate in Christ's ministry through our churches. If we want to help persons grow spiritually and more adequately fund the ministries of our churches, we have to invite persons to give. **WE HAVE TO ASK FOR IT!**

Encouraging people to give is an honorable responsibility of congregational leaders,

clergy and laity. There is no reason to apologize for inviting persons to give through our church to support Christ's ministries. Each Christian makes the decision about the opportunities to which he or she can or cannot contribute. Asking persons to give is a gift to them. It allows them to evaluate their priorities and to express their values.

The first requirement for issuing enthusiastic and unapologetic invitations to give is to be a generous giver and to experience the value of giving personally. If we are finding joy and satisfaction through our own giving, we need to share that. We are inviting persons to give generously, to participate in an act that can be personally satisfying. The beneficiary of the gift is the giver, not the receiver of the giver's gift. Encourage people to find **the joy of giving. The happiest people I know are those who have experienced the joy of giving.** Give until it feels good.

Assumptions that a congregation's leaders hold concerning growing givers-funding ministry will direct the efforts and shape the results. If leaders assume that people do not want to give or don't have the funds to give, then they will be providing people with excuses not to give and it discourages giving.

I don't know why so many people who enjoy giving assume that other people will have a negative reaction to an invitation to give. That is a mystery to me. When leaders assume that people do not want to give or do not have the resources to give, a climate will be created that discourages giving. But, if the leaders assume that people want to give and have the resources, the possibilities are endless. Believe that people want to give and the giving climate in our churches will change.

Secrecy is one of the main reasons giving is held down in so many churches. Every church where I was pastor, or managed a campaign, secrecy about giving was accepted without question by even the most dedicated church leaders. In 1976 when I was pastor for Green Mountain United Methodist Church, I decided to witness my giving. I was nervous. I shared the amount of my pledge, what percentage of my income that was, how much I was increasing my pledge, how I struggled with the decision, and how I felt about it. This helped grow givers' hearts and more adequately fund the ministries of the church. A few persons asked for their pledge card to be returned so they could increase their pledge. Every year of my ministry since then, I witnessed my giving with the congregations I served.

Leaders lead best by example. Generous giving is both taught and caught. If you want your campaign to pledge the maximum amount, and if you want your members to have a great experience of spiritual growth by growing their giving, the courageous witness of gifts, by amount, of a few of the top givers, will create other good givers.

People need a target for giving. I'm not talking about church targets, but individual targets. For example, challenge people to step up to giving **\$1 per week for each \$1,000 of annual income.** Some are already doing this and more and can be encouraged to give **\$2 per week for each \$1,000 of annual income.**

We need to emphasize the importance of making a financial commitment, a pledge. A Rockefeller Foundation study a few years ago found that if we make a dollar pledge we will give twice as much as we give if we don't make a pledge. Also, if we make a percentage pledge, we will give three times as much as we give if we don't make a pledge. If we want to grow spiritually through giving, we need to make a commitment of a proportion of our income.

People do not automatically respond to the gospel with good giving habits. Churches cannot wait until people grow spiritually so they will give. Some people cannot grow spiritually

until they decide to give generously. Moving from one level of giving to another is a pilgrimage, an adventure. It opens up new worlds and changes perspectives on life.

Giving is a learning process. It takes time for persons to develop a closer relationship with God through the experience of giving. It takes time for hearts to grow. We will be helping grow givers' hearts if we ask persons to support the ministries of our churches in ways that are clearly invitations to cooperate with God's grace, as they experience it and feel that grace at work in their hearts.

In a healthy congregation commitment is the norm and growth is the expectation. Our churches must dare to ask for the best that people have to give and provide a supportive fellowship where they are nurtured and encouraged.

THE CHALLENGE IS BEFORE US!

STEWARDSHIP: SCARCITY OR ABUNDANCE?

A SPIRITUAL VIEW OF STEWARDSHIP

Listen. Listen to the conversations in your church about stewardship. What are the questions and statements that describe your church's attitude about financial resources available for ministry? What is the feeling you sense in these conversations?

Scarcity or Abundance: The primary issue facing a church community in its stewardship journey is whether we live from a theology of scarcity or abundance. This is a human dilemma. It is a spiritual struggle.

Fear is what I hear as I listen to congregations. Fear that there will not be enough money. Fear that the weather will affect the economy and therefore giving to the church. Fear that we will not be able to replace the long-time members who give generously to the church. Fear that young people are not going to become involved in our church. Fear...

Fear is the emotion that expresses a theology of scarcity. A theology of scarcity is formed from a belief that there are limits to God's world, limits in our communities, and limits in our personal life. Yet Jesus speaks to us of something else. Jesus says "all things are possible to those who love God." Jesus speaks of the abundance of life. Jesus lived a life of generosity and grace.

The issue of stewardship is never money. The issue of stewardship is never money. The issue is whether we, as a church community, will allow the Spirit of God to instill in us a spirit of abundance and joy.

The greatest fear we live with in our lives is the fear of success and prosperity. Even when things are going well our churches usually have a large fund of money that is known as the "rainy day fund" or a contingency fund. I have known churches that will hoard as much as \$100,000 or more simply to be available "in case" something bad happens. We expect the worst in life and in our churches and we usually get it.

Jesus tells us that if we are filled with the Spirit of Love there is nothing to fear.

A life of abundance is based on trust in God. Do we trust God to lead us into an abundant future? In many of our churches we worship "God of the past." Yet the greatest power of God is in the future. When Jesus informed his disciples that they "would do greater things than he," he was speaking of the power of the Spirit of God available to us. God is most alive and active in the future ahead of us. Trusting in God enables us to use money that people have given for ministry instead of certificates of deposit. Trusting in God frees us from feeling totally responsible for the life of the church. Trusting in God releases us from thinking that the church is about us and instead enables us to see that the church is about God.

A life of abundance recognizes the blessings of God. When we are caught up in fear we fail to celebrate and understand how God is already blessing our lives. In the 1940s my father was the pastor of a church in Harlem, Montana. One Saturday in the spring a workday was organized at the church. Unfortunately only a few people showed up to work. One of them who showed up was an "old Dutchman", an emigrant from Holland. He worked hard during the morning but spent as much energy grumbling about who wasn't there as he put into his work. The group broke for lunch and for some reason the old Dutchman's attitude seemed to change. When asked about his change of attitude he said, "Well I been thinking a lot of about the people who didn't come, but what I realized is that the ones who do the work gets the blessing."

A healthy stewardship is built on a response to God for what God has given us. For the greatest gift and blessing from God is love. How do we respond to the love of God? By sharing our gifts, our devotion, our energy, our prayers, our concern for God's children. It is the abundance of God's love for us that fuels our desire to give.

A healthy stewardship is built on a response to God's children for what God has given us. God has blessed us with finances and resources unparalleled in the world. No matter how poor we think we are in relation to our world, we only have to become aware of the rest of the world to know how blessed we are. It is from the abundance of God's financial gifts to us that we commit our finances to the ministry of Jesus Christ. It is from this abundance that we care for God's children.

A healthy stewardship is built on a generous response to life. Jesus knew that it was important to give because of what it does for us. We are created as giving creatures. It is only in giving to others that we fulfill God's design for our lives. It is from the abundance of life that we give ourselves to Christ's ministry of peace, love and hope.

A life of abundance reflects the love of God. Stewardship is not about money. It is about our response to what God has given us. How do we respond? The answer is so clear we don't want to see it. Love is the answer. At the heart of stewardship is love. Love is nurtured in our heart, in our spirit. Stewardship begins with prayer, not for ourselves but for others and for the world. Stewardship continues through loving action in caring and nurturing others. Stewardship lives through a daily walk with God in Jesus Christ that shows us opportunity after opportunity for ministry. Love is nurtured in within us, in our hearts.

So often we build our stewardship to the church based on something outside of ourselves. We base it on the budget divided by the number of members. We base it on a suspicion of what others give. We base it on what is left after we pay our bills and fulfill our needs and desires. We base it on external factors. The stories of scripture make it clear that we base our stewardship – our response to God - not on something external but internal.

The story of the widow's mite is a poignant example. The only thing that could motivate the poor widow who brought her gifts to God is love. She would have had every reason not to give all that she had. People would have not only understood if she kept her money for herself, they would have encouraged her to do so. But she was moved by love to share what God had given to her.

What is that we love? How is it that we love? Who is it that we love? These are questions answered by where we commit our resources as a church.

Stewardship begins with our spiritual journey, individually and as a church. It depends on our openness to God's love and our ability to respond with love to God's world. Love is the opposite of fear. When we speak words of fear we are not filled with love. When we talk only of money and budgets we do not reflect God's love.

Listen. Listen to the conversations in your church about stewardship. But more importantly listen to God. Listen to the challenge of love that comes through the Spirit of God. Listen for the vision of ministry to which God is not only inviting us but resourcing us.

Praise God,
the source of all our gifts!

Year-Round Stewardship

The church of the new millennium faces greater challenges than ever in the search for funding the needs of its ministry. Therefore it is imperative to implement some form of Year-Round Stewardship.

The success of such an endeavor can be illustrated by the following true story. We visited a church whose pastor had really worked at implementing Year-Round Stewardship. After church a woman joined us and said, "I just love this pastor! He never talks about money and I don't think this church has any money problems."

In truth, the pastor had talked about stewardship several times during that service, but the lady speaking did not recognize it. This is what Year-Round Stewardship is about.

What is Year-Round Stewardship?

Year-Round Stewardship is based on a person's need to give, not the church's need to receive. It is a long-term year around education, motivation, and communication program.

Year-Round Stewardship will require a commitment from both pastoral and lay leadership. It will entail information gathering, full disclosure of the church's finances, a lessening of control by a few persons, and some basic agreement on the future direction of the church.

It will not provide an immediate infusion of cash into a congregation long deprived of stewardship education. It will not make up for years of secretive finance meetings and carefully edited reports. It will not allow the pastor(s) to opt out of the process because he/she is "too busy" or "not comfortable talking about money."

Most of the information here will pertain to fiscal stewardship. While we agree that the term "stewardship" applies to many aspects of ministry, we are speaking primarily of the financial under-girding of the church.

How do we start?

So, where do we start? A good place is at the Church Council or at a Planning Retreat. Start with some questions.

1. What is our church's primary purpose? (Christian education, youth work or group, weddings, funerals, worship, fellowship, etc.)
2. What is our church doing in the community? In the world? Why are we United Methodists?
3. What is the best thing about this church? What are its' strengths?
4. What is the tenure of persons in leadership in our church? (Have the same persons only traded jobs over the years? Is there new leadership every year? Are the persons in leadership knowledgeable about United Methodism?) Do they, as leaders, contribute regularly to the church?
5. Does our church want new members, with new ideas? Or do we hold on firmly to old understandings? Do we want new persons in leadership or only their money?
6. What do we do when a visitor arrives at our church?
7. Would we invite a neighbor to our church? Why or why not?

8. How do we traditionally fund the needs of our church?
9. Do we have an organized stewardship committee or campaign once a year?
10. When we have a Stewardship Campaign is it merely a letter campaign? Do we bring in outside motivational speakers?
11. Have we utilized the same stewardship campaign or methods for three or more consecutive years?

These are good questions to ask, and honesty in the answering of them, we will establish the direction the church chooses for its' future as well as its' funding.

Who will do the program of Year-Round Stewardship?

The Pastor(s) must be actively involved and supportive of the program. Since it is not a "canned" program, it will need to be tailored to fit each church and community. As no two churches (or no two pastors) are alike, these guidelines are a road map so to speak.

Most Pastors have no trouble discussing their needs and expectations of compensation with their Staff Parish Relations Committee. It will be somewhat similar to communicate effectively to the friends and members of the church the needs and parameters the church faces financially.

The Pastor could choose to form a Stewardship Committee to help with this program. This committee should work with the Finance Committee. Much of the Stewardship Committee's work will be to interface with existing work areas in the church. Members of this committee must be pledging members of the church. We assume of course that the Pastor pledges.

Communicate, Educate, Motivate:

Every piece of information the church disseminates should meet the three criteria of communicating, educating, and motivating. Any one by itself will fail to fully move persons from the comfortable couch of habit to the new experiences of truly "wanting to give."

Some churches have operated on a strict "Need-to-know" policy for many years. Changing the mindset of the financial leadership is an absolute requirement! Certainly there is some information that is not public, the amount an individual pledges, for example. But, with rare exceptions, most financial issues in churches have a common denominator; a frustration by the donors as to where the money goes and how it is used. As a congregation ages, and sees new impatient younger folk coming into the church, the control issues take more precedence.

If a person is unhappy with the church or the pastor, or has a personal crisis, they stop giving to the church. Finances are always the first recognizable symptom of unhappiness or problems. This is the time the Financial Secretary, or whoever tracks identifiable givers in the church, should say to the pastor, "There has been a drastic change in the giving habits of the Smith family." The pastor should immediately visit the Smiths and see what is happening. THIS ISN'T YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP-IS IT? Yes, it certainly is!

When a family attends worship regularly, but doesn't have their school-aged children in Sunday School, the information should be given to the Sunday School Superintendent or a family nearby who is enrolled in the Sunday School. That person could visit and offer to pick up the children for Sunday School; the parents could go to an adult class, or meet the children at church for worship. IS THIS YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP? Again, most certainly!

A single person with a good job, nice home and car responds to the annual campaign request with, "I don't pay for the movies when I don't go. Why would you expect me to pledge and send money to the church when I'm not there?"

These scenarios are all examples of Year-Round Stewardship. It is caring, meeting person's needs, and getting them involved in the life of the church. People give regularly when they attend worship regularly. In fact, they give twice as much as those who don't. Likewise, those who are involved in the life of the church, in a task or small group, also give considerably more than those who are not involved.

Do we need more information?

Yes. You need to determine how many giving units there are in your church. In other words, how many identifiable givers do you have in the church? Some of these are single persons, some families, some couples, some businesses. To determine the number of giving units, a family is one unit, as is a single, etc.

Now you need to relate the number of giving units to the total the church actually spent the preceding year. Include everything, Wider Mission, debt reduction, salaries, programs, missions, etc. Divide this total by the number of giving units. This will give you the actual required giving per unit for a year. Now divide this annual amount by 52 weeks. This determines the amount required to fund the total ministry of the church, per giving unit, on a weekly basis. This amount will probably be in the range of \$25 to \$40 per giving unit per week.

Now, in your bulletin or newsletter, take out that line which reads, "It costs \$1832.64 each week to run the church. Last week's offering was \$1330." Why eliminate this? Because when people read this, it means little or nothing to them. They gave their offering. Certainly that \$502.64 shortfall was not their money or due to them! Besides, they may think, "The church needs to be more careful with how they spend our money anyway."

However, when you replace that line with, "Do you know it costs \$32.64 per giving unit each week to support our church's ministries?" Hmmm, now there is some new helpful information. Persons now know two things, maybe three. It costs \$32.64 per week to run the church. I give X amount, which is less than that. Third, perhaps, my \$1.00 a week will not support our ministries.

What other information is needed to allow a giver to determine what they would like to give? They need to know how much others are giving, not by name, but by amount.

Has your church utilized the Step-Up Chart found in the Consecration Sunday campaign? If not, this chart is readily available from the Conference Treasurer. The Step-Up Chart shows all the identifiable givers in the church from the lowest to the highest from the preceding year. You should also include on the chart the other information gathered above. This chart allows the church to display financial information year round in an entirely non-threatening way. Be sure to fill out the amounts on the chart to reflect your church's giving, including how many are 0 givers.

By the water fountain, coffee pot, or restroom doors, post this chart that shows the amount needed per giving unit per week, the amount being giving by givers per week, and include with it a programmatic budget which shows, in the form of a pie chart, this year's budget. Persons now have all the information they need to make a decision on their own as to what they would like to give. They know what it costs to run the ministries of the church per week, they know what others are giving and they can see how the percentages of dollars are

being spent in this year's budget. No one has to explain it to them and no one has to remind them from the pulpit or elsewhere to give!

Adding a line at the bottom of the chart will encourage people to boost their giving by just saying, "Will you step up your giving this year?" Most persons will "step up" and others will "step on."

The posting of this information on a continual year-round basis is the single most helpful Year-Round Stewardship tool there is! You are not constantly asking people to give, but continually informing them through communication, education, and motivation, all during the year. Persons see for themselves the church's ministry and what it costs to fund it.

So why haven't we as a church been doing this? One of the arguments is that some folks say, "If we tell persons what it costs per week to meet the total budget of the church, and it is \$32.64 per week per giving unit, those persons giving \$100 per week will cut back to the \$32.64!" This will never happen as those givers are giving for two far greater reasons than to just meet a church budget. First, they are giving out of thanksgiving, from their hearts, in the true joy of giving. Second, they are well aware of Jesus' statement that "To whom much is given, much is required." In other words, those who have the greatest capability to give, give more because they have more to give.

Full Disclosure:

We keep returning to the issue of full disclosure. Besides the above chart, which includes education, communication, and motivation, nothing is more critical to the financial health of the church than complete truth.

We have been to churches that tell us their people won't support the church budget. When we receive and study their financial statements, we see why that's a problem. First UMC has five CD's totaling \$245,000. They are in the Rainy Day Account, not to be used until..... There is no more information given to the congregation on how money is to be spent by First UMC. So as far as the congregation can see, First UMC doesn't need any more money. Therefore, folk's don't have to give.

Churches should not keep large undesignated fund accounts as it inhibits financial health. Designated Funds or Endowment Funds are paramount for continuing the life of a congregation. But the congregation needs to know how these accounts are and must be utilized. The primary source of a lack of trust in the management of church funds is a veiled cloud of secrecy. Not everyone wants to see a line-item budget. But it must be available, not only for the Finance Committee but to any member of the church family who requests it.

One church, with which we are familiar, held finance meetings in utmost secrecy. Only approved members were given a copy of numbered financial statements and these were checked in and out at meetings at the door. No financial information was allowed to leave the room, nor was any financial information to be discussed with the general membership of the church.

While an extreme example, many churches have finance members or leadership who believe in secrecy, or even feel it is "their" money. There are treasurers who refuse to pay Wider Missions because they don't agree with it. Whereas we all may agree on the Good News of Jesus Christ, we should also agree on the good news of funding His ministry. That good news is, it is not the church's money, it is God's money and those who donate it have every right to know how it's spent.

Some persons are sensitive to the fact that the funds of their church should be allocated in a balanced fashion, especially if the pastor (and staff) make up an inordinate percentage of the

budget. We recommend the use of a Programmatic Budget, in the form of a pie chart, allocating the time/costs of the staff to each work area of the budget.

Pastor(s) and staff are ministry. If the pastor is actively involved in education (teaching Sunday School or other classes, Confirmation, new member orientation, some of the compensation package should be allocated to education. If the pastor(s) are actively involved in visitation in the community, knocking on doors, calling in nursing homes and hospitals on a weekly basis, part of the compensation package should be listed as evangelism or pastoral ministry.

If the pastor(s) do not do these ministries on a regular basis, it is not appropriate to allocate portions of his/her compensation in the method described above. Rather, it may be time to re-examine the priorities of the church in relationship to staffing. When the funding of the church is primarily devoted to compensation and/or debt retirement, with little devoted to missions or programs, tell the people the truth. Perhaps the congregation is interested in expanding the program and ministry of the church, and needs to know what it will take to accomplish this.

Some churches have become merely maintenance churches, with the goal to keep the lights on until the last member is gone. They tend to have few programs, little to attract a newcomer, nothing to elicit excitement or enthusiasm, and nothing to encourage either stewardship or discipleship. A newcomer wants to know what your church is doing, not just that you are keeping the doors open. Holding and promoting a vision and program beyond the door of the church, in all areas of ministry, is essential to Year-Round Stewardship.

Tithing:

One cannot discuss any type of stewardship without exploring Tithing. Once a common term among strong Christian givers, it is apparently not politically correct today.

For the sake of discussion, we define Tithing as giving from the first of your fruits (See Deuteronomy 26). It is giving from the bottom of your heart, not from the bottom of your pocketbook! It is not just 10% of something. It is the intentional prioritization of giving to Jesus Christ first.

Some people like percentage giving. They suggest you start with 2% of your gross income. People who proudly announce they give 10% of their "discretionary income" have missed the point. The intention is to give from the first of your fruits, not to give a percentage of what is left over.

Isaiah 44 tells of the wood carver who goes into the woods to carve his image of God. He finds a beautiful piece of wood, but feels cold, so he cuts a section off the wood and builds himself a fire to warm himself; then he decides he is hungry, and cuts another piece off the wood to cook his food. After he has warmed himself and fed himself, he takes the small piece of wood that is left over and out of it carves his image of God.

Tithing is how we carve our image of our God. Few people begin by giving a 10% tithe; they start at 2 to 5%, and increase by 1% or so every year. Find a tither in your church and let them tell you their story. Chances are it will be a quiet disciple who lives modestly. If you can't find one, here's how you start:

How do I begin tithing?

First, decide what you would like to give. Write a check in that amount first and do so every payday. If you receive all your income the 1st of the month, write the check to the church

first, before the mortgage, before the insurance, before groceries. If you do this first, faithfully, you will not miss what you have given and will be blessed beyond belief. If you receive additional funds during the month, give a percentage of this first. Try it for a year, never deviating from the prioritization of giving first.

Some persons give not only a certain amount as a tithe, but also set a weekly amount for giving in addition. This way they offer their tithe to the church, and place an amount in the offering plate each week as well.

The Pastor as leader in tithing and giving:

As the Pastor's salary package is public knowledge among persons of the church, so should the Pastor's attitude toward giving be public. Clergy who say, "I struggle with tithing, but I am going to try it for a year" are modeling a giving behavior that parishioners can identify with. If the pastor wishes to share his/her giving, and it is done with humility, he/she demonstrates a healthy understanding of financial vulnerability in leadership.

During annual campaigns, the Pastor should be the first to consecrate their pledge by placing their envelope in the basket, not sit and watch the congregation. For that matter, in a healthy church, all leadership, especially but not limited to, finance members should pledge each year to the Annual Campaign. After all, if the leadership doesn't support it, why should anyone else? They too should be some of the first to come forward to consecrate their gifts.

Remember to thank, not ask:

At the time of the morning offering, the Pastor should thank the congregation for the ministries they support financially. As an example, "Because of your generosity, last week we were able to send three children to church camp." Thank your parishioners every week for the varied ministries of the church they support. Thank them for their giving... don't ask them to give. If Sunday is a designated special offering day, enclose an envelope and advertise the special offering in your bulletin. Don't ask them to contribute, as your congregation will read the information and choose whether or not they wish to support it. The following week, thank persons for their giving, telling them the amount that was raised for the special cause. Remember....DON'T ASK...THANK.

Annual Finance Campaigns are a part of Year-Round Stewardship:

It is possible that Year-Round Stewardship could render an annual finance campaign unnecessary, but it might not be for a long while. As the reality is that the church population changes every three to five years, ongoing stewardship education is a necessity, and Year-Round stewardship does the best job in this regard.

About Annual Finance Campaigns:

Annual Finance Campaigns are of only two basic types:

1. **Collection Campaigns:** All Finance Campaigns are of only two types. They are either Collection Campaigns, like the Every-Member Canvas or Pony Express that have been good work horses over the years but have been beaten to death. It is very hard to find callers, and church members flee the city to the safety of distant relatives on the Sunday these campaigns are to commence. Follow up is therefore lengthy and cumbersome.

The easiest and most common Collection Campaign is a Letter Campaign. The Finance Committee, or rarely the Pastor, draws up a terse missive designed to induce a sense of fiscal responsibility on the part of the recipient. It frequently contains limited budget information. The first letter is followed by a shorter second letter; a hand-wringing meeting of the Finance Committee, and the conclusion "there is no money in this church." Our conclusion is different. There are no fools in the United Methodist Church, for a fool and his money are soon parted!

This Letter Campaign is not only the easiest, and most commonly used, but also the least effective. Even if well done, it is unusual for a church to exceed 50% of the stated goal of the campaign.

If guilt, coercion, and collection don't work, why not try Education, Motivation, and Communication?

2. **Motivational Campaigns:** The second type of campaign is the Motivational Campaign. This type of campaign concentrates on the individual's need to give, rather than the church's need to receive. Included within motivational type campaigns are Proportional Giving Campaigns, whereby persons are encouraged to give as they have been blessed. These campaigns could be summed up as "To whom much is given, much is expected."

These campaigns rely on the information gathering we've mentioned earlier, breaking down the church's budget into increments. Persons are encouraged to make an incremental pledge. Other campaigns use familial themes like photo albums, which are passed from household to household. In it are photos and memorabilia of the life of the church, taken during the previous church year. They depict each family and individual as integral and vital members of the church family.

This campaign places the emphasis on the individual's desire to give, and the experience of the joy in giving, rather than the need to support the budget of the church.

Additional Comments:

Some folks advocate a "Faith Campaign," whereby pledges are made and placed in sealed envelopes and are never opened. This campaign may work in a few situations but, think for a moment, if our employer told us they wanted us to work from 8 to 5, then said, "I won't tell you what you will be paid, but just have faith in me," it would be most difficult for us to plan on how we would pay our bills. Likewise, the church, not knowing what it will receive, may have difficulty planning its budget or meeting its obligations.

You will notice that every time we mention giving, it is done with the full disclosure of the costs of maintaining the church. Believe it or not, some people believe that the church gets a break on their utility bills or phone or insurance. Probably "someone" donates the needed paper products or tunes the piano for free. Likewise, there is no correlation between keeping the sanctuary at 75 degrees and the cost of the fuel bill.

Stewardship should be an integral part of the church's life. It should begin in pre-school classes, by encouraging children to bring a dime or other larger coin to class and to deposit it in a church shaped bank, or stressing to children the importance of their giving to the Heifer Project,

where they help to feed hungry children. Also, including a mission project in your Vacation Bible School, teaches children valuable lessons about stewardship. It is important to have children attend worship services, at least for a portion of the time, and particularly during the time of offering. Many children feel that the offering is one of their favorite parts of the worship service.

Kids also need to learn to respect the time of worship. There was a lady in one of our churches who expected the children who sat with her to be quiet and to sit and stand at appropriate times and to pray with bowed heads and closed eyes. What does this strictness have to do with stewardship? She also gave each of the children a quarter to put in the offering plate. Within a few weeks, she had filled two pews with children at worship who were attentive to the service, read their Bibles, and brought their own money for the offering. These children joyfully gave of themselves and their gifts to the Lord because they truly wanted to, and seemed to understand a level of stewardship that has been forgotten by many adults. As scripture tells us, "A little child shall lead them."

So is Year-Round Stewardship worth it?

The principles of Year-Round Stewardship are basic and simple, and they may seem like a lot of work. However, they are proven to create renewal, both spiritually and financially, in the life of your church.

Please check the other sections for more information. We wish you the very best in your efforts and pray for your success. God bless you.

Proven Stewardship...That Works

One of the proven secrets of stewardship success is simple but it truly works.....
That is "PLAN YOUR WORK AND WORK YOUR PLAN!"

The following are proven stewardship tips that should be employed by every church in Year-Round Stewardship. Some of these are in the form of an annual event; some should be done on a weekly on-going basis. In every case, they should be carefully planned and accomplished, for they are important and critical parts of
YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP!

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR:

Find out who can help you establish a Year-Round Stewardship Program. What resources are available? Who are these persons and how can they be contacted?

We would begin with the Conference leadership.

Where are we as a church? What is our financial position?

- **Financial Audit:** Each church is required to do an annual audit of its financial position. This should be done early in the year utilizing the guidelines provided by the General Council of Finance and Administration. (For the Guideline contact the Conference Treasurer)

How well did we budget last year? How did receipts match with our Expenses?

- **Budget Analysis:** Analyze last year's receipts and expenses so that both income and expenditures can be determined by the month. This is important because these vary during the year.
- **Design a Programmatic Budget:** Design for distribution a Programmatic Budget in the form of a pie chart or some other form of charting for the upcoming year. Allocate clergy compensation and staffing costs into various work areas of the church, i.e. Worship, Education, Evangelism/Outreach, Missions, Property Costs, etc. if appropriate.
- **Determine the number of giving units in relationship to what it costs to fund the ministry of the church:** Determine, distribute, post, emphasize on an on-
- going year-round basis what it costs to do the complete ministry of the church in relationship to those who give regularly.
- **Provide data on a Step Up Chart:** This chart notes the categories of givers, not by name, but by amount. This chart is also disseminated and posted year-round. It offers information on individual giving to the church, (Sample of chart can be found in the Consecration Sunday program.)

- **See that a Stewardship Committee is formed and active:** A Stewardship Committee, possibly under the guidance of the Finance Committee, needs to be in place and active. This committee will have several functions in Year-Round Stewardship. They will help direct the year end campaign, help with ongoing stewardship articles and posted information, and work with the leadership of the church to see that all persons are giving.
- **Offer complete and continued financial disclosure:** Our church has no secrets! It has only ministry, the ministry of Jesus Christ, as supported by giving. Both members and friends of the church need to know what the church is doing; or in other words, what is the ministry the Church is about?
 - These ministries need to be known by everyone that attends your church. Bulletin boards should speak out loudly about these ministries; so should every other area of communication. The ministries of the church need to be visible to everyone.....AND SO SHOULD THE COSTS OF THESE MINISTRIES.
 - Persons will support what they believe in. When they know what a ministry is about and what it costs, they will give without hesitation. All the financial information, in the forms of the pie charts, step-up charts, the costs of operating the ministry of the church and what each person needs to give to see that ministry accomplished needs to be public knowledge, clearly shared and always available. This means that anyone entering your church, without you asking them for any support of the church and its ministries, will see and understand everything they need to know to give fully and wisely.

Are there other things or actions that need to be done the first of the year? There certainly are! Yes, these are also Year-Round Stewardship!

- **Discuss with the pastor and Worship Committee the importance of increasing worship attendance:** Nothing is more important in Year-Round Stewardship that worship attendance. It has been proven that the number one thing a church can do to increase giving is to increase worship attendance.
- **Establish and monitor "tasks" for everyone within the church family:**
- Tasks are not open-ended like committees but are the work of the church in which the church family becomes "involved." Involvement does not mean worship, it means doing something in or for the church. Why is this important? Because the second most important thing that can be done to increase giving is to see that everyone has an "ownership" in the church. Time and Talent surveys may be helpful here. However, the best way is to establish a computer program that keeps track of person's involvement or lack thereof. In turn, persons can be contacted who are not involved and personally asked to do some task.

Are there extremely helpful ongoing actions and events than can increase giving? Most certainly! These are also tried and true!

- **Thanking.....not asking:** Suppose you have a special offering during worship on a Sunday. Include the information in your bulletin and have an envelope available if need be. But, don't ask for giving! Wait until the following Sunday and make certain you call attention to the special offering you received. Most importantly

THANK the persons for their generosity and gift. **ALWAYS THANK PERSONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH....DON'T ASK THEM TO SUPPORT THEM!** Do this every Sunday. Persons will contribute and comment, "I love this church, they never ask for money!" (But you are, for thanking is truly a way of asking.) Special note for pastors and finance committees: Taking special offerings does not reduce the operational giving, but increases it! Another stewardship secret!

- **Personal Recognition:** On Sunday mornings and in the bulletin or newsletter thank persons of the church for their work in the community. We send persons forth each week to become Christ in the world. Remember to thank them for it.
- **Personal Sharing:** There are persons within your congregation that are wonderful examples for us all. Don't wait until a stewardship campaign to have them share their story! One testimony is worth ten sermons.
- **Have we forgotten to remind persons to give when they are on vacation?** Methodists tend to give only when attending (sad to say). Remind them in the newsletter to keep their giving coming even when on vacation. One parishioner told me that they always tithed their vacations. Meaning, if they spent \$500 on vacation they gave the church an additional \$50 as a thanks offering!
- **Persons are constantly moving. How about asking those who pledge annually to complete their pledge before beginning a new one where they are moving?** Most persons will do this if asked. We seldom think of this or do we do it. But, this is very important to maintain giving.
- **Do we send quarterly statements to those who have pledged?** It has been proven that there is a 20% increase in giving by sending statements or reminders. You and I get statements from every supplier of our services so persons are not offended when they receive a statement. They may even appreciate it. Could we keep current, with say our utility bills, if we received a statement only once a year?

Once a Year real helpers....Excellent anytime but especially in time of need!

- **Checking out or updating the nursery. What? What does this have to do with Year-Round Stewardship?** Statistics have proven that having an excellent nursery increases church attendance in all areas, and also increases financial support. Why is this? The nursery is the most important area of the church for families with young children! Parents demand quality care and will not leave their kids with just anyone; or in a poorly maintained or staffed nursery.
- **We all want a second chance. What about a Second Chance Sunday?**
- A Second Chance Sunday offers the opportunity for additional income without emphasizing "Catching up." So you are behind in your giving? Who isn't behind one time or another? Don't try to catch up but instead offer persons a Second Chance. As noted before.....DON'T CUT SPENDING.....BUT THINK OF WAYS TO INCREASE GIVING!
- **We all need financial planning. Why can't our church help us?** Most certainly it can. With help from our Foundation your church can show persons how they can support ministry and their lives as well. Really a great support to everyone!
- **What about Planned Giving? How will this help both me and the church?** How about your church being central in helping persons with estate planning? Again, with

the help of the Foundation, persons can learn how to write a simple Will (Did you know that 50% of Americans don't have a will?), persons can begin to think about setting up an annuity, a trust or endowment that benefits them with their immediate financial needs (Gives them more money now!) and also helps them with other pitfalls such as taxes or probate. **PLAN NOW.....DON'T WAIT.**

PROCRASTINATION CAN COST YOU A BUNDLE!

- **Easter and Christmas comes as a blessing to us every year!** Let's give the church a gift this year! Easter and Christmas offerings are additional giving that help support something special in the life of the church. For example...a mission trip, a special need in the community, or for a special outreach ministry.
- **Thanksgiving, a special time when we all count our blessings.** Maybe on Thanksgiving Sunday we could have a time of remembering. We could remember, with a special offering, those we honor who have passed on or hold fond memories in our lives. We could hold up special events or times that hold a depth of meaning in our lives with a gift of thanksgiving. It is simple...but so important to remember and to give
- thanks to God for all the blessings we have been given in our lives.
- **Should we hold an annual stewardship campaign? What kind should we use?** People continue to ask, "Should our church hold an annual campaign? What kind will work best?" What would you say if I said, "The best campaign is no campaign!" OH, BUT WAIT! Before not conducting an annual campaign, ask yourself, "Has the Spirit of God so motivated and excited all of our members and friends that they will give from the first of their fruits and from the fullness of their hearts?" If the answer is yes to this question, no campaign is required. But, in a large percentage of our churches, it is not that God's Spirit is not present, but our congregations may need a little nudging. **NUDGING IS A CAMPAIGN WHEN YOU PLAN YOUR WORK...AND WORK YOUR PLAN!** The nudge should be utilized to enhance an individual's need to give (spiritually), not the need of the church to receive (financially.)

We continue to thank people....but when was the last time we told them we missed them?

- **Do you remember what a Pounding is?** I'm not talking about a time when you were beaten up as a kid. A Pounding was a very special event in the life of a community when they received a new teacher or pastor. Everyone gave the teacher or preacher a "pound" of something, such as jelly, canned fruit or vegetables, meat, milk, cheese, etc. **WHAT IF YOUR CHURCH HELD A POUNDING?** A Pounding, not to welcome someone, but in a special way to say, "We have missed you!" How simple it would be if someone from your church just dropped by the home of someone whom you had missed seeing in church; and, left them, even on the doorstep, a small gift with a note just saying "We miss you!" **WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?** No doubt, persons receiving the gift would say to themselves..."Someone from the church called on me and didn't even ask for a thing!" **HOW QUIANT....YET HOW IMPORTANT!**
- **Does your church monitor attendance? Does it send a card, just saying, "We have been missing you?"** People miss church for a variety of reasons. But, one

thing is certain, when they get out of the habit of attending they are slow to come back. People tend to come back when they have been missed! Send a postcard each Monday to persons who were not in Sunday School. Cokesbury has a great assortment of "We miss you" postcards. No guilt, no long message, just a line or two signed from the Sunday School. Your attendance will improve immediately.

Praise God,
the source of all our gifts!

Types of Annual Local Church Stewardship Programs

There are many good models for Finance and Stewardship campaigns, but they can be categorized into one of two types - they are either collection campaigns (meeting the church's "need to receive") or spiritual campaigns (addressing a persons "need to give"). Each local church should analyze which type of campaign would be best for them. After deciding which is most appropriate, the campaign can be tailored to meet those specific needs of the church. As a general rule, there is only one key to success in any campaign - plan your work and work your plan.

As a collection campaign, any variation on the Circuit Rider/every member visitation program or proportional giving campaign will work effectively. It will be more effective if the local church has in place a visitation plan year-round so persons cannot accurately say, "We only get a call from the church when you need money."

These programs work well because they follow the three core campaign components: they communicate, motivate, and educate. They use a variety of methods to reach the church's constituency, including letters, speakers, special dinners, door to door, etc.

Proportional giving campaigns are a very good campaign to run in a church which has not reached the level of commitment required to meet the church's budget or obligations. They stress the educational aspect of assessing what it actually costs per giving unit to run the local church. This approach encourages the supporter of the church to voluntarily increase their level of support by offering them full disclosure of the finances of the church.

Smaller churches in more isolated areas may have success with a variation of a "family album" campaign. By establishing routes similar to a Circuit Rider campaign, identical photo albums are delivered to members of the church's "family." The emphasis is that the church family is inclusive and has mutual needs and goals that are shared.

Spiritual campaigns stress the giver's need to give, the joy of giving, and an in-depth spiritual dimension of giving rather than the church's need to receive. The most popular of these campaigns currently is a "Consecration Sunday". This Herb Miller campaign does not recommend the use of a budget nor talk about the church's need for money.

Do not confuse "Consecration Sunday" with a "Faith Promise or Pledge." A Faith Campaign consists of gathering "pledges" which are sealed and never opened and later returned to the giver with a record of the actual amount given during the year.

Proportional Giving/Tithing

Offers a "step up" program where persons can increase their giving on a percentage basis, dependent upon their income. Persons are asked to increase their giving annually and to work toward tithing.

Consecration Sunday

Concentrates on the giver's "need to give" rather than the church's "need to receive." Raises the level of giving on a spiritual basis. A special Sunday is established at which persons receive a pledge card and are asked to complete it on that Sunday and to come forward to consecrate their gifts.

Every Member Visitation

The design of the every member visitation is to visit every member in their home. Usually teams of two make the visits. Visitors are informed about the church's mission and ministry. Visitors are trained to (1) interpret the church's vision for the future, (2) explain the budget, (3) hear the hurts and hopes of parishioners, and (4) encourage people to participate financially in the church's mission and ministry. Each team is expected to make about five visits. Recruiting and training of visitors becomes critical. Some campaigns will have visitors receive the pledge card during the visit, whether it is filled in or not, and some will have people return the pledge card at a special service of worship.

Phone-A-Thon

This model of a finance campaign is similar to the every member visitation except contact is made via telephone instead of a home visit. Callers receive extensive training to guarantee effective phone dialog.

The QUILL Fund Raising Campaign

The QUILL Fund Raising program involves the church's top givers hand-writing personal letters on their own stationery to invite other church members to join the authors in substantially increasing their mutual giving to their church. QUILL is dependent upon the New Testament concept of the need of the giver to give, not upon the need of the church to receive. In most churches the top ten givers can handle the entire assignment. Personalized stationery is printed for each giver-author. Each author then selects a number of names to whom he/she will handwrite a letter, using one or more of the suggested letter outlines that are provided. There is a simple and effective follow-up for non-responders. Two or three good-givers are invited to witness their giving at worship. A positive by-product of this campaign is that a stronger sense of community is built among the church members. The QUILL Campaign can be ordered from: Church Fundraising Services, Inc., P. O. Box 19138, Boulder, CO 80308.

All Church Dinner Approach

The All Church Dinner approach aims to have as many persons as possible attend a dinner(s) when the program of the Church will be presented and opportunity given for pledges to be made. This approach is used by some churches as a "Harvest Home" or "Fall Festival," or a similar thanksgiving or harvest theme. A Loyalty Sunday approach may utilize an all-church dinner.

Harvest Home

Harvest Home is held on Thanksgiving Sunday each year. The worship hour has a guest preacher. A dinner and program follow worship. On Sunday morning each family brings their annual gift or pledge to be placed on the altar. The pledges are tallied immediately after worship,

and the total announced to the dinner gathering. The total effort is to allow giving to be as joyous and celebrative as possible.

Loyalty Sunday

Stress attendance at worship on a special Sunday. Interpretative information is distributed prior to the special Sunday. Lay speakers offer their testimonies on giving several Sundays prior to Loyalty Sunday.

Circuit Rider or Pony Express

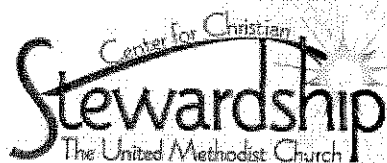
These two popular campaign models can be successful when used creatively. The congregation is organized into circuits of 10-12 families with a "captain" or "trail boss" of each circuit. The first family calls on the second family and leaves a packet (saddle bag) containing interpretative materials, instructions, and pledge cards. The second family delivers the packet to the third family and so forth until the circuit is completed. The "captain" closely monitors the progress of the packet or saddle-bag, retrieves it when it has completed the circuit and returns it to the church office.

Family Album

Photographs of church events and activities of all types are taken throughout a church year. Copies of these photographs are made to be included in a number of church albums. These albums are then shared with the entire congregation by utilizing routes similar to a Circuit Rider campaign.

Faith Promise or "Private" Pledge

Stimulates growth in stewardship and faithfulness in giving. A person's or family's pledge is known only to that person or family. At the end of the year, the sealed envelope is to be returned to the giver along with a record of giving for the year. Ideas are shared on a regular basis in Sunday worship and in other opportunities in the life of the Church concerning the importance of giving as it relates to spiritual growth. The implication is given that the pledge is a covenant between those involved and God, and that the dedication of the covenant is important.



Search

 GBOD

 Stewardship

Annual Stewardship Campaigns

« [Back to local church resources](#)

Called to Serve

by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.
LeWay Resources, Inc.
1-800-72-LEWAY

Sign-Up

 Offertory Prayers

- This program invites the congregation to explore stewardship as it relates to vocation.
- Members are challenged to consider how they serve Christ in the church, in the community, in the home, in the world, and in the workplace.
- The program culminates with volunteers telephoning each household to discuss the church's ministry and each household's financial commitments.

Join the
E-Stewardship Forum
Email Discussion

Celebrate the Faith

by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.
LeWay Resources, Inc.
1-800-72-LEWAY

Contact Us

stewardship@gbod.org
877-899-2780, ext. 7054
615-340-7015 (Fax)

- Focuses on the actions people can take to develop a strong personal faith.
- Invites members to commit themselves to one or more faith disciplines for a five-week period.
- Encourages financial commitments being received on Celebrate the Faith Sunday.

About Us

Celebrate the Gift

by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.
LeWay Resources, Inc.
1-800-72-LEWAY

- Helps a congregation develop a joyous spirit as it celebrates the gift of faith, the gift of fellowship, and the gift of community.
- Focuses on a prayer connection that unites members in prayer for one another.
- Helps members – through the use of celebration cards – identify positive characteristics about their church, its members, and its mission and ministry.

Courage to Care

by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.
LeWay Resources, Inc.
1-800-72-LEWAY

- Members are invited to commit themselves to at least one act of caring through a "Care Connection."
- Visitation teams share with members in their homes aspects of next year's program
- Well-trained visitors discuss with members the ways that God is calling the church to ministry.

Cycles of Discipleship

by Jack Phillips
Discipleship Resources, 2007

Cycles of Discipleship offers a model of stewardship outlined in 2 Corinthians 8-9. This early church model for stewardship meets the needs of congregations, people, and pastors today. *Cycles of Discipleship* rings with the biblical affirmation of God's grace. It heralds the redemptive ministries provided by the church. The program kit includes: 9 copies of *Cycles of Discipleship Program Guide*; 1 Training DVD; 1 Resource CD; and 1 Bible Study CD.

Cycles of Discipleship helps those in the church view stewardship as:

- A privilege of every Christian disciple.
- An opportunity to excel in the grace of giving.
- A source of joy as they put their time, abilities, and financial resources to work in a needy world.
- An opportunity to support the ministries of the church, not simply an annual budget.

Giving: Growing Joyful Stewards in Your Congregation

by Ecumenical Stewardship Center

1-800-972-0433

- An annual journal filled with stewardship articles, including a basic annual stewardship campaign
- The journal offers a different theme each year.
- The journal provides an announcement letter, cover letter with estimate of giving card, financial enlistment timeline, and other theme material (available from Cokesbury).

Living Stewardship Program

1-800-443-2872

- Focuses on a different theme each year.
- Provides separate, custom printed material for targeted audiences, such as current contributing members and inactive members.
- Enables different approaches to be used in reaching various segments of the congregation.
- Bases pricing on church membership.

New Beginnings: My Opportunity for Giving

by Paul Wilkes

1-800-936-0363

- *My Opportunity for Giving* has a simple — yet profound — goal: To make stewardship a way of life for congregants.
- *My Opportunity for Giving* creates an "attitude of gratitude" by carefully leading members through a thoughtful consideration of the time, the talent, and the treasure they have been given by God.
- "Stewardship — It's Already in Your Heart" is the bold — but certainly true — statement that underlies the *New Beginnings* approach.

The New Consecration Sunday

by Herb Miller

1-800-672-1789

- A self-directed campaign.
- Requires an outside leader/speaker.
- Requires a meal for church leaders and a catered luncheon for the entire congregation.
- Emphasizes the Christian responsibility of the giver to give.
- Requires that estimate of giving cards be received on Consecration Sunday.

Quill: The Personal Demonstration Stewardship Program

by Church Fund-raising Services, Inc.

1-800-826-2048

- *Quill* focuses on a personalized appeal for each church member.
- The manual is lengthy (200 pages), but highly detailed with step-by-step directions.
- Handwritten letters on personal stationery in hand-addressed envelopes mailed to self-selected prospects with the personal witness of the author and an invitation to join him/her in increasing giving is the "mechanical secret" of *Quill's* success.

Transformed Giving Program Kit
By John Ed Mathison Abingdon Press
1-800-672-1789

- Provides congregational unity by encouraging the congregation to read *Treasures of the Transformed Life*, to participate in a group study, and to listen to coordinated worship messages.
- A 40-day intensive spiritual growth emphasis for the entire congregation that leads to enhanced financial giving.
- The congregation is immersed together as a single body in the same fulfilling step-by-step transformation.
- Contains one copy of *Treasures of the Transformed Life*, a Participant's workbook, a Leader's Guide, a Media Kit, and a Campaign Handbook.

Unto Us Is Given
by Leo B. Waynick, Jr.
LeWay Resources, Inc.
1-800-72-LEWAY

- *Unto Us is Given* is rooted in the belief that God gave us the gift of Jesus "special delivery."
- All members are encouraged to focus on receiving God's gifts and to pass them on in greater abundance.
- On Special Delivery Sunday, teams of two people make a special delivery of an Advent booklet to each member's home. During the visit, the team offers to "special-deliver" the member's estimate of giving card back to the church.

This listing is provided as a resource for church leaders. This listing of firms does not claim to list all companies that produce resources and services in these areas. The list is not to be construed as an endorsement or recommendation for any one firm or program. The listing is provided for informational purposes only.

The list is supplied by the Center for Christian Stewardship of The United Methodist Church, The General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. For more information, call toll free 1-877-899-2780, ext. 7054; or send an e-mail message to stewardship@gbod.org.

Updated 5-10-05

[Home](#)[Leadership Ministries](#)[Young People's Ministries](#)[Upper Room Ministries](#)[Bookstore](#)[STATE](#) [CONTACT US](#) [SEARCH](#) [SITE MAP](#)

SMALL MEMBERSHIP

C H U R C H

[ARTICLES](#)[RESEARCH & NEWS](#)[LEARNING EVENTS](#)[NETWORKS](#)[RESOURCES](#)[LINKS](#)[HOMEPAGE](#)

9. Ideas for Stewardship in Small Churches

by Julia Kuhn Wallace

Welcome to the ninth article in a series designed to enhance the use of the *Small Membership Church Guideline*. Ideally, this Guideline will be shared among your church leaders, read, discussed together, and used to strengthen ministry. Here are some additional stewardship ideas to get the most out of this resource in your small membership church.

Eight Great Stewardship Ideas

Look over the following list of eight ideas for cultivating a stronger sense of stewardship in the small church. Make a note of any that you have tried and what the response was in the congregation. Was it positive? Choose one of the newer items on the list and plan to try it in the next four months. Remember: Stewardship is more than financial giving. It is a sense of thanksgiving for all that God has given us, including care giving for the world around us! Try one of these ideas in your church soon.

- 1. Help people in the congregation see a real need — not just a challenge to meet the bottom line in the budget amount.** Whenever possible place a face on special appeals, financial needs, clothing or food drives, or emergency crisis by inviting those knowledgeable about the situation to speak about what is happening and why the church's support is vital. Small churches are relational!
- 2. Create fun fundraising events that involve the larger area around where your congregation is located (village, town, or even city.)** Be the small church that can! People enjoy participating in good causes that capture their attention. One small church raised thousands of dollars for volunteer emergency medical services in its small town by having a "pumpkin hurling" in the fall. One year the event drew the attention of a major TV network when it was discovered that the men of the church had designed a pumpkin canon to throw the pumpkins. They had thousands attend. The next year they challenged NASA.
- 3. Celebrate the church's ministry throughout the year.** While most churches talk about what happens at the church only when they are trying to raise a budget, a strong small church celebrates God's activity through the church continually. It's important for people to be a part of a place that makes a difference in their lives.
- 4. Invite individuals to talk about how God and the church's ministry make a difference in their lives.** One of the unique gifts in smaller churches is hearing what happens in the lives of others. This can be done from the pulpit on Laity Sunday, in the sanctuary in small groups during prayer times, as personal testimony, or even in meetings and retreats. It is important to make time for people to talk about where they are encountering God in their lives.
- 5. Be practical! Not everything a congregation needs is financial.** Some needs may be for new items for refurbishing a part of the church or a special ministry. Publish or post a "wish list" for your nursery or Sunday school and allow people to donate the specific items you need. Cross items off the list as they are received. Send thank you notes.

One church planning to open a preschool ministry registered with the local Target store as if the church were having a new child. They registered the items they needed. To their surprise, they even received gifts from people in the community. They publicized a baby shower, and had two pregnant

women in the community (not even members of the church) open the gifts on behalf of the new ministry. At once, they had preschool and nursery supplies. They also had community partners.

6. **Encourage church leaders to be role models in stewardship.** Whenever there is a special offering or campaign, ask your leaders to pledge or give first. Announce the leadership amount as a start to the fund raising. Thank them for leading the congregation.
7. **Tell people often that you believe in them and their generosity of spirit.** As I travel, I often read how far behind a congregation is in its budget or how much more it needs to catch-up. Occasionally, I hear a leader praise the members of a church for their generosity (financial, abilities, spiritual, time, and so on) and the difference it makes in the ministry of the church. Which one motivates you?
8. **Participate in the county or school surplus auctions to obtain furniture and equipment at an economic cost.** Some companies even dispose of equipment when they replace computers and furniture. Keep your ears open.

Thank you for visiting our website and for giving us the opportunity to serve you. Comments and questions can be directed to Julia Wallace, jwallace@gbod.org.

Julia K. Wallace is Director of Small Membership Church and Shared Ministries at the General Board of Discipleship.

Diana L. Hynson, editor of this series of articles, is Director of Learning and Teaching Ministries at the General Board of Discipleship.

Copyright © 2004 The General Board of Discipleship. Permission is granted for use in local church training or study groups. No portion of this article may be reprinted or republished in any form for any other reason without written consent. Send requests to Julia Wallace at PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003.

Return to [Additional Resources That Complement the Small Membership Church Guideline](#)

Text Only Version



[Small Membership Church Home](#)
[Articles](#) | [Research and News](#) | [Learning Events](#) | [Networks](#) | [Resources](#) | [Links](#)
[Staff](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Search](#) | [Site Map](#)

Copyright © 2008 General Board of Discipleship.
 All rights reserved. Do not reproduce without permission.



Search

GBOD

Stewardship

Go

Capital Campaign Consultants

« [Back to articles](#)

In addition to the companies listed below, several United Methodist Foundations provide capital campaign services for local churches within their geographic boundary. [Click here](#) to view a membership directory of the National Association of United Methodist Foundations.

Sign-Up

Enter Your E-Mail Address

[Offertory Prayers](#)

Go

Join the
[E-Stewardship Forum](#)
Email Discussion

Cargill Associates
4701 Altamesa Boulevard
Fort Worth, TX 76133
800-433-2233
www.cargillassociates.com

Church Stewardship Consultants, LLC
6217 E. State Road
Newcomerstown, OH 43832
740-498-9356
E-mail: bgcall@sbcglobal.net
www.churchstewardshipconsultants.com

Contact Us

stewardship@gbod.org
877-899-2780, ext. 7054
615-340-7015 (Fax)

Design for Ministry
W325 S7418 Squire Lane
Mukwonago, WI 53149
877-771-3330
www.designforministry.com

About Us

Generis Partners Inc.
102 N. 85 Parkway, Suite B
Atlanta, GA 30214
800-233-0561
www.generis.com

Horizons Stewardship Company
PO Box 627
Cabot, AR 72023
501-843-9448 or 501-681-4828
www.horizonsstewardship.com

Injoy Stewardship Services
P.O. Box 7700
Atlanta, GA 30357-0700
800-333-6509
www.injoystewardship.com

Promotion Management Group, Inc.
Pat Luna, President
1327 Woodward Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36106
334-262-9440
patluna@charter.net

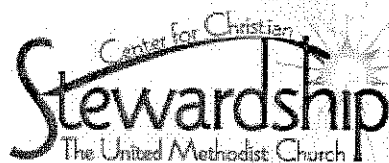
Resource Services, Inc.
5151 Belt Line Road, Suite 900
Dallas, TX 75254
800-527-6824
<http://rsichurch.viscarn.com/cms/index.html>

Stewardship Resources for United Methodists
P.O. Box 360930
Birmingham, AL 35236
205-503-5660
866-404-GROW (4769) — Toll Free
www.umstewardshipresources.org

Tyler Associates
9901 East Valley Ranch Parkway, Suite 2000
Irving, Texas 75063
Telephone: 972-432-9221
Fax: 972-830-9033
<http://www.tylerassociates.info>

This listing is provided as a resource for church leaders. This listing of firms does not claim to list all companies that produce resources and services in these areas. The list is not to be construed as an endorsement or recommendation for any one firm or program. The listing is provided for informational purposes only.

The list is supplied by the Center for Christian Stewardship of The United Methodist Church, The General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. For more information, call toll free 1-877-899-2780, ext. 7054; or send an e-mail message to stewardship@gbod.org.



Search

GBOD
 Stewardship

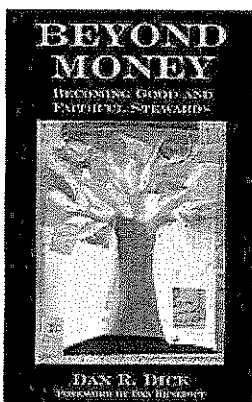
Sign-Up
 Enter Your E-Mail Address
 Offertory Prayers

Join the
E-Stewardship Forum
 Email Discussion

Contact Us
 stewardship@gbod.org
 877-899-2780, ext. 7054
 615-340-7015 (Fax)

About Us

Featured Books



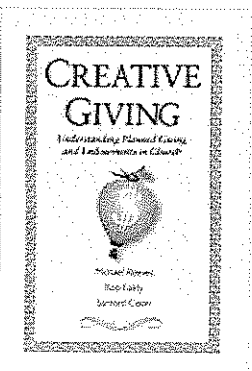
Beyond Money: Becoming Good and Faithful Stewards
 By Dan R. Dick
 Discipleship Resources, 2006

There's more to stewardship than church program funds and pledge campaigns. Being a good steward is also about honoring the gifts, graces and fruits of the Spirit. *Beyond Money* encourages this expanded, more nuanced understanding and meaning, one where the goal is Christian maturation. *Beyond Money* details how Christian discipleship and stewardship are inseparately interwoven in our personal faith journeys.



Creating a Climate for Giving
 By Donald W. Joiner
 Discipleship Resources, 2001

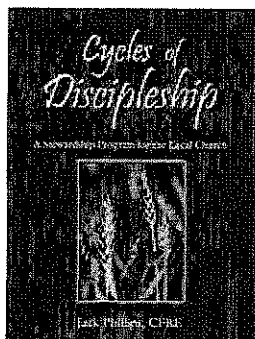
Church leaders are often heard to say that old ways are not working any longer. Joiner brings a vision for a fresh way of creating a climate for giving in local churches. We must refine "fund-raising" to "fund-ministry." A financial campaign for developing Christian philanthropists is included.



Creative Giving: Understanding Planned Giving and Endowments in Church
 By Michael D. Reeves, Rob Fairly, Sanford Coon
 Discipleship Resources, 2005

Creative Giving is the perfect resource to teach "words-rather-than-numbers" staff about distinctive strategies for church financial planning, such as bequests and other planned giving. This book lays out a systematic means for non-experts to think about stewardship and long-term fiscal planning within the ministry and mission of the church.

Cycles of Discipleship: A Stewardship Program for the Local Church
 By Jack Phillips

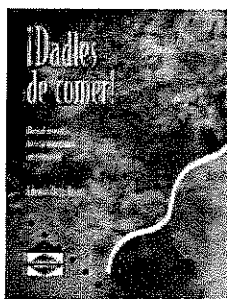


Discipleship Resources, 2007

Cycles of Discipleship offers a model of stewardship outlined in 2 Corinthians 8-9. This early church model for stewardship meets the needs of congregations, people, and pastors today. *Cycles of Discipleship* rings with the biblical affirmation of God's grace. It heralds the redemptive ministries provided by the church. The program kit includes: 9 copies of *Cycles of Discipleship Program Guide*; 1 Training DVD; 1 Resource CD; and 1 Bible Study CD.

Cycles of Discipleship helps those in the church view stewardship as:

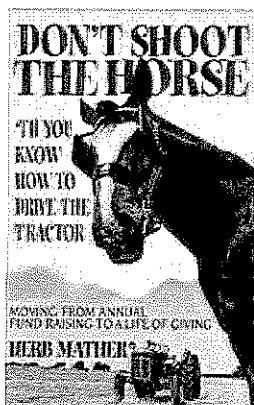
- A privilege of every Christian disciple.
- An opportunity to excel in the grace of giving.
- A source of joy as they put their time, abilities, and financial resources to work in a needy world.
- An opportunity to support the ministries of the church, not simply an annual budget.



¡Dadles de comer! Manual de estudio sobre la mayordomía congregacional
(*Feed Them! Congregational Stewardship Manual*)
(Discipleship Resources, 2004)

Este manual es un recurso del Plan Nacional para el Ministerio Hispano. El mismo está dirigido a capacitar al liderato de la iglesia local que organiza, dirige y administra ministerios de mayordomía.

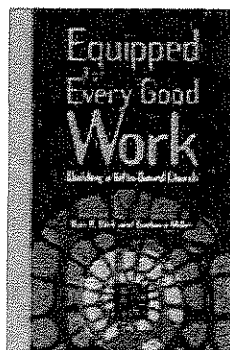
This manual is a National Plan for Hispanic Ministry resource. It is designed to help local church leaders organize, direct, and administer stewardship ministries.



Don't Shoot the Horse ("Til You Know How to Drive the Tractor): Moving from Annual Fund Raising to a Life of Giving
By Herb Mather

Discipleship Resources, 1994

Herb Mather looks to the future and sees a congregation where giving is a natural but non-intrusive, year-round endeavor — part of a continuous process of spiritual formation for healthy, growing Christians. In practical and systematic ways, he shows how to lead a congregation toward this way of life by defining mission, expanding leadership, building trust, telling stories, and staying in touch with key moments in the life of both giver and congregation.

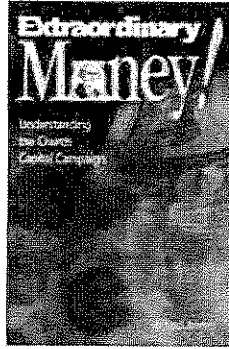


Equipped for Every Good Work: Building a Gifts-Based Church
By Dan R. Dick and Barbara Miller Dick

Discipleship Resources, 2001

Dan and Barbara Dick offer four ways congregations can help people grow in self-understanding. The book gives the reader tools for the discovery and development of spiritual gifts, spiritual types, interaction styles, and working preferences. This discovery and development will help individuals better understand their gifts and graces for Christian service in the world.

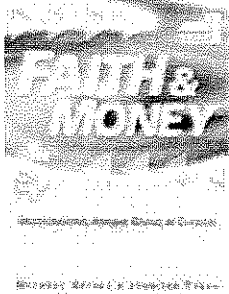
Extraordinary Money! Understanding the Church Capital Campaign



By Michael D. Reeves

Discipleship Resources, 2002

Michael Reeves helps church leaders examine the issues involved in developing and carrying out a capital fundraising campaign. *Extraordinary Money* is not a capital campaign program; rather, it is an excellent tool to help churches determine if a capital campaign suits their setting, then, if so, select an appropriate program and carry it through successfully. *Primary users:* Leaders in congregations that are considering entering into a capital campaign to raise funds for major projects or debt reduction. *Secondary users:* District superintendents and district committees on church building and location.

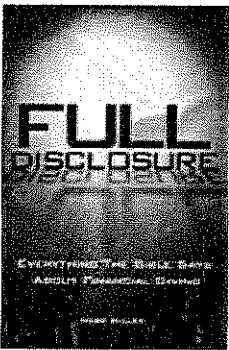


Faith and Money: Understanding Annual Giving in Church

By Michael D. Reeves and Jennifer Tyler

Discipleship Resources, 2003

Grounded in the gospel, *Faith and Money* identifies the challenges of fund development in local congregations; develops a consistent theological foundation for fund development; and guides congregations in building worthy expectations and attitudes on how to fund ministry.

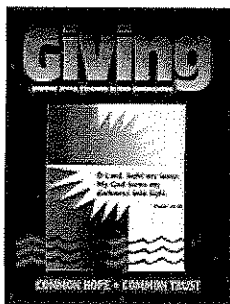


Full Disclosure: Everything the Bible Says About Financial Giving

By Herb Miller

Discipleship Resources, 2003

Financial giving is an important element of our spiritual relationship with God. There are twenty financial stewardship themes that recur and evolve in the Old and New Testaments. *Full Disclosure* identifies these themes, lists their historical importance, and illustrates contemporary applications for each theme. The themes fall into three categories: (1) Why should we give? (2) How does giving benefit us? and (3) How should we give?



Giving 2006: Growing Joyful Stewards in Your Congregation

By Ecumenical Stewardship Center

Ecumenical Stewardship Center

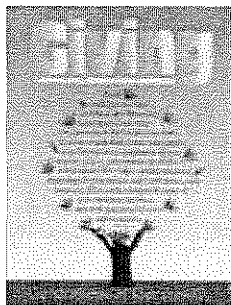
Giving is an annual periodical of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center (ESC). David Bell, Director of the Center for Christian Stewardship at the GBOD, serves on the ESC Board of Directors. The articles in each issue are written to guide you to develop creative and vital stewardship ministries in your church or organization. The theme for this issue is "Common Hope, Common Trust."

Giving 2005: Growing Joyful Stewards in Your Congregation

By Ecumenical Stewardship Center

Ecumenical Stewardship Center

Giving is an annual publication of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. This issue of *Giving*, "Generations of Generosity," invites you to trace the paths of generations of generosity in your own household or congregation. Take a fresh approach to the annual stewardship emphasis by telling your story and the stories of members of your faith community.



Holy Smoke! Whatever Happened to Tithing?

By J. Cliff Christopher and Herbert Mather

Discipleship Resources, 2000

Christopher and Mather offer a renewed look at a subject discussed very little in congregations today: tithing. They propose the discipline of tithing as a way for Christians to symbolize and renew their relationship with God. The key to achieving this is to present the tithe, not as a legal obligation, but as a benchmark in a spiritual relationship that is generous and giving.

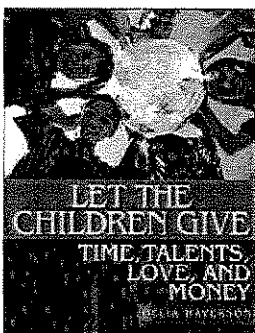


Let the Children Give: Time, Talents, Love and Money

By Delia Halverson

Discipleship Resources

Let the Children Give provides adults the resources to demonstrate and teach a stewardship lifestyle to kids. As a special bonus feature, Halverson created a mini-retreat design for parents and children together to learn about stewardship.

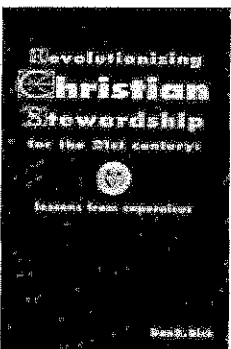


Revolutionizing Christian Stewardship for the 21st Century: Lessons From Copernicus

By Dan R. Dick

Discipleship Resources, 1997

Dan Dick presents a persuasive case for a whole new way of thinking about Christian stewardship. The central message is that Christian stewardship begins with God at the center.

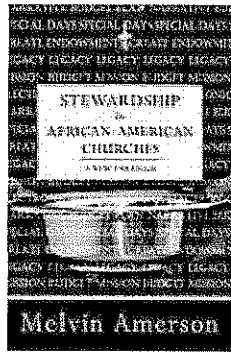


Stewardship in African-American Churches: A New Paradigm

By Melvin Amerson

Discipleship Resources

A practical and theological study of stewardship, both in the context of the African-American church tradition and beyond.



That's What My Mother Taught Me — And Other Ways Generous Givers Develop

By Herb Mather

Discipleship Resources, 2001

Interviews with more than 100 people identified as generous givers resulted in a wealth of giving stories. The experiences of these people from a variety of backgrounds, congregations, ethnic groups, ages, and locations are woven together to describe how giving patterns develop in real congregations among real people.





Search

GBOD
 Stewardship

Go

Bibliography

Sign-Up

Enter Your E-Mail Address

Offertory Prayers

Go

Join the
E-Stewardship Forum
Email Discussion

Contact Us
stewardship@gbod.org
877-899-2780, ext. 7054
615-340-7015 (Fax)

About Us

■ **The Abingdon Guide to Funding Ministry: An Innovative Sourcebook for Church Leaders, Vol. 1**
Donald W. Joiner (Editor), Norma Wimberly (Editor) Abingdon Press, 1995.
Designed to assist leaders of the congregation in soliciting, managing, and using donor contributions or other sources of revenue in an effective and appropriate fashion. In addition to providing information that facilitates effective stewardship within the congregation, this volume contains numerous features to help maximize income and minimize wasteful expenses.

■ **The Abingdon Guide to Funding Ministry: An Innovative Sourcebook for Church Leaders, Vol. 2**
Donald W. Joiner (Editor), Norma Wimberly (Editor)
Abingdon Press, 1996
This volume contains numerous features to produce a good attitude toward giving, while minimizing wasteful expense. A bonus feature is a complete commitment campaign that can be adapted for use in any congregation. This volume also includes a reproducible 24-page workbook for the commitment campaign "Seeking Something Better." Sample cards and covenants are presented.

■ **The Abingdon Guide to Funding Ministry: An Innovative Sourcebook for Church Leaders, Vol. 3**
Donald W. Joiner (Editor), Norma Wimberly (Editor)
Abingdon Press, 1997
This practical and inspirational "how-to" manual offers tips that help church leaders to talk about money, helps preachers proclaim the word, assists the church with money management and planned giving, provides helpful tax advice, suggests ways that church leaders and members can live faithfully.

■ **Abundance: Living Responsibly with God's Gifts**
(20/30 Bible Study for Young Adults)
John W. Peterson
Abingdon Press, 2001
This volume in a series examines a powerful biblical image and includes Bible background, articles on group leadership and teaching options, case studies throughout the text to use as discussion starters, and options for service projects.

■ **Afire with God: Spirit-ed Stewardship for a New Century**
Betsy Schwarzenraub.
Discipleship Resources, 2001. (May be available from amazon.com)
Schwarzenraub calls congregations to see themselves as communities of stewards called to a dynamic, Spirit-ed stewardship of the gospel that overturns institution-oriented fundraising methods and assumptions. She helps church leaders apply the biblical foundation for stewardship in their personal lives and in the life of the congregation.

■ **Ask, Thank, Tell**
Charles R. Lane
Augsburg Fortress, 2006
A tool for pastors and financial leaders to help the church focus on financial stewardship with theological integrity and joy-filled practical response.

■ **At Ease: Discussing Money and Values in Small Groups**
John and Sylvia Ronsvalle with U. Kaufmann
Alban Institute, Inc. 1998
The authors present a method for making people comfortable discussing the difficult issues of linking money with values. Based on congregational small-group discussions that create support and trust, the method

helps individuals identify their fears and worries, as well as their attitudes about stewardship and support of the church. A series of questions leads participants by steps to new and increasingly probing conversations about these issues.

■ **Basic Accounting for Churches: A Turnkey Manual**

Jack A. Henry

Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994

A true everything-you-need-to-know guide to church money management with complete, simple explanations and a step-by-step approach

■ **Basic Budgeting for Churches**

Jack A. Henry

Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995

This clear, comprehensive guide explains all the basics of building a solid church budgeting system. The book includes sample forms with complete instructions and commentary.

■ **Becoming a Giving Church**

Herbert Mather

Discipleship Resources, 1985 — out of print.

A tool for pastors and financial leaders to help your church focus on financial stewardship with theological integrity and joy-filled practical response.

■ **Behind the Stained Glass Windows — Money Dynamics in the Church**

John and Sylvia Ronsvallie

Baker Books, 1996 (Out of print).

In this groundbreaking book, John and Sylvia Ronsvallie reveal the stories behind their three-year study of money dynamics in the church. Their findings are not only telling and fascinating, but they have far-reaching implications for the future of the church. The study reports on what church members and leaders think about money and the role it plays in church dynamics. The sharp decline in church giving is due in large part, they say, to the shifting of Americans from a survival mode to a pattern of mass consumption.

■ **Best-Loved Parables**

Lois Rock

Augsburg Fortress Press, 1999 (Out of print).

This is a bound collection of classic biblical stories that parents of all backgrounds will want their children to read and know by heart. In language that is both appealing and understandable to children, seventeen parables, many dealing with money and stewardship, are recounted — each richly illustrated, each with a timeless message.

■ **Beyond Money: Becoming Good and Faithful Stewards**

Dan R. Dick

Discipleship Resources, 2006.

Beyond Money details how Christian discipleship and stewardship are inseparately interwoven in our personal faith journeys.

■ **Beyond the Collection Plate: Overcoming Obstacles to Faithful Giving**

Michael Durall

Abingdon Press, 2003

The author asserts that there is enough money to create healthy and vital churches. He offers wise counsel about the many forms of resistance that pervade the church when dealing with finances and giving. While not a handbook for church fundraising, the book does provide several practical and specific suggestions.

■ **The Case of Stuart's Ship: A Lesson in Stewardship**

(For children)

Stan Toler & Debra White Smith

Randall House Publications, 2005

Join Stuart and Sam as they uncover what it means to be true stewards of God's gifts. Through good detective work and vivid imaginations, they realize how to please God by taking care of their toys, their time, and their bodies.

■ **The Challenge of the Disciplined Life: Christian Reflections on Money, Sex, and Power**

Richard J. Foster

Harper San Francisco, 1989.

Foster explores the three great ethical themes crucial to people of faith living faithfully. Drawing upon practical examples, Richard J. Foster guides the reader in day-to-day ethical decision making while helping each of us determine "the proper place in Christian life of money, sex, and power." The author's words about how giving can bring authenticity and vitality to a devotional experience are important to hear in this

day, in which — once again — there is increased emphasis on spiritual formation and devotional exercises.

■ **Cherish the Gift: A Congregational Guide to Earth Stewardship**

Cindy Ubben Causey, Donald Conroy

Judson Press, 1996.

Pastors and lay leaders will find practical ideas and timely information in this hands-on guide to environmental stewardship for the church. A sound biblical argument calls congregations to action, followed by facts and figures that detail the current environmental woes that plague the earth. Subsequent chapters focus on specific activities and programs that congregational departments can organize — from fellowship dinners, worship services, and youth groups, to the church office, educational programs, and property maintenance. The book includes tips for use at home, a checklist at the end of each chapter, and a list of resources for additional information.

■ **A Child of God: Stories of Jesus and Stewardship Activities for Children**

Michael J. Caduto

Paulist Press, 2005

This book explores the life of Jesus and his close relationship to creation with stories, reflections, and activities to help children foster compassion and caring toward every part of creation.

■ **Choices and Challenges: Stewardship Strategies for Youth**

Dan R. Dick

Discipleship Resources, 1994 (Out of print).

In four down-to-earth, idea-filled chapters, youth discover how stewardship influences their hopes, dreams, and even their problems. Each chapter features real-life dilemmas, biblical reflections, group discussion questions, and practical applications. The book is designed to help youth with issues that are important to them, such as balancing priorities (school, home, sports, relationships.)

■ **A Christian View of Money: Celebrating God's Generosity**

Mark Vincent

Herald Press, 1999.

This book combines Bible study, real-life scenarios, and practical suggestions to help Christians clarify their beliefs about the earning and use of money.

■ **Christians and Money: A Guide to Personal Finance**

Donald W. Joiner

Discipleship Resources, 1991 (Out of print).

Donald W. Joiner explores how biblical principles of faith connect with one's use of money and how attitudes toward money rate on the scale of Christian "money sense." He connects questions of faith with such practical matters as setting financial goals, creating a budget, planning for savings, dealing with debt, and writing a will. Each chapter includes focus questions and exercises that bring learnings home to personal experience.

■ **The Church Finance Idea Book**

Wayne C. Barrett

Discipleship Resources, 1989 (Out of print).

The Church Finance Idea Book offers hundreds of proven ideas for funding a ministry. It includes ten strategies for commitment campaigns. Presented in smorgasbord fashion, this book serves as a good primer on funding ministry in the local church.

■ **Clergy Personal Finance**

Wayne C. Barrett

Abingdon Press, 1990 (Out of print).

An excellent resource book that will help pastors in managing their personal resources, this step-by-step guideline shows pastors how to get control of their money and achieve their financial goals.

■ **Climbing the Sycamore Tree: A Study on Choice and Simplicity**

Ann Hagmann

Upper Room, 2001

Based on the story of Zacchaeus, this is a six-week study of faithful stewardship. Hagmann uses both Scripture and current consumer statistics to show how our buying habits often marginalize certain people and perpetuate systems that contradict good stewardship and love for God's creation.

■ **The Clown of God**

Tomie dePaola

Voyager Books, 1989.

The French legend of the little juggler who offers the gift of his talent and the miracle that occurs is well known. The author has lovingly retold this ancient legend, shaped it to his own life and experience, and

called it by its oldest known title.

■ **Congregations at the Crossroads: Remembering to Be Households of God**

Ronald E. Vallet and Walter Brueggemann

William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998 (Out of print).

This book explores the biblical basis for stewardship — with a major emphasis on God's promises and commands — to help congregations become the households of God that God intends them to be.

■ **The Covenanted Self: Explorations in Law and Covenant**

Walter Brueggemann

Fortress Press, 1999.

The leading Old Testament theologian confronts issues of faithfulness, responsibility, and justice. These exciting studies on the first five books of the Bible cover a wide range of topics, challenging the reader to confront the issues of faithfulness, responsibility, and justice in an ever-changing world. Brueggemann sets the issues of praise and lament, grace and duty, truth and power in new frames of reference that call for a response.

■ **Covenants of Stewardship**

Office of the General Assembly

This five- or ten-week adult study course helps people and congregations understand stewardship as a way of life that is relevant to personal, community, and public life.

■ **Creating a Climate for Giving**

Donald W. Joiner

Discipleship Resources, 2001.

Church leaders are often heard to say that old ways are not working any longer. Joiner brings a vision for a fresh way of creating a climate for giving in local churches. We must refine "fund-raising" to "fund-ministry." A financial campaign for developing Christian philanthropists is included.

■ **Creating Congregations of Generous People (Money, Faith, and Lifestyle Series)**

Michael Durall

Alban Institute, 1999.

Asking parishioners for money is very different from creating congregations of generous people. This book will help clergy and lay leaders initiate and sustain effective stewardship programs.

■ **Creative Giving: Understanding Planned Giving and Endowments in Church**

By Michael D. Reeves, Rob Fairly, Sanford Coon (Discipleship Resources, 2005)

Intimidated by numbers? Most church leaders are. If you're not the sort who would find it fun to plot your budget in Roman numerals, this book is for you! *Creative Giving* is the perfect resource to teach "words-rather-than-numbers" staff about distinctive strategies for church financial planning, such as bequests and other planned giving.

■ **The Crisis in the Churches: Spiritual Malaise, Fiscal Woe**

Robert Wuthnow

Oxford University Press, 1997.

This thought-provoking study of the financial and spiritual crises confronting American churches examines the failure of the clergy to address the link between faith and money, work, giving, and economic justice. It argues that churches must minister to the concerns of their middle-class parishioners.

■ **Cycles of Discipleship: A Stewardship Program for the Local Church**

By Jack Phillips

Cycles of Discipleship offers a model of stewardship outlined in 2 Corinthians 8-9. This early church model for stewardship meets the needs of congregations, people, and pastors today. *Cycles of Discipleship* rings with the biblical affirmation of God's grace. It heralds the redemptive ministries provided by the church. The program kit includes: 9 copies of *Cycles of Discipleship Program Guide*; 1 Training DVD; 1 Resource CD; and 1 Bible Study CD.

Cycles of Discipleship helps those in the church view stewardship as:

- A privilege of every Christian disciple.
- An opportunity to excel in the grace of giving.
- A source of joy as they put their time, abilities, and financial resources to work in a needy world.
- An opportunity to support the ministries of the church, not simply an annual budget.

■ **The Dancing Steward: Exploring Christian Stewardship Lifestyles**

Christopher Levan

The United Church Publishing Co., Toronto, Ontario, 1993.

In his spirited exploration of the reasons we find it difficult to relinquish our personal resources, Chris Levan introduces us to the three intertwining steps of "letting go": solidarity, relinquishment, and expectancy. Acts of solidarity with the marginalized and powerless are not enough. These acts must be fired by hope for a new world, by a vision of a renewed Christian community. This book is a unique and valuable guide into the heart of Christian stewardship lifestyles.

■ **¡Dadles de comer! Manual de estudio sobre la mayordomía congregacional (Feed Them! Congregational Stewardship Manual)**
(Discipleship Resources, 2004)

Este manual es un recurso del Plan Nacional para el Ministerio Hispano. El mismo está dirigido a capacitar al liderato de la iglesia local que organiza, dirige y administra ministerios de mayordomía.

This manual is a National Plan for Hispanic Ministry resource. It is designed to help local church leaders organize, direct, and administer stewardship ministries.

■ **Don't Shoot the Horse (Til You Know How to Drive the Tractor): Moving from Annual Fund Raising to a Life of Giving**

Herb Mather

Discipleship Resources, 1994

Mather looks to the future and sees a congregation where giving is a natural but non-intrusive, year-round endeavor — part of a continuous process of spiritual formation for healthy, growing Christians. In practical and systematic ways, he shows how to lead a congregation toward this way of life by defining mission, expanding leadership, building trust, telling stories, and staying in touch with key moments in the life of both giver and congregation.

■ **Effective Church Finances: A Complete Guide to Budgeting, Fund-Raising, and Setting and Achieving Financial Goals**

Kennon L. Callahan

Jossey Bass, 1997.

This book promotes the idea of seeing giving as investment in God's mission, which is for the sake of reaching people. Callahan suggests that there is a greater cost than giving; that is, the cost of what we lose when we don't invest in the kingdom.

■ **Effective Church Leadership: A New Vision of Leadership to Revitalize the Local Church in a New Era of Ministry**

Kennon L. Callahan

Jossey Bass, 1997.

Callahan shares an understanding of leadership for the missionary pastor who, united with key leaders, accomplishes the central leadership tasks. Callahan helps pastors and key leaders build on their creativity and imagination to revitalize their local churches and advance their missions.

■ **Equipped for Every Good Work: Building a Gifts-Based Church**

Dan R. Dick and Barbara Miller Dick

Discipleship Resources, 2001.

Miller and Dick offer four ways congregations can help people grow in self-understanding. The book gives the reader tools for the discovery and development of spiritual gifts, spiritual types, interaction styles, and working preferences. This discovery and development will help individuals better understand their gifts and graces for Christian service in the world.

■ **Extraordinary Money! Understanding the Church Capital Campaign**

Michael D. Reeves

Discipleship Resources, 2002.

Reeves helps church leaders examine the issues involved in developing and carrying out a capital fundraising campaign. The book is not a capital campaign program; rather, it is an excellent tool to help churches determine if a capital campaign suits their setting. Then it helps leaders select an appropriate program and carry it through successfully.

■ **Faith and Money: Understanding Annual Giving in Church**

Michael D. Reeves and Jennifer Tyler

Discipleship Resources, December 2003.

Grounded in the gospel, *Faith and Money* identifies the challenges of fund development in local congregations; develops a consistent theological foundation for fund development; and guides congregations in building worthy expectations and attitudes on how to fund ministry.

■ **Faith and Wealth: A History of Early Christian Ideas on the Origin, Significance, and Use of Money**

Justo L. Gonzalez

Harper and Row, 1990.

This expert study is a history of early Christian views on the origin, significance, and use of money.

Gonzalez has exhaustively researched this vital topic. He examines four centuries of Christian ideas about money, property, communal sharing, and the rights and obligations of the rich and poor. One conclusion is that the early church faced many of the same issues that the twenty-first century church faces.

■ **Financial Meltdown in the Mainline?**

Loren B. Mead

The Alban Institute, 1998.

Mead addresses changing church giving patterns; the inconsistent ways congregations keep financial records; the lack of coordinated short- and long-range planning; the need for knowledge of sound financial techniques such as accounting for inflation; an over-reliance on restructuring to fix problems; and lack of defensive planning for operational costs.

■ **Financial Parenting: Showing Your Kids That Money Matters**

Larry Burkett

Moody Publishing, 1999

With chapters on stewardship, giving, borrowing and lending, saving and budgeting, this resource includes lots of activities and interactive questions with each chapter. Perfect for children five years old and up.

■ **Financing American Religion**

Mark Chaves and Sharon L. Miller, editors

AltaMira Press, 1998.

This book brings together short, readable essays representing the best, most up-to-date research and thinking on the intersections of money and religion. Sociologists, historians, economists, and theologians ask who gives, how much, and why. They investigate how money moves and how it affects religious organizational behavior. They also explore how attitudes toward money have altered over time. Religious leaders and scholars of American religion will welcome this much-needed volume.

■ **First Fruits: 14 Sermons on Stewardship**

David Mosser & Brian Bauknight

Abingdon Press, 2003

A collection of excellent stewardship sermons that are imaginative and theologically insightful.

■ **Firstfruits Living: Giving God Our Best**

Lynn A. Miller

Herald Press, 1991.

This easy-reading stewardship study will promote lively discussion and renewed lifestyles around the subject of "Firstfruits Living," which is giving back to God off the top of our paycheck instead of what is left after expenses. It is giving God freely of our time, not what is left over after job and family responsibilities. It is giving God our lives, living each day as God's servants — on the job, in the community, and at home.

■ **From Scarcity to Abundance: A Complete Guide to Parish Stewardship**

David M. Ponting

Morehouse Publishing, 2005

This handbook provides a one-stop practical resource for parish stewardship practitioners. The author demystifies the financial stewardship process and helps clergy, stewardship committees, and church leaders reclaim this ministry. He incorporates personal money management, nurturing a culture of stewardship, working with limited volunteer availability, year-round stewardship programs, and using effective tools and techniques, such as narrative budgets. The book also contains practical guidance for planned giving, capital campaigns, and a stewardship audit.

■ **Full Disclosure: Everything the Bible Says About Financial Giving**

Herb Miller

Discipleship Resources, December 2003.

Financial giving is an important element of our spiritual relationship with God. There are twenty financial stewardship themes that recur and evolve in the Old and New Testaments. *Full Disclosure* identifies these themes, lists their historical importance, and illustrates contemporary applications for each theme. The themes fall into three categories: (1) Why should we give? (2) How does giving benefit us? and (3) How should we give?

■ **Fundamentals of Fund-Raising**

David L. Heetland

Discipleship Resources, 1989 (Out of print).

Heetland addresses theologically — yet with a hands-on approach — the whole subject of stewardship as it relates to the local church. Heetland describes accurately and persuasively the role of clergy and laity in advancing stewardship. Concise, practical, encouraging, and optimistic.<

■ Generous Living

Ron Blue

Zondervan Publishing House, 1997.

Ron Blue challenges and encourages the reader to live generously by addressing such topics as "It's better to give than to receive," teaching children to give, how to give away money wisely and strategically, and how to make a will.

■ Generous People: How to Encourage Vital Stewardship

Eugene Grimm

Abingdon Press, 1992.

Grim gives down-to-earth prescriptions to move us beyond the myths of stewardship, enabling readers to see how to effectively execute stewardship education and practice in churches of every size.

■ Generous Saints

James Hudnut-Beumler

The Alban Institute, 1999.

A constructive theology and ethics of money in the Christian life is presented by James Hudnut-Beumler, dean and associate professor of religion and culture at Columbia Theological Seminary. The book deals with vital questions: "What does the Lord require?" "What is the true meaning of the term 'commonwealth?'" and "How does the church build a stable base for its members to live ethical lives?"

■ Get Well! Stay Well! Prescriptions for a Financially Healthy Congregation

Wayne Barrett

Discipleship Resources, 1997 (OUT OF PRINT).

Barrett encourages readers to diagnose the reality of their congregation's financial system before prescribing solutions. He stresses that in financially healthy congregations mission and ministry are the primary focus; money is simply a means to an end. Drawing on his experience of consulting with more than 1500 congregations, Barrett offers an analysis of the financial problems, pitfalls, and constraints that cripple effective ministry. His "checkup," diagnosis, and treatments can help move any church from financial ill health to financial well-being.

■ Getting Your Financial House in Order: A Floorplan for Managing Your Money

David Bragonier & K.S. Gollnick

Broadman Press, 2003

The authors use the image of a floorplan to teach readers the basic principles and methods of money management in a way that is easily understood and applied.

■ The Gift of a Lifetime: Planned Giving in Congregational Life

J. Gregory Pope

Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2000.

Pope provides careful, common sense financial planning for Christians and churches. Pope shows one how to make one's money work most effectively by managing one's resources during life and properly planning for meaningful distribution after death. The book includes step-by-step plans for starting a planned giving program in congregations.

■ The Gifting God: A Trinitarian Ethics of Excess

Stephen H. Webb

Oxford University Press, 1996.

Theories of generosity, or gift giving, are becoming increasingly important in recent work in philosophy and religion. Stephen Webb seeks to build on this renewed interest by surveying a distinctively modern and postmodern approach to the issue of generosity, and then developing a theological framework for it. He analyzes two basic forms of such theories: theories of excess, which emphasize the extravagance of the giving act, and theories of exchange, which look at giving as a form of reciprocity.

■ The Give-Away: A Christmas Story

Ray Buckley

Abingdon Press, 1999.

The "give-away," in varying forms, is a widespread practice among Native peoples. It is both a physical event and a spiritual concept. Give-aways as formal events are held in memory, in times of honor, and at the giving of names. In *The Give-Away*, the Four-leggeds and Those Who Fly discover that the Two-leggeds have lost their sense of who they are. The birds and animals offer their most precious gift, even at the cost of their own lives, to restore humanity. In the end, it is the Creator who must choose to give-away. The Creator gives to humankind the most precious gift of all.

■ Give to Live: How Giving Can Change Your Life

Douglas M. Lawson

ALTI Publishing, 1991 (Out of print).

This book holds forth the promise that if you want more out of your life and are willing to take some simple steps, you can have a richer, fuller, happier existence. It lays out effective steps you can take to get involved, increase your ability to make a difference in the world, and receive in return not only satisfaction, but also an improvement in your physical life.

■ **Giving 2006: Growing Joyful Stewards in Your Congregation**

Giving is an annual periodical of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center (ESC). David Bell, Director of the Center for Christian Stewardship at the GBOD, serves on the ESC Board of Directors. The articles in each issue are written to guide you to develop creative and vital stewardship ministries in your church or organization. The theme for this issue is "Common Hope, Common Trust."

■ **Giving and Stewardship in an Effective Church: A Guide for Every Member**

Kenyon L. Callahan

Jossey-Bass, 1997.

Callahan offers a practical plan for the growth and development of giving and stewardship in the congregation, complete with action worksheets. Callahan asserts that money is not the first issue of stewardship; rather, a clear sense of mission is. Churches that follow this approach will become strong, vital congregations.

■ **Giving: Unlocking the Heart of Good Stewardship**

Laurie Pederson, John Ortberg, Judson Poling

Zondervan Publishing House, 2000

As you study the connection between your wallet and your heart, you will learn how money management is a powerful tool for shaping your character. You will discover how giving is as much a part of spiritual growth as prayer and Bible study. Above all, you will discover how a lifestyle of giving reflects the heart of God, who freely gives to all.

■ **Giving Together: A Stewardship Guide for Families**

Carol Ann Wehrem

Westminster Press, 2004

This book explains the importance of stewardship in the family, the congregation, the community, and the world. The author skillfully analyzes biblical passages and identifies spiritual practices intrinsic to stewardship as a way of helping families respond to their call to be stewards in today's world.

■ **Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life**

Mark Allen Powell

William B. Eerdmans Company, 2006

This book shows Christians the way to a better life and a better relationship both with their money and with God. Stewardship is presented as an act of worship, an expression of faith, and a discipline for spiritual growth. Faithful use of our time, talents, and treasures starts with a deep, satisfying relationship with the God to whom we belong.

■ **God and Mammon in America**

Robert Wuthnow

Free Press, 1994.

Does everyone worship money equally, or are the "religious" immune to materialism? Wuthnow's premise is that religious faith influences economic behavior, but that it provides mixed messages that cause people to feel better about their behavior rather than alter it. Wuthnow administered an "Economic Values Survey" to more than 2,000 people in order to study statistical relationships between religious faith and economic behavior.

■ **God the Economist: The Doctrine of God and Political Economy**

M. Douglas Meeks

Augsburg Fortress, 1989.

How one thinks about scarcity, property, work, and needs cannot remain unchanged after reading this book. Most Christian reflection on the economy has been in terms of social ethics and has focused on inequitable distribution of jobs and goods in the market economy. Meeks writes on the economy as a Trinitarian theologian. The result is a more searching critique with more radical implications for individual Christians and for the churches.

■ **Good Sense Budget Course: Biblical Financial Principles for Transforming Your Finances and Life**

Dick Towner

Zondervan Publishing House, 2002

This excellent personal budget planning course will help you control your finances so your finances do not control you. You will learn biblical financial principles and gain valuable practical knowledge. Discover how to become a diligent earner, a wise saver, a generous giver, a cautious debtor, and a prudent consumer.

■ **Gotta Have It! It's a Stewardship Thing**

Bob De Vries

CRC Publishing, 2000

This four-session study will engage teenagers in a healthy discussion of life issues, such as money and possessions. Youth will discover how coveting possessions affects their every day life and how their lifestyle choices and practices should reflect our Christian commitment.

■ **The Grace of Giving: A Biblical Study of Christian Stewardship**

Stephen F. Olford

Kregel Publishing, 2000

A straightforward, encouraging, and practical discussion of the biblical imperatives for generous stewardship.

■ **Growing Givers' Hearts: Treating Fundraising as a Ministry**

Thomas H. Jeavons

Jossey-Bass Publishers, 2000

Based on a three-year, nationwide study of Christian organizations whose efforts are successful both in raising needed financial or material resources and in encouraging the spiritual development of their donors, this groundbreaking book identifies key characteristics that enable fundraising to function on both levels at once. The book explores in detail how Christians act on their confidence in God's abundance and cultivate spiritually mature leadership.

■ **Growing Up Generous: Engaging Youth in Giving and Serving**

Eugene C. Roehlkepartain, Elanah Delyah Naftali, and Laura Musegades

Alban Institute, 2001.

The authors create a mosaic of what is happening and what could happen in congregations to cultivate in young people a deep and lasting commitment to giving and serving. Based on a two-year project by Search Institute, a nonprofit research and education organization that specializes in the healthy development of children and adolescents, the book recognizes and highlights the roles of various congregational leaders (not only youth leaders) in shaping the attitudes of young people.

■ **Health, Money and Love: And Why We Don't Enjoy Them**

Robert Capon

William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1990.

Capon, a maverick writer who explains traditional Christian teaching with freshness and unexpected insights, uses a mixture of genres (from movie script to prose) to reveal how deeply the pursuit of health, money, and love has become a religious force shaping our lives and depriving us of deeper satisfactions.

■ **Holy Smoke! Whatever Happened to Tithing?**

J. Clif Christopher and Herb Mather

Discipleship Resources, 2000.

Christopher and Mather offer a renewed look at a subject discussed very little in congregations today: tithing. They propose the discipline of tithing as a way for Christians to symbolize and renew their relationship with God. The key to achieving this is to present the tithe, not as a legal obligation, but as a benchmark in a spiritual relationship that is generous and giving.

■ **How to Increase Giving in Your Church**

George Barna

Gospel Light Publications, 1997.

This book provides the professional research and insights into the American church that leaders have come to expect from George Barna. It's a must for everyone who desires to be the best possible steward of God's assets.

■ **How Much is Enough: Harness the Power of Your Money Story and Change Your Life**

Pamela Klainer

Basic Books, 2002.

A secular book that offers many examples of people examining the role of money and success in their lives. Klainer shows how to look at your own relationship to money and choose the role you want it to play in your life.

■ **Imaging God: Dominion as Stewardship**

Douglas John Hall

William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1986 (Out of print).

This scholarly work examines ecological stewardship, our stewardship of the planet, and God's creation. He further examines creation theology in this well-researched book.

■ **Just in Time: Stories of God's Extravagance**

Lynn A Miller

Herald Press, 1997.

Miller tells of what happens when we open our hearts, wallets, schedules, businesses, or homes to others — revealing the joy of "first-fruits living" in which we give the best of what God has offered us back to God. These moving and sometimes hilarious true stories show the connection between God's stewardship and real people doing real things.

■ **Let the Rivers Run: Stewardship and the Biblical Story**

Eugene F. Roop

William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1991 (Out of print)

Call 1-877-899-2780, ext. 7054 to order.

Roop explores several biblical narratives as they relate to the person and work of the Christian steward. The early Genesis accounts set the stage for human stewardship of God's world; and the stories of the biblical characters such as Moses, Sarah, Abraham, and Joseph present a drama of stewardship in action.

■ **Life Abundant: Rethinking Theology and Economy for a Planet in Peril**

Sallie McFague

Augsburg/Fortress Press, 2000.

Avant-garde theologian Sallie McFague sets forth a radical, earthbound theology that is as provocative as it is overly sanguine. She calls us to (1) change our manic consumer lives and choose to live in harmony with, and care for, all creation; (2) realize that Christians (as all people) live to give God glory by loving the world and everything in it.

■ **Making a World of Difference - Live It Series: Building Skills for Christian Living**

Abingdon Press, 2005

Twens experience the interconnectedness of the world, its people, and its environment. They also learn that God has a plan for them in the world, including stewardship of the earth, living in peace, and spreading the good news through their own personal mission.

■ **Ministry and Money**

Dan Hotchkiss

The Alban Institute, 2002

The author tackles one of the most difficult issues for people of faith in today's world: money in the life of clergy and congregations. He challenges many of our preconceptions about the role of money in faith communities. The book elucidates the key areas clergy need to take into account so that money is managed as a spiritual tool.

■ **Money and the Meaning of Life**

Jacob Needleman

Doubleday, 1994

We understood the true role of money in our lives, writes philosopher Jacob Needleman, we would not think simply in terms of spending it or saving it. Money exerts a deep emotional influence on who we are and what we tell ourselves we can never have. Our long unwillingness to understand the emotional and spiritual effects of money on us is at the heart of why we have come to know the price of everything, and the value of nothing.

■ **Money Doesn't Grow on Trees: A Parent's Guide to Raising Financially Responsible Children**

Neale S. Godfrey and Caroline Edwards

Simon and Schuster Trade Paperbacks, 1993

Neale S. Godfrey is not only an expert in family finance but also a parent who puts her advice to work in her own home. Chairman of the Children's Financial Network, mother of two, and a frequent commentator on national television, Godfrey has designed a unique program for kids — from those as young as three to those in their teens — that teaches them how to earn, save, and spend money wisely, while it lets parents clearly communicate their family's values. Using age-appropriate exercises and concrete examples, Godfrey shows parents how to deal with a variety of consumerism issues.

■ **Money in the Church**

Joe W. Walker

Abingdon, 1982 (Out of print)

Call 1-877-899-2780, ext. 7054 to order

Walker maintains that talking about money in the church is holy talk, deeply theological, and as sacred as prayer. He expounds upon this philosophy and draws conclusions about the financial pressures facing the denomination and local churches.

■ **Money Mania: Mastering the Allure of Excess**

Mark L. Vincent

Herald Press, 2005

This book encourages us to integrate faith and economic life. The author calls us to give all of life to God. Faced with the realities of affluence and consumerism, readers are invited to embrace a balanced lifestyle and develop healthy life attitudes.

■ **Money Matters: Financial Freedom for All God's Children**

Michael Slaughter with Kim Miller

Abingdon Press, 2006

This book provides a plan for achieving freedom from financial debt and worry. Michael shows the reader how to do "God's math," which is based on spiritual principles and results in freedom from the never-ending pressures of juggling financial demands.

■ **Money Matters: Financial Freedom for All God's Churches**

Michael Slaughter with Kim Miller

Abingdon Press, 2006

This resource provides a congregational stewardship program with three primary advantages: (1) It begins with personal finances; (2) It is based on a year-round model; and (3) It is easy to implement. Michael offers an overall stewardship program that is strategically placed throughout the year and includes worship resources, group studies, and video clips.

■ **Money Matters: Personal Giving in American Churches**

Dean R. Hoge, Charles Zech, Patrick McNamara, and Michael Donahue

Westminster John Knox Press, 1996

The authors conducted an exhaustive study of church giving in five representative denominations. With detailed information from 625 churches, this book offers surprising conclusions about member contributions and about the current condition of American churches.

■ **Money Matters for Kids**

Larry Burkett & K. Christie Bowler

Moody Publishers, 2001

This book provides fun and creative tools to help children understand and apply the biblical concept of stewardship. It contains activities and exercises that make it easy for parents to teach children godly money management principles.

■ **Money, Possessions and Eternity**

Randy Alcorn

Tyndale House Publishers, 2003

This revised edition provides a Christian perspective about money and material possessions. Thought-provoking arguments challenge readers to rethink their attitudes and use their God-given resources in ways that will have an eternal impact. The book addresses materialism, prosperity theology, debt, and much more.

■ **More Blessed to Give**

John MacNaughton

Church Publishing Company, 2002

With years of experience in pastoral ministry, the author provides a concise and thorough guide to all aspects of the theology and practice of stewardship. His careful, step-by-step approach to giving and planning will help the reader consider a Bible-based theology of money; the development and presentation of the parish budget within this theological context; sacrificial giving and tithing; a detailed structure for the Every Member Canvass; and a program of year-round stewardship.

■ **More Give to Live: How Giving Can Change Your Life**

Douglas M. Lawson

ALTI Publishing, 1999

The joy of giving enriches the giver. Here are steps anyone can take to help himself/herself and the world. This is a great tool for fundraisers and nonprofit organizations.

■ **More Money, New Money, Big Money: Creative Strategies for Funding Today's Church**

Wayne Barrett

Discipleship Resources, 1993 (OUT OF PRINT)

In this follow-up to *The Church Finance Idea Book*, Barrett shows that every congregation has significant sources of new and untapped income. Dozens of ideas and insights to increase giving and expand the ministry of your congregation are offered.

■ **More Than Money: Portraits of Transformative Stewardship (Money, Faith and Lifestyle Series)**

Patrick H. McNamara

Alban Institute, Inc. 1999

Is stewardship past its prime as a motivating vision for ministry? A social scientist, McNamara tells the stories of eleven mainline congregations where stewardship is the animating force that has transformed them into vital centers for mission. Church leaders who question whether stewardship education is worthwhile will be encouraged and inspired by these accounts of promising practices.

■ **The New Context for Ministry: Competing for the Charitable Dollar**

Lyle E. Schaller

Abingdon Press, 2002

Schaller begins this book by pointing out an overlapping set of changes that have taken place in American society and American churches in recent years. Old patterns of fund raising and old assumptions about stewardship will no longer work. Schaller helps the reader navigate through the difficulties and opportunities for churches in this new age of charitable giving.

■ **On the Pilgrim's Way: Christian Stewardship and the Tithe**

The Rev. John K. Brackett

Harrisburg: Morehouse Publishing, 1996

In this updated and expanded edition, Brackett reviews the principles and practices needed to begin a personal pilgrimage of tithing. He explores the theology of the tithe in Hebrew Scriptures, the Parables of Jesus, and the Christian Scriptures, followed by a discussion of the practice of tithing as understood through covenant theology and implemented in personal budgets.

■ **On the Road Again: Managing Evangelism and Stewardship for the Kingdom**

Keith B. Brown

Church Publishing, 2001

Brown argues that the church should never shy away from numbers but — as is amply demonstrated in the Acts of the Apostles — should embrace the kinds of accounting implicit in terms of evangelism and stewardship. Brown introduces several future-oriented business tools: growth budgeting, forecasting, and breakeven analysis. Easy-to-follow exercises, complete with worksheets, ensure that the reader masters each new step in the process.

■ **Our Stewardship: Managing Our Assets**

John L. Golv

Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2002

This book examines how to identify, manage, and build up the assets needed for a congregation's mission and ministry (such as building, grounds, equipment, information, and finances). One premise is that God gives assets to each person and every congregation and calls them to grow in faith as they serve as stewards of these gifts.

■ **The Passionate Steward: Recovering Christian Stewardship from Secular Fundraising**

Michael O'Hurley-Pitts

St. Brigid Press, 2001

This book is a forthright and critical review of the assumptions and practices of secular philanthropy as these have been adopted and applied by the Christian church. The author re-establishes a firm biblical and historical basis for a more theologically grounded approach and argues convincingly for a recovery of the fullness of "passionate stewardship."

■ **The Pastor as Steward: Faithful Manager and Leader**

Kenneth H. Carter

Discipleship Resources, 1991 (Out of print)

Carter explores the question of what it means to give pastoral leadership in the area of stewardship. Carter shows how this plays out in the practical areas of pastoral life and work. Each chapter includes focus questions that bring the topics home to personal experience, prayer, and reflection.

■ **A Penny Saved: Teaching Your Children the Value and Life Skills They Will Need to Live in the Real World**

Neale S. Godfrey with Tad Richards

Simon and Schuster Trade Paperbacks, 1996 (Out of print)

Godfrey believes that children can and must be taught to be responsible about using money. She outlines practical steps parents can take to encourage their children to learn about money. The book is divided into three sections — preschool, school-age, and teenager — and offers a wide range of suggestions, games, and exercises for parents and children to follow in each age category. There are particularly useful discussions of such topics as goal setting, "need versus want," saving, and sharing, all of which underlie teaching a concept of money that will stay with children their whole lives. Godfrey believes that learning financial responsibility is a cornerstone for learning how to be fair in all dealings with others.

■ **Plain Talk About Churches and Money**

Dean R. Hoge and Patrick McNamara
Alban Institute, 1997

The authors tackle resistance, fears, and difficulties concerning money issues. Based on extensive research, this volume offers insight and help on the key fiscal topics confronting church leaders and congregations today, including: Why is the church so uneasy with the topic of money? Is there a difference between stewardship and fundraising? How can we motivate giving? Should we invest church funds?

■ **A Plan for Stewardship Education and Development Through the Year**
David W. Gordon

Morehouse Publishing, 2001

Help your congregation develop a deeper understanding of stewardship that goes well beyond the traditional function of supporting the church financially. With this comprehensive manual, you'll learn how to plan and implement a year-round stewardship focus that involves more members in the life of the church community.

■ **PowerXpress Living God's Word Money & Time Unit: Being Good Stewards**
Abingdon Press, 2005

Children will have the opportunity to learn that: stewardship is an important part of living as a follower of Jesus. As good stewards, we are to take care of the gifts God has given us. There are many ways for us to use our time, talents, and money to serve God. All that we have comes to us as a gift from God, and stewardship means being a good manager of all God has given to us.

■ **Proven Resources for Stewardship Promotion**

Allan J. Weenink

CSS Publishing Co., 2001

Stewardship can be an uncomfortable topic, but cultivating the grace of generosity is vital for Christian ministry. Allan Weenink shares a wealth of proven "hands-on" material drawn from his workshops and seminars that will help any congregation develop an effective stewardship model.

■ **Putting God First: The Tithe**

Norma Wimberly

Discipleship Resources, 1998 (OUT OF PRINT)

Author Norma Wimberly teaches us about tithing in Old Testament times and explores what Jesus Christ has to say about those who give from a feeling of duty rather than with a joyous heart. Persons from all walks of life share why they decided to tithe and what happened to their lives after they did.

■ **Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time**

Dorothy C. Bass

Jossey-Bass, 2000

This book is a spiritual reconsideration of our frantic approach to time. It invites the reader to embrace the temporal landmarks of our lives as opportunities for deeper relationship with God and one another. Through careful exploration of the rhythm of the day and its promise, the week and its Sabbath, and the year and its liturgical movements, the author calls attention to the many ways that life may be renewed.

■ **Rethinking Generosity: Critical Theory and the Politics of Caritas**

Romand Coles

Cornell University Press, 1997

Coles explores how we might understand and motivate generosity in a world in which no theological or secular position can claim absolute privilege for itself. He argues that unless our generosity is fashioned in the context of a radical receptivity, we tend to undermine our best aspirations. Coles engages a set of topics that are the subject of familiar contestations today in postmodern and critical social theory. Yet Coles gives these topics a fascinating turn with his pursuit of an "ethic of receptive generosity" or "a post-secular *caritas*." This book brings forth a distinctive voice on the terrain of contemporary ethical and political theory.

■ **Revolutionizing Christian Stewardship for the 21st Century: Lessons From Copernicus**

Dan R. Dick

Discipleship Resources, 1997

Dan Dick presents a persuasive case for a whole new way of thinking about Christian stewardship. The central message is that Christian stewardship begins with God at the center.

■ **Sharing Possessions**

Luke T. Johnson

SCM Press Ltd., 1986 (Out of print)

A theological reflection on the connection between being a Christian and the way we own and use things. Much of this book is devoted to what is said about possessions in the Bible. Readers are challenged to struggle with their own personal choices. Johnson challenges the tradition of communal possessions found in the book of Acts and shows how other forms of sharing have a more satisfactory theological foundation.

■ **Speaking about Money: Reducing the Tension**

Mark L. Vincent
Herald Press, 1998

This book is enormously helpful for laypeople, clergy, and congregations. Vincent provides an instructional and inspired work that is practical and theologically sound. The way to joyful Christian freedom is by openly sharing about money as Jesus did.

■ **Speaking of Stewardship: Model Sermons on Money and Possessions**

William G. Carter
Geneva Press, 1998

This collection of 23 superb model sermons offers a wealth of biblical insight, practical wisdom, illustrations, inspiration, and helpful advice about the crucial themes of stewardship, giving, and the use of money and possessions in the church.

■ **The Steward: A Biblical Symbol Come of Age**

Douglas Hall
Eerdmans, 1990 (Out of print)

Working from numerous angles — biblical, historical, sociological, theological, and ecclesiastical — Hall explores the rich meaning and implications of stewardship, recapturing the most basic meaning of the biblical metaphor of the steward as a caretaker, a servant. Hall maintains that since the fourth century, the church's understanding and practice of stewardship has been distorted by its alliance with institutional power. He also puts forth a warning about the fate of the earth unless we heed the call to be stewards of creation.

■ **Steward: Living as Disciples in Everyday Life**

Bruce C. Birch & Charles R. Foster
Abingdon Press, 2000

This twelve-week study explores what the Bible teaches about holistic Christian stewardship and our response as faithful disciples. Each session begins with Scripture, then explores how we live our faith daily.

■ **The Steward Living in Covenant**

Ronald E. Vallet
William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2001

Vallet seeks to expand that biblical base by introducing (or reintroducing) the theme of covenant as it applies to Christian stewardship. He asserts that one of the principal ways that the church can be renewed and reformed is to remember and to live out the reality that the church is a steward of the gospel in covenant with God. To expand our understanding of covenant, he uses the Old Testament stories of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, David, Ezekiel, and others.

■ **Stewards in the Kingdom: A Theology of the Abundant Life**

R. Scott Rodin
InterVarsity Press, 2000

R. Scott Rodin unpacks what it means for us to be stewards in the kingdom of the triune God of grace. This theology of the abundant life, which encompasses all aspects of our world, our life and our possessions, begins with the very being of our gracious Creator God. He crafts a portrait of faithful stewards who live as God's children. The book concludes with a discussion of the roles of church and family as stewards while providing a theology for the Christian fundraiser.

■ **Stewards Shaped By Grace**

Rhodes Thompson
CBP Press, 1990

Thompson states that stewardship means responding to the grace of God in all that we are and all that we do. This book is packed with practical insights and is closely tied to the writings of Paul. It will lead to an understanding of "grace-full stewardship" that goes beyond merely supporting the church budget and to a commitment to contribute to the well being of the entire global community.

■ **Stewardship in African-American Churches: A New Paradigm**

By Melvin Amerson
Discipleship Resources, 2005

A practical and theological study of stewardship, both in the context of the African-American church tradition and beyond.

■ **Stewardship in the Small Membership Congregation**

Clark Hargus
Ecumenical Stewardship Center, 2002

This newly designed 32-page manual offers a three-week stewardship financial response method for rural congregations with an average worship attendance of 100 or fewer. "Faithful, Hopeful, Loving" is the theme

for this method as well as for a six-part study on biblical stewardship principles. Available from the Ecumenical Stewardship Center 1-800-835-5671.

■ **Stewardship Services**

David Moser

Abingdon Press, 2007

This book provides ready-to-use worship and preaching resources for themes related to stewardship. Understanding the concept of stewardship in a broader context as management of our God-given gifts, this book provides material for twenty-four services, including liturgy, prayers, and sermons.

■ **Talent Show: Your Faith in Full Color**

Bob Lichty

Herald Press, 2005

This practical resource offers a unique perspective on the areas of gifts, talents, passions, style, and experience. By contrasting our church lives and our daily lives, as well as by posing challenging questions, the author compels us to a Christian stewardship lifestyle.

■ **Thanks Giving**

Christopher Levan

United Church Publishing House, 2005

How do we invite people to give money for God's work through the church? Based on the belief that our bank books serve as a window into our soul and a spotlight on our spiritual convictions, *Thanks Giving* answers this question by exploring a good deal more than financial issues. This practical guide, grounded in a theology of gratitude, includes a template for a financial campaign and a sample case statement.

■ **That's What My Mother Taught Me — And Other Ways Generous Givers Develop**

Herb Mather

Discipleship Resources, 2001

Interviews with more than 100 people identified as generous givers resulted in a wealth of giving stories. The experiences of these people from a variety of backgrounds, congregations, ethnic groups, ages, and locations are woven together to describe how giving patterns develop in real congregations among real people.

■ **Time Warped: First Century Stewardship for 21st-Century Living**

Steve Ganger

Herald Press, 2004

Busyness is the business of our time-warped culture. The author is issuing a call of urgency to Christians to challenge our lifestyles. Doing more by doing less is a timeless principle that the author suggests needs to be revived in our time.

■ **To Give and Give Again: A Christian Imperative for Generosity**

Donald W. Hinze

The Pilgrim Press, 1990

Painfully challenging for most Americans is the author's contention that we must come to terms with our relative abundance and prosperity before we can achieve a deeper spiritual awakening.

■ **Too Much of a Good Thing: Raising Children of Character in an Indulgent Age**

Dan Kindlon

Mirimax Books, 2003

This book suggests techniques, tools, and practical advice for raising children in an age of American indulgence. Written with conviction, backed up by empirical data, and illustrated with vivid anecdotes, the book imparts psychological wisdom for parents and children's leaders.

■ **Transformed Giving Program Kit: Realizing your Church's Full Stewardship Potential**

John Ed Mathison

Abingdon, 2006

Your church will enjoy all the benefits of greater unity. The shared experience of all the members of your congregation, youth through adults, will lead to improved stewardship. Everything needed to begin planning your annual campaign and to bring it to life within your congregation is included in the program kit.

■ **The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving**

Randy Alcorn

Multnomah Press, 2005

This book reveals how joyful giving brings God maximum glory and his children maximum pleasure. This revised version includes a new concluding chapter depicting God asking a believer questions about stewardship over material resources.

■ **Treasures of the Transformed Life: Satisfying Your Soul's Thirst for More**

John Ed Mathison

Abingdon Press, 2006

Help your congregation begin forty days of transformation by using this book to unify them in study. The daily readings are centered on the themes of prayers, presence, gifts, and service. This book is an integral part of the program, "Transformed Giving: Realizing Your Church's Full Stewardship Potential," and it can be used by youth and adults.

■ **We Give to Love: Giving Is Such a Selfish Thing**

John-Roger & Peter McWilliams

Prelude Press, 1993

If you are a natural giver, then you will find this book enjoyable affirmation of what you have intuitively known. The authors suggest that being of service to others is a selfish act because of the good feelings that it creates within the giver. While not written from an overtly faith-based perspective, the book is filled with good insights and useful information.

■ **Wealth as Peril and Obligation: The New Testament on Possessions**

Sondra Ely Wheeler

William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995

Wheeler intensely examines four New Testament passages and their relationship with wealth. She then sets those four and their key themes within the whole canon, so this is a book about much more than just four Bible passages. She challenges reader to reflect on their relationship with wealth and possessions by inviting them to ponder a series of questions, all growing out of Scripture.

■ **Wealth to Last: Money Essentials for the Second Half of Life**

Ron Blue, Larry Burkett & Jeremy White

Broadman Press, 2003

This book will equip readers with the knowledge, financial tools, and wisdom needed to ensure their fiscal well-being in the second half of life. In doing so, they will be better positioned to bless those generations that follow them with a legacy of stewardship and resources. The authors provide definitive direction in building a financial portfolio that will provide for your family and help you to honor God.

■ **The Word on Finances**

Larry Burkett

Moody Publishers, 1994

The author has organized an invaluable collection of relevant Scriptures into one easy-to-use reference volume. Topically arranged Bible passages and a concordance focus attention on key issues of finance and stewardship.

■ **Your Money Counts**

Howard Dayton

Crown Ministries, Inc., 1996

Suffocating materialism is robbing people of their spiritual vitality. This book addresses the profound impact that handling money has on a person's relationship with God.

■ **Your Money or Your Life: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence**

Joe Dominguez and Vicki Robin

Penguin Books, 1999

Dominguez and Robin map a route to financial security through a relaxed, prudent and environmentally friendly way of life. Systemically analyzing one's overspending, as in the case histories cited, and calculating the "life-energy" cost (time, expenses, stress) of a competitive career, the authors maintain, can lead to reduced occupational expectations.

This listing is provided for information purposes only. The listing of a specific resource, except those published by Discipleship Resources, does not imply endorsement of the author and/or the content.

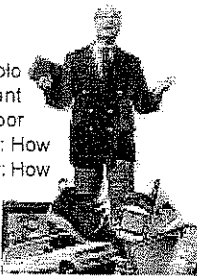


Stewardship Resources for Local Churches

Available from the Cal-Pac Conference Media Center

CURING AFFLUENZA SERIES (61-76-6181)

In this six-part video series Tony Compolo tackles such subjects as (1) Abundant Life: What is It?, (2) Money: How Poor Does Jesus Wants Us to Be?, (3) Time: How Much Do I Have to Give Away?, (4) Stuff: How Much Can I Have?, (5) Support: What Will Help? and (6) Next: What Do I Do Come Monday Morning. Joining Compolo in these programs are guests who explore, with him, ways to simplify our lives. Each video is 20-25 minutes long. A study guide is included.



margin in finances is a matter of godly intention, contentment, and sanctified common sense. The video is 30 minutes and comes with an excellent study guide.

NEW BEGINNINGS — MY OPPORTUNITY FOR GIVING (6761)

Does your stewardship campaign need a jumpstart? This powerful kit leads local churches through the planning, preparation and execution of stewardship campaigns that ignite the imaginations of church members. Intertwining scriptural lessons, testimonials and the writings of well-known secular and religious thinkers, New Beginnings can lead your congregation through an extraordinary three-week process that leads to a deep, prayerful consideration of how to become good stewards with their time, talents and treasure. The leader's guide is one of the best study guides that we have seen regarding stewardship. This kit is available in DVD format and video format.



COME, SHARE, REJOICE (5807)

This award winning video describes the United Methodist Benevolence program of the United Methodist Church. It was produced by the Cal-Pac Annual Conference. 13 minutes.

DAY OF NEW BEGINNINGS (6175)

In this video 50 years of United Methodist giving is celebrated. "A Day of New Beginnings" takes viewers to: the Philippines where the Mary Johnson Hospital offers healing and hope; California where Korean-American United Methodists share a vibrant witness with their neighbors; Mississippi, where Gulfside Assembly fosters young people through college and career fair and Arkansas, where Camp Aldersgate reaches out to children with physical disabilities. 24 minutes

QUESTIONS OF FAITH: WHO'S MONEY IS IT? (5817)

This 30 minute video various theologians including Richard Foster, John Cobb and Tex Sample discuss the issue of money and the importance of sharing your money with others. A study guide is included.

FAITHFUL AND WISE (6800)

Stewardship, one of the most misunderstood concepts of the church, too frequently is related only to financial contributions. This video presents the concept as addressing all the gifts of God and looks at how we can expand our giving to every facet of our lives, including our time, our skills and talents, our physical and spiritual environments and our money and possessions. It includes six sessions, each running 8 minutes. An excellent discussion guide is included.

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS (6628)

This video tells the story of United Methodist connectional giving and gives an overview of our connectional ministries. It includes four segments suitable for worship or devotional moments.

GIFTS TO SHARE (5979)

Based on the commitment theme, "Give of Yourself, God's Very Best!", this clown/mime four-skit video will enchant the viewer and bring a new point of view on the purpose of stewardship. The ideas of freely giving are enhanced by the exploration of what barriers there are to sharing. A good discussion starter. 23 minutes.

STEWARD — LIVING AS DISCIPLES IN EVERYDAY LIFE (6574-6576)

This 12-week study resource explores the way we care for God's creation, use of our time and care for our personal relationships and live in our congregations, neighborhoods and communities. Meryll Rose is the host, and participants on the video include storytellers Michael Williams and Ray Buckley. Leader's and participant's guide included.



GOOD SENSE (6801)

Everyone in your church can experience the joy of financial freedom. This six-part video series helps participants discover tools and develop skills that enable them to control their finances, rather than allowing their finances to control them. The purpose of this video is to train participants to integrate Biblical Financial Principles into their lives—spiritually and financially. Each session is 50 minutes long. An excellent leader's guide is included.



TRANSFORMED GIVING (6803)

Want to make stewardship a favorite annual event for your church? This six-week study will take the focus off finances and put it on individual spiritual development. You will see your congregation growing spiritually and transforming their commitment to prayer, service, and yes, financial giving. The kit includes a 48-minute DVD that contains 6 to 8 minute video sections for each of the small group sessions. It also includes a CD-ROM tool kit that contains all the tools needed for your stewardship campaign.

MARGIN (6267)

Tape seven, "Living Within Your Harvest", from the popular series "Margin." This video discusses how many people struggle to keep their heads above water financially. Restoring

WESLEY ON GIVING (6297)

John Wesley had a lot to say about money. The focus of this video is based on Wesley's ideas regarding the use of money. The video is 24 minutes and comes with a study guide.

Giving for the Adventure



Be Adventurous – stop taking offerings??

By Bishop John R. Schol

The Spirit was moving in the service. The music stirred hearts. The preaching deepened understanding. The prayers were heart felt. The communion brought Christ alive. The packed sanctuary was pulsed with excitement. The Spirit had also made the service go a half hour longer than normal.

The pastor got concerned with another service right on the heels of this service and decided not to take the offering. Heresy one could say. Instead the pastor instructed ushers to set plates in the front of the sanctuary and invited people to bring their offerings following the benediction. The finance chair passed out on the spot.

Later when the offering was counted, it was better than previous offerings. What happened? Should churches stop taking offerings during the service?

If the Discipleship Adventure is to thrive and the Baltimore-Washington Conference is to grow 600 Acts 2 congregations, then healthy stewardship is vital.

Jesus demonstrated and called for generous giving of our resources. In Acts 2, the new church grew as people shared all they had with those in need. Churches that do not practice healthy stewardship decline. Disciples who do not give generously are not on the Discipleship Adventure. Let's take a look at why this congregation received a larger than usual offering and what are the characteristics of growing Acts 2 congregations that practice healthy stewardship.

1. Acts 2 congregations practice sound biblical teaching. A pastor said to me recently, our best givers are all graduates of Disciple Bible Study (Disciple Bible Study is a 30 plus week Bible study often lead by laity). Bible study and biblical preaching convicts and engages disciples in practices that are extraordinary. In congregations with healthy stewardship there is strong biblical preaching and lots of people engaged in Bible study. These congregations also teach and practice tithing, giving 10 percent of ones income to the church for ministry. The teaching and preaching on stewardship is not limited to one Sunday a year but stewardship is a theme throughout the year and stewardship illustrations are a regular part of sermons.
2. Acts 2 congregations have a clear vision, pursue the vision with all of their resources and regularly communicate the progress being made toward the vision. People want to give to a biblical vision as they see and experience their church being focused on God's vision and results coming from the vision. Jesus gathered more and more generous followers as he painted the picture of the Kingdom of God, and demonstrated God's reign in their midst – feeding, healing, life transformation.
3. Acts 2 congregations connect people's giving with the ministry of God. Worshipers hear how their offering has touched people's lives and been used for the purposes of God. Congregations that do this

effectively relate a one minute story before the offering, have people share a personal testimony of how God has impacted their life, have a brief paragraph in the bulletin about a successful ministry or mission project and tell stories in the newsletter about how ministry has grown and changed people's lives. Often these are connected with the tag line, "this is possible through your generous giving."

4. Acts 2 congregations invite people to take a step up in their giving each year and encourage worshipers to make a yearly pledge. People need to know that increasing their giving to the church is critical to the ministry of God. They also need to see their giving as a commitment to God and making a financial commitment each year is a healthy spiritual discipline.
5. Acts 2 congregations involve and engage their disciples in hands on ministry. Involvement in ministry (not a committee) excites and motivates people to do more for God. One of the things they do more of, is giving financially. When your congregation has 90 percent of its worshipers in a ministry or mission project, you will experience greater generosity.
6. Acts 2 congregations do not let money dictate their ministry, but pursue God's vision and create ministry based on God's calling. Ministry is not dictated by how much is in the congregation's bank account, but what is in the hearts of the disciples.
7. Acts 2 congregations have generous pastors and church leaders that tithe. They model for the congregation healthy giving.

Seven practices for a giving congregation. How many does your congregation practice? You won't make a difference doing one to four of them; it takes doing all seven consistently and well.

Best practices for stewardship

- Promote the faith-based joy of generous giving.
- Focus on the need of the giver to give, rather than the church's need to underwrite an operating budget.
- Develop stewardship leaders among the congregation.
- Establish the offering as an integral part of worship.
- Emphasize percentage giving and tithing at least once a year.
- Preach at least eight times a year on stewardship; Jesus did.
- Provide a course in personal budget planning.
- Prepare a narrative budget for the congregation.
- Give away a growing percentage of the congregational income for denominational ministries.
- Provide quarterly reports on member's giving to the congregation.
- Ask boldly.
- Thank profusely and often.

'How much should I give?'

