

Stewardship University: Resource List

An educational program of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona

Updated March 2010

BOOKS FOR VESTRY, STEWARDSHIP AND HOSPITALITY (NEW MEMBER/VISITOR) COMMITTEES:

Christopher, J. Clif **Not Your Parent's Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship**, Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-0-687-64853-5 *REQUIRED READING. Along with Ask, Thank, Tell, this book ought to be required reading for all vestries, Bishop's committees and Finance committees—it is certainly required reading for ALL CLERGY IN CHARGE of a congregation. Not to be missed, or dismissed lightly.*

Grimm, Eugene, and Miller, Herb **Generous People: How to Encourage Vital Stewardship** (Effective Church Series) Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 1992. ISBN-10: 0687140455 ISBN-13: 978-0687140459 *Recommended.*

Hershberger, Michele **A Christian View of Hospitality: Expecting Surprises**, Herald Press, 1999. ISBN-13: 978-0836191097. *Great resource for drawing out all of our gifts for hospitality and welcoming, not in only in our congregations, but in our lives. This book could well change your life.*

Lane, Charles R. **Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in your Congregation**, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, Minneapolis, MN, 2006. ISBN-10: 0806652632; ISBN-13: 978-0806652634 *REQUIRED READING. A virtual paint by the numbers book on how we must begin to see Stewardship as a discipleship matter, and how to best ask, thank, and tell our people about what we do as a church and how people's gifts of money to our congregations help transform lives.*

Robertson, C.K. **Transforming Stewardship**, Church Publishing, New York, NY, 2009. *Practical, hands on guide to doing effective stewardship in congregations, and a good supplement to the philosophy offered in Lane and Christopher above. Filled with anecdotes and ideas that inspire, the tools offered in the last half of the book are worth the price alone!*

Weeks, Andrew **WELCOME! Tools and Techniques for New Member Ministry**, Alban Institute, 1992. ISBN: 978-1566990578; (See also: www.Magnetic-Church.com)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION STUDY RESOURCES *for use in an Adult Ed. class*

Powell, Mark Allan **Giving To God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life**, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI, 2006. ISBN 978-0-8028-2926-9 *Excellent scriptural grounding throughout, that all belongs to God, the honor of being a "steward," and much, much more. A perfect book for Sunday school, Advent or Lenten series.*

Simon, Arthur **How Much Is Enough? Hungering For God In An Affluent Culture**, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, 2003. *One of the few resources that dares raises the “e” word—How much IS “enough”?*

Twist, Lynne **The Soul of Money**, W.W. Norton & Company, New York, NY, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0393329506 *Written by an experienced fundraiser, The Soul Of Money explores our relationship with money and how that affects our culture, lives and spirit. Though not expressly religious, this would be an excellent book for an Adult Christian formation, supplemented with scriptural texts to illustrate her points. You’ll look at your own money differently when you’ve finished this great book.*

Nouwen, Henri J.M. **The Spirituality of Fund-raising**, published by Henri Nouwen Society, P.O. Box 230523, Ansonia Station, New York, NY, 10023 USA, \$13.50 from the publisher; www.HenriNouwen.org *Though Nouwen unfortunately uses the term “fund-raising” throughout the book, it is still a good book on stewardship, faith and generosity, in Nouwen’s inimitable voice. Available through the foundation website only.*

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

These programs are a “out of the box” type operations that require significant preparation for optimum results—don’t wait until the last minute! Get now and allow yourself all the time needed for maximum effectiveness. (These are presented in no particular order or preference. Research each one for appropriateness for your specific congregation’s needs.)

Enough: Stewardship Program Guide

Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

<http://www.abingdonpress.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=4962>

Description

Church leaders are struggling to help their congregations respond to the violent ebb and flow of the economy. While their members are simply trying to stay afloat financially, the budget of their church is suffering as well. In the midst of all of this, though, there is God and a divine calling for each of us.

With *Enough Stewardship Program Guide*, Adam Hamilton offers a simple campaign that will transform how the church and individuals view the role of money in connection with their life’s purpose and the positive impact that transformation will have on the world.

This program, based on *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*, is designed for church-wide and small-group studies. Leaders will be equipped with:

- A campaign timeline

- Sample communication pieces
- Sermon series notes
- Artwork for PowerPoint and signage

"Enough comes like an antidote in the middle of a pandemic. I hope that classes, groups, couples, and individuals will use this book—and the economic crisis it addresses—as a challenge to get healthy again by deepening our discipleship in the vital area of money and possessions." —Brian McLaren, Author of *The Secret Message of Jesus*

Cycles of Discipleship:

A Stewardship Program for the Local Church

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=519485>

On Sale in March 2010 at 70% off!

Each step of a proper stewardship campaign is laid out in the *Cycles of Discipleship* program. The program is designed to help the congregation members view their commitment to give financially in the same light as they view giving of themselves to grow spiritually. The foundation for this program is built on a Bible study designed for all ages in the church. From there the pastor and church's leadership team are provided with a structured plan to help facilitate the *Cycles of Discipleship* program with: sample letters, sample brochures, sermon topics and illustrations, direct mail solutions, and even answers to frequently asked questions. This program reexamines how the church administered past stewardship programs and provides the keys for a successful program that involves all members of the church, all year long.

Grow One Sunday Stewardship program on-line

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/search.aspx?txtSearchQuery=036127>

Experiences in congregations of many denominations across the United States indicate that Grow-One Sunday is especially valuable in six kinds of churches: 1.) Small congregations 2.) Churches that have never conducted an annual stewardship program 3.) Churches whose unpleasant experience with an ineffective stewardship model in past years prejudiced them against conducting any kind of financial stewardship program 4.) Large churches that find the traditional "celebration luncheon" in the popular Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program logistically impossible, due to lack of space 5.) Churches that want to change from a stewardship program they have used for several years but seems to have lost its appeal 6.) Churches that want their financial stewardship education to focus on spiritual growth rather than on fund-raising.

Grow-One Sunday is a spiritual-growth program as well as a financial campaign. It is based on the biblical theology of "the need of the giver to give" for his or her own spiritual development, not on the "need of the church to receive" in order to balance its budget. Permission is granted to photocopy the complete program (not excerpts) for use in congregations.

New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program

<http://www.amazon.com/New-Consecration-Sunday-Stewardship-Program/dp/0687644372>

This approach to financing the operational ministries of a congregation teaches stewardship from a spiritual perspective rather than from a fund-raising perspective. New Consecration Sunday is based on a biblical/spiritual theology of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual benefit rather than on the need of the church to receive. Directed toward raising the level of stewardship rather than toward raising the church budget, its no-gimmick approach focuses on the question, "What is God calling me to do?" rather than on the question, "What does the church need in order to pay its bills?"

Perdue Research Group interviewed people in 150 congregations that had used the original Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program. In 31 of those churches, financial giving increased 25 percent or more the first year they used it. Another 37 churches reported a 20 percent increase. Of the 150 churches interviewed, 131 had used Consecration Sunday three or four times. In one congregation, financial giving increased 25 percent the first year, 18 percent the second year, and 30 percent the third year.

In addition to the latest research, this newly revised version of Consecration Sunday offers tips for announcements, teaching, and sermons; creative ideas for beyond second-year use; and ten-year ABCs for stewardship and finance committees that can dramatically increase any congregation's giving.

Transformed Giving Stewardship program

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/DynamicContent.aspx?pageid=287&id=44>

You can give your members the refreshing benefits of a 40-day spiritual development program...far more attractive to them than a standard contribution series. Your congregation will see that financial solicitation is not the primary focus of this 40-day study. However...enhanced giving from the heart will flow out as one result of this faith-building experience.

Once a week, your adult classes or small groups can all experience identical lessons, which build on the shared themes found in your private daily readings during the past 7 days. The questions provided in your Treasures of the Transformed Life Participant's Workbook can also serve as discussion starters for your group. Group commitment to the same private daily readings of *Treasures of the Transformed Life* over a 40-day period can provide your Sunday School class, small group, or entire congregation with a unifying experience.

A Spiritual Growth Resource for Christians and Congregations

Your church can enjoy all the benefits of greater unity. Through synchronized private readings, group study, and coordinated worship messages...your entire congregation can be immersed together as a single body in the same fulfilling step-by-step transformation. This shared experience can lead them in unity to improved stewardship.

Throughout the 40-days everyone will explore these topics:

- Desiring a Better Life
- Experiencing Meaningful Prayer
- Building the Church as a Team

- Finding New Ways to Serve
- Unleashing Generous Giving
- Living the Transformed Life

This program can transform your members and your church by offering them – MORE . . .

More Strength, More Participation, More Ownership, More Service, More Teamwork, More Commitment, More Gratitude, More Generosity

Transformed Giving Program Kit. The kit includes one each of the Treasures of the Transformed Life, book, Leader's Guide with DVD and Participant's Workbook, a Campaign Handbook with instructions, for conducting the stewardship campaign, and a Campaign Media Folder with training DVD and Toolkit CD-ROM that features segments for the pastor and stewardship committee, customizable sermons, and templates for creating bulletin inserts, posters, newsletters, letters and more.

The Treasure Principle workshop

<http://store.generousgiving.org/viewItem.asp?idProduct=35>

The Treasure Principle Workshop is a flexible video curriculum designed for lay leaders, small group leaders or Sunday school teachers. This kit is a simple way to introduce the subject of Christian generosity to any small group. It can be used either as (1) an all-day seminar, (2) a weekend workshop, (3) a six-week Bible study, (4) a 12-week Sunday school class or (5) a one-hour summary presentation. No special leader training is required. Simply use the enclosed leader's guide and video (choice of VHS or DVD), and you're ready to start. Based on Randy Alcorn's book *The Treasure Principle*, this workshop includes one student workbook with audio CD and a leader's resource CD. It is the first in Crown Financial Ministries' Workshop in a Box series, co-produced with Generous Giving.

With God's Permission (free from the ELCA)

<http://archive.elca.org/stewardship/withgodspermission/>

"With God's Permission," is a program of financial response based on an asset-based approach to congregational dynamics. This simple program can help your congregation fund God's mission in a fresh and exciting manner, providing enjoyment and energy to the task of asking for and receiving commitments for financial support from your congregation members.

"With God's Permission" is a worship-based financial response method – i.e., members' financial commitments collected during a worship service – and also includes members in several preparatory "mini-events" during the three Sundays preceding a final Sunday worship service.

Length of Program

This program lasts a total of eight weeks, including three single-Sunday 90-minute after-worship "mini-events," a Sunday "Celebration of God's Permission", and one week each of preparation and follow-up.

Audience

Each mini-event involves congregation members of all ages in a special time of fellowship, education, prayer and celebration immediately following worship.

Events

Each event stands alone as an experience of learning and commitment. Taken together, the four events offer congregation members full exposure to the excitement of an asset-based approach to their lives, both in the congregation and in daily living.