

Every Sunday is Stewardship Sunday

Most Americans associate the month of November with Thanksgiving. In American Baptist Churches, we also think of November as a time to express our thankfulness to God for his many gifts to us. We do this as generous disciples by promising to return a portion of our financial resources to God through the ministry of our local churches. In many churches, this giving is celebrated on "Stewardship Sunday," usually the second Sunday of the month.

In reality, **every Sunday is Stewardship Sunday!** As disciples of Jesus, we are aware that everything comes to us as a gracious provision of God's love. Every moment of each day and every breath we take is granted to us by God, and we are called to be stewards (or careful and wise managers) of all - including the time we have to live on this earth. Every day belongs to God, including the Sundays, so every Sunday reminds us that we are called to be good stewards of our time and all of the gifts from God which we enjoy.

A Stewardship Prayer



Gracious God, thank you for the gift of this day. Allow me to be even more sensitive to and aware of the needs that are around me. Give me the courage to respond using the resources and gifts you have placed within my care. Help me to be a generous and faithful steward, as well as being your hands and feet in this time and this place. *Amen.*

*You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.
2 Corinthians 9:11*

Your Personal Commitment

As you make a commitment to return to God, through the ministry of your church, a portion of the financial resources which God has entrusted to you, here are a few additional ways you might exercise the stewardship of yourself and your resources:

- Is there a need within your community to which you are feeling called to respond? Are there a few friends or neighbors you could invite to join you as partners in this ministry?
- Does your day include being attentive to your physical health through simple movement, such as walking or other exercise? Are you careful about your food choices, knowing that they affect your overall health?
- Does your prayer time include guidance for wisdom and grace during your encounters with each person who crosses your path, whether or not you know their names?
- Are there simple steps you can take to reduce your consumption of resources, or the purchase of unnecessary items?

