

STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY

SPECIAL REPORT

A PUBLICATION FROM THE CENTER FOR CONGREGATIONS



STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY is intended to provide information and resources to congregations to help their leaders focus more intentionally on stewardship. The Center for Congregations hopes that you will find this information useful in your work.

What resources can congregations use to teach their members about giving? This question prompted the Center for Congregations to engage in a resource discovery process to find, evaluate and recommend resources that congregations could use to focus more intentionally on stewardship, not just at budget time, but year-round.

From late 2009 through early 2010, Christine B. Roush, researcher and author of this report, investigated available resources on stewardship and generosity from a variety of perspectives. The process of reviewing and evaluating applicable resources led to the compilation of this list. These excellent resources offer practical ways of talking about stewardship and generosity. This report offers the best of what is out there including books, web resources, media, persons and events.

To set the stage for the resources that are highlighted here, it is important to acknowledge how the words “stewardship” and “generosity” are used. Though stewardship is now generally understood holistically as encompassing our “whole life” – all that we have been given by God in terms of time, talent, financial resources, families, friends, the very earth we live on – a more specific definition was used for the purposes of this report. Materials and resources were purposely sought to help a congregation teach financial stewardship to congregations and to individuals.

It would be appropriate to note that the term itself – stewardship – comes with some baggage. It can instantly be associated with fall financial enlistment campaigns, every member canvases, and attempts to fund congregational budgets. With that in mind, some scholars and congregations replace the word stewardship with the term “generosity.” Other experts in the world of congregational giv-

ing suggest that “generosity is a companion to the word stewardship.” Ruben Swint in *Growing Generosity While Practicing Stewardship* suggests that the terms are embraced differently by different generations. He proposes that the builders generation is more comfortable with the word stewardship, while younger generations respond more to the concept of generosity.¹ Within the scope of this research and report, the terms “stewardship” and “generosity” were seen as interchangeable. The reader is encouraged to use the term most appropriate for their setting.

There has been a shift in the field of stewardship education over the past decade. Once seen as fundraising within a faith tradition, recent scholarship has come to view financial stewardship more accurately described as an effort to develop people in their faith – creating a culture of generosity. It is an issue of spiritual development, rather than simply an effort to fund worthy causes.

This report is divided into five sections, each reflecting a type of resource. Within each category, resources are listed alphabetically, and categorized under either general or specialized.

The researcher includes a list of what she has determined to be the top book and web resource available for use in congregations. Subjective by nature, it is nevertheless offered as a starting place for leaders or stewardship committees looking for some good resources with which to begin the process of more fully addressing financial stewardship in their settings.

¹ Swint, Ruben. *Growing Generosity While Practicing Stewardship: A Travel Free Learning Article*. [free online article]. Columbia, SC: Columbia Partnership, March 8, 2010. <http://colapartnership.posterous.com/growing-generosity-while-practicing-stewardship>.

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Books and Articles

GENERAL RESOURCES

Alcorn, Randy. *Money, Possessions and Eternity*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2003. This is a newly updated version of Alcorn's classic study in which he reflects on God's word when it comes to handling money. Alcorn seeks to offer Christians a biblical view of money and possessions in light of their eternal plans. Alcorn's conservative voice and pro-life stance will not appeal to everyone, but his reflections provide opportunity to ponder one's own beliefs and understanding of God's expectations in relation to our earthly possessions. This book is a good reference for leaders seeking broader understanding of stewardship principles.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Heart, Soul and Money: A Christian view of Possessions*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2000. A useful Bible study on questions of stewardship, this book provides a small group study that delivers solid biblical teaching in a readable format. Questions at the end of each chapter allow for discussion and further reflection. The format lends itself to use by a Sunday School class or small groups wishing to explore what the Bible has to say about issues of generosity.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2001. In this book, Blomberg lays out his Biblical theology of possessions from which his small group study *Heart, Soul and Money* was later written. Pastors searching for a better understanding of the importance of stewardship will find this a valuable addition to their libraries.

Blue, Ron. *Generous Living: Finding Contentment through Giving*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997. As one of the masters in the field of generosity and giving, Blue is worth reading. *Generous Living* is no exception. This book is perhaps most useful for individuals wrestling with the concepts of generosity and stewardship,

but would also make a good small group discussion book. Blue's chapter "getting a fix on your finances" will be especially helpful to those who are trying to plan for retirement, pay off debt, etc. His career as a financial planner adds weight to the section on giving strategically and through the appropriate vehicles for ensuring the least tax implications. This is a valuable resource for pastors to recommend to parishioners contemplating their wills and estate plans.

Borg, Richard A. *The Chief Steward: How to Lead Your Congregation to Excel in Financial Stewardship*. Longwood, FL: Xulon Press, 2008. Borg identifies each pastor as the "chief steward" – they are to "lead the master's stewards in obedient and effective financial stewardship." Using this definition, he then recommends resources for the task. Abundantly citing scripture to illustrate his points, Borg offers rationale and methodology for returning the church to wise management of all God's abundant blessings. This book is a good read for every pastor, and lay leaders will find much to commend within it as well.

Callahan, Kennon L. *Giving and Stewardship in an Effective Church: A Guide for Every Member*. Hoboken, NJ: Jossey-Bass, 1997. Some books are so on target as to never lose their ability to teach us, and Callahan's is just such a book. A classic in stewardship and fundraising, Callahan builds the case for the critical links between money, mission and healthy churches. In an easy to understand format, Callahan lays out the steps for raising more money in the local church by creating generous people focused on ministry and mission. Chapters focus on the topics of the principles, possibilities and motivations for giving, as well as providing worksheets to help churches assess their current situation.

Christopher, J. Clif. *Not Your Parents Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2008. This book explains that people don't often give to churches because congregations don't give them a compelling vision of the good it will do. Written with the needs of pastors and stewardship

teams in mind, *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate* provides practical guidance to all who seek to help God's people be better stewards of their resources.

Clark, Wayne B. *Beyond Fundraising: A Complete Guide to Congregational Stewardship*. Boston, MA: Unitarian Universalist Association, 2007. Written through the language of a Unitarian Universalist, *Beyond Fundraising* has gems in it to fit the needs

of every faith tradition. Beginning with wise counsel about truths and myths of giving, Clark invites congregations to move from "the restrictive myth of scarcity" to "a reality of abundance." Chapters range from using consultants to the various types of stewardship campaign. This book is one of the few fundraising books that offer insights and plans for strategic planning, capital project fundraising, and planned giving. Clark's chapter on Appreciative Inquiry may be especially helpful to those congregations searching for a method to help develop a vision and plan for the future.

Cross, Marie T. *The Price of Faith: Exploring Our Choices About Money and Wealth*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2002. Almost every aspect of North American life is affected in some way by money. Marie Cross attempts to broaden our understanding of "stewardship," to challenge the choices we make about money and wealth, and (in the process) to help us grow together in faith. The author proposes reading the Bible from a stewardship perspective. Chapters three through eight offer the biblical and theological foundations for the ten discussion sessions or classes that are outlined as lesson plans, each with its own clearly defined purpose. One of the more interesting and unusual sessions begins with the acknowledgement that what we do

often reflects what we believe, and goes on to examine the history of the offering in worship. This book makes a good resource for an adult study or a church board

that wants to take stewardship, discipleship and mission seriously.

CSS Publishing. *From Every Angle: A Compendium of Stewardship Resources*. Lima, OH: CSS Publishing, 2000.

Designed to fit in a three ring binder, this packet is a comprehensive stewardship guide filled with a variety of

resources for teaching stewardship in a congregation. Sermons, object lessons, temple talks, monthly stewardship committee agenda outlines, annual stewardship drive materials, skits and more. If a congregation is searching for ideas, or wishing to build a year round program of stewardship education, they could get a lot of mileage out of these materials.

Durall, Michael. *Beyond the Collection Plate: Overcoming Obstacles to Faithful Giving*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003. Durall's book helps the reader understand how the church got to the point of financial malaise, and then offers suggestions for getting out of it. His concept of the three "least" – the least amount of time, least amount of effort, and least amount of money needed to address stewardship – provides an honest, insightful look at church giving. Durall offers a highly readable guide to changing long held perspectives about money in every congregation (see chapter nine – "Your Congregation's Financial Identity.") His words are frank, and he presents a realistic picture of what it will take to bring about needed change.

Gunderman, Richard B. *We Make a Life by What We Give*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2009. According to an old saying, "We make a living by



what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” In 22 brief and insightful essays, Richard B. Gunderman shows us that the key to more rewarding giving can be found by looking beyond mere donations of money. Exploring the ethical core of sharing and examining its importance for both those who receive and those who give, here is a book to deepen our understanding of what it means to share.

Hicks, Douglas A. *Money Enough: Everyday Practices for Living Faithfully in the Global Economy*. Practices of Faith Series. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2010. This text helps leaders think about values in a consumer society with chapter titles like “Discerning Desires.” This resource is good for adult education or perhaps a sermon series in a mainline context. The author is Presbyterian. A free downloadable study guide is available at <http://www.practicingourfaith.org>.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Life of Faith and the Faithful Use of Possessions*. Indianapolis, IN: The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, 2006. This free downloadable document, found on the website <http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/LakeFamilyInstitute/docs/LakeLectures/Lake%20Lecture%20-%20Johnson%20-%202006.pdf>, is the transcript of the third annual Thomas H. Lake Lecture sponsored by the Lake Family Institute on Faith and Giving at the Center on Philanthropy. This lecture, delivered by New Testament scholar Luke Timothy Johnson, seeks to help people of faith discern what is, for them at any given point in time, the faithful use of their possessions. Johnson encourages theological reflection, the juxtaposition of Scripture with human experience, and discernment, rather than simplistic proclamations of “the right thing.” This essay provides rich content for adult small groups interested in theological reflection as it relates to material possessions.

Lane, Charles R. *Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2006. The goal of this book is to rescue stewardship, freeing it from any connection to “paying the bills.” When the Bible refers to steward-

ship it almost always references the intimate connection between how a person handles financial matters and that person’s relationship with God. The book is designed for use in congregational planning and study. Stewardship leaders will come back to three foundational verbs — ask, thank, tell — as they help individuals experience the joy of giving generously.

Mather, Herb. *That’s What My Mother Taught Me: And Other Ways Generous Givers Develop*. Nashville, TN: Discipleship Resources, 2001. Mather conducted interviews with more than 100 people in an effort to discover what motivates people to be generous. Mather’s introduction concludes, “there is one common thread among all generous people regardless of their age, economic condition, ethnic background, or theological leanings. They all see themselves as people who share.” His book then goes on to share stories of giving and generosity. Understanding the variety of motivations behind the generous givers offers excellent insights into strengthening a church stewardship ministry. Though no perfect prescription for creating generous givers emerges, stewardship committees will gain much from using this book as a learning tool.

Mosser, David & Brian Bauknight. *First Fruits: 14 Sermons on Stewardship*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003. Preaching about money is hard. But, preachers can no more neglect to preach about giving than they can forget to preach about redemption, justice or discipleship. Recognizing both the difficulty of preaching about giving and its necessity, the contributors to this volume have provided preachers with models of sermons about giving, demonstrating creative and faithful ways to address this thorny subject from the pulpit. Accompanying each sermon is an analysis of exactly why it works, and suggestions for how the reader might learn from it and apply those lessons to her or his own preaching.

Mosser, David N. *The Stewardship Companion: Lectionary Resources for Preaching*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007. This book will be a valuable resource for congregations seeking to lift up the Bible’s

teachings about possessions and money on a regular basis. Mosser draws one text from each week in the three-year Revised Common Lectionary and provides a page or two of reflection about how the passage could be used to teach stewardship.

Powell, Mark Allan. *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News About Living a Generous Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006. This is an accessible theological text on generosity as a spiritual discipline and act of worship. Author Mark Allan Powell belongs to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and writes in a positive tone. The book includes an extensive resource list of other books that address stewardship and generosity.

Ramsey, Dave. *Financial Peace Planner: A Step by Step Guide to Restoring Your Family's Financial Health*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 1998. Developed in a workbook style, this book is designed to help people work the system outlined in *Financial Peace*. The planner is a helpful tool for those inspired to do the hard work of getting their financial lives in order and a useful resource for couples or individual study.

Ramsey, Dave. *Financial Peace Revisited*. New York, NY: Viking Press, 2003. This newly expanded and updated edition addresses developing a plan for controlling your finances. Written from a secular perspective, Ramsey's faith still comes through. Ramsey made and lost his fortune by age 30, and then learned the real secret to wealth – spend less than you earn! This highly readable book develops a rationale for learning to live happier lives by creating savings, giving generously, and living within your means. The book makes a good self study, small group study, or library resource. It is a valuable read for couples in marriage counseling and for teens before they head off to college.

Ramsey, Dave. *The Total Money Makeover: A Proven Plan for Financial Fitness*. Third Edition. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2009. In this practical, hands-on system for getting your financial life in order, Ramsey offers a “tough love” approach to spending that pro-

duces incredible results when taken seriously. This is a good resource for congregations wanting to teach solid, practical financial principles. Chapters on budgeting, getting out of debt and savings are all helpful, and case studies offer hope.

Rodin, R. Scott. *Stewards in the Kingdom: a Theology of Life in all its Fullness*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000. Too often we think stewardship concerns only the money we give to the church. But in the image of the steward, the Bible offers a perspective on our entire relationship with God. The author looks at the theology of the abundant life, which encompasses all aspects of our world, our life and our possessions. The book concludes with a discussion of the roles of church and family as stewards while providing a theology for the Christian fundraiser.

Roush, Christine. *Swimming Upstream: Reflections on Consumerism and Culture*. Kohler, WI: Design Group International, 2009. Written in a non-threatening way, Christine Roush uses her own life and family to consider how consumerism impacts her faith and life choices. Looking at stewardship from a holistic approach, this book deals with stewardship themes in a practical, accessible way. Designed for small groups, the practicality of the book is found at the end of each chapter where the author provides four sections – questions for further reflection, a few suggestions in the form of an action plan, added resources for your personal upstream journey, and a short story tying the chapter together. If you are searching for a gentle way to introduce stewardship into your congregation, this book is a beneficial resource (written by the author of this resource report on Stewardship and Generosity).

Schnase, Robert. “The Practice of Extravagant Generosity” in *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, 103-124. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2007. “Extravagant Generosity” is one of five practices that Robert Schnase describes as characteristic of vital congregations.

Schnase, Robert. *Five Practices – Extravagant Generosity (Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations Program*

Resources). Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2008. This program guide is a companion to chapter 5, “Extravagant Generosity”, in *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. It is intended to be used for group study leading to plans to develop “extravagant generosity” within a congregation. A teaching guide is available as a free download.

Schut, Michael ed. *Money and Faith: The Search for Enough*. New York, NY: Morehouse Publishing, 2008. In *Money and Faith*, editor Michael Schut assembles the voices of two dozen writers to help us examine our lives and faith through the lens of our relationship with money. The first sections have a primarily personal focus, while the next four consider the relationship of people of faith to the larger economy. The last several sections consider such issues as what “enough” truly means, how we can move toward Jubilee economics on a grand scale. *Money and Faith* features a study guide for individuals and small groups. This book would benefit those wishing to consider their relationship with money and how their faith calls upon them to respond to any number of economic concerns.

Searcy, Nelson with Jennifer Dykes Henson. *The Generosity Ladder: Your Next Step to Financial Peace*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2010. In *The Generosity Ladder*, Nelson Searcy addresses many of the issues that surround the intersection of God and money. Lay people will find in this brief book a guide for understanding God’s desires for financial management, a way to assess their current level of stewardship, and encouragement to grow in generosity.

Smith, Christian and Michael O. Emerson. *Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Don’t Give Away More Money*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2008. This resource provides cutting edge research into giving and the church. What resources are given to ministry each year, and how much more ministry would occur if the faith community chose to tithe 10%? Smith and Emerson offer the data to answer those questions, as well as build a compelling case that the world would be a better place to live if people gave generously.

Smith, David H. ed. *Religious Giving: For the Love of God*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2010. This book of essays from a broad range of perspectives – Muslim, Catholic, Jewish, Protestant – addresses religious values of generosity in a culture of affluence.



Sweetser, Terry and Susan Milner, eds. *The Abundance of our Faith: Award-winning Sermons on Giving*. Boston, MA: Skinner House Books, 2006. *The Abundance of our Faith* features 19 award winning sermons on giving and generosity from the Unitarian Universalist church. Written from a more liberal perspective, each sermon offers insights and reflections that can spark creative thinking in every pastor/teacher. In addition to great ideas for sermon building, this text lends itself to small group study. Each sermon is followed by questions for reflection and group discussion.

Swint, Ruben. *Growing Generosity While Practicing Stewardship: A Travel Free Learning Article*. [free online article]. Columbia, SC: Columbia Partnership, March 8, 2010. <http://colapartnership.posterous.com/growing-generosity-while-practicing-stewardsh>. Swint describes the relationship of the word “generosity” to the word “stewardship” as used in congregations. He suggests that younger adults relate more to the word “generosity” while older adults connect more with “stewardship” as they have understood it in the past. Swint suggests congregational leaders of churches less than 20 years old use the word generosity but if mem-

bers are mostly from the builders generation, continued use of the word stewardship is appropriate. The author defines characteristics of generosity.

Toler, Stan and Elmer L. Towns. *Developing a Giving Church*. Kansas City, KS: Beacon Hill Press, 1999. This is a useful text on both the rationale and the plan for creating a generous congregation. Easy to read, this book offers insight into what it requires to develop a giving church, and then outlines the suggested steps for getting there. The staff team and stewardship committee will each find this a helpful tool in developing stewards.

Vincent, Mark. *A Christian View of Money: Celebrating God's Generosity*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2006. This is a recently updated small group study on stewardship. In this book, Vincent lays out a balanced theological foundation for what a Christian view of money looks like, and invites readers to think through their own actions and beliefs about money. Each chapter ends with questions for discussion and case studies to generate conversations and assist people in working through their own attitudes and beliefs. This book can be used as a small group study or as lesson plans for stand alone sessions on stewardship. Mark Vincent comes from the Mennonite tradition.

Vincent, Mark. *Speaking About Money: Reducing the Tension*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2001. This book explores ways in which leaders can discuss money and its role in the life of a steward. This book is both a useful reference tool for a pastor, and a worthy read for a stewardship team. It offers ideas, strategies and rationale for beginning open conversations about money in the church today.

Willmer, Wesley K. ed. *A Revolution in Generosity: Transforming Stewards to be Rich Towards God*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2008. A compilation of more than 20 of the foremost thinkers and leaders in the stewardship arena today, this book offers a thorough perspective of fundraising as steward development. If your church is seeking to discontinue secular fundraising methods in exchange for a faith based approach, this book is a tool for the task. As Willmer writes, "The foundation for realizing a revolution in generosity is understanding the biblical view of possessions, generosity, and asking for resources." Chapters on capital campaigns, fund development consultants, and teaching financial principles are all great resources for a stewardship team.

Willmer, Wesley K. *God & Your Stuff: The Vital Link Between Your Possessions and Your Soul*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2002. Wilmer does an excellent job of linking the issues of our possessions and our spiritual life in this very readable book. American culture has evolved to a place where Christians view money and possessions as separate from their faith. Wilmer boldly debunks the myth through a series of chapters that lead the reader to a deeper understanding of the power "our stuff" holds in our lives. The

endnote section includes questions for each chapter, and enables congregations to use this book as a small group study or as part of a larger stewardship education program. This book provides a thoughtful approach to possessions and faith.

Wright, Lauren Tyler. *Giving – The Sacred Art: Creating a Lifestyle of*

Generosity. Woodstock, VT: SkyLight Paths Publishing, 2008. Giving is a deeply spiritual act that can change the giver as much as those who receive the gift. "In its healthiest form, the sacred art of giving is about rela-



tionship. When we give and when we receive, we are reminded that we need other people to survive.” This practical book draws from a number of faith traditions, and challenges the reader to move giving from a simple act of charity to a deliberate spiritual practice. Through stories and example, Wright gently guides the reader toward a lifestyle of generosity. This book would make a good read for a study group wishing to more deeply explore lifestyle, or would serve equally well as an independent read for anyone interested in thinking more seriously about spiritual disciplines.

Wuthnow, Robert. *The Crisis in the Churches: Spiritual Malaise, Fiscal Woe*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1997. Robert Wuthnow argues that the financial crisis in congregations today—declining giving and increased demands—is also a spiritual crisis arising from the failure of congregations to meet the spiritual needs of their middle-class members. His analysis of the financial and spiritual challenges facing many congregations is derived from and illustrated by more than 2,000 interviews with clergy about their attitudes toward church finances, stewardship, and the needs of congregants. He asserts that middle-class church members need assistance from their clergy to help balance their ample resources with the common feeling of being overburdened. Clergy often don’t like to talk about money, but they must realize that it is a subject on which their congregations need to hear them speak. This book contains insights into the intersection of spirituality and stewardship.

AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCES

Amerson, Melvin. *Stewardship in the African American Church: A New Paradigm*. Nashville, TN: Discipleship Resources, 2006. This book is a practical guide for pastors who are trying to get a handle on the role of stewardship in their congregations. Though the title leads one to believe it is primarily written for the African American church, the contents of the book will have broad application across all congregations. Amerson’s chapters on the theology of stewardship and the offering as worship are especially strong, and the practical

ideas offered in the chapter titled “stewardship in a new era” will prove helpful for most. This book is a valuable tool for pastors and stewardship committees looking for a foundational work on stewardship. Amerson is United Methodist.

Banks, Jr., George W. *Back to the Basics: A Holistic Approach to Correcting the Stewardship Crisis in the African American Church*. Tucson, AZ: Wheatmark, 2008. “This book is about a crisis, an ongoing stewardship problem that affects the clergy and congregations in most African American churches.” So begins the introduction to *Back to Basics*. Banks argues that stewardship in the African American church has become about budgets and fundraising. In his opinion, pastors need to take a more holistic approach to stewardship education. Expository preaching and exegetical teaching using biblical principles are the place to start – the basics, in his words. This is a good resource for those congregations looking for a scriptural based approach that focuses on all aspects of stewardship, from witness and work, to wealth.

Jones, Clifford A. *From Proclamation to Practice: A Unique African American Approach to Stewardship*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1993. This text is a compilation of both stewardship sermons written by African American church leaders, and a “practice” section for suggestions on how to develop stewardship as a practice within the local church. Though written by and for African American congregations, this resource will be a valuable tool for any pastor’s library, if only for the ideas to be generated from the sermon section.

JEWISH RESOURCES

Dorff, Elliot N. and Louis E. Newman, eds. *Jewish Choices, Jewish Voices: Money*. Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society of America, 2008. *Jewish Choices, Jewish Voices* is a book series designed to create dialog around ethical issues of our time. *Money* is a helpful study guide that specifically deals with the moral and ethical issues surrounding money. Filled with case studies and both traditional and contemporary Jewish

perspectives, this resource will be very useful in raising awareness of stewardship themes.

Dorff, Elliot N. *The Way Into Tikkun Olam: Repairing the World*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2002. A comprehensive introduction to the roots of the beliefs and laws that are the basis of the Jewish commitment to improve the world. This book looks at the various motivations that the sacred texts provide for caring for others, the ways the Jewish tradition seeks to foster such concerns in our social and family relationships, and the kind of society that Jews should strive to create as partners with God.

Goldberger, Rabbi Moshe. *Priorities in Tzedakah: Higher Forms of Giving*. Brooklyn, NY: Judaica Press, 2007. Rabbi Goldberger was initially approached with the question “how do I prioritize tzedaka giving in a halachically appropriate manner?” This detailed response was the result of that inquiry, and developed into this sefer. Thoroughly researched, individuals will find it a useful guide for understanding and prioritizing tzedaka.

Salamon, Julie. *Rambam’s Ladder: A Meditation on Generosity and Why It Is Necessary to Give*. New York, NY: Workman Publishing, 2003. Reasons for giving are as many and varied as the givers, yet often come from very similar impulses. One thousand years ago, Jewish Philosopher Rabbi Moses ben Maimon, known as Rambam by the Hebrew scholars, developed a ladder of giving to explain the various rungs of generosity. Beginning with reluctance, Rambam outlined eight rungs on the ladder, until one’s gifts were coming from a sense of anonymity and responsibility. Using her conversational style, author Julie Salamon illustrates Rambam’s rungs on the ladder with examples from post 9/11 America. This resource is a good way to drill deeper into a subject and ponder motivations, thoughts and beliefs. This book would lend itself well to a teacher seeking to understand generosity in preparation for leading a stewardship program or any small group wishing to explore charity through Salaman’s exceptionally fine lens.

Telushkin, Rabbi Joseph. *A Code of Jewish Ethics, Volume 2: Love your Neighbor as Yourself*. New York, NY: Bell Tower, 2009. In this the second of a three volume series, author Joseph Telushkin explores ethical behavior through the lens of loving our neighbor. Though much of the book speaks to broader principles for living one’s life, several chapters are dedicated to charity and fundraising. Through these chapters, Telushkin uses examples from the Talmud, Bible and Midrash, as well as contemporary scholars to identify Godly principles of charity, caring for the poor and raising funds for worthy causes. His highly readable approach makes this volume useful for congregations seeking to explore themes of charity and giving.

Zevit, Shawn. *Offerings of the Heart: Money and Values in Faith Communities*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2005. The author emphasizes that this book is not a comprehensive, “how-to” guide for raising money or spending it. Rather, this book lays the foundation for a values-based approach to financial activities. The chapters describe processes for articulating a clear congregational mission and vision, for connecting mission and vision with budgeting and planning, for understanding the ethical considerations behind capital campaigns and fundraising, for using money to serve social justice, and for sustaining sacred community. A “Congregational Purpose Chart” provides a helpful format for tying these processes together. And a case study, sample lesson, Hebrew glossary, and set of resources (print-based and organizational) conclude the book. Offering wisdom from ancient and contemporary Jewish texts, as well as from his work with the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, Zevit provides a thoughtful, reflective approach.

CATHOLIC RESOURCES

Champlin, Joseph M. *Grateful Caretakers of God’s Many Gifts: a Parish Manual to Foster the Sharing of Time, Talent, and Treasure*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2002. In *Grateful Caretakers of God’s Many Gifts*, Father Joseph Champlin offers a valuable sacrificial giving program. Champlin encourages the sharing of time, talent and treasure by leading congregants toward an

understanding of the incredible generosity of God. In turn, sacrificial giving occurs out of gratefulness, not guilt or manipulation. Champlin provides chapters on the theological and biblical principles underpinning stewardship, as well as a myriad of tools for introducing, sharing, teaching and evaluating a stewardship education program. With broad application beyond the Catholic church, congregations using this manual will find what they need to begin an effective year-round stewardship ministry in their places of worship.

Champlin, Joseph M. *A Way of Life: Four Faith-Sharing Sessions about Sacrificial Giving*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2004. This short work (48 pages) contains four easy-to-use session plans for exploring stewardship and sacrificial giving. Traditional in approach and design, each session provides a biblical basis on which the lesson is built, offers questions for meditation and reflection, and time for group sharing and discussion. Champlin builds on Catholic liturgy and church teaching, but that is unlikely to diminish the value of these sessions for any audience mature in the desire to study stewardship as a way of life. A leader searching for some “ready to use” lesson plans for a 60-90 minute stewardship education piece for a traditional audience will find this helpful.

Conway, Daniel. *What Do I Own and What Owns Me?: Spirituality of Stewardship*. New London, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2005. Stewardship is the practical means of acknowledging that life is a gift to be cherished, shared, and given back to God with increase. To clarify and exemplify his message, Conway offers insightful reflections, moving stories and practical reflection questions for individual and group use. This book is a helpful resource for parish stewardship committees, parish counselors and pastoral ministers.

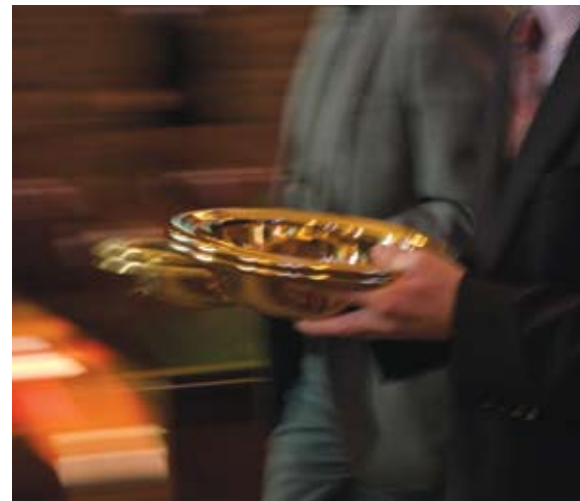
Haughey, John C. *Virtue and Affluence: The Challenge of Wealth*. Lanham, MD: Sheed and Ward, 1997. Author and Jesuit priest, John Haughey, S.J., was asked in the early 1990s to lead a workshop for a group of very wealthy Christians (mostly millionaires). Haughey invited workshop participants to reflect on their call in relation to their wealth. Middle class readers of this

small book will discover that the wealthy puzzle over the same issues that the middle class confronts.

McNamara, Patrick H. *Called to be Stewards: Bringing New Life to Catholic Parishes*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2003. This book shows stewardship as seen through case studies of eight Catholic Parishes. McNamara received a Lilly Endowment grant to research stewardship within the Catholic church, and this book is a summary of that research. McNamara shares the story of each parish, as they attempted to make stewardship an integral part of church life. This readable resource is full of good ideas and strategies on beginning a stewardship focus in any faith community. Each case study offers valuable insights.

His thorough research makes this a powerful tool for both pastors and stewardship committees.

Ponting, David M. *From Scarcity to Abundance: A Complete Guide to Parish Stewardship*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2005. In this comprehensive guide to stewardship education, Ponting tackles the topic of stewardship from its theological framework to practical methodologies for incorporating it into the life of a church. Easily readable, *Scarcity* also addresses planned giving and capital campaigns – two subjects often neglected in works on stewardship. This book is ideal for someone with little background, looking for one reference source to give them an overview of the topic of stewardship, along with practical ideas for getting a stewardship ministry underway.



Smith, Colleen. *Catholic Stewardship: Sharing God's Gifts*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor Catholic Publishing, 2001. Though short in length (74 pages), this book is full of stewardship tips and questions for reflection.



Imbedded throughout, Smith's "Stewardship Tips" provide both practical ideas for implementing stewardship themes into your lifestyle, and stories and ideas that stimulate thoughtful prayer and reflection. A quick read, it lends itself to individual study and reflection, though it could easily be used as the

launch point for small group study as well. Its gentle approach will make it a great addition for a stewardship team looking for another tool for use in a year-round stewardship program.

Zech, Charles E. *Why Catholics Don't Give and What Can Be Done About It*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor Catholic Publishing, 2006. In this work, Zech seeks to quantitatively explain giving patterns within the Catholic church. Through extensive research, the author shows which methods not only lead to increased giving, but also which ones will have a negative impact. His final chapter, "Seven Things the Catholic Church Can Do to Increase Contributions," offers advice based on the findings of his research.

Though the emphasis of this book is on the research and what it indicates, much can be learned about effective stewardship education as Zech unpacks the details of his studies. Stewardship Committees and pastors looking for the data to back up their methodologies for teaching stewardship will find this book helpful.

Zech, Charles E. *Best Practices in Parish Stewardship*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor Catholic Publishing, 2008. Building upon his earlier research and book *Why Catholics Don't Give*, Charles Zech sets out to "provide the first clear evidence to identify parish level stewardship activities that are effective . . . (and) to empirically analyze all three elements of stewardship: time, talent and treasure." What makes this book so useful are the chapters on the practical aspects of a stewardship education program – lay witness talks, stewardship committees, communications, etc. His summary chapter identifies the eight most effective stewardship activities, and is worth the price of the book all by itself. Congregational leaders can take away something they can implement into their stewardship education program from what they learn through Zech's research and analysis.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH RESOURCES

Heiss, Renée. *Helping Kids Help: Organizing Successful Charitable Projects*. Chicago, IL: Zephyr Press, 2007. This book provides adult mentors with ideas for helping children and youth get involved in philanthropy. "Where in early education, either at home or at school, do they learn to give back some of the gifts they have received? When do they understand that they should appreciate all that they have by helping those who don't have as much? Who teaches these lessons? As an adult working with young people, your job is formidable: get their minds off of themselves and onto the task of helping others." So begins chapter one. Loaded with ideas, case studies and examples, this book not only gives the rationale for teaching philanthropy to our children and youth, it helps the leader develop a plan to get them underway. Children and youth ministry leaders can benefit from using this resource. Chapter

one would make a great discussion starter for children and youth team leaders and workers. The book as a whole is useful for raising money for Vacation Bible School projects.

Lawrence, G.W. *The Inside Track of Money & Wealth: Know the Game. The MindSet of Wealth Series, Vol.*

1. Douglasville, GA: Lattice Publishing, 2008. *The Inside Track of Money and Wealth* is the first book in *The MindSet of Wealth® Series*. This book is designed specifically for the active mind of the middle school and high school youth. Also, it is a great family discussion tool about money. Its lessons and exercises challenge each youth to think beyond the hypnotic influences found in much of today's media. It's fun and comprehensible, starting today's youth with the understanding of economical psychology and consumerism, crafts often used in the advertisement and marketing industries. In other words, we encourage them to take control and think rather than follow; instilling critical wealth thinking is our goal.

Price, Susan Crites. *The Giving Family: Raising Our Children to Help Others*. Arlington, VA: Council on Foundations, 2005. It's never too early—or too late—to start teaching children the habit of giving. *The Giving Family* outlines eight specific steps parents, grandparents, teachers, religious leaders and other adults can take to instill the spirit of giving and volunteering in children ages five to 18. It explains how children can learn philanthropy in and out of the home, how young people can become involved with nonprofit groups as advisors or even as board members, and how parents can learn from the experiences of family foundations. With tips and activities interspersed throughout, as well as scores of inspired ideas and real stories, this 119-page volume is a useful resource for anyone who wants to foster volunteerism and philanthropy in children.

Roehlkepartain, Eugene C.; Elanah Dalyah Naftali, and Laura Musegades. *Growing up Generous: Engaging Youth in Giving and Serving*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2000. The authors create a mosaic of what is happening—and what could happen—in American Jewish

and Christian 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 non-profit 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.



TOP BOOKS — PLACES TO START

For those searching for a few good resources to begin stewardship and generosity discussions, here are some recommendations, listed in alphabetical order by the author's last name.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Heart, Soul and Money: A Christian view of Possessions*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2000. A great Bible Study geared toward understanding what the Bible has to say on the topic of money and possessions.

Borg, Richard A. *The Chief Steward: How to Lead Your Congregation to Excel in Financial Stewardship*. Longwood, FL: Xulon Press, 2008. Offers pastors excellent resources for teaching their congregation about stewardship.

Christopher, J. Clif. *Not Your Parents Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2008. Explains that people don't often

give to churches because congregations don't give them a compelling vision of the good it will do.

Durall, Michael. *Beyond the Collection Plate: Overcoming Obstacles to Faithful Giving*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003. This resource offers a highly readable guide to changing long held perspectives about money in every congregation.

Heiss, Renée. *Helping Kids Help: Organizing Successful Charitable Projects*. Chicago, IL: Zephyr Press, 2007. Loaded with ideas, case studies and examples, this book not only gives the rationale for teaching philanthropy to our children and youth, it helps the leader develop a plan to get them underway.

McNamara, Patrick H. *Called to be Stewards: Bringing New Life to Catholic Parishes*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2003. Based on case studies from eight Catholic parishes, this book offers practical models for creating stewards.

Roush, Christine. *Swimming Upstream: Reflections on Consumerism and Culture*. Kohler, WI: Design Group International, 2009. A contemporary small group study for congregations wishing to explore the topics of consumerism, stewardship and the role of the individual in a non-threatening, reflective manner.

Smith, Christian and Michael O. Emerson. *Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Don't Give Away More Money*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2008. Thoroughly researched, this book offers a clear picture of not only the current state of religious giving, but also identifies the changes that would be seen if people tithed.

Toler, Stan and Elmer L. Towns. *Developing a Giving Church*. Kansas City, KS: Beacon Hill Press, 1999. Excellent basic text on both the rationale and the plan for creating a generous church.

Web Resources

GENERAL

Christian Stewardship Network

<http://christianstewardshipnetwork.com/>

This is a website developed to assist those who lead stewardship ministries in the local church. There is a \$300 membership fee to join the network, but looks like a useful resource.

Crown Financial Ministries

<http://crown.org/>

Crown Financial Ministries is one of the leading organizations in the field in terms of stewardship development. Formed through the merger of Crown Ministries and Larry Burkett's Christian Financial Concepts, Crown continues to produce some of the best available resources for stewardship training and education. Crown's mission is to train Christians to handle money using biblical principles.

Dave Ramsey

<http://www.daveramsey.com/home/>

This website, developed by Dave Ramsey, supplements his get out of debt ideas and strategies. It contains lots of useful tools, calculators, and information on how to use money wisely.

Debt-Proof Living

<http://debtproofliving.com/>

Developed by Mary Hunt, the website offers a variety



of tools and resources for anyone who wants to learn how to live more cheaply. Great calculators for how to compare loans, determine your real hourly wage, compare credit cards, reduce debt, etc. Some resources are free, while others require a \$29 yearly membership fee.

Empty Tomb

<http://www.emptytomb.org/>

Empty Tomb is a Christian service and research organization that provides national church giving statistics. Loaded with great facts and statistics, it makes a compelling case for generosity and mission.

GBOD

<http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.3784563/k.BE28/Home.htm>

An agency of the United Methodist Church, this website has an excellent section for stewardship. It includes a strong bibliography, currently found under the heading "Lead Your Church".

Generosity Monk

http://www.generositymonk.com/Generosity_Monk/Home.html

Generosity Monk serves the church by providing spiritual and strategic guidance for helping people understand and practice biblical generosity. Gary Hoag is the lead consultant and comes out of the Evangelical Free Church. Under the "resources" tab, Gary has posted his 2008 stewardship bibliography that he used while teaching his Stewardship and Resource Development Class at Denver Seminary. It is loaded with excellent resources for both stewardship and capital fundraising.

Generous Giving

<http://www.generousgiving.org/>

This is a helpful resource for learning more about biblical principles of stewardship, and the global impact of God's people giving of their resources in God's way. The "resources" tab contains good information. The website is a great source for current statistics. The "research library" tab provides a collection of books, articles and materials for use in stewardship training and education.

Good \$ense Ministry

<http://goodsenseministry.com/>

Part of Willow Creek ministries, Good\$ense is a stewardship education ministry resource designed to help teach and train congregations in how to use resources in God honoring ways.

Maximum Generosity

<http://www.kluth.org/index.htm>

The Maximum Generosity website was developed by former Director of Christian Stewardship Association Brian Kluth. The site is loaded with good resources and materials, but has a cluttered look and a sales focus.

Luther Seminary

<http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/>

Luther Seminary has developed a great database of resources for stewardship education, which includes books and book reviews, videos, DVDs and more.

Science of Generosity Initiative at Notre Dame

<http://generosityresearch.nd.edu/>

Funded by the Templeton Foundation and led by Christian Smith, author of *Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Don't Give Away More Money*, the Science of Generosity Initiative exists to research the phenomenon of generosity. Generosity is defined as "the practice of giving good things freely and abundantly to other people." Grants have been awarded to study the causes of generosity (motivation), expressions of generosity, and consequences for both the givers and recipients.

Lake Family Institute on Faith and Giving

<http://philanthropy.iupui.edu/LakeFamilyInstitute/>

The Lake Family Institute on Faith and Giving explores the connections between faith and individual philanthropy. This website includes reports of research linking faith and philanthropy, and a bibliography of resources on giving.

Stewardship of Life

<http://stewardshipoflife.org/>

This Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

website provides suggestions and resources for stewardship education. “Congregational Stewardship 101” and “The Treasure Chest” are worth checking out.

Ecumenical Stewardship Center

<http://www.stewardshipresources.org/>

This website of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center contains news of resources, events and leaders within the stewardship arena.

Three Simple Rules

<http://threerules.org/>

This practical website teaches three simple rules for becoming both good stewards and wise financial managers: 1) spend less than you earn; 2) save now, buy later; and 3) know debt.

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

<http://uua.org/>

The Unitarian Universalist website has an especially good bibliography that includes many links to available stewardship resources listed under “Stewardship and Generosity Resources for Congregations.”

JEWISH

Areyvut

<http://www.areyvut.org/>

Established in 2002, Areyvut offers meaningful program resources from which to teach Jewish youth core values of chesed (kindness), tzedakah (charity) and tik-kun olam (social action).

The Good People Fund

<http://goodpeoplefund.org/>

“Doing a world of good through tzedakah.” This organization provides financial support, guidance and mentoring to small charitable endeavors seeking to make the world a better place through meaningful tzedakah projects. The Good People Fund supports projects considered too small by other grantors.

Rabbi Shawn Israel Zevit

<http://rabbizevit.com/>

This website offers a variety of resources from articles on money and generosity to spiritual life development.

Union for Reform Judaism

<http://urj.org/>

Located under the congregations tab, the category “Finance” is loaded with useful resources to provide a synagogue with the tools to help with financial goals.

CATHOLIC

Archdiocese of St. Louis

<http://archstl.org/>

The Archdiocese of Saint Louis website has a good section on stewardship under the heading “Giving.” The website includes educational materials to help parishes implement stewardship education as part of their yearly ministry, suggestions and materials for general use and materials for a yearly commitment drive focused on both resources and time.

CHILDREN

Kidz 4 Money

<http://kidz4money.com/>

A non-profit organization, Kidz 4 Money provides curriculum with hands on activities to enable youth to learn critical thinking related to money management, consumer education and wealth building. This is a good secular resource for teaching kids about money.

The League/Generation On

<http://www.generationon.org/>

This is a great website that provides ideas and resources for both leaders and kids seeking to “do good” in the world. Service, learning and friendly “co-opetition” are all part of The League.

Learning to Give

<http://learningtogive.org/>

The curriculum division of The League, the website provides lessons and resources that teach giving and volunteerism, civic engagement and character through service learning. The website is secular in nature.

Share Save Spend

<http://www.sharesavespend.com/>

Share Save Spend provides resources for parents, chil-

dren, families and adults to help them develop and maintain healthy money habits.

TOP WEBSITES

While all those listed above are valuable, these are among the best. They are listed in alphabetical order.

Empty Tomb

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A Christian service and research organization that provides national church giving statistics.

GBOD

<http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.3784563/k.BE28/Home.htm>

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<http://www.generousgiving.org/>

Excellent resource for learning more about biblical principles of stewardship, and the global impact of God's people giving of their resources God's way.

Luther Seminary

<http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/>

Luther Seminary has developed a great database of resources for stewardship education. Includes books and book reviews, videos, DVDs and more.

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

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Unitarian Universalist website – has an especially good bibliography that includes many links to available stewardship resources listed under “Stewardship and Generosity Resources for Congregations.”

Media

DVDs AND VIDEOS

Affluenza

<http://www.pbs.org/kcts/affluenza/>

This PBS production explores the high cost of the affluent lifestyle. Viewers guide and classroom resources for teachers are available via free download. Created in 1997 and produced by John DeGraaf and Vivian Boe, this film is a co-production of KCTS-Seattle and Oregon Public Broadcasting. DVD or VHS are available. The run time is 56 minutes. Additional information is available at the PBS link above. The production may be purchased from Bullfrog Films at <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/>

Biblical Stewardship DVD, Volume One

<http://www.crandallcroft.com/>

This volume contains twelve 90-second video vignettes built around a scripture passage highlighting stewardship. Each provides a way to introduce a stewardship message into morning worship. A production of Robert J. Crandall & Associates, this DVD runs 18 minutes.

Freed up From Debt

<http://www.goodsenseministry.com/>

This Good \$ense 2-session workshop by Matt Bell provides tools to get out of debt. It is Biblically-based. Fifteen participant workbooks (print) and teaching DVD are packaged together or separate. The Facilitator's Guide is free to download. This Willow Creek Associates production runs 120 minutes.

Freed up in Later Life: Planning Now for Beyond 65

<http://www.goodsenseministry.com/>

This Good \$ense two-session workshop is about financial preparation for the retirement years. A Willow Creek Associates production, the program includes a teaching DVD and print Participant Workbook. A Facilitator's Guide is available as a free download. The program runs 120 minutes.

God Provides

<http://www.crown.org/cart/church/godprovides/>

The *God Provides™ Film Learning Experience* from Crown Ministries consists of six short videos and printed companion guide for individual or group study. A Crown Ministries production, this DVD runs 108 minutes.

Simply Enough

<http://www.tonycampolo.org/>

This video features Tony Campolo and Shane Claiborne lifting up how to live simply in a world that often focuses on consumerism. For individual or group use, the program is appropriate for young adults. A print study/action guide is included with DVD. Produced by Alternatives for Simple Living in 2007, the DVD runs 71 minutes.

Other Resources

Burkett, Larry. *How to Manage Your Money: An In-Depth Bible Study on Personal Finances*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2000. Book. Can be used independently or in a small group.

Burkett, Larry. *Family Budget Workbook: Gaining Control of Your Personal Finances*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 1993. A family money management workbook, this resource includes worksheets for planning and tracking.

Crown Money Map™ Seminar

(formerly *Journey to True Financial Freedom Seminar*)

<http://freedom.crown.org/>

This one-day workshop calls participants to consider God's plan for how God's blessings are used. It is led by a Crown Ministries trainer in your area. Leader Training workshops are also available.

Biblical Financial Study

<http://www.crown.org/Cart/Church/BFS.aspx>

This 10-week small group study from Crown

Ministries is designed to teach God's way of handling money by discovering and applying the principles found in the Bible. Leader training is required to offer this in your congregation. For information on leader training events call 1-800-722-1976.

Road to Financial Freedom curriculum series

<http://www.crown.org/cart/church/RTFF.aspx>

This series serves as the Crown Ministries introductory church-wide outreach program for starting a comprehensive financial teaching program. Coordinated as a sermon series along with supporting student materials for Bible study, Sunday School, or small groups, your church can effectively and economically teach financial principles.

Financial Peace University

<http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/home/>

Dave Ramsey's 13-week video-based series offers tools and teaching designed to help individuals and families set and achieve financial goals. It provides as much rich material as Crown courses, but from a less church-based perspective. The weekly 2-hour sessions feature a one-hour video presentation by Dave Ramsey followed by one-hour of small group discussion. The first session is free. The Financial Peace University and Total Money Makeover Complete 2009 Home Study Kit by Dave Ramsey with DVDs, CD and books for home-study use only is available at http://www.amazon.com/Financial-University-Makeover-CompleteRamsey/dp/1934629308/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1292529473&sr=8-1.

Giving: Growing Joyful Stewards in Your Congregation. This magazine is published annually by the Ecumenical Stewardship Center, 1100 W. 42nd Street, Suite 225, Indianapolis, IN 46208-3304. It focuses on providing resources and support to stewardship ministries. The 2010 issue is entitled "More Than Enough." Learn more at <http://www.stewardshipresources.org/>

Money Matters for Youth: Integrating Faith and Finances (Goshen IN: Mennonite Church, USA). This youth curriculum from the Mennonites is designed for seven 45-minute sessions to help youth understand and

practice faith-based stewardship principles. This free downloadable curriculum, including a teaching guide and student handouts, is available at <http://www.mennoniteusa.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=oXOB%2BnBU%2FpY%3D&tab>

Consultants

While many other consultants work within the field of Christian stewardship, those listed here offer quality service at a fair price and provide a place to begin your search for outside assistance.

Crandall, Croft and Associates

<http://www.crandallcroft.com/>

Services include capital campaign counsel, feasibility studies, major gift training, planned giving, fundraising, development audits, creating a monthly giving program, leadership training, board and staff retreats, board and staff training, customized workshops, grant writing, and development and fundraising for the staff and volunteer.

The Frank Group: Counsel in Development, Management and Leadership

<http://www.johnrfrank.com/>

This group helps non-profit organizations address development issues in three areas: current giving programs, planned giving and capital campaigns.

Design for Ministry

<http://www.designgroupinternational.com/>

Services include capacity building related to funding, capital funding, financial management.

Catholic Stewardship Consultants

<http://catholicsteward.com/>

Services include stewardship planning, stewardship renewals, parish surveys, leadership retreats, stewardship committee development.

Columbia Partnership

<http://www.thecolumbiapartnership.org/>

TCP Ministry Colleague, Ruben Swint has the lead role in developing resources. Services include capital campaigns, planned giving and annual giving. He distributes a free *The Generosity Letter* e-zine every month. To join the distribution list, send an email to RSwint@TheColumbiaPartnership.org.

Events

Each year national stewardship organizations hold events designed to train new leaders and provide continuing education for existing leadership. Following is a list of some of the primary events.

Christian Leadership Alliance Annual Conference

<http://www.christianleadershipalliance.org/>

Ecumenical Stewardship Center's North American Stewardship Conference

<http://www.stewardshipresources.org/>

North American Conference on Christian Philanthropy

<http://www.naccp.net/>

International Catholic Stewardship Council Annual Conference

<http://catholicstewardship.com/>



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Fax 317-237-7795
Toll free 866-307-2381

Center for Congregations – Northeast

7906 Carnegie Blvd.
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804
Phone 260-435-1880
Fax 260-435-1883

Center for Congregations – Southwest

7516 Eagle Crest Blvd., Suite A
Evansville, Indiana 47715
Phone 812-618-2012
Fax 812-618-2013

Center for Congregations – Southeast

100 S. Chestnut St.
Seymour, Indiana 47274
Phone 812-405-1137
Fax 812-405-1138

Center for Congregations – Northwest

9801 Connecticut Drive
Crown Point, Indiana 46307
Phone 219-472-4938
Fax 219-472-4941

info@centerforcongregations.org www.centerforcongregations.org

Our Mission

The Center for Congregations strengthens Indiana congregations by helping them find and use the best resources to address their challenges and opportunities.

SPECIAL REPORT

Special Reports are inquiries into areas of importance to Indiana congregations. Interviews with consultants, specialists in the field and congregational leaders reveal information that we hope is helpful to Indiana faith communities whose leaders may be facing the same or similar challenges.

Stewardship and Generosity Special Report was written by Dr. Christine B. Roush.