

A Stewardship Bibliography

What follows are some of my favorite stewardship resources. They are materials that have shaped my own understanding and practice of stewardship. Compiled for the Stewardship Workshop at Wardens and Vestry Day, March 2007

Westerhoff, The Rev. Dr. John H. ***Grateful and Generous Hearts***. St. Luke's Press, 2001, Morehouse Publishing, 2002. A wonderful little book to help the reader understand stewardship as a way of life.

McNaughton, The Rt. Rev. John. ***More Blessed to Give***. Church Publishing Company, 2002. Originally published as *Stewardship: Myth and Methods* in 1975, reprinted as *Money Is Not a Four-Letter Word*, revised and updated as *More Blessed to Give* in 1983, this wonderful and very practical book was been reissued once again in 2002.

Gossen, Thomas R. ---. ***Joyful Giving – A Manual for Stewardship Development in the Congregation***. Morehouse Publishing, 2001. (TENS) This is a basic and “must have” for every parish stewardship ministry team. It provides both theology and practical ideas including calendars for year-round stewardship formation. Companion workbooks (see below) are also available. These workbooks offer step-by-step planning and organizing tips for a successful commitment program. They will help you identify which commitment program is right for your congregation this year.

--- ***The Festive Meal Commitment Program – Gathering for Inspiration, Information and Celebration***. Morehouse Publishing, 1999. (TENS)

--- ***The Cottage Meeting Commitment Program***. Morehouse Publishing, 1998. (TENS)

--- ***The Faithful Member Home Visitation***. Morehouse Publishing, 1997. (TENS)

--- ***The Home-to-Home Commitment Program***. Morehouse Publishing, 1999. (TENS)

--- ***The Personal Note Commitment Program***. Morehouse Publishing, 1999. (TENS)

Mulholland, James. ***Praying Like Jesus: The Lord's Prayer in a Culture of Prosperity***. Harper San Francisco. This wonderful and very moving book changed the way I pray the Lord's Prayer.

Lane, Charles. ***Ask, Thank, Tell***. Augsburg Fortress Press, 2006. This book is an easy to read guide for stewardship formation. It is biblically grounded and contains practical advice for stewardship formation in the parish.

Powell, Mark Allen. ***Giving to God***. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2006. The author presents stewardship as an act of worship, an expression of faith, and a manner of discipline for stewardship growth.

- Templeton, John M., Jr. M.D. *Thrift and Generosity: The Joy of Giving. Templeton Foundation Press. 2004.* This little book explores the qualities that distinguish thriftiness from merely being cheap. A great book for New Englanders.
- Cloughen Jr., The Rev. Charles. *One Minute Stewardship Sermons.* Morehouse Publishing, 1997. This book offers very practical ways in which stewardship can be lifted up each and every Sunday. It contains very practical examples.
- Hall, Douglas John. *The Steward: A Biblical Symbol Come of Age.* Friendship Press. 1982. This book will give you, the reader, a wonderful and complete understanding of what it means to be a steward.
- Brackett, The Rev. John K. *On the Pilgrim's Way: Christian Stewardship and the Tithe.* Morehouse Publishing, 1996. (EPS 52-0110) The book looks at many of Jesus' parables and what they mean in a stewardship context.
- Vincent, Mark. *A Christian View of Money: Celebrating God's Generosity.* Herald Press, 1997
- Volf, Miroslav. *Free of Charge.* Zondervan, 2005. The author suggests that we are at our human best when we give and forgive even in a world in which it seems to make little sense to do either.
- Durall, Michael. *Creating Congregations of Generous People: Money, Faith and Lifestyle Series.* Alban Institute, Inc., 1999. This book offers some practical ideas about ways to organize a year round program to encourage generosity. Caution: it does not contain any theology.

*This stewardship bibliography was prepared by
Bruce Rockwell
Financial Officer and Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship
Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts
And
President, Board of Directors
The Episcopal Network for Stewardship [TENS]*

Resources for Nurturing Generosity from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship [TENS]

Each of these four booklets are available from TENS [(800) 699-2669]. They can be easily mailed to all parish households in standard #10 envelopes.

Barnabas: A Model for Holistic Stewardship. A brochure written by The Rev. C.K. Robertson, Ph.D. The life of Barnabas provides a model for all of us: give generously, welcome graciously, seek out other workers, seek God's direction, take a supporting role, challenge the status quo, and err on the side of mercy. This study/reflection helps us understand how these principals can be applied to our lives. Bookmarks as well as the individual study guides are available from TENS.

From Scarcity to Abundance. A brochure written by The Rev. Mark Beckwith, Rector of All Saints Church, Worcester. This is an outstanding resource for teaching stewardship. It would be very helpful to a vestry thinking about writing a vestry stewardship statement. Utilizing the insight gained by over twenty years as a parish priest, Mark Beckwith gives a reflection on the miracle of Jesus' feeding of the five thousand. The author gives us a gift of deeper understanding of the relationship between scarcity and abundance, and of the realization that abundance truly opens us up to mystery and freedom. (TENS)

Spirituality and Money: 7 Questions that Saved My Spiritual Life by Mr. Bruce Rockwell. Here in booklet form is the story requested by so many attendees at conferences, retreats and workshops as well as those sitting in the pews, who have heard Bruce Rockwell, a member of our Conference Design Team, share his own spiritual awakening to a life of stewardship. Whether you mail this resource to everyone in your congregation or use it for small group study, this booklet will promote meaningful self-examination and lively discussions.

Stewardship: The Challenge of The Prodigal Son by The Rev. Mark Beckwith. A twelve-page booklet produced in a user-friendly, easy-to-mail format, this booklet lends itself well as a tract, take-home handout for conference or workshop participants, or an enclosure as a gift for a parish mailing. It is also a matchless resource for an Adult Church School Class, Forum or Study Group, or for the foundation of Stewardship Leadership Team formation or training. The author uses Jesus' well-known parable to illustrate the stewardship journey as a path that leads from lust to compassion. As Beckwith describes the familiar characters of the father and his two sons, we cannot help but connect their story to the reality of our own lives as stewards.

Other Resources from TENS

Networking. The TENS newsletter. Published six times annually and sent to every parish in our diocese and to all TENS members.

Resolution A138s is alive and growing. This booklet, developed by the Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development, is full of touching and often surprising

stories from those who have written stewardship statements. The book contains guidelines for the formation of your stewardship statement. (TENS)

A Treasure Chest of Stewardship Resources; a collection of parish resources which includes preaching suggestions, bulletin inserts, adult forum suggestions; bible study outlines, educational ideas for young people, a discussion of various financial commitment programs, even sample letters. (TENS)

Stewardship Curriculum

Abundantly Blessed, Abundantly Blessing: Celebrating Abundance and Blessings with our Children – Curriculum resource for young people – a resource for families to use in their homes to open conversation and teaching around stewardship through the sharing of stories, beliefs and practices about giving and receiving. (TENS)

Growing A Grateful, Generous Heart. This brand new curriculum provides the church with creative new resources for children and their families. Developed in collaboration with the Office of Stewardship at the Episcopal Church Center, it provides materials for parents and children of four different age groups: Preschool and kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2, Grades 3 and 4, and Grades 5 and 6. It comes with a Leader Guide, Workbooks for each of the four age groups, and a Parent/Family Resource. It is published by Morehouse and available through Morehouse.

Living with Money – An ecumenical adult education course for congregations that examines the subject of money in the context of Christian faith. The four to six-week course is designed to fit into the Sunday morning education time. The complete package includes four video segments to introduce sessions, a participant journal with Bible studies and twelve essays and leader's guide. \$125 per set. Available from The Episcopal Media Center, 1-800-229-3788, www.episcopalmedia.org

Living Our Covenant with God. This curriculum, also developed by Terry Parsons, is designed for small groups to discover new insights about our covenant relationship with God. While it would make an excellent Lenten Study, it can be used at any time of the year. It is designed so that anyone, lay or ordained, can lead the sessions. It is available through Episcopal Parish Services.

Talking about God and Money. This curriculum, developed by Terry Parsons of the Office of Stewardship, consists of a series of six conversations for small groups. Modeled around the Gospel Based Discipleship we are doing at this conference, the session titles include Wealth, God's Covenant, Laborers in the Kingdom of God, Investing in the Kingdom of God, Lavish Gifts of Love, and How much is Enough? It is available through Episcopal Parish Services.

*This stewardship bibliography was prepared by
Bruce Rockwell
Financial Officer and Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship
Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts
And
President, Board of Directors
The Episcopal Network for Stewardship [TENS]*