Some thoughts about Stewardship and its meaning in our lives

- **STEWARDSHIP** is a not program. **STEWARDSHIP** is a process, ... a process of **CONVERSION**.

- When God breaks in on a sufficiently prepared people, a new belief and practice of **STEWARDSHIP** is developed, and a joyful generosity emerges.

- Good **STEWARDSHIP** centers upon the conversion of people, not the collection of more dollars.

- Good **STEWARDSHIP** enables church leaders to talk about money in ways that transform lives.

- God loves us just where we are in our spiritual journey ... but doesn’t want us to stay there.

- There are more people who act their way into a new way of thinking than there are people who think their way into a new way of acting.

- Do we look at life from the viewpoint of scarcity or abundance? If you want to be rich, give. If you want to be poor, grasp.

**We know:**

- Money represents power, security, and identity in our culture
- Our relationship with money is a powerful force in our lives
- Money can control our lives

**We also know:**

- Many people come to hear about stewardship feeling defensive
- Congregations often are looking for a “quick fix” for what they believe are their financial problems
- Many so-called stewardship programs do not work because they focus on moral imperatives – “shoulds” and “oughts”

**We believe:**

- God gives us choices about how we use our money
The use of money has spiritual as well as material implications

It is important to create a safe place for people to experience acceptance, forgiveness and understanding over the sometimes tough issues of money

*If we are to assist people in their spiritual journeys and help them to make the “conversion connection,”*

**We will offer:**

- Opportunities for grace-filled experiences that will allow people to choose to reorient the way they use money
- Opportunities that will break the conspiracy of silence about issues of money and faith
- A process that will provide people with an opportunity to think about the role of money in their lives in an entirely new way
- An effective stewardship formation program that will bring about transformation in people’s spiritual lives

*What are some of the Words of Conversion, the words that describe our stewardship journey, the words that may invite others to join us in the journey?*

- Thanksgiving
- Grace, Gratitude, Generosity
- Abundance
- Offering
- Gifts, Giftedness
- Life-changing
- Spiritual health