

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.

Discover God's Design for life, the environment, finances, generosity, and eternity:

NIV Stewardship Study Bible. Zondervan 2009. This bible is a treasure-trove of stewardship information. Interspersed throughout the bible are introductions to each book of the bible, profiles of effective biblical stewards, quotes for illumination, as well as plans for further stewardship study. This bible is a must for every serious student of stewardship and one involved in stewardship formation.

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.

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.

McKenzie, Scott and Miller, Kristine. ***Climb Higher: Reaching New Heights in Giving and Discipleship.*** Abingdon Press, 2011. This book similar to Charles Lane's book begins with a good theological foundation for stewardship in the first half then offers many practical suggestions for parish stewardship formation in the second half with an appendix that contains excellent samples.

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. (Available through the TENS website)

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.

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.

Resources for Nurturing Generosity from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship [TENS] Each of these four booklets are available from TENS through the TENS website www.tens.org These booklets 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 Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith when he was Rector of All Saints Church, Worcester. (He is now Bishop of the Diocese of Newark.) 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.

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. Rt. 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.