

Table Discussion: Stewardship – The elephant in the room.

“Stewardship is a celebration, A joy!”

Stewardship is about how much can we give, not how little.

We live out of abundance.

Resources

- Diocesan website is a good resource. Lynd Mott will give the password.
- TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) is another resource that has programs for parishes to use and sample schedules/timelines for parishes to follow.
- New Consecration Sunday – A program from Cokesbury (Methodist Church) also available from Amazon – focuses on gratitude and blessings.

Clergy need to be involved in stewardship.

Make it personal to your church – including letterhead, etc.

Ingathering/Consecration Sunday should be a guest preacher.

1. Bring pledge cards
2. Hold a luncheon, not a potluck
3. Focus on abundance
4. Count the donations, then and there, and announce the results.

Explore operations and costs in small groups – no special sheets – do it throughout the year.

Ask for feedback, questions, etc.

Pacing of stewardship

1. Adult forum in spring with focus on stewardship
2. Pentecost Sunday – big party – how to get involved in church
3. Fall – month and a half personal stories from parishioners, how does giving affect your life? Stewardship is reciprocal giving.
4. Stewardship Sunday – Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Proportional giving should be emphasized – not necessarily tithing. What is your abundance?

How much can you give?

Be mindful of what you can give back in proportion to how much you have – This is intentional giving.

Rector has access to comparable giving amongst churches.