

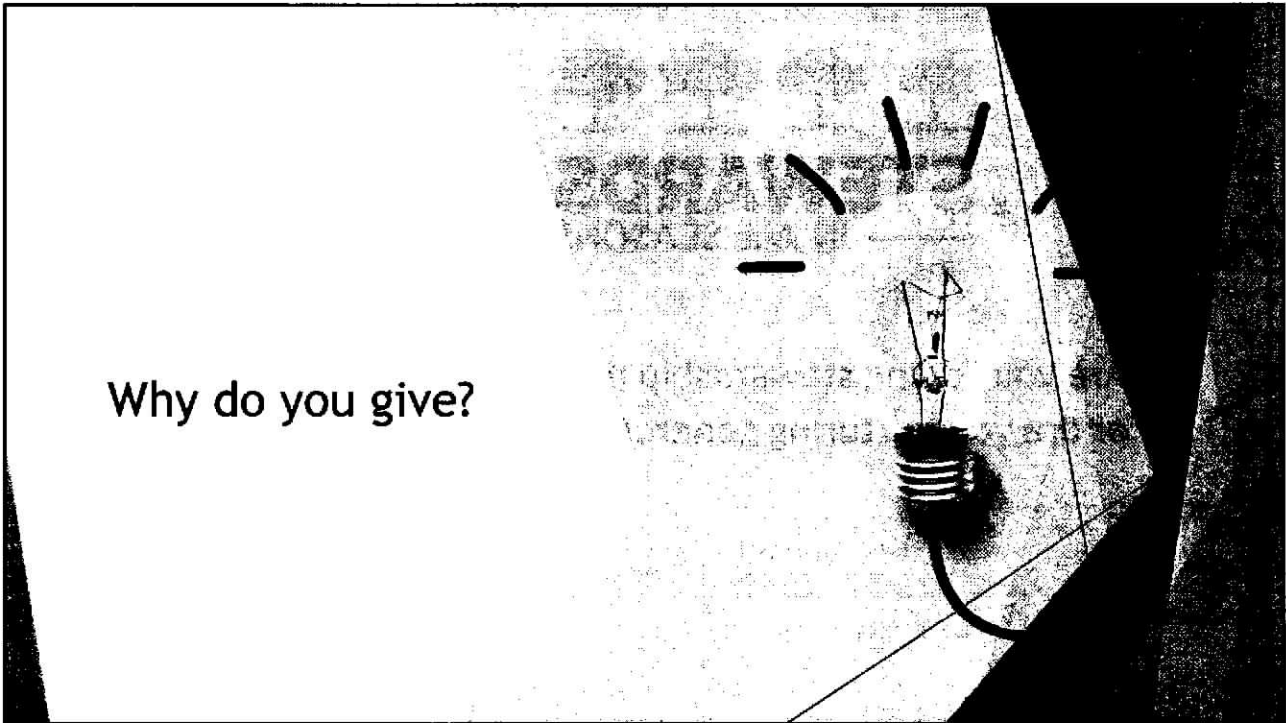


Year-Round Spirit-Filled Stewardship

Diocese of OK Vestry Academy March 2023

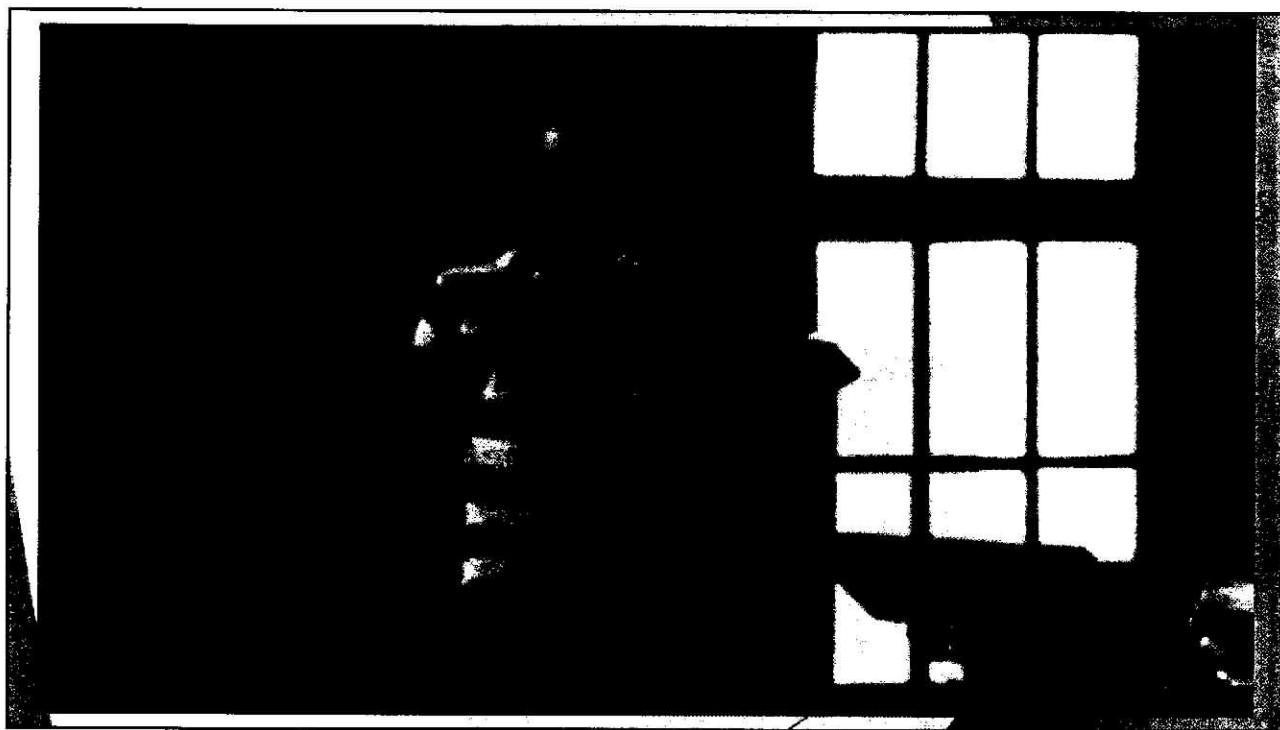
Leslie Pendleton

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Why do you give?

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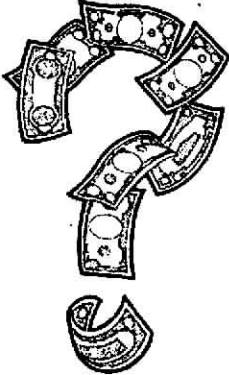
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STEWARDS
— IN ALL SEASONS

Are you “doing stewardship ministry”
or are you nurturing generous stewards?

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Personal money relationship

1. Am I using my time talent and treasure to be as God wants me to?
2. Was money ever a source of anxiety in your family of origin? Subject of an argument within the family? Something that was plentiful or scarce? Something that was saved? Spent? Or given away?
3. Money and Soul and value. Have you ever been promoted, or fired?
4. Why do you think Jesus spoke about money and belongings so much? Did Jesus only talk about money being bad or that it has the capacity to bring us closer or farther away from God?

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Fundraising as Ministry

Henri Nouwen says:

If our security is totally in God, then we are free to ask for money. This is the conversion to which fundraising as ministry calls us.

Asking people for money is giving them the opportunity to put their resources at the disposal of the Kingdom. To raise funds is to offer people the chance to invest what they have in the work of God.

When we have gained the freedom to ask without fear, to love fundraising as a form of ministry, then fundraising will be good for our spiritual life.

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Start with the Spirit

As you start planning, be thinking about ways you can:

- ▶ Give the people something to rejoice about
- ▶ Help people see giving as a spiritual practice
- ▶ Reflect how giving is related to joy, gratitude and humility

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Stewardship Ministry Purpose Statement

Through collective giving, the People of St. James rejoice in the power of many to do the work of God. Our Stewardship Committee helps our faith community develop the spiritual practice of giving with joy, gratitude, and generosity.

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Inject Spiritual Themes for Annual Stewardship Pre-campaign

- ▶ Question of the week
- ▶ Sermon topic
- ▶ Personal sharing of growth in giving

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Week	Question	Sermon	Personal witness from lay person
Sept 10	How do you give your time to church? Are we volunteers or ministers?	Lay down your nets and follow me.	What it meant to me spiritually as I became more involved with ...
Sept 17	Does money say anything about who I am? How successful I am? My family's place in society?	Why does God love us? What is our value? What are our values? Money and Soul and value. Have you ever been promoted, or fired?	Speak to an understanding of self worth and work (promotion or fired)
Oct 4	Are you angry, uncomfortable, surprised, happy we are talking about this in church? Why?	Why do you think Jesus spoke about money and belongings so much?	One way (or ways) I have changed the way I live to better reflect my faith...
Nov 20	What are you grateful for?	Grateful stewards. Why does it matter?	What I've learned about gratitude and faith.

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Use “Annual Campaign” in the Fall Use “Stewardship” Year-round

- Send letters that don't ask for money. Consider a mid-year stewardship letter to the congregation that thanks them for what is happening. Fills them in on good news happening at church because of their love and support. No ask!
- New vestry retreat. What new goals are there for this year? Do they need funding? Set a vision early in the year.
- Don't put all your formation time on the back of the annual campaign.
- Let the annual pledge campaign be more of a celebration, thanksgiving, vision casting for the new year

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Use “Annual Campaign” in the Fall Use “Stewardship” Year-round

- Offer learning opportunities each month. Feature a ministry and how/who/what it stewards.
- Offer a stewardship question of the month.
- Prioritize giving as a spiritual practice – Is this taught in Sunday school, confirmation, adult ed?
- Stress GROWTH in giving. It takes a lifetime, so be patient. Have we grown past reluctance in giving and past just feeling good about our giving to the point where we are truly joyful in our giving?
- Prayers of the people- regular thanks for the gifts of the congregation
- Is there help/guidance for those struggling with finances or debt?

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Heavenly Father

we pray that Your Word will continue to remind us that our gifts and abilities are attributed to us so that they can be used to serve others.

We pray that You touch our hearts so that we may serve honestly.

Help us to be good stewards of Your grace and let the work that we do be a reflection of You.

We pray that we will use our gifts according to Your will and purpose, in Jesus Name, Amen.