

Gratitude Cards

- How have you been blessed?
- What are the gifts in your life for which you are grateful to God?

These questions are taken (and re-worked for our purposes) from the book: Bounty: Ten Ways to Increase Giving at Your Church by Kristine Miller & Scott McKenzie. Abingdon Press. 2013. P. 7-8

Questions for Inviting Dialogue about Money and Stewardship

- Growing up, did you feel rich or poor? In what ways?
- Do you feel money has power?
- Has your self-esteem changed as your income has changed?
- How and when did you learn about giving to the Church? Who taught you?
- When was the first time you were asked to make a charitable gift?
- Does your current level of giving reflect your values and priorities?
- Do you believe your relationship with God is influenced by how much “stuff” you have?



The slightly too direct approach to Stewardship (Cartoon by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham)



SUBTLE CLUES THAT THE STEWARDSHIP SERMON DIDN'T QUITE REGISTER

Cartoon by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham

STEWARDSHIP QUOTES

Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; where your treasure is, there is your heart; where your heart is, there is your happiness. [Augustine](#).

If you give what you do not need, it isn't giving. [Mother Teresa](#).

In Matthew, Mark, and Luke 1 out of every 6 verses deals with money. Of the 29 parables Christ told, 16 deal with a person and his money. [Unknown](#).

I have tried to keep things in my hands and lost them all, but what I have given into God's hands I still possess. [Martin Luther](#).

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. [C.S. Lewis](#).

J.L. Kraft, head of the Kraft Cheese Corporation, who had given approximately 25% of his enormous income to Christian causes for many years, said, "The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord."

J.D. Rockefeller said, "I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was \$1.50 per week." [W. A. Criswell, A Guidebook for Pastors](#),

It's not what you do with the million if fortune should ere be your lot, but what are you doing at present with the dollar and quarter you got. [Unknown](#).

The trouble is that too many people are spending money they haven't yet earned for things they don't need to impress people they don't like. [Unknown](#).

Give according to your income, lest God make your income according to your giving. [Peter Marshall](#).

Captain Levy, a believer from Philadelphia, was once asked how he could give so much to the Lord's work and still possess great wealth. The Captain replied, "Oh, as I shovel it out, He shovels it in, and the Lord has a bigger shovel." [Today in the Word, July, 1990, p. 28](#).

Leftovers are such humble things,
We would not serve to a guest,
And yet we serve them to our Lord
Who deserve the very best.
We give to Him leftover time,
Stray minutes here and there.
Leftover cash we give to Him,
Such few coins as we can spare.
We give our youth unto the world,
To hatred, lust and strife;
Then in declining years we give
To him the remnant of our life.

[Author Unknown](#).

There Are Two Seas

There are two seas in Palestine.

One is fresh, and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn its banks. Trees spread their branches over it and stretch out their thirsty roots to sip of its healing waters.

Along its shores the children play as children played when He was there. He loved it. He could look across its silver surface when He spoke His parables. And on a rolling plain not far away He fed five thousand people.

The river Jordan makes this sea with sparkling water from the hills. So it laughs in the sunshine. And men build their houses near to it, and birds their nests; and every kind of life is happier because it is there.

The river Jordan flows on south into another sea.

Here no splash of fish, no fluttering of leaf, no song of birds, no children's laughter. Travelers choose another route, unless on urgent business. The air hangs heavy above its water, and neither man nor beast nor fowl will drink.

What makes this mighty difference in these neighbor seas? Not the river Jordan. It empties the same good water into both. Not the soil in which they lie; not the country round about.

This is the difference. The Sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the Jordan. For every drop that flows into it another drop flows out. The giving and receiving go on in equal measure.

The other sea is shrewder, hoarding its income jealously. It will not be tempted into any generous impulse. Every drop it gets, it keeps.

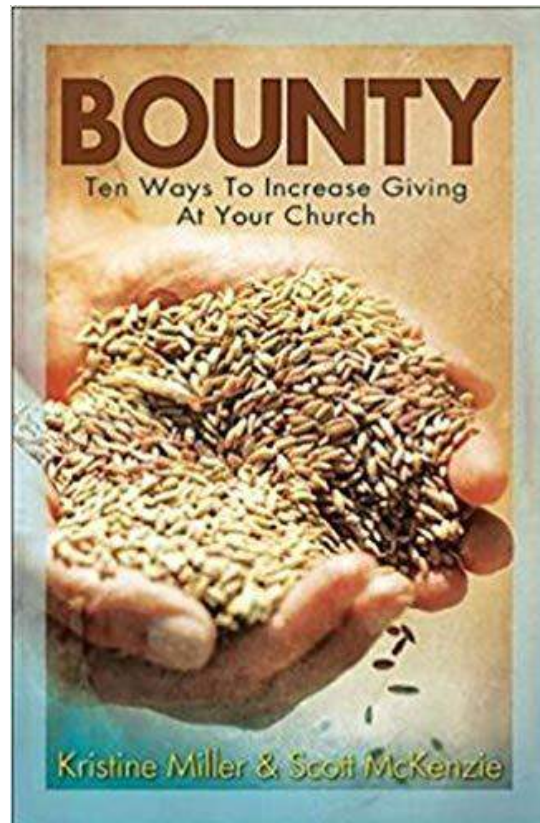
The Sea of Galilee gives and lives. The other sea gives nothing. It is named The Dead.

There are two kinds of people in the world. There are two seas in Palestine.

Bruce Barton wrote this short piece, "There are Two Seas" for McCall's in 1928. John D. Rockefeller used it as a parable in his speech for a United Fund campaign. It was also reprinted in the Reader's Digest in 1946.

Bounty: Ten Ways To Increase Giving At Your Church

by Kristine Miller & Scott McKenzie



Church leaders struggle with issues related to financial giving every year, in every economic climate. Most do not want to preach about the topic, and some don't even like to think about it. The topic of financial giving is, for many, a perennial headache and an energy drain. Many church leaders have not considered the single most important aspect of giving, however. *Bounty* explores the critical spiritual component of stewardship development, and in ten immediately do-able and transformative steps, clearly instructs pastors and laity how to lead congregations to grow in generosity. Laid out with sound rationale and the wisdom of real-church experience, *Bounty* equips leaders to shift their congregants' hearts as well as their pocketbooks. *(Review from Amazon.com)*



Online Stewardship Resources Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

Links

TENS: The Episcopal Network for Stewardship tens.org

(We are a member diocese. This year's username is: Mark password: 10:21)

Episcopal Church Stewardship Resources episcopalchurch.org/stewardship

(including a wonderful video series by Walter Brueggemann, biblical scholar)

Episcopal Church Data

episcopalchurch.org/posts/research/study-your-congregation-and-community

Find Data about your congregation's participating and giving trends, as well as community demographics here.

Proportional Giving Chart stmarkshonolulu.org/pledge-online

(There are many you can choose from on-line. Here's one)

"The Spirituality of Fundraising" by Henri Nouwen article (pdf)

www.gcx.org/LynnFamily/files/2013/07/Spirituality-Of-Fundraising.pdf

Online giving platforms

Tithe.ly

get.tithe.ly

easyTithe

easytithe.com

Stewardship Testimonial Videos

(samples to inspire you to tell your story ☺)

John Rovell's 2012 Stewardship Testimonial (St. Stephen's, Houston has many Stewardship videos on YouTube. Use the search tool to look for more)

youtube.com/watch?v=ApTCrH3RfA0

St. James Episcopal Church of South Pasadena: Stewardship

youtube.com/watch?v=JkWKhpB-P_8

St. John's Episcopal Church, Roanoke, VA Stewardship Video

youtube.com/watch?v=cQCE3BilsQ0

2013 Stewardship Video #2 – CJ youtube.com/watch?v=3WEycY47NI4

Stewardship Stories Larry Sakala 2016 youtube.com/watch?v=A6fdIReLSuA

Stewardship Testimonial Videos (continued)

Grace in Action: The Top 10 Reasons for Giving to All Saints

[youtube.com/watch?v=reShHsumbU0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reShHsumbU0)

What does it mean to be a good steward? [youtube.com/watch?v=ecnWuTXmsJc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecnWuTXmsJc)

Personal Finances

On-line classes about personal finances stewardship (\$10 each or subscription-based access) churchnext.tv/library/by/category/finances

(ChurchNext has many worthwhile courses on a variety of faith topics)

Year-Round Stewardship Resources

Episcopal Diocese of West Texas:

dwtx.org/departments/stewardship/year-round-stewardship

“Vestry Papers” Article: ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/367/liberating-stewardship

Episcopal Diocese of Olympia (a treasure-trove of resources)

resources.ecww.org/stewardship-and-giving

A different approach to stewardship:

ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/312/no-more-pledge-cards-please

For a Deep-Dive

TED talks on generosity: ted.com/playlists/214/on_generosity

“What we Need is Here” by Parker Palmer onbeing.org/blog/what-we-need-is-here

Funding for Ministry

cnyepiscopal.org/funding



The Episcopal Network for Stewardship

The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York is a Member!—so are you!



As a member of TENS, you will receive helpful material only available in the Member Resources section of the website. That section will require a login and password only available to members. It will include materials designed to make your annual giving program more successful. The 2018 theme for the year round stewardship program will be "Transforming Generosity" and will include:

- Letter introducing the Transforming Generosity series
- Weekly Bulletin Inserts, based on the lectionary, during Pledge Campaign season
- Letter from the Rector to:
 - members who are new to the congregation and have not pledged before
 - members who have stayed the same in their giving
 - members who practice proportional giving
- Letter from the Stewardship Ministry Team
- Letter from the Senior Warden introducing Pledge Commitment Card
- Pledge Card
- Proportional Giving Chart
- Thank you letter
- Prayers of the People
- Blessing over Pledge Cards
- Bi-monthly to quarterly inserts for parish newsletters on Stewardship including all aspects of stewardship in our lives
- Spanish language translation for most materials

Log into tens.org under “Resources”

User name: Mark

Password: 10:21

transforming generosity

Introduction



Our theme for 2018 is rich with opportunity for broad conversations about generosity and transformation. In fact, it would be easy to include everything about our Christian faith under this topic.

I'm reminded of a paragraph in Peter Gomes' book *The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus*. In the chapter "What Would Jesus Have Me Do?" Gomes writes:

Our situation would be easier if Jesus were less clear about the priorities he sets for us. At the heart of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." "All these things" refers to such things as food, clothing and other fundamental necessities of life, plus security, safety and moral clarity. The priority that Jesus asks us to seek is God's kingdom, God's righteousness, the first thing about all else to which we are meant to direct our attention and efforts. That is also the first petition in the pattern of prayer that Jesus taught his followers to say: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...." We should notice that only after that priority is established are we encouraged to ask for our own needs in the form of daily bread.

How would "generosity" be transformed if we remembered what Jesus is always calling us to do? We are indeed called to establish new priorities for ourselves and our communities of faith.

Too often the annual pledge drive is limited to funding the church's budget instead of transforming how we look at our calling as Christians. Too often we worry about surviving instead of taking up Jesus' challenge to us to thrive.

When we establish new priorities for ourselves and for our churches, we transform how we think about generosity. That transformation will call us to look for generosity in every aspect of our work, in every aspect of our lives. Remember the tenth chapter of Mark's Gospel, "Jesus, looking at the man, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'"

Once again, Jesus calls us to look at what Gomes calls "the long view." Once again, Jesus challenges us to give all of ourselves to God's righteousness and trust in God's care.

What a challenge! What transformation!



Richard Felton
Executive Director/CEO



A Regional Conference

Sponsored by The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) and The Diocese of Rochester

Saturday, September 15, 2018

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

25 Westminster Road

Rochester, New York 14607



The Rev. Charles Cloughen Jr.

*Priest, author, director of planned giving
for the Diocese of Maryland*



Richard Felton

*Executive Director and CEO,
The Episcopal Network for Stewardship*

Keynote

***When Responding to God's Generosity,
No Gift Is Too Large***

The Rev. Charles Cloughen Jr.

Workshops

Year-Round Stewardship - Charles Cloughen

Narrative Budgets: Telling Your Story - Richard Felton

Don't Leave a Mess: Planning for the End of Life
- Charles Cloughen

Money Autobiography - Richard Felton

The Rector's Role in Stewardship - Charles Cloughen

Developing Major Gifts - Richard Felton

Accessing the TENS materials - Richard Felton

Register by clicking here: [Eventbrite](#)

\$50 for registrations by September 1, 2018.

\$75 thereafter; fee includes coffee, tea, and lunch.

Scholarships are available.

Contact Richard Felton, rfelton@tens.org