

One of the most tangible expressions of our stewardship is the way we model and mentor our children in stewardship of God's gifts. We hope, with these resources, to support you and your families and parishes with ideas and resources that help our children to learn, in gratitude, to love God, one another and all God's creation. We pray this resource affirms and encourages children (of all ages!) to grow in gratitude and intentional stewardship practices that create a lifelong relationship and passion for sharing all God's gifts. We realize you may already have well established and beloved practices in place for including children in the language and practice of stewarding and hope these resources will enrich your traditions with new ideas. Please feel free to contact any of the members of the CNY Episcopal diocesan Stewardship team with your ideas and questions.

Children's Stewardship Resources and Ideas

Love God:

Books

- God Thinks You're Wonderful, Max Lucado
- When God Made You, [Matthew Paul Turner](#)
- Old Turtle (Lessons of Old Turtle), [Douglas Wood](#)
- Berenstain Bears Give Thanks, Michael & Jan Berenstain
- Berenstain Bears and the Big Question, Michael & Jan Berenstain
- Berenstain Bears, God Loves You, Michael & Jan Berenstain
- Berenstain Bears God Shows the Way, Michael & Jan Berenstain
- I'm in Charge of Celebrations, Byrd Baylor

Activities

- Let the Children Give: Time, Talents, Love, and Money, [Delia Halverson](#)
- <https://childrensministry.com/indoor-sunday-school-games/> activities/games for helping children of all ages, also appropriate for "loving one another"
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7FHbFWKzVY> nursery rhyme sing-along
- https://buildfaith.org/talking-stewardship-a-gift-to-young-people/?mc_cid=a57641b6aa&mc_eid=8f92f4bf8a Virginia Theological Seminary article about developing awareness and practices of gratitude with children
- https://buildfaith.org/sharing-stewardship-with-children-activity/?mc_cid=a57641b6aa&mc_eid=8f92f4bf8a another great article from Virginia Theological Seminary about ways to practice and talk about stewardship with children

Crafts

Children create their own pledge envelopes, decorated with their own ideas for stewardship. Each child can be assigned an envelope number, assuring that their contribution is honored and acknowledged, just as the adults are. Assure that they have an opportunity to give each week (coordinating this with the Sunday School schedule and the offertory).

Love One Another:

Books

- [Antiracist Baby Picture Book](#), Ibram X Kendi
- [77 Ways Your Family Can Make a Difference: Ideas and Activities for Serving Others](#), Penny A. Zeller
- [We're Different, We're the Same \(Sesame Street\)](#), Bobbi Kates
- [I Am Enough](#) by [Grace Byers](#)
- [The Berenstain Bears' Caring and Sharing Treasury](#) by Jan Berenstain, Jan & Mike Berenstain, Mike Berenstain
- [Berenstain Bears Think of Those in Need](#), Michael & Jan Berenstain
- [Berenstain Bears Lend a Helping Hand](#), Michael & Jan Berenstain
- [Berenstain Bears Love Their Neighbors](#), Michael & Jan Berenstain (also in Treasury)
- [The Table Where Rich People Sit](#), Byrd Baylor
- [The Giving Box](#), Fred Rogers

Activities

- Children are called "Saints in Training", emphasizing importance of being a giving (good steward) person, patient and kind.
- Book exchange for students at Meecham Elementary School in Syracuse Valley (deep poverty in this area of Syracuse)- collection of gently used books given to students to borrow for summer, exchanged for different books
- Community Service Day- children participate in parish-wide activities, potting plants, assist college kids, sweep sidewalks in town, assist elderly, homebound people in neighborhoods with various tasks
- Thanksgiving – 50 white bags are decorated by children, filled with items donated by parish, children organize and fill bags for distribution with Thanksgiving meals to area residents

- Christmas ornaments are begun by members of parish, completed and distributed to all parishioners by children during worship service
- Mother's Day- children create and distribute seed crosses to all parishioners by children
- Father's Day- children create and distribute golf tee with Jesus to all men

(you might also consider giving these seed crosses or golf tees to those who have filled the roles of parenting: nurturing, guiding, providing, challenging, etc.)

- Partnership with visitors from Guatemala- create blankets, using squares with names, tied off given to take back to Guatemala
- Monthly ministry- a large box, decorated by children for collection of items; children choose monthly recipient of contents of box, such as homeless-warm socks, SPCA-pet food & items, food pantry-food items or personal care items, local ministries- requested items; flyers are sent home to remind families (Thank you to Laura Posecznick, director of Children's Ministry at St James, Skaneateles for these ideas)
- heartofdeborah.com- 5 brilliant ways to teach kids about diversity <https://multiculturalkidblogs.com/2017/07/17/teach-kids-diversity/> This site offers a rich variety of resources, some that are purchased, others free, that help families nurture respect and curiosity about our diverse world
- <https://www.communityalliesvbs.com/?fbclid=IwAR0Ct94z7qcwMGlu54Bsq6kjMxx-duvYVdcbNYKK0xSEG5oG5Z36kp8mQFA> anti-racist VBS curriculum building on previous vacation bible school curricula that offers arts and crafts activities, music, movement, "coming together while apart" as a response to COVID 19 restrictions on gathering
- <https://www.vox.com/2020/8/29/21404446/systemic-racism-explained-to-kids> This website offers slightly older kids (10yrs +) discussion guides and activities that present and examine the complex issue of systemic racism. You'll find other related sites here that you may also find helpful.

Love Creation

Books

- [Experiencing Nature with Young Children; Awakening Delight, Curiosity, and a Sense of Stewardship](#), Alice Sterling Honig

- Earth Our Garden Home: Creation Care Lessons for Children, Cynthia Coe
- Nature Crafts for Kids, 50 Fantastic Things to Make with Mother Nature's Help, Gwen Diehn and Terry Krautwurst
- We Are Water Protectors, Carole Lindstrom
- Berenstain Bears Nature Guide, Michael & Jan Berenstain
- Berenstain Bears Discover God's Creation, Michael & Jan Berenstain

Activities

- Garden at church, children assist in caring and harvesting- food is placed on Abundance Table in front of church to be shared by anyone on street
- <http://www.letallcreationpraise.org/> offers rich resources for worship, including liturgies, music (familiar tunes with re-written lyrics that emphasize creation awareness, love for God's creation), sources for books that connect spirituality with creation

Crafts

- [https://www.pinterest.com/dioaladirectors/stewardship-of-creation/Episcopal Diocese of Alabama Christian Formation](https://www.pinterest.com/dioaladirectors/stewardship-of-creation/Episcopal-Diocese-of-Alabama-Christian-Formation) ideas for various crafts & activities that are children and family friendly
- <https://www.pinterest.ca/dpearlylearning/environmental-stewardship-possibilities/> more crafts and activities for linking stewardship of our environment with our Christian practices