



Stewardship Department The Episcopal Diocese of California

Planning for Year-round Stewardship, a how to

1. List all of the learning opportunities already available in your congregation.

These may include sermons, Christian Education/Sunday School, a Bible study group, Education for Ministry (EFM), Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC), Vacation Bible School, etc. See what stewardship formation already exists in these programs. Is your one idea you want to teach being addressed in any way?

2. Talk about the best ways to teach your idea for the year.

These might include:

- Guest speaker
- Saturday workshop
- "Extra" Sunday morning educational offering
- Several weeks of mid-week small group study
- Article or series of articles in the newsletter
- Small group study (book, Bible, or some other)
- Summer "Ice Cream Social" Chautauqua style evening

3. Decide how you will know you have communicated the message.

In other words, set some performance goals that help you evaluate.

These might be

- Message included in mailing to every household
- Appropriate educational opportunity provided for every generation
- If the teaching is one that encourages a behavior change, is there some way to see if anyone did it? For example, if you are encouraging people to tithe, can you find out if anyone decided to do that?

4. Make the plan

- Put your activities on the church calendar
- Make assignments to carry out the plan. (Who will arrange what speaker, for example, and by when will they have done this?)
- *Allocate the money required*

5. Prepare to enjoy teaching and/or learning!

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Year Round Stewardship Ideas from St. John's Oakland

- Advent Guide published with ideas for holding the holy in the holiday (includes ideas for alternative gifts, crafts with kids, ways to simplify your own holiday)
- Advent Giving Tree
“Ornaments” list gifts which parishioners purchase to benefit one of our supported persons affiliated with our church outreach projects. Gifts are blessed once bought and placed under the tree in the church.
- Stewardship of Time Mini-Retreat
2 hour seminar on claiming abundance of time. Led by outside facilitator (Note that a good resource is Receiving the Day, by Dorothy Bass, which includes workshop).
- Stewardship of Gifts & Talents Mini-Retreat
2 hour seminar on noticing, discerning, and using our own gifts and talents in God's world. Led by outside facilitator. (Note that Lloyd Edwards has a good book on this, which includes ideas for leading workshops on the topic).
- Meditation Book
Publish Stewardship meditations by parishioners during pledge drive period. Consider involving children and youth.
- Pentecost Commissioning of Stewardship Team
Formal commissioning to ministry for the Stewardship Ministry Team
- Stewardship of Creation Liturgy
Summer outdoor service

Other Ideas:

Lenten Education Series on Abundance vs. Scarcity (St. Aidan's San Francisco developed this, which included abundance of material resources, safety and security, environment and creation, time. More information available from Deborah Frangquist at workpath@ix.netcom.com)

Multigenerational scripture study on stewardship themes, developed by Diocese of California (includes active scripture discussion on Bible stories related to being a steward). Available from TENS to members.

Our Covenant with God and Money and God adult study programs, created by Terry Parsons, Episcopal Church Center, Missioner for Stewardship.

Create a discussion group about How Much Is Enough?, by Pamela York Klainer

Adapt liturgy throughout the seasons (prayers of the people with more thanksgivings, dance the offering plates to the altar during Easter, highlight gratitude in prayers of the people, etc).

“Everything We Do With Everything We Have”