

Characteristics of a Good Steward Program

1. Leadership (clergy, parish council, and stewardship team) lead by example. They are committed to tithing. This is not a requirement; it means they will try giving proportionately as we work towards the tithe.
2. Clergy witness publicly to their own understanding of being a Good Steward. They encourage and invite the congregation to think about their own stewardship journeys.
3. The stewardship team has a plan. This plan supports the mission statement of the parish and the ministry/mission priorities.
4. Stewardship education focuses on the need of the giver to give, not the need of the church to receive.
5. Education for the stewardship team, parish council and clergy is expected and is provided for in the stewardship budget.
6. Stewardship is a year round ministry – a team is committed to the responsibility for seeing that this is so. The financial focus period is only one activity in that responsibility.
7. Members of the stewardship team pray often, individually and collectively.
8. Members of the stewardship team worship on a regular basis.
9. The stewardship team meets on a regularly and includes a brief inductive Bible study.
10. Talking about money is expected – Jesus talked about it all the time!
11. Telling the “story” is one of the programs primary tasks. It begins with God’s story and leads to the stories from the congregation.
12. The stewardship team is intentional about seeking out new members to the team with appropriate gifts. Recruitment is essential as the team changes somewhat each year.
13. Basic assumptions about stewardship are:
 - o Stewardship is about changing lives.
 - o Stewardship programs are guided by grace, not guilt.
 - o We are God’s stewards. What we do grows out of our relationship with God.
 - o Stewardship involves loving acts of thanksgiving in response to all that God has given us.
 - o Stewardship is defined as “Using the gifts God has given us to do the work God is calling us to do.
 - o Stewardship is fun!