

DID YOU KNOW...?

Did you know that... Stewardship is a way of life, but sadly for many church members it is that time of the year when they are asked to fill out a pledge card. Stewardship is basically synonymous with “management.” Are we good managers of all that God has given us? We are expected to be Stewards of our time, talents, Spiritual Gifts, relationships, family, professional life, and yes, even of the Gospel itself. Like any other spiritual discipline it takes time for people to grow into mature, generous, joyful stewards. If that is the case, creating a culture of stewardship is a planned initiative throughout the year.

The following are a few but far from comprehensive ideas for a planned stewardship initiative.

- Sponsor a small group utilizing a book on stewardship. E-mail me and I'll send you a bibliography of books.
- Have a monthly “Stewardship Moment” that never mentions money or giving. A youth or child can share how much they appreciate the time and energy shared to create fun and exciting learning opportunities. A choir member can share how the opportunity to sing enables them to truly experience worship and the fulfillment of serving. A participant can share how they experienced the presence of God through a mission trip and they were thrilled they took the time to go. This is not a comprehensive list. Use your imagination. Notice all of these are supported by giving to the church but none mention money.
- Host a Ministry & Mission Fair so the members and friends of the church have the opportunity to observe the comprehensive ministry of the church, but equally find ways to serve. They thus are stewards of their time and talents.

- Establish intentionality among church leaders to invite the marginally involved, who only worship, to participate in ministry opportunities. Ask each leader of the committees/teams in the church to identify the five people they will cultivate during the coming year. Obviously the ministry area has to have some level of perceived interest and the invitation has to be based on relationships.

- Thank You times 10 is the rule for a person to feel appreciated! Every week thank a ministry team in some fashion! Every week thank donors during the offering and thank them again in the bulletin and thank them again in a quarter newsletter that tells the ministry story. Never send a statement of giving without telling the story.

Of course, there are many more ideas. Of course, none of this is new information. However, just like the cycle of growing and maturing disciples, it has to be intentional. The same is true for maturing stewards.

What does this have to do with the Council on Development? Did you know stewards in Sunday School grow into better stewards during the income years who then become mature stewards with their planned giving? How can we at the Council on Development help you develop a year round stewardship plan?

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENT

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