

The Episcopal Diocese Of Arizona
presents...

STEWARDSHIP UNIVERSITY

Stewardship As a Way Of Life:
Understanding Giving

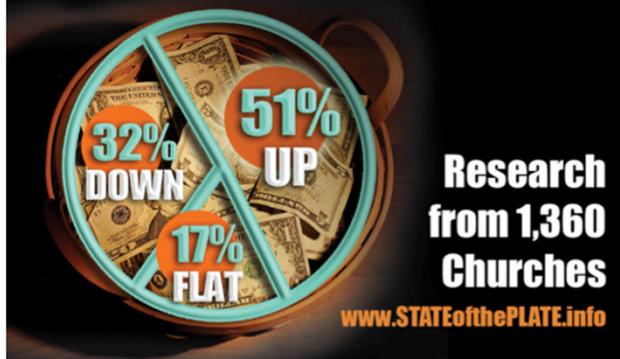
How's *Your* Giving Going?



ONE DOLLAR ... LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME FOR
THE SERMON ON TITHING AGAIN

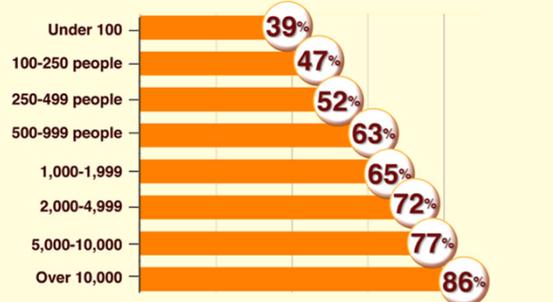
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Donations Up in Majority of Churches Church giving trends in 2011



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2012 STATE OF THE PLATE RESEARCH % of churches experiencing an INCREASE IN GIVING based on worship attendance



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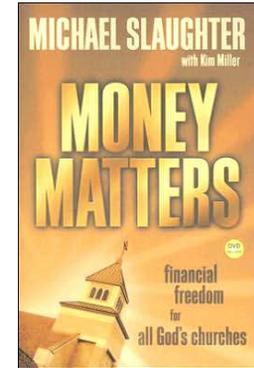
Why Do So Few Give?

- Number One enemy: FEAR
 - The Economy... (but not for all)
 - Excessive debts devour income

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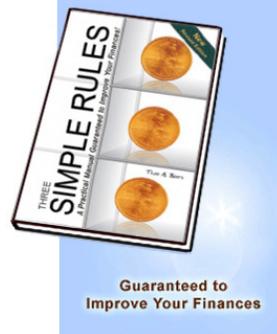
- People are struggling with debt and other money issues
- Offer financial education programs that teach giving from the beginning



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Why Do So Few Give?

- Number One enemy: FEAR
 - The Economy... (but not for all)
 - Excessive debts devour income
 - Conditioned to consume: "affluenza"

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Why Do So Few Give?

- How you **ask** people *matters*
- No clear purpose/mission
- "Bill-paying" mentality = reduced giving
- "What happens to my gift?"

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Stewardship Is About *Discipleship*, Not Membership

What's your Stewardship Committee's mission statement?

July 25, 2012

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Stewardship Is About *Discipleship*, Not Membership

"The goal of our Stewardship ministry is to raise enough money to pay the bills next year."

- Focus on institution's \$\$ needs
- Who supports an unclear mission?

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Stewardship Is About *Discipleship*, Not Membership

"The goal of our Stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents and finances that God has entrusted to them."

Charles R. Lane
Ask, Thank, Tell

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Discipleship Contrasts Sharply With Membership

- ❑ *Not* institution focused
- ❑ Giver's relationship with Jesus
- ❑ The congregation: those *among whom* the relationship is lived out

Connected to Christ



Connected to Community

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The Problem With Stewardship When It's Only About Money

- ❑ People = "giving units"
- ❑ Neglects other aspects of stewardship
- ❑ Mission takes back seat to paying bills...



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The Problem With Stewardship When It's Only About Money



- ❑ Detracts growing closer with God
- ❑ Focuses on institution
- ❑ Ignores Great Commission

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Key Principle To Consider

SHIFT the RELATIONSHIP...

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Shift The Focus and Emphasis

- Make Stewardship about *Discipleship*, not Membership
- Focus on the Giver's need to give, not on the Church's need to receive

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Are You Takers Or Givers?

- How's your relationship with **your** givers?
- Feel guilty asking?
 - Even for a "good cause?"
- No wonder so few want to serve!



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Are You Takers Or Givers?



- **Shift The Relationship!**
- See Stewardship ministry as GIVING

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You Are Giving To Your People...

- A Spiritual Home – *Your Church!*
- Profound spiritual growth - study, worship, friends
- Opportunities to serve Christ in "the Other"
- Peace of mind that comes with generosity



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You Are Giving To Your People...

JOY
JOY
JOY
JOY
JOY

- from being a generous giver
- offering “first fruits”
- in seeing ***lives transformed***
- growing “the Body”

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You Are Giving To Your People...

- GIVING not *taking!*

“Remember that our Lord Jesus said, ‘More blessings come from giving than from receiving.’”

Acts 20:35



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Stewardship Is About *Discipleship*, not Membership:

Focus on the Giver’s need to give:

- Language of **discipleship**, not *membership*
- Absolutely help people grow in Christ
- An abundance of Scriptural support
- Help people ask the right questions

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Stewardship Is About *Discipleship*, not Membership:

Membership question:

“How much does our church *need?*”

Discipleship question:

“How am I *being called to respond* to God’s gifts and presence in my life?”



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What Are The Characteristics Of A Biblical Giver?



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Portrait Of A Biblical Giver

Value # 1 **Intentional**

- A plan for giving and then give by that plan

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

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Portrait Of A Biblical Giver

Value # 2 **Regular**

- Giving whenever you receive income

“Every Sunday each of you make an offering and put it in safekeeping. Be as generous as you can. When I get there you'll have it ready, and I won't have to make a special appeal.”

1 Corinthians 16:2

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Portrait Of A Biblical Giver

Value # 3 **Generous**

- THE basic stewardship value
- We can't out give God
- *Key belief:* we will always have enough because God provides us with all we need

Jesus said, 'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'

Luke 12:34

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Portrait Of A Biblical Giver

"It is hard to imagine anyone who is serious about discipleship giving one or two percent of his or her income to God's work through the church. It is equally difficult to imagine a tither who isn't serious about discipleship. Generous giving is the *sine qua non* of discipleship."

Charles R. Lane
Ask, Thank, Tell

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Portrait Of A Biblical Giver

Value # 4 **First**



- Giving to God first, living off the rest
- 10-10-80 rule
- An essential key to generous giving
- Bp. Rickel: "The 'first-ness' is more important than the 'tenth-ness.'"

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Portrait Of A Biblical Giver

Value # 5 **Proportional**

In proportion to the blessings you have received

- The Widow's Mite



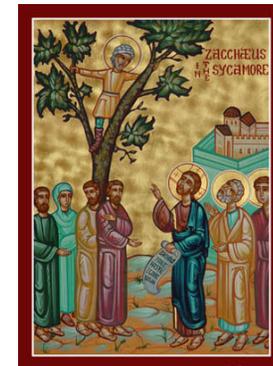
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Portrait Of A Biblical Giver

Value # 5 **Proportional**

In proportion to the blessings you have received

- Zacchaeus
- "How am I *being called to respond* to God's gifts and presence in my life?"



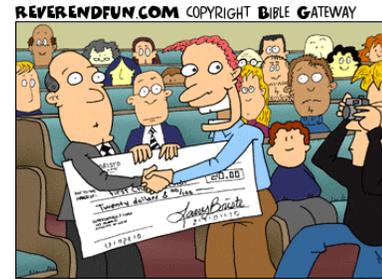
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Weekly Giving Guide

ANNUAL INCOME	MONTHLY INCOME	WEEKLY INCOME	4%	6%	8%	10%	12%	15%
18,000	1,500	346	14.00	21.00	28.00	35.00	42.00	52.00
25,000	2,083	481	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	58.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	69.00	87.00
40,000	3,333	769	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	92.00	115.00
45,000	3,750	865	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	104.00	130.00
50,000	4,167	962	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	115.00	144.00
60,000	5,000	1,154	46.00	69.00	92.00	115.00	138.00	173.00
75,000	6,250	1,442	58.00	87.00	115.00	144.00	173.00	216.00
100,000	8,333	1,923	77.00	115.00	154.00	192.00	231.00	288.00
125,000	10,417	2,404	96.00	144.00	192.00	240.00	288.00	361.00
150,000	12,500	2,885	115.00	173.00	231.00	289.00	346.00	433.00
175,000	14,583	3,365	135.00	202.00	269.00	337.00	404.00	505.00
200,000	16,667	3,846	154.00	231.00	308.00	385.00	462.00	577.00
225,000	18,750	4,327	173.00	260.00	346.00	433.00	519.00	649.00

Portrait Of A Biblical Giver

Value # 6 Cheerful



MOST PEOPLE THOUGHT HE WAS A LITTLE TOO SHOWY

- Natural outcome of all the values

"God loves it when the giver delights in the giving."

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Giving Is An Act of Worship



- "In God We Trust"
 - A reminder?
 - Or a confession?
- First appeared on our paper money in 1957

Giving Is An Act of Worship



- Giving arises out of **gratitude**
- Response to God's blessings and giving

Giving Is An Act of Worship

□ The Offertory Sentence

- "Ascribe to the Lord the honor due His name; **bring offerings** and come into his courts."

□ St. Andrew's Episcopal, Grand Rapids

- Offering without ushers: offering our selves, our souls and bodies...



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Giving Is An Act of Worship

- **Give** whenever we attend Church and receive Communion
- "But we give by check once a month?"
- Introduce "Sunday dollars"
- Role model for others



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Where Your Treasure Is...

"**Fear not**, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**"

Luke 12:32-34

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Last, but not least...



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