

Christopher, J. Clif **Not Your Parent's Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship**, Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-0-687-64853-5

*REQUIRED READING. Along with Ask, Thank, Tell, this book ought to be required reading for all vestries, Bishop's committees and Finance committees—it is certainly **required reading** for ALL CLERGY IN CHARGE of a congregation. Not to be missed, or dismissed lightly.*

Christopher, J. Clif **Whose Offering Plate Is It: New Strategies for Financial Stewardship**, Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-1-4267-1013-1; *REQUIRED READING*

Last year, Dr. Christopher released this second book that answers many questions from real pastors and ministers who read the first book or saw Rev. Christopher at one of his seminars: "Exactly how do I go about gaining access to the donor records when my church has prohibited it for a hundred years?" "How do I explain a meeting with just those who are strong givers without alienating those who are not?" "How can we advocate online giving without encouraging some to abuse their credit cards?" "What should letters to different giving constituencies look like?" These among many other questions are addressed in this excellent sequel. *Required reading for ALL CLERGY, as above.*

Durall, Michael **Creating Congregations of Generous Givers**, Alban Institute, 2000. On Sale: 20% off: only \$11.20 from Cokesbury.com: "Asking parishioners for money is very different from creating congregations of generous people. In this provocative book, stewardship consultant Michael Durall argues convincingly that annual pledge drives inadvertently perpetuate low-level and same-level giving in congregations. Written with the voice of experience, **this book will help clergy and lay leaders initiate and sustain effective stewardship programs**. Durall believes that asking for money eventually becomes routine, even tedious—but creating a congregation of generous people becomes ever more meaningful with passing time." 2001 Alban Book of the Year. **Required Reading for Clergy**, *Vestries & Bishop's Committees, et al.*

_____, **Beyond the Collection Plate: Overcoming Obstacles to Faithful Giving**, Abingdon Press, ISBN-13: 9780687023158; ppbk, \$18, from Cokesbury.com: "Written for pastors, finance committees, and everyone involved in the financial life of congregations, *Beyond the Collection Plate* will serve as an indispensable guide to how the priorities of God's kingdom can determine how money in the church is raised, managed, and spent. This book is intended to help readers strengthen the bond between parishioners' daily lives and their charitable giving. It analyzes attitudes in church toward giving and managing money, demonstrates how many prevailing practices in stewardship campaigns and fundraising have lost their effectiveness, and provides strategies for encouraging more sacrificial giving." *AN EXCELLENT PAIR OF BOOKS BY DURALL!*

Grimm, Eugene, and Miller, Herb **Generous People: How to Encourage Vital Stewardship** (Effective Church Series) Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 1992. ISBN-10: 0687140455 ISBN-13: 978-0687140459 *Recommended.*

Jamieson, Janet T. & Philip D. **Ministry and Money: A Practical Guide for Pastors**, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, KY, 2009. ISBN 978-0-664-23198-9. This book is EXACTLY what its title says it is, and so much more. *For any member of the clergy who has been intimidated by money, financial reports and the budgeting process.* But that's not the best part—it's the Theology of Money section that makes this book invaluable. Dare I say it's required? *Strongly Recommended.* Save 35% online at www.Cokesbury.com right now!

Lane, Charles R. **Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in your Congregation**, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, Minneapolis, MN, 2006. ISBN-10: 0806652632; ISBN-13: 978-0806652634 **REQUIRED READING.** *A virtual paint by the numbers book on how we must begin to see Stewardship as a discipleship matter, and how to best ask, thank, and tell our people about what we do as a church and how people's gifts of money to our congregations help transform lives.*

Robertson, C.K. **Transforming Stewardship**, Church Publishing, New York, NY, 2009. *Practical, hands on guide to doing effective stewardship in congregations, and a good supplement to the philosophy offered in Lane and Christopher above. Filled with anecdotes and ideas that inspire, the tools offered in the last half of the book are worth the price alone!*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION STUDY RESOURCES for use in an Adult Ed. class

Macomber, Debbie **One Simple Act: Discovering the Power of Generosity**, Pocket Books, ISBN-13: 9781439175576, ppbk; Cokesbury.com, 20% discount: \$6.39 STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FOR ADULT STUDY GROUPS. "In a world that often seems stingy and grudging, Debbie Macomber has seen that living in a spirit of kindness and charity can yield unforeseen miracles. In *One Simple Act*, Macomber shows how lives are changed in unimaginable and wonderful ways by "random acts of kindness," providing real stories to help readers discover what happens when we commit simple acts of generosity. Written with Macomber's award-winning skill and sensitivity, *One Simple Act* is a call to action, inviting readers to live with open hands to change lives—including our own—in ways never imagined." –debbiemacomber.com

Powell, Mark Allan **Giving To God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life**, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI, 2006. ISBN 978-0-8028-2926-9 *Excellent scriptural grounding throughout, that all belongs to God, the honor of being a "steward," and much, much more. A perfect book for Sunday school, Advent or Lenten series.*

Twist, Lynne **The Soul of Money**, W.W. Norton & Company, New York, NY, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0393329506 *Written by an experienced fundraiser, The Soul Of Money explores our relationship with money and how that affects our culture, lives and spirit. Though not expressly religious, this would be an excellent book for an Adult Christian formation, supplemented with scriptural texts to illustrate her points. You'll look at your own money differently when you've finished this great book.*

ONLINE SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY

Here are two web based spiritual gifts inventory that prints out your results on your computer's default printer:

<https://www.do-my-profile.com/actions/showquiz.php?password=divinity&companyid=9404>

<http://archive.elca.org/evangelizingchurch/assessments/spiritgifts.html>

I think the first link is better, more exhaustive, and the output more useful.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

These programs are "out of the box" type operations that require significant preparation for optimum results—don't wait until the last minute! Get now and allow yourself all the time needed for maximum effectiveness. (These are presented in no particular order or preference. Research each one for appropriateness for your specific congregation's needs.)

Enough:

Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity **\$29.99** for DVD; **\$9.44** for Leader's Guide
<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/search.aspx?ddlSearchScope=&txtSearchQuery=enough%20by%20adam%20hamilton>

Church leaders are struggling to help their congregations respond to the violent ebb and flow of the economy. While their members are simply trying to stay afloat financially, the budget of their church is suffering as well. In the midst of all of this, though, there is God and a divine calling for each of us.

With *Enough* Stewardship Program Guide, Adam Hamilton offers a simple campaign that will transform how the church and individuals view the role of money in connection with their life's purpose and the positive impact that transformation will have on the world.

Extravagant Generosity: The Heart Of Giving Planning Kit **\$55.19** (20% discount)
<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=940973>

Stewardship programs rise or fall on their ability to do two things: first, provide church leaders easy-to-grasp yet comprehensive help in planning and implementing the program; and second, connect stewardship to the spiritual lives of all the members. Created by Michael Reeves and Jennifer Tyler, *Extravagant Generosity* is built on Bishop Robert Schnase's groundbreaking book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*.

Program includes: An overview timeline, providing quick information on what happens during each week of the stewardship campaign; a guidebook for leaders that covers all aspects of the campaign, from detailed plans for each of the four Sunday services to marketing materials like flyers and postcards to e-mail messages and letters designed to be sent to specific groups within the congregation—all available on the enclosed CD-ROM; a small-group leader's guide to host Sunday school and other small groups during the program; a DVD with video segments for four group-study sessions and short clips for use in worship.

Grow One Sunday Stewardship program on-line **\$10.50 + \$9.25** per 100 Commitment cards
<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=439779>

Experiences in congregations of many denominations across the United States indicate that **Grow-One Sunday is especially valuable in six kinds of churches:** 1.) Small congregations 2.) Churches that have never conducted an annual stewardship program 3.) Churches whose unpleasant experience with an ineffective stewardship model in past years prejudiced them against conducting any kind of financial stewardship program 4.) Large churches that find the traditional "celebration luncheon" in the popular **New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program** logistically impossible, due to lack of space 5.) Churches that want to change from a stewardship program they have used for several years but seems to have lost its appeal 6.) Churches that want their financial stewardship education to focus on spiritual growth rather than on fund-raising.

Grow-One Sunday is a spiritual-growth program as well as a financial campaign. It **is based on the biblical theology of "the need of the giver to give" for his or her own spiritual development**, not on the "need of the church to receive" in order to balance its budget. Permission is granted to photocopy the complete program (not excerpts) for use in congregations.

Committed to Christ: Six Steps to a Generous Life by Bob Crossman, Abingdon Press, \$80.00, UPC: 843504028886, from Cokesbury.com. "A six-week stewardship program that presents giving as a lifelong journey in Christian discipleship. After an introductory Sunday stressing the importance of commitment to Christ, the next six weeks are spent exploring six steps to a generous life: Prayer, Bible Reading, Worship, Witness, Financial Giving, and Service. With each step, through worship, sermons, and small group activities, the congregation is asked to assess prayerfully their own level of commitment and to consider increasing that commitment by one step. Equal emphasis is placed on each of the six steps, clearly communicating that *this program is not simply about money, but rather cultivating a thankful heart that will lead us to giving more than we can ever imagine.*" Perfect for a Lenten program—the small investment to do this right will make a lasting, life-changing impact on your congregation. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**

Transformed Giving Stewardship program **\$81.99 + \$11.00** per 100 Commitment cards
<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/search.aspx?ddlSearchScope=&txtSearchQuery=transformed%20giving>

You can give your members the refreshing benefits of a 40-day spiritual development program... far more attractive to them than a standard contribution series. Your congregation will see that financial solicitation is not the primary focus of this 40-day study. However...**enhanced giving from the heart will flow out as one result of this faith-building experience.**

Once a week, your adult classes or small groups can all experience identical lessons, which build on the shared themes found in your private daily readings during the past 7 days. The questions provided in your *Treasures of the Transformed Life* Participant's Workbook can also serve as discussion starters for your group. Group commitment to the same private daily readings of

Treasures of the Transformed Life over a 40-day period can provide your Sunday School class, small group, or entire congregation with a unifying experience.

Your church can enjoy all the benefits of greater unity. Through synchronized private readings, group study, and coordinated worship messages...your entire congregation can be immersed together as a single body in the same fulfilling step-by-step transformation. This shared experience can lead them in unity to improved stewardship.

With God's Permission (FREE from ELCA)

<http://archive.elca.org/stewardship/withgodspemission/>

"With God's Permission," is a program of financial response based on ***an asset-based approach*** to congregational dynamics. This simple program can help your congregation fund God's mission in a fresh and exciting manner, providing enjoyment and energy to the task of asking for and receiving commitments for financial support from your congregation members.

"With God's Permission" is a worship-based financial response method – i.e., members' financial commitments collected during a worship service – and also includes members in several preparatory "mini-events" during the three Sundays preceding a final Sunday worship service.

This program lasts a total of eight weeks, including three single-Sunday 90-minute after-worship "mini-events," a Sunday "Celebration of God's Permission", and one week each of preparation and follow-up.

Make it Simple: A Resource for Stewardship Education and Annual Response (FREE from ELCA)

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Discipleship/Stewardship/Make-it-Simple.aspx>

Make It Simple is a congregational stewardship resource to assist you in stewardship education--about simplicity and generosity--and in conducting a response method by which you collect congregation members' commitments to support financially God's mission in your midst. May God's Spirit embolden you in your stewardship and your service. ***Great resources, including video!***

Personal Financial Management programs

It behooves us to help people sort out the financial mess their lives might be in. The first two programs will do that, while the other will challenge the routine way we think about our money.

Three Simple Rules, by Theo A. Boers, www.threerules.org

This book is written from a Christian perspective, but first and foremost it is based on sound personal financial management principles. The Addendum includes two pages referencing scriptures dealing with work, honesty, giving, saving, taxes, and contentment. It offers a step-by-step process of realistically setting goals and addressing needed changes to spending, debt, assets, and income. The easily understood language and examples will help the reader confidently walk through the pages to improve their financial life. A Leader's Guide is available, with accompanying PowerPoint presentation, to make this an easy to prepare and deliver financial course for your people.

Money Matters: Financial Freedom For All God's Churches, by Mike Slaughter

Imagine feeling free from financial worry, free from debt, and free from the never-ending pressures of juggling all those financial demands. Imagine...feeling in control of your finances. ***MONEY MATTERS: financial freedom for all God's children*** (leader's Guide w/ DVD) shows you how to do God's math, on spiritual principles found in Scripture: Debt-Free Living, A Disciplined Lifestyle, Surrender & Trust, Stewardship vs. Ownership, Focus & Planning, Easy Simplicity, Creating vs. Consuming, Generosity. Each participant will household will need a copy of the ***MONEY MATTERS*** book.

Share. Save. Spend. by Nathan Dungan

Their new product is: Financial Sanity. The *Financial Sanity* DVD and Leader's Guide provides a simple but complete script to help you lead a group through all four one-hour sessions of the Financial Sanity seminar. You don't need to be a financial advisor or a professional speaker to effectively facilitate this seminar. Best of all – it requires minimal preparation to get started. See it all at: www.sharesavespend.org