

Christopher, J. Clif **Not Your Parent's Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship**, Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 2008. "Hearing a young attorney speak of the faith-based reasons for which he had just made a substantial monetary gift to a community youth center, Clif Christopher asked the speaker if he would consider making a similar contribution to the congregation of which he was an active member. 'Lord no, they wouldn't know what to do with it' was the answer. That, in a nutshell, describes the problem churches are facing in their stewardship efforts, says Christopher. Unlike leading nonprofit agencies and institutions, we too often fail to convince potential givers that their gifts will have impact and significance. In this book, Christopher lays out the main reasons for this failure to capture the imagination of potential givers, including our frequent failure simply to ask." Review from Cokesbury.com **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.

_____, **Whose Offering Plate Is It? New Strategies for Financial Stewardship**, Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 2008. **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: "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.

_____, **Rich Church, Poor Church: Keys to Effective Financial Ministry**
REQUIRED READING for all Lay leaders and clergy.

Dombek, Timothy & Durall, Michael **Making The Annual Pledge Drive Obsolete: How Churches Can Get Out of This Business Once and For All**, CommonWealth Consulting Group, Golden, CO. 2014 \$16.00; buy 11+ only \$12 each: vitalcongregations.com/books/index.html

"A powerful book that should be required reading for all church leaders. The authors offer thoughts both practically and spiritually grounded that will transform our understanding of charitable giving and the use of money in the church." The Rev. CK Robertson, Canon to the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, and author of *Transforming Stewardship*

Durall, Michael **Creating Congregations of Generous Givers**, Alban Institute, 2000. "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.**

Hastings, J Val **Change Your Questions, Change Your Church: How to Lead with Powerful Questions**. Coaching4Clergy, 2012. "This book is filled with stories from churches just like yours. You'll read how they applied a coaching approach of powerful questioning, which led to a greater impact in both their church and their broader community. Using their examples, along with the sample questions and practical instructions included, you can have the same results in your church. Where could powerful questions lead you and your church? - To a greater vision of what is possible. - To concrete action steps. - To a place of deeper curiosity, discovery and awareness. - To a much-needed reality check. - To acknowledgement of who you are. - To a deeper experience of God." from Amazon.com. **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FOR CLERGY**, to help move a congregation forward in its mission.

Jacobs, Deborah L. **Estate Planning Smarts: A Practical, User-Friendly, Action Oriented Guide**, DJWorking Unlimited Inc., Brooklyn, NY. 2014 \$24.95; estateplanningsmarts.com

"If the thought of doing an estate plan gives you goosebumps, you're not alone. But if you don't handle this yourself, you can be sure the government will handle it for you, and things may not turn out the way you would have wanted. Consider what happens without a will, for example. State law determines how your belongings get distributed. If your children are minors, a court will appoint a guardian for them. And you may lose the chance to take advantage of various ways of saving taxes... **Estate Planning Smarts**, by Deborah L. Jacobs, is a book for these uncertain economic times, for people who are feeling less wealthy – or not wealthy at all. "Now, more than ever, estate planning is not just about money, but also about love, family and legacy," Jacobs writes. **Estate Planning Smarts** applies to everyone, whether or not they need to be concerned about estate taxes. For example, there are chapters on planning for our own mental decline, providing for loved ones, minimizing the income taxes that eat away at retirement accounts, and hiring a lawyer." –from the website, www.estateplanningsmarts.com/whybuy1.html

Jamieson, Janet T. & Philip D. **Ministry and Money: A Practical Guide for Pastors**, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, KY, 2009. 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 for ALL CLERGY.**

Keucher, Gerald **Remember The Future: Financial Leadership and Asset Management for Congregations**, Church Publishing, New York, NY Retail: \$18.00 On Cokesbury.com now at 32% off: Only \$12.24 From Cokesbury.com: "Keucher's primer on sound asset management encourages leaders of congregations to remember the future when they're making decisions so that the needs of the present are balanced against what's best for the long term." Excellent information on managing building for income, endowments (especially!) and fund-raising, too.

Lane, Charles R. **Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in your Congregation**, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, Minneapolis, MN, 2006. **32% off** at Cokesbury.com **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—get it for all your Leaders!!*

Miller, Kristine & McKenzie, Scott **BOUNTY: Ten Ways To Increase Giving at Your Church**, Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 2013. EXCELLENT RESOURCE! The review: "Church leaders struggle with issues related to financial giving every year, in every economic climate. Most do not want to preach about the topic, and some don't even like to think about it. The topic of financial giving is, for many, a perennial headache and an energy drain. Many church leaders have not considered the single most important aspect of giving, however. *Bounty* explores the critical spiritual component of stewardship development, and in ten immediately doable and transformative steps, clearly instructs pastors and laity how to lead congregations to grow in generosity. Laid out with sound rationale and the wisdom of real-church experience, *Bounty* equips leaders to shift their congregants' hearts as well as their pocketbooks." *from Cokesbury.com*

Mosser, David **The Stewardship Companion: Lectionary Resources for Preaching**, Westminster/John Knox, Louisville/London, 2007. Introduction by Will Willimon. "Every week churches must address issues related to stewardship. With deep pastoral sensitivities and solid biblical knowledge, veteran pastor and author David Mosser draws one Scripture passage from each week in the three-year lectionary cycle to provide a brief reflection on how that passage can be used to teach and preach about stewardship. Mosser's inspirational and motivational reflections offer a clear connection between the lectionary Scripture passage and the matters of stewardship. The reflections offered here address a variety of issues related to stewardship, making this book an essential resource for all pastors, worship leaders, and stewardship committees." Review from Cokesbury.com

Nouwen, Henri **The Spirituality of Fundraising**, Upper Room Publishing, Nashville, TN, 2010. "Rather than viewing fundraising as a necessary but unpleasant task in supporting spiritual endeavors, Henri Nouwen asserts that fundraising is a ministry. The question that Christians must explore is their relationship with money and whether they find security in God or their possessions. Drawing on many lessons from scripture, Nouwen emphasizes that individuals must be moved to a common vision in order to feel generous in giving to a fundraising effort. For the act of fundraising involves not only the gift of money to a common goal but also the gifts of involvement, energy, and prayer for a common mission." Review from Cokesbury.com ; where you can now **Save 32%**, \$8.16 Order \$30 total and receive *free shipping!*

Sharp, Ronald F. **Living Trusts for Everyone: Why a Will is Not the Way to Avoid Probate, Protect Heirs, and Settle Estates**, Allworth Press, Skyhorse Publishing, Inc., New York, NY, 2010. \$11.72 on Amazon.com: "The misconceptions surrounding the last will and testament need to be put to rest: Wills benefit lawyers. Trusts benefit you. Period. Too often lawyers sell wills to clients only to sit back and wait to sell their probate services to their client's heirs. Modern estate planning should utilize the Living Trust as the effective, efficient, and inexpensive alternative to a will. Living Trusts for Everyone: Why a Will is Not the Way to Avoid Probate, Protect Heirs, and Settle explains why wills are not the best way to handle an estate and details the many advantages trusts have over wills in not only eliminating probate, but protecting your assets for your heirs." -Amazon.com

Wilson, Russell **The Millionaire in The Pew: A manual on deferred gift raising for Clergy and religious leaders**. WestBow Press, Bloomington, IN, 2012. *From Cokesbury.com: The Millionaire in the Pew* presents a new and unique approach to funding ministry and mission. Wilson asserts that there is untapped wealth in the Church that could be harvested. He believes that clergy and religious leaders possess many of the qualities of highly successful professional fundraisers. He also believes that if they can overcome the "taboo" of dealing with money and fundraising, they can raise millions of dollars for the Church. *The Millionaire in the Pew* argues that fundraising is a very spiritual practice.

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Corcoran, Thomas and White, Michael **Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter**, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN, 2013. "Cardinal Timothy Dolan ends the preface to this guide to congregational resurrection by declaring, 'If you love your parish, read this book!' Readers must be open-minded as White, a pastor, and Corcoran, his lay associate, explain how they revitalized their suburban parish of 'demanding consumers' - 'convenient parking' was the top reason parishioners chose the church -- into a vibrant community of disciples. *Essentially a how-to manual, it is easy to read, filled with stories, lists and action items directed at priests, lay ministers, and concerned parishioners*. But the authors also admit that they lost many parishioners along the way, and they are unapologetic about angering those opposed to change. They also don't concern themselves with major disagreements within the church, but focus on issues of parish culture. They borrow extensively from evangelical culture... In their efforts to reach the lost, the authors remain humble, wondering in the end if they still cross the line into pandering to consumers. Their model may not appeal to all, but they offer a starting point to address the critical issue of Catholics leaving the church. (Feb.) Copyright 2013 Publishers Weekly Used with permission." from Cokesbury.com (Emphasis mine.)

_____, **Tools for Rebuilding: 75 Really, Really Practical Ways to Make Your Parish Better**, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN, 2013. "Michael White and Tom Corcoran know that the fundamental work of the Church is to evangelize - to introduce people to Christ and make them disciples. Still, they're the first to admit: 'the difficulty comes when we reach down into the details and get to work.' In 'Tools for Rebuilding', White and Corcoran share 75 foundational tactics that helped rejuvenate their parish. Their candid, hands-on advice gives a clear way forward - one that will make Church matter to the people in the pews and that anyone working in parish ministry can implement." *from Cokesbury.com*

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.)

BRAND NEW! Treasure: A Stewardship Program on Faith and Money, Abingdon Press, May 2014. “Whether you are in plenty or in want, money has a direct connection to your values, your faith, and the health of your relationships. It’s no wonder that in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus presented a radical message about our “treasure” and our hearts. In this four-week stewardship program and church-wide study, Jacob Armstrong uses Matthew 6 to reexamine how we look at our finances and possessions, through the counter-cultural teachings of the Sermon on the Mount. This kit includes one each of the Daily Readings, the DVD, and the Program Guide and Flash Drive.”

first - putting GOD first in living and giving (Program Guide with Flash Drive) Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 2013. Electronic Media Save 20% Now at Cokesbury.com Only \$23.99 “In **first: putting God first in living and giving**, pastor and author Mike Slaughter guides participants through a four-week all-church stewardship program to help them reassess priorities and create a culture and a lifestyle of faithful living and giving and make a meaningful contribution to the world. To help parents educate and model generosity for their kids, **first** includes components for children and youth that help families explore financial decisions together. Sessions include: Naming Our Idols; Money, Work, and Debt; Earn—Save—Give; and Heart Giving. The Program Guide with Flash Drive lays out the basic plans for the campaign including schedules, letters, art files, and more found on the accompanying flash drive.” from Cokesbury.com

Grow One Sunday Stewardship program on-line **\$10.50 + \$9.25 per 100** Commitment cards at Cokesbury.com 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.

Biblical Stewardship: Our Duty and Delight, with Dr. Mark Allan Powell, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. Stewardship means “belonging to God” - all that we are and all that we have comes from God. We are grateful to God for it all, and responsible to God for how we use it. There is a connection between stewardship and spirituality: generous giving as a spiritual discipline helps us to grow in Christ. “Duty and delight” are both motivating factors for giving - doing what we ought to do as responsible church members, and making cheerful sacrifices out of love for God. The overarching theme of this course is, “This is good news!” The biblical message of financial stewardship is: promising and encouraging; not (usually) guilt-inducing; a way of life; for many of us, it just may be the way to a better life. This course features seven 20-minute video sessions on DVD, and a comprehensive study guide and participant handouts.

<http://www.selectlearning.org/category/Stewardship/biblical-stewardship-our-duty-and-delight>