

# Year-Round Giving

Presented by the Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek, Stewardship University – Stewardship As a Way Of Life.

*“Remember that our Lord Jesus said, ‘More blessings come from giving than from receiving.’”* Acts 20:35. Stewardship As Giving – We need to make stewardship a year-round event, not just an annual campaign.

Some suggestions for year-round Stewardship that you can do – based on Stewardship University 2013

## **December – Advent – Beginning a New Year**

- Advent Quiet Day for reflection and rest
- Promote alternative gift giving ideas
- Angel Tree for needy children/families
- Winter Discretionary Fund Appeal

## **January – New Year’s Resolutions**

- Handwritten Thank You notes to Annual Response donors
- Spiritual Gifts Discernment opportunity for all
- Energy Audit facilities: look for ways to save money
- Begin planning for VBS
- Youth project “Souper Bowl of Caring”

## **February – Caring for Our Loved Ones**

- Offer a wills workshop for all ages
- Offer community money management program
- Lent: Outreach offering/service project

## **March – Spring Cleaning!**

- Offer classes on church membership including an introduction to Stewardship
- Good Friday offering: Diocese of Jerusalem
- Handwritten Thank You notes to Lay ministers

## **April – God claims Earth and everything in it**

- Congregational clean-up day – with thank you lunch provided for all
- Observe Earth Day
- Offer family game or movie night – Talent Night!

## **May – Giving Thanks for Our Families**

- Mother’s Day observation – focus on Women’s ministries
- Handwritten Thank You notes to ECW/Altar Guild members
- Welcoming New Members liturgy or event

### **June – Summertime!**

2<sup>nd</sup> Handwritten Thank You note to all pledgers – “with your support, look what we are doing ...”  
Provide bank draft, on-line or e-giving opportunities  
Youth Service  
“Vacation bulletin” bulletin board

### **July – Rest, Relaxation and Refreshment**

Host a VBS (Vacation Bible School)  
Parish picnic/cook-out  
Sermon/story of transformation  
Preach about Spiritual Gifts

### **August – Back to School**

Blessing of Teachers and backpacks  
School supplies drive for local school  
Include prayers for students and Schools in Prayers of the People  
Leader Appreciation Sunday

### **September – Offering Our Life and Labor to God**

Parish retreat (Chanco on the James)  
Spiritual Gifts Discernment for all  
Ministry/Mission Fair – Where to serve and use your Spiritual Gifts  
Repeat Money Management class for community

### **October – Harvest Time!**

Introduce the Annual Response program  
Offering for Episcopal Relief and Development  
Preach on being a “steward”  
Weekly stories/witnesses of transformation

### **November – Now Thank We All Our God**

Luncheon/workshop: *While in Health: Preparing for Final things (wills, powers of attorney, funeral plans etc.)*  
Ingathering of and prayer over pledges  
Ecumenical/community Thanksgiving worship service  
Thanksgiving meal outreach

Stewardship ministry committee meets monthly throughout the year.

### **Book Study Suggestions:**

*How Much Is Enough*, A. Simon  
*The Soul of Money*, Lynne Twist  
*Rich Church, Poor Church*, by J. Clif Christopher  
*How Your Church Family Works*, Peter Steinke  
*One Simple Act*, Debbie Macomber