

Teaching and Guiding Stewardship

Round Table

Sponsored by The National Capital Presbytery

Presented by, **Mark Ewert**
Stewardship Consultant, Author, Coach



Stewardship Prayer

O Lord our God,
who givest liberally and upbraidest not,
teach us to give cheerfully of our substance
for thy cause and kingdom.
Let thy blessing be upon our offerings,
and grant us to know the joy
of those who give with their whole heart.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.



Thanks & Introductions

- Our Hosts
- Mark Ewert, The Stewardship for Us Team
- Who is in the room?
 - Roles
 - Ages
 - Economic levels
 - Education levels



Two Specific Challenges Today

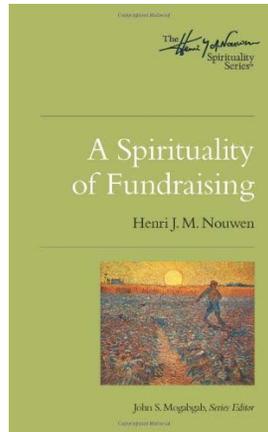
- 1. You** lead by doing:
 - Step in and grapple with your own finances so that you are engaged in stewardship in a deeper way
 - Talk openly about money
 - Be willing to speak about your own stewardship, in light of your faith
 - Be JOYFUL!



Two Specific Challenges Today

We have seen that many people have a hard time asking for money because money is a taboo subject. It is a taboo subject because our own insecurities are connected with it, and so we are not free.

-- Henri Nouwen



Two Specific Challenges Today

Those of us who ask for money need to look carefully at ourselves. The question is not how to get money. Rather, the question is about our relationship with money. We will never be able to ask for money if we do not know how we ourselves relate to money.

Fundraising is a call to conversion. And this call comes to both those who seek funds and those who have funds.

-- Henri Nouwen



Two Specific Challenges Today

- 2. Reorient your thinking** so you can communicate to all of your parishioners
- Most parish communications are leader to leader
 - Parishioners are intelligent and uninformed
 - Most parishioners do not share your concerns
 - Parish stewardship is unlike anything else in our economic lives
 - Most do not understand stewardship and how it works



Two Specific Challenges Today

Not Nuts and Bolts

- Not timelines or forms
- Not Biblical orientation

Instead: Challenges of Human Community

- Of leading
- Of learning
- Of building communities of love, faith, and service
- We are humans, and face human challenges every day



Spending

View Video

The Money List

From a Methodist congregation in San Antonio, TX

<http://youtu.be/IMtd7r5jd8Y>



Charitable Giving

Church Vs Nonprofit

- How **worthy** is your church?
- How good are you at telling its story?
- How effective are you at speaking to the difference between giving to a nonprofit and giving to your church?
- How gracious & skilled are you at asking and receiving?



Stewardship

Spiritual and Pastoral Concern

- Stewardship is a response to God's grace; only then a tool to raise the church budget
- Stewardship is a function of discipleship and promotes spiritual growth
- Stewardship as a caring ministry
- "What you need, needs you"



Stewardship

If we ask for money, it means that we offer a new fellowship, a new brotherhood, a new sisterhood, a new way of belonging. We have something to offer – friendship, prayer, peace, love, fidelity, affection, ministry with those in need – and these things are so valuable that people are willing to make their resources available to sustain them.

-- Henri Nouwen



Stewardship

3-Fold Purpose of Stewardship

1. Fuel the organization
2. Achieve ministries:
 - Grow faith and love in individuals, and as community
 - Community service and justice work
3. Grow in right relationship around money as a community of faith and love



Teaching Smart People

- Smart, successful, mature, accomplished
- Yet must teach stewardship
- People's finances vary over lifespan. If you want an age-diverse and racially diverse congregation, need to welcome all to stewardship
- People's financial lives are extremely complex
- Tithing is quite rare.
 - If your guidance starts and stops at tithing, you are over people's heads



Teaching Smart People

PRIMES

View Stewardship Video

From Belleview Presbyterian Church
Belleview, WA

<http://youtu.be/4t5paM1Y0Rk>



Teaching Smart People

PRIMES

- **P**actice
- **R**elationship
- **I**nstruct
- **M**odel
- **E**ngage
- **S**how



Teaching Smart People

PRIMES

- **P**actice: Invitation to a process, structure, or occasion to practice giving generously
- **R**elationship: Cultivating guiding relationships with people around financial generosity
- **I**nstruct: Giving direct guidance and instruction for practice



Teaching Smart People

PRIMES

- **M**odel: Openly acting in generous ways, discussing giving plans, and volunteering
- **E**ngage: Inviting people to participate in meaningful volunteering or connected donorship
- **S**how: Exposing to others who are disadvantaged or to issue areas, so they experience and have first-hand understanding



Teaching Smart People

PRIMES

View Stewardship Video

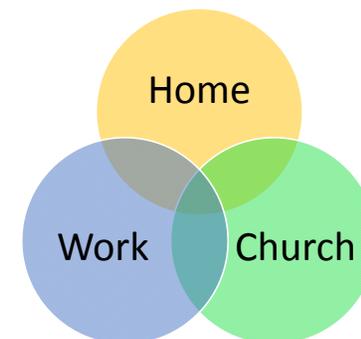
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
Houston, TX
With Rev. Dave Peterson

<http://youtu.be/nG4brM-xgjQ>



Building Communities of Generous People

Three Spheres of Money Worry



Building Communities of Generous People

Good stewardship by individuals is done with joy
Good stewardship by churches is done in celebration



Building Communities of Generous People

Pulling the alarm bell around money is sometimes necessary

If you do it regularly or too often, you will hamper stewardship



Building Communities of Generous People

Social Dynamics

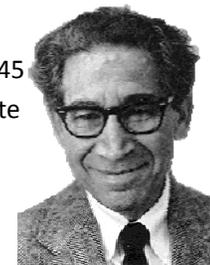
- Assumptions
- Frustration
- Burnout
- Social Comparison



Building Communities of Generous People

Social Comparison

- Social Psychologist, Leon Festinger, 1945
- Drive within individuals to gain accurate self-evaluations
- Upward and downward social comparison



Building Communities of Generous People

Your Church is Economically Diverse

- Diversity is not obvious
- Economic challenges and windfalls are unspoken
- Financial problems are a spiritual, pastoral, caring concern
- Poverty creates distress
- Wealth can also create distress



Teaching Smart People

PRIMES

View Stewardship Testimonial Video

Advent Presbyterian Church
Cordova, TN

<http://youtu.be/T2eZ9kJeWRE>



Building Communities of Generous People

Welcoming Into Stewardship

- Give guidance, before joining
- Not proscriptive or commanding
- No guilt, shame, or manipulation
- Welcoming at every level of resource:
 - Wealthy
 - Middle
 - Disadvantaged
- Challenge at every level of resource
- Speak openly about money and stewardship
- Tell your own story
- Always caring, supportive, and inspiring



Building Communities of Generous People

Give Guidance

- From Presbyterian Foundation

ANNUAL INCOME	APPROXIMATE WEEKLY COMMITMENT PROPORTIONATE TO INCOME						
	15%	10%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%
75,000	216.00	144.00	100.00	87.00	72.00	58.00	43.00
60,000	173.00	115.00	80.00	69.00	58.00	46.00	35.00
50,000	144.00	96.00	67.00	58.00	48.00	38.00	29.00
45,000	130.00	87.00	61.00	52.00	43.00	35.00	26.00
40,000	115.00	77.00	54.00	46.00	38.00	31.00	23.00
35,000	101.00	67.00	47.00	40.00	34.00	27.00	20.00
30,000	87.00	58.00	40.00	35.00	29.00	23.00	17.00
25,000	72.00	48.00	34.00	29.00	24.00	19.00	14.00
20,000	58.00	38.00	27.00	23.00	19.00	15.00	12.00
15,000	43.00	29.00	20.00	17.00	14.00	12.00	9.00
10,000	29.00	19.00	13.00	11.00	10.00	8.00	6.00



Deep Questions

Where does your faith reside?

How much are you investing in financial resources for your safety, security, comfort, place in society?

How much does rank and economic privilege operate in your life?

How do you take advantage of that?

How much do you fight for economic justice with your own resources?



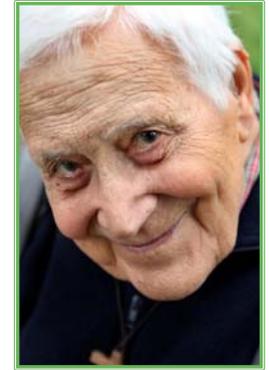
Deep Questions

When it circulates fairly... money distributes justice.

Money is... grace, a means for individuals to exchange goodness.

Money links us together in community.

- From article in Sojourners Magazine, March 2015
(available online: <http://sojo.net/magazine>)



Fr. Arturo Paoli, 102-yrs-old

Closing

A Prayer for Giving

Good and generous God,
giver of life, beauty, love and opportunity,
open my heart and mind
that I may know just how rich I am as your child.
Help me to breathe in your loving purpose for my life,
to open my eyes to the beauty and wonder of life,
and to know that you, alone, can meet my deepest needs.
I thank you for this opportunity to pledge my commitment
to your church and to your kingdom.
I now offer my gifts and myself to you,
confident in your power to transform and use
these gifts in glorious ways.
Bless this pledge in ways beyond my imagining;
and bless those I love, and, yes, even me.
Through Jesus Christ, my Lord, I pray.
Amen



Closing Thanks

Thanks!

- Attendees
- National Presbyterian Church
- National Capital Presbytery

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Stewardship FOR US
Building Cultures of Generosity and Commitment