

**Financial Stewardship**  
**The Church of the Redeemer**  
**Greenville, South Carolina**  
**April 2015**

The following is the framework around which to build our stewardship ministry at Redeemer. The three main goals are:

- 1) Make the biblical case that stewardship is really all about individual discipleship and not about the congregation's needs. Generous giving is one of the basic acts of discipleship; it is not merely an annual giving campaign to meet the growing expenses of the church, but an integral part of our church life and culture that is year round.
- 2) Build the stewardship ministry around three words - ASK, THANK, TELL. Decide on the most effective ways to "Ask" someone to give. Give timely and frequent Thanks for all gifts and deeds. Tell about the results.
- 3) Create a structure for making this all happen that conducts as few meetings as necessary and form stewardship teams working on each of these three actions. Find the right people to join the team for each of these team ministries.

Like most visions, a good mission statement is important. The goal of the Stewardship committee is to help all at Redeemer focus their attention on what will help them grow in their relationship with God through the use of the time, talents and treasure God has entrusted to them.

Some important points to be emphasized in fulfilling our mission and living this stewardship ministry are:

- 1) Make the individual, the disciple, the focus. Membership focuses on the institution, on the congregation and its needs, while discipleship focuses on the individual giver's relationship with God and the way each individual uses his or her time, talents and treasure.
- 2) Keep God's word at the center of all that we do.
- 3) Help people ask the right question. When it comes time to fill out a pledge card, do we ask- "How much of my money does the church need this year? How do I feel about the way things are going at the church these days? Times are tight so can I really spare any more?" Or do we ask, "God has really blessed me in so many ways. How do I feel God is calling me to respond to those blessings?"
- 4) Remember it all belongs to God, We are God's stewards. We are simply caretakers of the owner's possessions both for the benefit of the owner and the benefit of other people who depend on the owner for their well being. There is no ownership transfer to us.

- 5) Look more thoughtfully at our outreach ministry and set goals for increasing it annually. We need to fulfill Jesus' call to live the gospel beyond the walls of Redeemer.
- 6) Understand that wealth poses a huge threat to a person's relationship with God. Wealth beckons us to trust in it for our security rather than trusting in God. Generous giving can break the power of wealth. By giving money away generously we put money in its proper place and place our trust in the only one worthy of that trust.
- 7) Talk about the Characteristics of a biblical giver. They are: Intentional, Regular, Generous, First, Proportional and Cheerful.

Some other points and tactics for our annual Stewardship program:

- Form Stewardship committee early in the year
- Develop a Stewardship Timeline. Remember Repetition of the message throughout the year is important.
- Inform the Vestry about our plans and gain their approval and support. Be aware of budget requirements, but remember stewardship should not be limited by budget.
- Understand the spiritual dimension of giving - part of a faith journey.
- Show the intangible effects of giving in people's lives.
- Hold group meetings- be upfront about the message and have 'fun'.
- Remember that people are waiting to be asked.
- Understand and talk of relationships - God and us; each of us in relations as members.
- Improve constantly communications to the parish - how are we doing?
- Talk about working towards the tithe and special giving above the pledge.
- Stress giving as "an act of worship".
- Move to a more outward focus - outreach-to fulfill our gospel call.

While the preceding has not covered every specific, it is intended to serve as the guideline for how we should be conducting our stewardship ministry at Redeemer. Key support documents which will vary from year to year are "Stewardship Timeline" and "Stewardship and Budget Preparation Process"