

YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP

Year-round stewardship is a basic for congregations that desire to have offerings and pledges grow consistently from year to year. As the name suggests, Year-Round Stewardship keeps giving in the member's mind month after month after month. There are a number of methods to accomplish this.

1. Inserts for bulletins and newsletters. Most of the institutions, agencies and mission programs produce colorful and descriptive half-sheets or folders that present the story of how benevolent dollars are used. Order enough to distribute and encourage people to read them. A plug from the pulpit or the use of it as an illustration in a sermon or temple talk will increase readership.
2. Ministry emphasis of the month. A temple talk or display in the narthex can highlight a different ministry to make congregants aware of all that the local congregation, diocese and the national church does. Examples include religious education programs, youth activities, care of property, music ministry, social outreach endeavors, camping programs, foreign mission work, partnership with the Diocese of Swaziland and Brechin, WTO, scholarship programs, and St. Paul's Indian Mission.
3. Guest speakers. Have someone directly involved in a mission that is supported by the congregation speak or preach. Furloughed or retired missionaries, people who have traveled to Swaziland and Brechin, spokespersons of institutions and agencies, people on the Bishop's staff, lay participants in youth events, college kids who have been served by campus ministries and many others have a great story to tell.
4. Sermon illustrations. The Priest or Rector can recount in the sermon, a story of the impact that dollars given through weekly offerings has made in another's life.
5. A Parish Fair. Display tables are set up in the Fellowship Hall which describe the various ministries and programs found in the parish and offered by the Diocese. Always best to have each display staffed by a person who can attract people to their table but also tell its ministry story. Serve coffee and cookies, put up balloons, have music playing, use wandering minstrels or clowns, have fun.
6. Hands on experience. Do a hunger meal, clean ditches, work for Habitat For Humanity, visit the Mills House, serve Meals on Wheels, make a huge pile of canned and boxed goods for the local food pantry, visit a prison ministry site, take a trip to Lutheran

Lakeside Camp in Spirit Lake (our partner in camp programming), package meals for Kids Against Hunger, Order DVDs and videos that graphically tell the story of ministries supported by the congregation. Show them to adult forums, guild meetings, and when feasible, during worship.