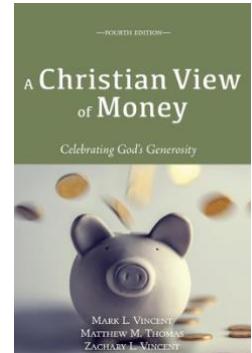




A Stewardship and Generosity Reading List

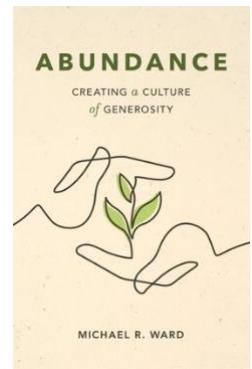
A Christian View of Money – Celebrating God's Generosity, by Mark Vincent. [Order online from Amazon.com.](#)

Money touches everything in our lives. It communicates our values whether we want it to or not, often simultaneously resulting in what we prefer and what we regret. Those who wish to be thoughtful about how they reflect God's image in all things, do well to think through what they believe about earning and using money. This volume walks through a logical progression of how to think and act in regards to money, and provides scores of scenarios for discussion and application.



Abundance: Creating a Culture of Generosity by Michael R. Ward
[Order from Amazon.com](#)

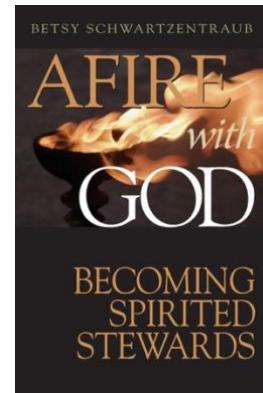
This book by pastor and certified fundraising executive (CFRE) Michael R. Ward provides church leaders a resource to lead their congregations to a new culture of generosity and abundance that raises more money as well as more disciples. Written specifically with pastors, congregation councils, finance committees, and stewardship teams in mind, this book encourages and guides a process of study, reflection, and action that is clear and practical. Ward taps into years of experience fundraising in the nonprofit sector to address the ongoing challenges of financing ministry. His goal is to empower congregations and other nonprofit organizations to expect and plan for generosity.



The book moves from grounding stewardship ministry biblically and theologically to setting up the basic building blocks for strong stewardship, including board development, stewardship planning, and strategic planning. From there, it addresses practical tactics, such as case development, communication, donor mentality, roadblocks, volunteers, and steps to a gift. Real-life stories and examples of growing stewardship programs and capital campaigns are provided along with practical hands-on tools to help groups plan, develop, and implement stewardship plans.

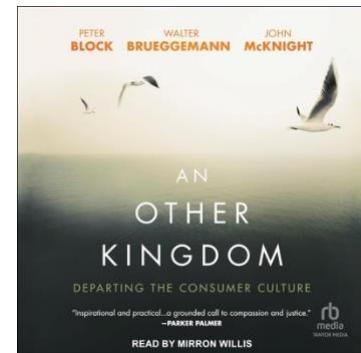
Afire with God: A Spirit-ed Stewardship for a New Century, by Betsy Schwarzentraub. [Order online from Amazon.com](#).

Stewardship is a dirty word in most churches. Pastors preach about it knowing they must while members sit uncomfortably through the "it's-that-time-again" sermons and other appeals. *Afire with God* urges ministries and congregations to become stewards-in-action of all God has entrusted to us. Members go beyond thinking in terms of dollars contributed to see stewardship as becoming living examples of the gospel. "Real stewardship is radical, which means going to the roots of our faith," writes Schwarzentraub. "If we take stewardship seriously--and joyfully--it won't be just another addition to the same old programs we've been doing in our congregations. It will change our thinking, acting, and imagining. And it will change our vision of ministry, working from the inside out."



An Other Kingdom: Departing the Consumer Culture by Peter Block, Walter Brueggemann, & John McKnight [Order from Amazon.com](#)

Our seduction into beliefs in competition, scarcity, and acquisition are producing too many casualties. We need to depart a kingdom that creates isolation, polarized debate, an exhausted planet, and violence that comes with the will to empire. The abbreviation of this empire is called a consumer culture.

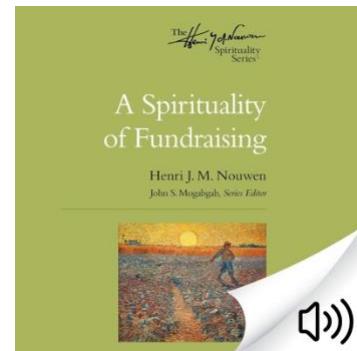


We think the free market ideology that surrounds us is true and inevitable and represents progress. We are called to better adapt, be more agile, more lean, more schooled, more, more, more. Give it up. There is no such thing as customer satisfaction.

We need a new narrative, a shift in our thinking and speaking. *An Other Kingdom* takes us out of a culture of addictive consumption into a place where life is ours to create together. This satisfying way depends upon a neighborly covenant—an agreement that we together, will better raise our children, be healthy, be connected, be safe, and provide a livelihood. The neighborly covenant has a different language than market-hype. It speaks instead in a sacred tongue.

A Spirituality of Fundraising by Henri Nouwen [Order from Amazon.com](#)

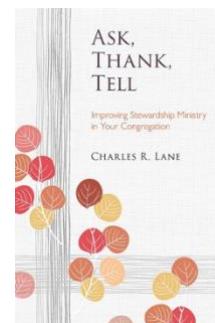
Do you serve on your church's stewardship committee or need to raise money for a mission trip or some other faith-based cause? Perhaps the thought of asking people for money intimidates you. It's time to change the way you think about fundraising. "Fundraising is, first and foremost, a ministry," best-selling author and renowned spiritual teacher Henri Nouwen writes. "It's a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission."



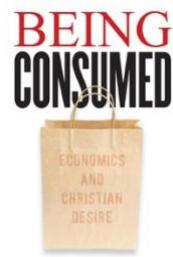
Nouwen encourages us to see fundraising as spiritual work and approach it confidently. "Fundraising is precisely the opposite of begging," he points out. Unlike most business/leadership books, *A Spirituality of Fundraising* is brief and can easily be read in one sitting. Nouwen's insights will upend your thoughts about fundraising. Never again will you feel like you're begging for money. Instead, you'll see your work as true ministry.

Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation
by Charles R. Lane. [Order online from Amazon.com](#)

The goal of this book, says author Charles Lane, is to perform a dramatic rescue of stewardship, freeing it from any connection whatsoever to "paying the bills." When the Bible talks about stewardship it almost always talks about the intimate connection between how a person handles financial matters and that person's relationship with God. Stewardship is an intensely spiritual matter that lies close to a disciple's relationship with Jesus. The book is designed especially for use in congregational planning and study. Congregational stewardship leaders will come back to three foundational verbs - ask, thank, tell - over and over as they help individuals experience the joy of giving generously. The author makes the convincing case that there is little in life today that can help a disciple grow in relationship with Jesus more than a solid intentional biblical stewardship.



Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire by William T. Cavanaugh [Order from Amazon.com](#)

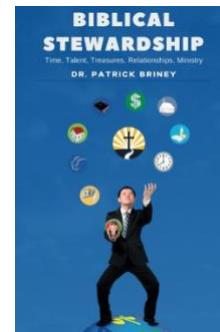


William T. Cavanaugh

Should Christians be for or against the free market? For or against globalization? How are we to live in a world of scarcity? William Cavanaugh uses Christian resources to incisively address basic economic matters -- the free market, consumer culture, globalization, and scarcity -- arguing that we should not just accept these as givens but should instead change the terms of the debate.

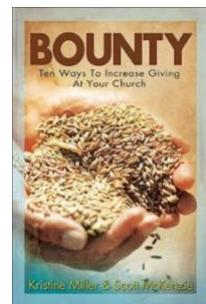
Among other things, Cavanaugh discusses how God, in the Eucharist, forms us to consume and be consumed rightly. Examining pathologies of desire in contemporary "free market" economies, *Being Consumed* puts forth a positive and inspiring vision of how the body of Christ can engage in economic alternatives. At every turn, Cavanaugh illustrates his theological analysis with concrete examples of Christian economic practices.

Biblical Stewardship: Time, Talents, Treasures, Relationships, Ministry by Patrick Briney [Buy on Amazon.com](#)



Discover valuable insights about managing your time, talents, treasures, relationships, and personal ministry. In Dr. Briney's book, you will learn how to maximize the use of the resources God has given to you. You will find out what responsibilities God says should be prioritized. You will discover how to organize your responsibilities to increase efficiency and productivity as God's steward. You will be blessed knowing and experiencing stewardship as God intends it to be. Whether you're struggling to balance your responsibilities or want to deepen your relationship with God, this book is a valuable resource that can guide you toward a more fulfilling Christian life. It offers practical advice and spiritual insights that can help you become a faithful steward, live a life that glorifies God, and be prepared to stand before God unashamed.

Bounty: Ten Ways to Increase Giving at Your Church by Scott McKenzie
[Order from Amazon.com](#)

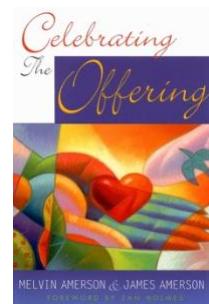


Church leaders struggle with issues related to financial giving every year, in every economic climate. Most do not want to preach about the topic, and some don't even like to think about it. The topic of financial giving is, for many, a perennial headache and an energy drain. Many church leaders have not considered the single most important aspect of giving, however. *Bounty* explores the critical spiritual component of stewardship development, and in ten immediately do-able 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.

Celebrating the Offering, Melvin Amerson & James Amerson, [Order online from Amazon.com](#)

In a culture where it's easy to think of ourselves as self-made, we need a reminder that all blessings have been given to us by a generous God. In many congregations, the offering happens without much forethought. We may even consider it a crass interruption to the spiritual flow of worship. But it's actually an important, biblical part of the service. It gives us a chance to focus on giving thanks and giving back to the God who has so generously given to us. If you're looking to revitalize the spirit of generosity in your congregation, you'll find simple and effective ways to incorporate the offering into the deepest fibers of your worship experience.



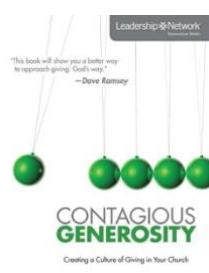
Church Finances for Missional Leaders: Best Practices for Faithful Stewardship by Bonnie Ives Marden [Order from Amazon.com](#)

Packed with guidelines, tools, worksheets, and biblically sound strategies for pastors, treasurers, trustees, finance and stewardship chairs and committees. This book introduces basic financial vocabulary and offers concrete help for creating a church budget; understanding financial sustainability, the role of reserves, the importance of personal and congregational stewardship; communicating financial needs; generating money for mission, income planning, and projection; and developing strategies for appeals and campaigns, risk and liability issues, and much more. Includes reproducible pages with worksheets and sample policies.



Contagious Generosity: Creating a Culture of Giving in Your Church by Chris Willard & Jim Sheppard [Order from Amazon.com](#)

What does it look like when pastors cultivate a culture of generosity in the church by actively teaching and mentoring people in the spiritual act of giving? It's generosity that's contagious. A growing number of leaders are beginning to discover that there are key factors that make some churches thrive with abundant resources while others struggle with shrinking budgets. Jim Sheppard and Chris Willard have spent years consulting with church leaders across a broad spectrum of church settings and have gathered their observations into this resource, part of the Leadership Network Innovations Series. Contagious Generosity highlights the best practices gleaned from real-life church leadership situations and shows how church leaders can effectively cultivate a culture of



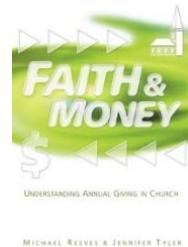
generous giving in the local church. It explains why some churches are experiencing unexplainable ministry growth and unprecedented church funding ... even in the midst of tough economic times.

Creating a Climate for Giving, by Donald W. Joiner [Order online.](#)

Church leaders are often heard to say that old ways aren't working any longer. Creating a Climate for Giving brings a vision for a fresh way of creating a climate for giving in local churches. Joiner explores the subsystems through which a church leads its members to give or not to give. We must refine ""fund-raising"" to ""funding ministry."" In the interim between being a ""fund-raising church"" and becoming a ""funding ministry church,"" finance leaders will continue to need models demonstrating how to operate the short-term finance ministries of their church. This is where Joiner can help. (A financial campaign for developing Christian philanthropists is included.)

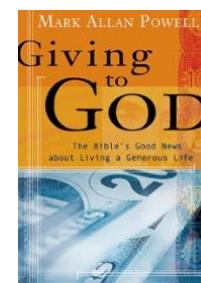


Faith and Money: Understanding Annual Giving in the Church, by Michael D. Reeves and Jennifer Tyler [Order from Amazon.com.](#)



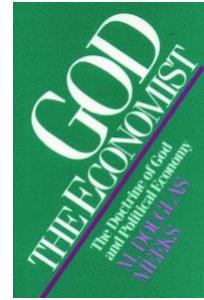
Grounded in the gospel, Faith & Money identifies the challenges of fund development in local congregations, develops a consistent theological foundation for fund development, and guides congregations in building worthy expectations and attitudes on how to fund ministry.

Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life by Mark Allan Powell [Order from Amazon.com](#)



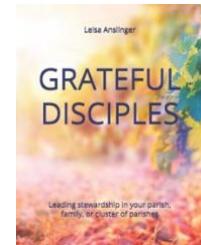
We all know that everything we have is a gift from God. But sometimes it's hard to know just how to give back to God. How much is enough? What does the Bible really say? What should giving look like in our everyday lives? Filled with good news for followers of Jesus, Mark Allan Powell's *Giving to God* shows Christians the way to a better life and a better relationship with their money — and with God. Powell presents stewardship as an act of worship, an expression of faith, and a discipline for spiritual growth. Faithful use of our time, talents, and money starts with a deep, satisfying relationship with the God to whom we belong. We can then learn, says Powell, to give gladly and generously out of our heartfelt connection with God. Informative, concise, and eminently practical (including discussion questions), *Giving to God* gives us resources for best using the treasures, material and otherwise, that God has given us

God the Economist, The Doctrine of God and Political Economy, by M. Douglas Meeks. [Order from www.amazon.com.](http://www.amazon.com)



God does not appear in the modern market. For most economists this is as it should be. It is in no way necessary, according to modern economic theory, to consider God when thinking about economy. Indeed, the absence of God in economic matters is viewed as necessary to the great advances in modern economy. The difficulty with modern market economies, however, is that human livelihood is also left out of the theory and practice of the market economy. I propose to bring the church's teaching about God, the doctrine of the Trinity, to bear on the masked connections between God and economy.

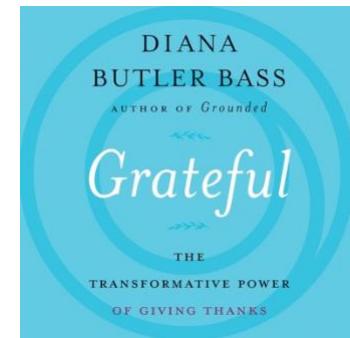
Grateful Disciples: Your Guide to Parish Stewardship by Leisa Anslinger
[Buy on Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



“Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives.” This simple yet compelling statement from *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response* captures the importance of forming people to grow as good and faithful stewards. *Grateful Disciples* is a unique and comprehensive guide for stewardship leaders. The *Grateful Disciples* guide is only part of the story. The *Grateful Disciples* website equips leaders with all they need to establish and sustain stewardship in the parish.

Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks—Practical Steps for Personal Growth and Community Connection by Diana Butler Bass [Order from Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

If gratitude is good, why is it so hard to do? In *Grateful*, Diana Butler Bass untangles our conflicting understandings of gratitude and sets the table for a renewed practice of giving thanks.



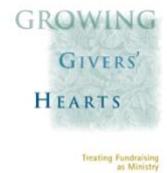
We know that gratitude is good, but many of us find it hard to sustain a meaningful life of gratefulness. Four out of five Americans report feeling gratitude on a regular basis, but those private feelings seem disconnected from larger concerns of our public lives. In *Grateful*, cultural observer and theologian Diana Butler Bass takes on this “gratitude gap” and offers up surprising, relevant, and powerful insights to practice gratitude.

Bass, author of the award-winning *Grounded* and ten other books on spirituality and culture, explores the transformative, subversive power of gratitude for our personal lives and in communities. Using her trademark blend of historical research, spiritual insights, and timely cultural observation, she shows how we can overcome this gap and make

change in our own lives and in the world. With honest stories and heartrending examples from history and her own life, Bass reclaims gratitude as a path to greater connection with God, with others, with the world, and even with our own souls. It's time to embrace a more radical practice of gratitude—the virtue that heals us and helps us thrive.

Growing Givers' Hearts – Treating Fundraising as Ministry, by Thomas H. Jeavons & Rebekah Burch Basinger. [Order online from Amazon.com.](#)

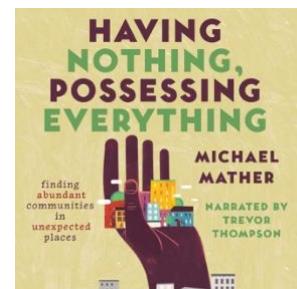
Here for the first time is a truly spiritual way of looking at fundraising as an opportunity to nurture current and prospective donors and facilitate their growth in faith. *Growing Givers' Hearts* explores how development staff, executives, and board members from across the theological spectrum can make faith-building opportunities for donors their first priority; act on their confidence in God's abundance; draw from their theological tradition in their approach to fundraising; involve a vital cross-section of staff in planning; and cultivate spiritually mature leadership. With this innovative approach, *Growing Givers' Hearts* empowers readers to work in spiritually grounded, deeply creative, and professionally satisfying ways. Fundraisers in any Christian organization will find extraordinary insights in this important guide.



Thomas H. Jeavons and Rebekah Burch Basinger

Having Nothing, Possessing Everything: Finding Abundant Communities in Unexpected Places by Michael Mather [Order from Amazon.com](#)

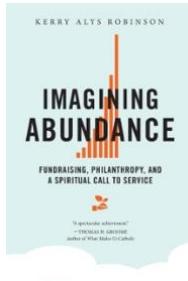
Pastor Mike Mather arrived in Indianapolis thinking that he was going to serve the poor. But after his church's community lost nine young men to violence in a few short months, Mather came to see that the poor didn't need his help—he needed theirs.



This is the story of how one church found abundance in a community of material poverty. Viewing people—not programs, finances, or service models—as their most valuable resource moved church members beyond their own walls and out into the streets, where they discovered folks rich in strength, talents, determination, and love.

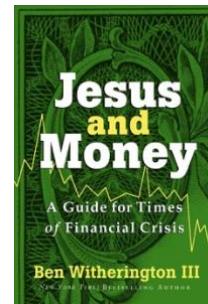
Mather's *Having Nothing, Possessing Everything* will inspire readers to seek justice in their own local communities and to find abundance and hope all around them.

Imagining Abundance: Fundraising, Philanthropy, and a Spiritual Call to Service by Kerry Alys Robinson [Order from Amazon.com](#)



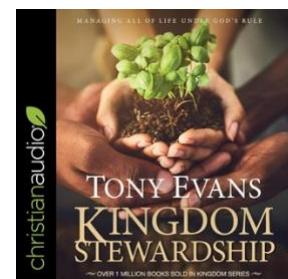
Fundraising is ministry—a transformative ministry that challenges all people to realize their own gifts and how they can be used for the benefit of the church. In *Imagining Abundance*, Kerry Robinson focuses on reasons why each of us are called to be stewards. We act because we're excited about what it is that we do for the church and where we're called by God to be, we want others to be just as excited about what that is, and we want people to be partners with us in that ministry. In *Imagining Abundance*, Kerry Robinson offers an inspirational and practical guide to effective fundraising that is ideal for anyone invested in a faith community. Bishops, provincials, pastors, ministers, executive and development directors and trustees of faith-based organizations will benefit from this healthy approach to the activity of fundraising that situates successful development in the context of ministry and mission.

Jesus and Money: A Guide for Times of Financial Crisis by Ben Witherington [Order from Amazon.com](#)



In the wake of a sobering global recession, many Christians realize they need to rethink their approach to money. Here respected New Testament scholar Ben Witherington III explores what the Bible does--and doesn't--say about money. Now in paperback, this book clearly and concisely examines what Jesus and his earliest followers taught about wealth and poverty, money and debt, and tithing and sacrificial giving to help readers understand the proper role of money in modern Christian life. Along the way, he critiques the faith-promise and health-and-wealth approaches to these issues, showing what good stewardship of God's possessions really looks like.

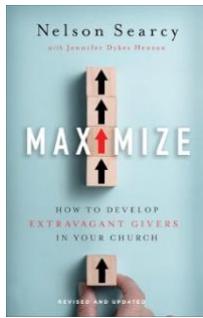
Kingdom Stewardship by Tony Evans [Buy on Amazon.com](#)



In *Kingdom Stewardship*, Dr. Tony Evans inspires you to broaden your perspective of Christian stewardship. In this encouraging and challenging book, you will learn that stewardship includes how you manage all that God has given you—your time, your talents, and your treasures—to advance God's kingdom and bring Him glory. While many stewardship books focus on managing financial resources, Tony Evans says that your finances are one small part of a much bigger calling. He teaches that God owns all things, and you are the manager of His assets. When you bring your entire life into alignment under God, you will be blessed with purpose and the abundant life that comes from living by God's eternal principles.

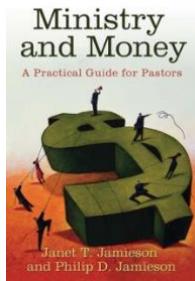
Maximize: How to Develop Extravagant Givers in Your Church by Nelson Searcy [Order from Amazon.com](#)

Widely-respected authority on church leadership shows how being a healthy giver is essential to following Jesus and gives pastors a step-by-step guide for turning first-time givers into extravagant stewards.



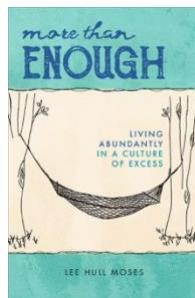
Ministry and Money: A Practical Guide for Pastors by Janet T. Jamieson [Order from Amazon.com](#)

Money is a key issue in today's Christian faith communities but it can be a touchy subject to address. With this book, pastors and clergy finally have a practical resource for managing money in the church. Ministry and Money serves as an excellent primer on accounting practices, church financial reports, and church budgets. Throughout, the authors provide real-life examples to help clarify basic approaches to issues of money.



More than Enough: Living Abundantly in a Culture of Excess by Lee Hull Moses [Order from Amazon.com](#)

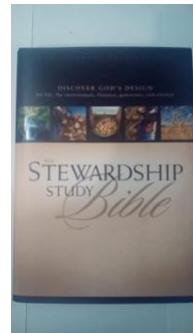
Ever look around your life and feel overwhelmed with gratitude for everything you have? Sure, nothing is perfect, but if you have a safe place to live, food on the table, and clothes to wear, the reality is that life is pretty good. That's not true for many people in the world, and you may wonder, "How do we live in a way that honors God and shows gratitude for the good life we are living in the midst of a world full of pain and brokenness?"



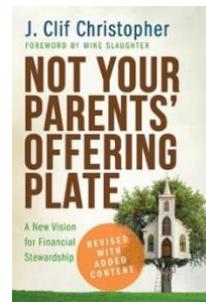
All our daily choices have an impact on the earth and the people around us: choices about where we shop, what we eat, what we give away.... But can we really do anything to help? Can we find joy in our own lives when there is so much pain in the world? Sorting out the answers gets overwhelming and complicated very quickly. With a blend of practical reflection and insight on topics from guilt to delight, More than Enough goes beyond a call to gratitude and generosity and invites the reader to a new way of life, one that is grounded in the hope and grace of God.

NIV Stewardship Study Bible – discover God's design for life, the environment, finances, generosity, and eternity. [Order online from Amazon.com](#)

The NIV Stewardship Study Bible uses a variety of engaging features to lead individuals through a comprehensive study of what it means to be managers entrusted with the resources of God. Through 366 Exploring Stewardship notes, profiles of individuals, notes on challenges to stewardship, quotes on stewardship from respected Christians throughout the ages, and other articles and helps, the NIV Stewardship Study Bible projects a positive picture of the privilege that we have to manage what God has given us to his glory and to the building of his kingdom. More than just money, this Bible emphasizes stewardly responsibility in all areas of life, including relationships, creation care, money management, institutions, and caring for the poor, among other areas. It's been pulled together with the purpose of changing perceptions about what the word "stewardship" means—not something intended to be draining and guilt-inducing, but rather motivating, empowering and uplifting.



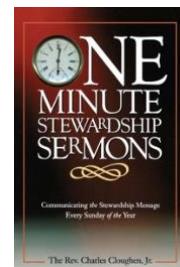
Not Your Parents' Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship
by J. Clif Christopher. [Order online from Amazon.com](#)



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.

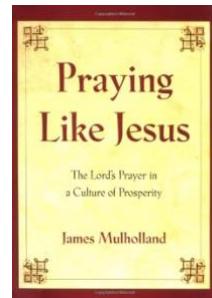
***One Minute Stewardship Sermons, 2018*, by Charles Cloughen, Jr., [Order online from Amazon.com](#)**



Much has changed in the 21st-century world of stewardship. Now a person may use electronic funds transfer or use a credit card after clicking on a website link instead of dropping a check in the offering plate. Stewardship witness videos can be linked to the church's website. One-Minute Stewardship is designed to promote the development of a meaningful theology of giving in a new age. These short reflections, indexed by Scripture, theme, event, and lectionary, can be included in weekly parish e-mails, newsletters, weekly

bulletins, or read as an invitation to the offering during worship. The book addresses the issue of designated giving, which is usually separate from general stewardship appeals and is designed to empower clergy and lay leaders to promote the message of good stewardship every Sunday of the year.

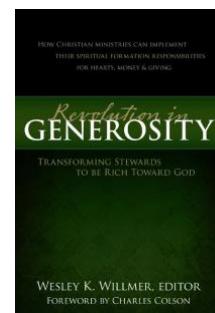
Praying Like Jesus: The Lord's Prayer in a Culture of Prosperity, by James Mulholland. [Order online from Amazon.com](#).



Prayer today bears little resemblance to the kind Jesus taught. For many, it has become a means of personal success and material gain, taking the form of a shopping list rather than a transforming spiritual discipline. Mulholland warns that we have forgotten the true purpose of prayer: He believes, "The point of prayer is not to tell God what you want, but to hear what you need. It is not approaching God with our demands, but listening for God's commands. It is not seeking our will, but learning to discern God's will. This is so important to understand in a culture that caters to our every whim. Prayer isn't about me. It is about God."

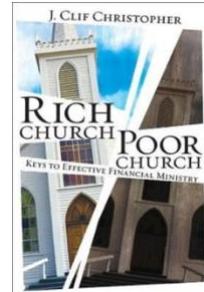
Revolution in Generosity – Transforming Stewards to be Rich Toward God. Wesley K. Willmer, Editor. [Order online from Amazon.com](#)

"Give over \$100 today and get this personalized state-of-the-art fountain pen free!" "Become a gold sponsor and your name will be featured on our exclusive Wall of Fame!" "Send in your donation by December 31st and enjoy the benefits of giving on your next tax return!" Who hasn't heard fundraising gimmicks like these? Or, who hasn't used these gimmicks on others?



As Wes Willmer writes, generosity is the natural outcome of God's transforming work in individuals when they are conformed to the image of Christ. Fundraising and giving are not simply drops in the bucket. Capital campaigns and raising funds go deeper than the money. They are spiritual activities in becoming more like Christ. A Revolution in Generosity is a work by some of the best scholars and practitioners on the subject of funding Christian organizations. As Willmer writes, "The foundation for realizing a revolution in generosity is understanding the biblical view of possessions, generosity, and asking for resources." With over twenty expert contributors, this book is a must-read for organizations striving to rid themselves of secular, asking practices and gain an eternal approach.

Rich Church, Poor Church: Keys to Effective Financial Ministry by J. Clif Christopher [Order from Amazon.com](#)



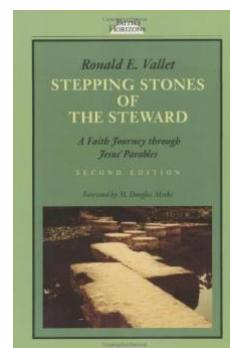
Does your church have the necessary funds to do ministry?

In Dr. Clif Christopher's nearly forty years in ministry as a pastor and President of Horizons Stewardship Company, he has witnessed the financial stewardship practices of thousands of churches. A few have exceptional records in acquiring and managing the necessary funds for mission and ministry, but the vast majority struggle every year to get by.

In this important new work made even more relevant by our economic times, Christopher contrasts the traits of the most productive congregations with those who perennially fail to secure the funds to perform transformational ministry. Some churches practice the necessary financial habits that form the foundation of successful ministry, and others waste valuable resources and undermine ministry opportunities.

Through Christopher's insight born out of years of experience and consultation, readers can assess the financial condition of their own churches.

Stepping Stones of the Steward, by Ronald E. Vallet. [Order online from Amazon.com](#)

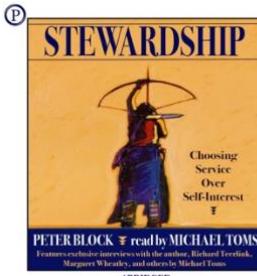


Now thoroughly revised-with significant changes in chapters dealing with faith and money and environmental issues-Vallet's inspirational study teaches Christians how to gain a sense of purpose, how to properly use resources, talents, and money, and how to reach out with compassion for the welfare of others and for the planet. This inspirational study takes the images of journey and steward as metaphors for the Christian's life and uses several of Jesus' parables as a springboard to explore various dimensions of Christian stewardship. Besides significant revisions to the text, this second edition of Stepping Stones includes a new epilogue that discusses the mission funding crisis of the church in North America and the changing views on both the church and its mission. Thought-provoking questions and suggestions for further reflection appear at the end of each chapter, and a study guide outlines ways to use the book in small-group setting.

Stewardship: Choosing Service over Self-Interest by Peter Block
[Order from Amazon.com](#)

Despite all the evidence calling for change, most organizations still rely on patriarchy and control as their core form of governance. The result is that they stifle initiative and spirit and alienate people from their work. In *Stewardship*, Peter Block calls for a dramatic shift in how we distribute power, privilege, and the control of money.

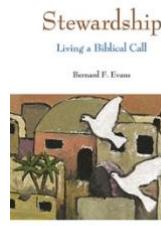
“*Stewardship*,” he writes, “is the willingness to be accountable for the well-being of the larger organization by operating in service, rather than in control, of those around us.”



Block has revised and updated the book throughout, including a new introduction addressing what has changed—and what hasn’t—in the twenty years since the book was published. It also includes a new chapter on applying stewardship to the common good of the wider community. Speaking in practical terms about how stewardship transforms every function and department for the better, Block also offers tactical advice on gearing up to implement these reforms.

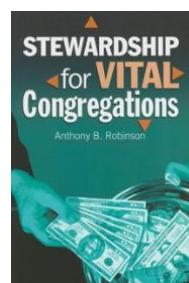
Stewardship: Living a Biblical Call by Bernard Evans [Order from Amazon.com](#)

In *Stewardship: Living a Biblical Call*, Bernard Evans presents an accessible and easily understood biblical and theological foundation for giving that both parishioners and stewardship leaders will find practical and valuable. In focused chapters, the many aspects of stewardship are named and described, assisting readers in recognizing gifts and actions that make practicing stewardship far more than a financial proposition. Grounded in years of practical work in this area with parish leaders, Evans adeptly ties the Christian invitation to stewardship to biblical foundations as well as the social teaching of the church. A clear, concise, readable work, *Stewardship: Living a Biblical Call* also engages key questions of the age, such as ecological stewardship and care for body, mind, and spirit. Evans explores the communal and personal actions that help every believer proclaim the reign of God.



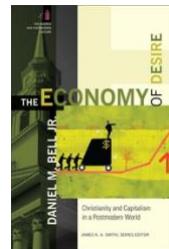
Stewardship for Vital Congregations by Anthony B. Robinson [Order from Amazon.com](#)

Would you like to learn how your congregation can create a culture of giving and generosity that changes lives and supports the mission and ministry of the church with adequate financial resources? Lay leaders, clergypersons, and members of your congregation’s stewardship program will appreciate and benefit from *Stewardship for Vital Congregations*. It provides practical tools to help congregations engage in the spiritual practice of Christian



stewardship and become part of its mission and ministry. Theologically and biblically informed, it offers particular strategies and how-to's relating to money and giving, and includes questions for reflection, discussion, and action in each chapter.

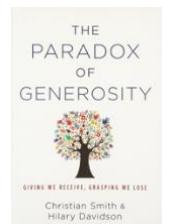
The Economy of Desire: Christianity and Capitalism in a Postmodern World
by Daniel Bell [Order from Amazon.com](#)



In this addition to the award-winning Church and Postmodern Culture series, respected theologian Daniel Bell compares and contrasts capitalism and Christianity, showing how Christianity provides resources for faithfully navigating the postmodern global economy.

Bell approaches capitalism and Christianity as alternative visions of humanity, God, and the good life. Considering faith and economics in terms of how desire is shaped, he casts the conflict as one between different disciplines of desire. He engages the work of two important postmodern philosophers, Deleuze and Foucault, to illuminate the nature of the postmodern world that the church currently inhabits. Bell then considers how the global economy deforms desire in a manner that distorts human relations with God and one another. In contrast, he presents Christianity and the tradition of the works of mercy as a way beyond capitalism and socialism, beyond philanthropy and welfare. Christianity heals desire, renewing human relations and enabling communion with God.

The Paradox of Generosity: Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose by
Christian Smith & Hilary Davidson [Order from Amazon.com](#)



Determining why, when, and to whom people feel compelled to be generous affords invaluable insight into positive and problematic ways of life. Organ donation, volunteering, and the funding of charities can all be illuminated by sociological and psychological perspectives on how American adults conceive of and demonstrate generosity. Focusing not only on financial giving but on the many diverse forms generosity can take, Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson show the deep impact—usually good, sometimes destructive—that giving has on individuals.

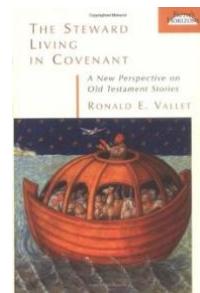
The Paradox of Generosity is the first study to make use of the cutting-edge empirical data collected in Smith's groundbreaking, multidisciplinary, five-year Science of Generosity Initiative. It draws on an extensive survey of 2,000 Americans, more than sixty in-depth interviews with individuals across twelve states, and analysis of over 1,000 photographs and other visual materials. This wealth of evidence reveals a consistent link between demonstrating generosity and leading a better life: more generous people are happier, suffer fewer illnesses and injuries, live with a greater sense of purpose, and experience less depression. Smith and Davidson also show, however, that to achieve a better life a person must practice generosity regularly—random acts of kindness are not enough.

The Stewardship Companion: Lectionary Resources for Preaching by David Mosser [Buy on Amazon.com](#)



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.

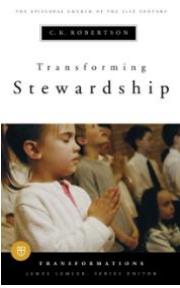
The Steward Living in Covenant – A New Perspective on Old Testament Stories, by Ronald E. Vallet; [Order online from Amazon.com](#)



The Steward Living in Covenant explores the theme of stewardship from a fruitful new perspective. Ronald Vallet explores Old Testament stories from creation to Isaiah and links the life of the steward to the theme of covenant - a first for books in this area.

Written as an Old Testament parallel to Vallet's acclaimed Stepping Stones of the Steward, this new volume reclaims the Old Testament foundations of a fully biblical theology of stewardship. Vallet looks especially at the promise and command aspects of God's covenant with his people as a vital dimension of what it means to be a steward. A special feature of the volume is the inclusion of two choral readings and three dramas by dramatist Wanda Vassallo specifically designed to enliven worship and education programs.

Transforming Stewardship, C.K. Robertson (author), James Lemler (editor). [Order online from Amazon.com](#).

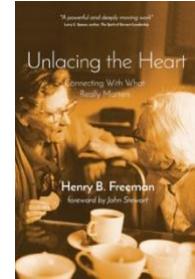


For most Episcopalians, stewardship is synonymous with pledge drives, budgets, and capital campaigns, but the Bible is clear that God wants more than our tithes and offerings. Looking to its scriptural roots in 1 Chronicles, Luke-Acts, and the letters of Paul, as well as St. Francis' "third way," Robertson offers a vision of holistic stewardship for the whole church, holistic because it can't be separated from evangelism, outreach, scripture study, and ministry to the newcomer. It does not involve strong-arm tactics, only a willingness to risk changing existing structures and ideas in order to enrich the faith community and strengthen connections to the neighboring world.

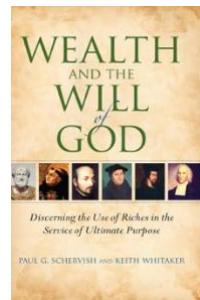
Transforming Stewardship delivers both good and bad news about Episcopalians and stewardship. Robertson provides essential models and spiritual practices in order to transform the church's outmoded attitudes toward stewardship and wealth into a broader context of faith.

Unlacing the Heart: Connecting with what really matters by Henry B. Freeman [Order from Amazon.com](#)

Unlacing the Heart is a book of true-life stories that capture moments of deep personal connection between people living very different lives. Of Alfredo, a homeless man who invited Henry Freeman into his life; of Jane, a Yale student who needed help coming out from under the burden of a high society family; of Sister Margaret, a Franciscan nun who joyfully shared her gift for uncovering the good in people we often fear and hate; of Mary, a person trapped in the body of a bag lady with only one true friend; and of an elderly woman also named Margaret who found in a meal of Omaha steak and asparagus a safe space to share her joys, her fears and the news of her pending death. Henry Freeman shares with us a rare gift that extends far beyond his professional expertise as a fundraising consultant. It is a gift he, a Quaker, received from his mentor and friend Henri Nouwen, an author and Catholic theologian whose writings on spirituality and the human condition touch the lives of hundreds of thousands of people around the world. Indeed, the author's most powerful stories—the ones that lead readers on an inner journey and exploration of their own vulnerable spaces—reflect the presence of Nouwen in the author's life and the words he shares in this book's pages.



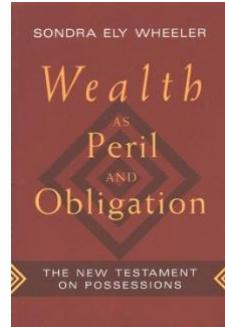
Wealth and the Will of God: Discerning the Use of Riches in the Service of Ultimate Purpose by Paul G. Schervish & Keith Whitaker [Order from Amazon.com](#)



Wealth and the Will of God looks at some of the spiritual resources of the Christian tradition that can aid serious reflection on wealth and giving. Beginning with Aristotle—who is crucial for understanding later Christian thought—the book discusses Aquinas, Ignatius, Luther, Calvin, and Jonathan Edwards. Though the ideas vary greatly, the chapters are organized to facilitate comparisons among these thinkers on issues of ultimate purposes or aspirations of human life; on the penultimate purposes of love, charity, friendship, and care; on the resources available to human beings in this life; and finally on ways to connect and implement in practice our identified resources with our ultimate ends.

Wealth as Peril and Obligation – The New Testament on Possessions, by Sondra Ely Wheeler, [Order online from Amazon.com](#)

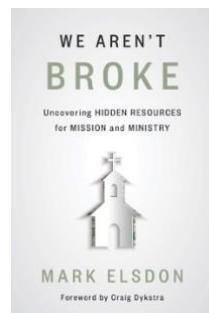
This timely study of the New Testament helps bring clarity to one of the great ethical dilemmas of the modern church – the moral status of wealth and the ownership of property and possessions in relation to Christian faith.



Sondra Ely Wheeler shows how Scripture can both form and inform contemporary moral discernment regarding wealth. After first developing a sound methodology for interpreting the New Testament's moral witness on this sticky ethical question, Wheeler gives a responsible exegesis of the key New Testament texts that deal with wealth and possessions. What results is a practical, biblically based statement regarding the ethics of wealth and ownership and a useful set of criteria for sound moral discernment concerning economic life within the contemporary Christian church.

We Aren't Broke: Uncovering Hidden Resources for Mission and Ministry by Mark Elsdon [Order from Amazon.com](#)

What if everything you need is already there? Many Christian churches and related institutions in the United States are struggling or, in some cases, facing imminent crisis, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendance is down. Funding is harder to come by. People are no longer drawn to traditional church services and programming in the ways that they once were. Often, we feel broke and powerless to do much about it. We settle for doing more with less: Less money. Fewer people. Fewer churches.



But if we reexamine our perceived limits and our assumptions about how resources are supposed to be used, then something remarkable and beautiful comes into view: we aren't broke at all but have enormous resources at our disposal. Church and missional organizations nationwide own billions of dollars of prime property and investment assets, which, when combined with social enterprise and new expressions of mission, can be put to work for innovation and transformation. And these resources are often available to us right now.