

# Planning for a Fall Stewardship Campaign

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Many of the churches in our diocese are about to begin a Fall Stewardship Campaign in preparation for the 2015 church budget year. If a sinking feeling just landed in the pit of your stomach with the thought of another Stewardship season, have no fear. Perhaps the Stewardship Committee of the Diocese of South Carolina can help teach your church about Biblical Stewardship which may help your congregation grow deeper in their faith and produce much-needed “muscle for ministry”.

Below is a sample Stewardship Schedule that can be utilized for a fall Stewardship Campaign (beginning in September and concluding in December) or modified for use at any time of the year. Here are a few notes that will explain the schedule:

1. This schedule assumes that some planning has occurred prior to the campaign beginning in September. Since the Vestry is responsible for the church budget and finances, the Vestry should review and approve the program.
2. Since money is a sensitive topic, the “Stewardship Statement” suggested in the Pre-Campaign section is a statement that the Vestry can sign that states that they support the tithe as the Biblical standard to church giving. This can be used to demonstrate to the parish that the Vestry leads by example.
3. A “Canvasser” is someone selected to contact parishoners to remind them of Stewardship events and to solicit support for the campaign. Canvassers should be trained prior to the start of the campaign so they have a clear understanding of their duties and responsibilities. The Canvassers can be introduced to the parish at a Sunday service where they are commissioned for duty. This way, the parish knows who the Canvassers are and they will not be surprised when a Canvasser calls to discuss stewardship information with them.
4. This schedule includes three (3) Canvass Calls. The first is to introduce the campaign to the parishoners and to give them a schedule of what to expect during the campaign. The second Canvass Call is to solicit an RSVP for a Stewardship Dinner and Teaching event. The third Canvass Call is to solicit pledge cards from anyone who did not submit a pledge card on Pledge Day.
5. The mailings on the schedule are letters or emails that provide an opportunity to teach Biblical stewardship and to give parishioners written reminders about the campaign.
6. A Lay Witness is a member of the parish who is committed to Biblical Stewardship and the tithe who can communicate that understanding to the congregation. Lay Witnesses will help give the campaign “street credibility” in the parish.
7. This schedule provides three sermon topics for three successive weeks of the Stewardship campaign.
8. This schedule also allows for an outside speaker to give a special teaching on Stewardship in a fellowship setting in the parish (a Stewardship Dinner). Pledge cards can be distributed at the fellowship meal following the teaching. Parishes should plan early for an outside speaker.
9. Pledge cards are submitted on Pledge Day at the Sunday Service(s). Those who do not attend the service or who do not submit a pledge card are contacted THAT DAY by the Canvassers.
10. Preliminary results of the campaign are tallied and presented to the parish on the following Sunday. The Stewardship Committee and/or the Vestry can then follow up with parishioners who have still not submitted a pledge.
11. The final results of the campaign are announced at the Sunday Service after follow-up is complete. A meal or a special coffee hour called “Harvest Sunday” to celebrate the “Stewardship harvest” concludes the campaign.

12. Thank-You notes can begin to be mailed following the Harvest Sunday celebration.

The Diocese of South Carolina Stewardship is available to help your parish with Biblical Stewardship. Don't hesitate to contact our members (The Rev. Wey Camp, the Rev. Bob Horowitz, or the Rev. Jason Collins) for assistance. You may also want to review the Diocese of South Carolina web page for Stewardship suggestions as [www.diosc.com](http://www.diosc.com). You will find the Stewardship information under "Ministries & Departments" on the main menu. You can also check out the Diocese of South Carolina Stewardship blog site for additional information and Stewardship strategies. The blog address is <http://malachi310blog.com/>.

Blessings for a Successful Stewardship Season,

The Rev. Jason Collins, Chairman  
Diocese of South Carolina Stewardship Committee

Sample Stewardship Schedule			
Date	Item	Responsible Party	Complete
<b>Pre-Campaign</b>			
September	Vestry review Stewardship Plan	Vestry	
September	Vestry sign Stewardship Statement	Vestry	
September	Canvassers/Lay Witnesses chosen	Stewardship Committee	
October	October Newsletter Article on Stewardship	Rector	
October	Canvasser Training after Sunday Service	Stewardship Committee	
<b>Week 1</b>			
	First Mailing Announcing Stewardship Program	Rector	
	2nd Opportunity for Canvasser Training	Stewardship Committee	
	Commission Canvassers at Sunday Service	Clergy & Canvassers	
	First Canvass Call	Canvassers	
<b>Week 2</b>			
	2nd Mailing (Details & Theology)	Rector/Clergy	
	1st Sermon - "Church's Missionary Imperative"	Rector	
	1st Lay Witness (at Sunday Service)	1st Lay Witness	
<b>Week 3</b>			
	Third Mailing - Article on Proportional Giving	Stewardship Chairman	
	2nd Canvass Call (RSVP for Stewardship Dinner)	Canvassers	
	November Newsletter Article on Stewardship	Junior Warden	
	2nd Sermon - "Mission of the Church"	Rector/Clergy	

	2nd Lay Witness (at Sunday Service)	Lay Witness #2	
	Parish Stewardship Dinner and Teaching	Outside Speaker	
<b>Week 4</b>			
	Fourth Mailing - Proportional Giving Chart	Senior Warden	
	3rd Sermon - "Giving"	Rector/Clergy	
	3rd Lay Witness (at Sunday Service)	Lay Witness #3	
	Pledge Day (at Sunday Service)	Parishioners	
	3rd Canvass Call (Those not at Pledge Day)	Canvassers	
<b>Week 5</b>			
	Announce Preliminary Results at Services	Stewardship Chairman	
	Follow-Up Week	Vestry/Committee	
<b>Week 6</b>			
	Harvest Sunday Celebration	Hospitality Committee	
	Announce Final Results at Sunday Service	Stewardship Chairman	
	Thank-You Notes	Rector	
<b>Post-Campaign</b>			
	December Newsletter Article with Results	Stewardship Chairman	