

A New Stewardship Resource:

The mission of The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina Stewardship Committee is to be a clearing house of the best written, oral, visual, and digital resources on Biblical Stewardship for the clergy and parishes of The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina. To that end, we offer the following four-part teaching or preaching series for parishes to consider using in an upcoming Stewardship campaign.

A Stewardship Preaching or Teaching Series for 2017

The Christian life is a life of stewardship. God gives us everything, and we give back to Him as an act of worship in thanksgiving to Him. When Stewardship Season comes along each year, we often talk about sacrificial giving: giving some of our financial resources to the church. Along with our “treasure”, sometimes it is suggested that we give of our “time and talent”. In order to teach the concept of Christian Stewardship of all of our resources, below is a template for a 4-part preaching or teaching series called “W is for Stewardship”. In each part of the series, the congregation will see that we are called to give our time to Worship the Lord, we Work for Jesus Christ and His Church in ministry, we give generously from our Wealth, and we surrender our Wills to God in our daily walk with Him.

Week 1 – W is for Worship



Suggested Readings

OT: 2 Chronicles 7:1-6

Psalm: Psalm 98

NT: Revelation 4:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Like the Three Wise Men, we come to church to worship Jesus. We can worship God at all times and in all places, however, we set aside time on Sunday to worship with other Christians in the church. At the end of the ages, we will join the company in heaven who worship Jesus in His heavenly throne room for all of eternity. Sunday morning is practice for eternity! Our daily worship as individuals and families and our weekly worship as a church community is how we offer to God a sacrifice of worship. It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

This week, the congregation will be asked to honestly consider how many Sundays per month they attend corporate worship. When pledge cards are submitted on Week 4, each person will be asked to increase the number of Sundays each month that they engage in corporate worship. Good stewardship includes offering the Lord our time in worship.

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## Week 2 – W is for Work



### Suggested Readings

OT: Proverbs 16:1-9

Psalm: Psalm 90:12-17

NT: Romans 16:1-16,21

Gospel: Mark 13:32-37

It is tempting to think of the clergy as “professional Christians” who are responsible for the work of the Church. But all of the work of the church does not rest on the shoulders of the clergy. We are a “priesthood of all believers” and all Christians are endowed by the

Holy Spirit with Spiritual gifts for the work of ministry. When all members of the body of Christ work together, the Lord Jesus is glorified and the church is edified and the kingdom of God grows. Chapter 16 is a “thank you note” of sorts, where the apostle Paul thanks a list of dedicated Christians for their work in the Church. We, too, are called to do the work of ministry in the church.

Good stewardship includes offering the Lord our talents to work for the glory of His kingdom. This week, the congregation will be asked to consider their Spiritual gifts and make a sacrifice of time in service to the Lord and the Church. When pledge cards are submitted on Week 4, each person will be asked to engage in the ministries of the church.



## Week 3 – W is for Wealth



### Suggested Readings

OT: 1 Chronicles 29:1-20

Psalm: Psalm 96

NT: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Gospel: Luke 12:22-34

Readings this week illustrate the stewardship of wealth. Pledging to support the ministry of the church is not a sacrifice if it does not impact one’s checkbook. David, the elders and the people of Israel set an example for us to follow as they gave of their wealth to support the ministry of worship in the Tabernacle.

Our giving to the church is a response to God’s gift to us. God spared nothing to save us from sin and death. He gave His Only-begotten Son to die on the Cross. St. Paul states that this is an indescribably-generous gift (2 Corinthians 9:15). Jesus has given us new life and through His

generosity we are born again and made whole. If we truly understand the generous gift that God has given to us, shouldn't we make a generous response in thanksgiving to all He has given us?

This week, the congregation will be asked to honestly consider how much of their income they offer to the Lord through the church. When pledge cards are submitted on Week 4, each person will be asked to make a tithe of their income or at least increase their giving as they work towards a full tithe. Good stewards offer the Lord a portion of their wealth.



#### **Week 4 – W is for Willingness**



##### Suggested Readings

OT: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-12

NT: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Gospel: Matthew 6:5-15

The human will is the ability to want something and the power to choose to do something. The Holy Spirit transforms our wills to want what the LORD wants for us and to do things that honor God. The widow willingly fed Elijah, trusting that God would provide for she and her son. Paul prayed that the Corinthian Church would be willing to give generously to support the Church in Jerusalem. When

we surrender our wills to Jesus Christ, He gives us the willingness to give generously.

This week is the conclusion of the Stewardship Campaign. During the service, the congregation will be asked to submit their pledge cards and willingly offer to God a sacrifice of their worship, their work, and their wealth. Perhaps the Baptismal Covenant could be renewed as a sign of offering God their whole lives. With all that we are and with all that we have, we are to honor the Lord. This is good stewardship!

This sermon series was developed in 2017 by the Rev. Jason Collins and Mr. John Benson of the Diocese of South Carolina's Stewardship Committee. It may be reprinted, shared in any way that is helpful. If you have questions about the Stewardship Committee and its ministry contact Collins at (843) 248-4706 or [jason@stpaulsconway.org](mailto:jason@stpaulsconway.org).