

The Faithful Steward Newsletter

Anglican Diocese of Ottawa – March 2009



Faithful Stewards Stepping Up...
Diocese of Ottawa Annual Stewardship Conference
Saturday, May 30, 2009 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Christ Church Cathedral 439 Queen St., Ottawa, On
http://www.ottawa.anglican.ca/Stewardship_Conference_Registration.html



Keynote Speaker
The Rev. Canon Dr. Harold Percy

May 2009 Stewardship Conference

Keynote Speaker

The Rev. Dr. Harold Percy
Rector, Trinity Anglican Church, Streetsville

At this conference you will:

- ✓ **Learn...** "Stepping up to Stewardship" in two dynamic plenaries by Harold Percy;
- ✓ **Participate** in facilitated roundtable discussions and Q & A to increase your own understanding of stewardship;
- ✓ **Interact** with experienced parishes and share your experiences in our "How To" sessions;
- ✓ **Increase** your own ability to talk about stewardship by participating in a facilitated bible study;
- ✓ **Receive** a Stewardship Toolkit to take back to your parish
- ✓ **Network** and share ideas.

The conference will take place at Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa, on May 30, 2009 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. The cost is \$25 per person and the deadline for registration is May 15, 2009.

Register online at

http://www.ottawa.anglican.ca/Stewardship_Conference_Registration.html

Quotations for Reflection

"Worse than being blind is to see and have no vision."

-Helen Keller

"I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past."

-Thomas Jefferson

The 8 Stewardship issues for church leaders to consider in 2009 **

Economic fears challenge churches. Our mission is to offer hope and meaning to our communities and a world growing more restless in finding truth. As we move through 2009, the current economic uncertainty is presenting us with the most penetrating and spiritual questions about stewardship that we have confronted in decades.

Churches can overcome these turbulent times and position themselves to be generously resourced by considering and acting on the following suggestions:

1. **A bold vision with meaningful results will rarely be underfunded.**

Evidence shows that in down economic times, many church members do not treat giving as an expendable luxury item. They are inclined, however, to become far more selective in their giving outlets. The church that consistently and creatively articulates a compelling vision and celebrates successes will continue to attract giving in hard times.

2. **Conversations about giving must move beyond stewardship toward spiritual formation.**

Generosity is a spiritual issue of the heart. A person cannot move toward spiritual maturity until he or she understands that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Our culture works overtime to convince us that there is no correlation between our faith and our finances. A first-time reader of the New Testament could not miss the plentiful teaching about our faith directly impacting on how we live not only now, but also on how we build our treasure in heaven.

Because spiritual transformation's last obstacle is our wallet, asking for money without the backdrop of spiritual formation will yield minimal financial results. One cannot help but give generously if there is a vibrant connection between faith and giving.

3. Conversations must move beyond stewardship towards generosity.

People look for ways to make an impact throughout their lives. They want to be involved in a community where they can be a difference maker and where they have the opportunity to be generous to the point of giving up something that is good in exchange for something that is better.

Churches that celebrate generosity become more generous. Churches that remain silent about generosity become zealous about cutting expenses. Experiencing generosity is much more fun. Focus on telling stories about how the generosity of your church has changed lives, and watch your giving flourish.

4. Churches must speak more intentionally about finances.

Economically tough times create intense stress for people and organizations. Many people are in too much debt to think about saving or behaving generously. Churches can take the opportunity to be more proactive about providing resources to help people learn how to avoid and get out of debt.

The church that preaches and teaches about sound, biblical financial practices will create a long-term culture that gives abundantly to match its compelling vision.

5. Churches can still raise financial resources for major projects.

People who are eager to give generously of their time, talent and treasure look for certain qualities in a project before giving. The decision making grid that people use is radically different than just a few years ago and having a compelling vision in place is important.

- Generous people look for more specific benchmarks and ask much harder questions.

- The reason to give sacrificially must be clear and compelling.
- The leadership must be accountable and demonstrate due diligence.
- Generous people want to know that their investment will directly help others.

Churches that make adjustments in these areas will continue to attract significant resources for their vision.

6. The church must intentionally build greater trust with its people.

How can a church increase its trust account?

- Tell people frequently how their gifts are being used.
- Celebrate generosity at each offering.
- Demonstrate that you are accountable and maintain an open atmosphere about finances.
- Leaders appropriately share how they give.
- Send a thank you note to a household after their first gift to the church.
- Stop ineffective ministry and redeploy budget line items to more practical human needs: food banks, justice ministries...

Consistently building trust accelerates generosity.

7. Leaders must model sacrificial giving.

Leading by example is inspiring. Modeling generosity is done with integrity and humility in generous churches and will influence your congregation's giving.

8. Human need trumps brick and mortar.

People like their church to feel relational. It is the new norm to include the human element in vision expansion projects: church planting, a clinic in Africa, homeless ministry in the community... A clear connection of how personal giving reduces human need attracts generosity.

*** Based on an article by Brad Leeper, a member of the National Association of Church Business Administration.*

Stewardship as a pastoral care issue

The Church of England has recognized that stewardship is a pastoral care issue. There has been increased traffic to the Matter of Life and Debt section of the Church of England site which outlines help that is available through the Church's debt ministry. The site is at www.cofe.anglican.org/debt.

Developing Volunteers

The sharing of volunteer time and talent is an essential aspect of stewardship. Keep in mind that as the social, economic, religious and educational climate changes, so does the volunteer world. Some current volunteer demographic trends to be aware of include the following:

- Volunteers now represent diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- The senior population is growing, is healthier and is remaining employed or seeking leisure time activities.
- The sandwich generation is being squeezed between the needs of their adult children and aging parents; this group has less time to volunteer.
- The baby boomers are retiring or reaching retirement and are looking for meaning, values and enrichment in their lives.
- The youth population volunteers to fulfill educational requirements or acquire new job skills.

Some suggestions for managing these demographic trends and continuing to involve volunteers:

- Because of the rapid pace and limited time in many people's lives today, the church needs to become more adept at sequencing volunteers in and out and developing systems to re-invite people after they have been on a volunteer sabbatical.
- Integrate time flexibility into your volunteer opportunities by identifying time-specific projects that require a certain number of hours to complete.
- Consider volunteer job sharing. This can introduce the element of mentoring into the picture.
- Plan volunteer positions/projects that can be filled by an entire family.
- Baby boomers want to be involved in the community and make contributions based on

years of professional expertise. Invite them to be involved in projects that match their expertise and interests.

- Involve young people in volunteer opportunities that will increase their skills and enhance their resumes.
- Match people to volunteer activities, recognizing their gifts, and asking them to be involved.
- Have clear job descriptions and provide orientation and training.
- Show appreciation.

Look for more information soon about...

A major stewardship conference in 2010 jointly sponsored by the Dioceses of Ottawa and Ontario and featuring Bishop Michael Curry, of North Carolina, as keynote speaker. The conference will take place on May 7th and 8th, 2010 at the University of Guelph's Campus in Kemptville, Ontario.

For a preview of Bishop Curry, click on the following links:

Lambeth Conference: Evangelism

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ereAyF5DKWM>

Preaching Moment:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VRYJ9iykJc>

Preaching Moment:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9w7sLNR7dAQ>

For Stewardship Consultations, Mentoring and Resources, call the Diocesan Stewardship Office

Jane Scanlon, Diocesan Stewardship Officer, or Francis Christensen, Stewardship Council Chair, 613-232-7124, ext. 225

The Rev. Richard Vroom, Diocesan Planned Giving Officer, 613-233-6271, ext. 230

The Stewardship section of the diocesan website is in the process of being updated. Check for new content regularly as work progresses.

www.ottawa.anglican.ca