

Why Giving Is Important



Does Your Giving Matter?

"Do you think God knows what we give? Do you think he cares?"

Each day we have 24 hours of time...do you think God cares whether or not we share part of that time in an act of love and service for someone else? The talents you have been given; does God care whether or not we use them to bring light and hope into a world of brokenness? We all have money...does God care whether we are tight fisted or generous givers?

I think God knows about us and our giving. I also think he cares deeply. Why? Because God created us in his image and part of that image is being a giver. Secondly, God wants us to have abundant life. Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." He is speaking about now, not the hereafter. Abundant means having hope and joy and the only way it happens is when we give of ourselves in the service of others. Generous givers understand what abundant living is all about.

We have such great expectations of God. We want him to be near in every time of need. But just maybe he has great expectations of us, as well.

(Bulletin insert gleaned from Canadian Evangelical Lutheran Church used by permission)

For more Stewardship Food for Thought and Discussion-
call Jane Scanlon, Diocesan Stewardship Officer
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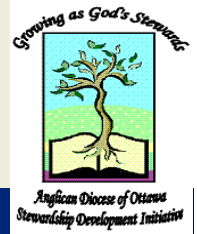
Our Budget... Is it a Faith Statement?

What does your church's annual budget represent?

Is it a proud menu of the hopes, dreams and missionary ministries your congregation wants to accomplish in the year to come? Or is it a life-support prescription for how the congregation expects to pay the staff, keep the lights burning, the sanctuary heated, the roof fixed and the grass mowed?

Continued...

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If we view the budget – and present it to our congregations – as an administrative necessity to ensure proper financial management, then we shouldn't be surprised to wind up with bare-bones measures that are grudgingly funded. If funded at all.

But if we present the budget to our congregations as opportunities to invest in the Kingdom of God and stretch ourselves to see how much we can do with even the nickels and dimes God has given us, then the possibilities increase.

In the end, a budget is a statement about how a congregation views the future. Do your people trust that ours is the God of abundance who rewards faithful stewards; a God that will stand behind servants who proclaim the Kingdom? Does your budget reflect the means by which we make the most of the abundance the Lord is giving us. Or, not? Put it this way: If an outsider looked at your budget, what would he or she conclude about your congregation's faith?

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