Stewardship Resource Catalog
For more than twenty years, the Ecumenical Stewardship Center has provided resources to help faith communities thrive as they learn to live generously. At first, this included the annual Giving: Growing Joyful Stewards in Your Congregation magazine and related theme materials. In 2009, a Companion Resource was introduced. A decade later, Giving magazine became a quarterly, digital-only publication, and theme materials were significantly expanded to provide year-round resources.

Because the practice of stewardship as a Christian spiritual discipline is a timeless activity, the Ecumenical Stewardship Center continues to offer access to all of these magazines and theme materials. When print copies are depleted, these resources are available in digital format.

While our understanding of the importance of holistic stewardship has not changed over the past two decades, technology has significantly influenced how the church carries out its ministries. For convenience, as stewards of creation, and/or to make use of technology, many congregations have modified their worship and communications practices, and the Ecumenical Stewardship Center has tried to be responsive to that.

Our goal is to create the best resources for holistic stewardship, distribute them as widely as possible, and use available technology. As much as is feasible within our means, we do not want to leave anyone out. We are happy to discuss with you customized options for your congregation. Simply reach out to us using one of the options listed in the lower right corner of this and every page of this document.

We are confident that you will find a theme and method that is just the right fit for your congregation wherever you are on your generosity journey. God bless you as you serve as you are called.

Marcia Shetler, Executive Director/CEO

Ecumenical Stewardship Center

P.S. Want access to ALL of our magazines and theme materials in digital format?

Become a generosity365 subscriber.
In 2 Corinthians 8:1-8, Paul holds up for the Corinthians the example of abundant giving by a group of people who are living on the edge, who don’t have the material wealth that’s usually associated with abundant giving. But they give anyway, gladly, decidedly, and with generosity. The Macedonians gave in a way that still inspires us today. They gave not only of money, but most importantly of themselves: first and foremost they gave themselves to the Lord. Once they did that, the rest was...easy? Easier? Maybe the right word is “possible.” It was possible. This undertaking of biblical generosity was possible for them. And it can be for us as well.

The Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity response method features four worship services with the following sub-themes: Giving God Our Day, Giving God Our Worship, Giving to God of Our Spiritual Gifts, and Giving to God of Our Income. The fourth worship service includes making a financial commitment to the church’s ministry.

Related Giving magazine volume: 12 (print and digital)

Available Materials:
- Theme Materials files (digital only)
- Companion Resource (digital only)
Scripture: Luke 1:6-8
Response Method: Worship Services/Advent

The Blessed Be the Lord God theme invites congregations to meditate on the biblical songs of Advent as they discern their individual and household giving for the following year. Giving is a central theme in many Advent songs, but one that is often overlooked. Blessed Be the Lord God restores the focus of Advent songs to blessing God for the gift of Jesus Christ. It also focuses on restoring our response to that great gift.

The Blessed Be the Lord God theme features four Advent-focused worship services. The final worship service includes making a financial commitment to the church’s ministry.

Related *Giving* magazine volume: 10 (print and digital)

Available Materials:
- Theme Materials files (digital only)
- Companion Resource (digital only)
Healthy conversations about money and its role in our daily lives are important. With that in mind, Common Hope, Common Trust is designed to help congregations begin to talk about financial stewardship in deep and meaningful ways. It is meant to encourage God's people to grow into a new freedom in giving as they grow in trust and hope and begin to leave their money anxieties behind. The common in Common Hope, Common Trust refers to the understanding that as believers we hold all things in common (Acts 4:32). In terms of stewardship, this means we hold a common trust and common hope in God's faithfulness, and it is this trust and hope that is our foundation for freedom in giving.

Common Hope, Common Trust culminates with a congregational meal and a final worship service includes making a financial commitment to the church's ministry. Suggestions are included for worship service foci and additional activities to improve understandings about money.

Related Giving magazine volume: 8 (print and digital)

Available Materials:
- Theme Materials files (digital only)
As children we learned to eat a balanced diet—and it rarely included dessert first. We were taught to be sensible—to eat our spinach and liver and Brussels sprouts first and save pudding for last. Giving first to God is a lot like eating dessert first—it’s not a “reasonable” thing to do. Reason tells us to take care of our practical needs first and give God what is left. Dessert First: Celebrating God’s Blessings invites us instead to give first to God. To give generously from our hearts—hearts filled with gratitude for all we have received from God. It calls us to exercise faith that God will take care of all of our needs.

The Dessert First response method suggests creating desserts and devotions and delivering them to every congregational household, along with information about the congregation and an invitation to make a financial commitment to the church’s ministry. The response includes worship service suggestions and a final worship service when financial commitments are presented.

Related Giving magazine volume: 3 (print and digital)

Available Materials:

- Theme Materials files (digital only)
The story of Tabitha in Acts 9:36-42 is a powerful one for the church, especially when it is experiencing a crisis. This passage seeks to reassure the faith community that Jesus’ power is still at work in the church through the teachings of the Apostles and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Devoted to Generosity has more than 200 pages of materials, including:

- Scriptural insights from the Old and New Testaments
- Outlines, including musical suggestions, for 12 worship services, 12 adult studies, 12 youth studies, and 12 children’s stories
- Detailed guidelines for 5 different stewardship emphasis timelines
- DIY files to produce bulletin inserts, bulletin covers, commitment cards for adults and children, theme-focused letterhead and envelopes, bookmarks, and posters
- Logo graphics for use in print and electronic publications

Available Materials:

- Digital Resource (digital only)
1 Corinthians 13:13 tells us that faith, hope, and love last. In 1 Corinthians 13, the apostle Paul reminds us that if we practice generosity that leaves us with nothing and even requires our lives, if those incredible gifts have not been given in the spirit of love, the giver has gained nothing. This theme will help you not only talk about money and the need of the church to receive it, but also invite persons to give faithfully, hopefully, and lovingly.

Faithful, Hopeful, Loving has more than 200 pages of materials, including:

- Scriptural insights from the Old and New Testaments
- Outlines, including musical suggestions, for 12 worship services, 12 adult studies, 12 youth studies, and 12 children’s stories
- Detailed guidelines for 3 different stewardship emphasis timelines
- DIY files to produce bulletin inserts, bulletin covers, commitment cards for adults and children, theme-focused letterhead and envelopes, bookmarks, and posters
- Logo graphics for use in print and electronic publications

Available Materials:
- Digital Resource (digital only)
God’s gift of imagination is a wondrous thing. We have been blessed in countless ways because of the creativity of the human mind and energy of the human spirit. However, our imagination can just as easily evoke fears—real and unfounded—that impede our spiritual growth as Christians. In the third chapter of Ephesians, Paul gives us many opportunities to use our imagination in a positive way, beginning with his description of God’s gift of salvation as a mystery. Verses 20 and 21 are an enthusiastic wrap-up to Paul’s narrative of God’s abundant grace, majestic power, and overflowing love that is so wide, so long, so deep, and so high that it surpasses our comprehension.

The Fearless Generosity response method includes four worship services that feature testimony, time, and congregational challenges. The four sub-themes are Fearless Living (Genesis 1 & 2), Fearless Service (Luke 4:16-21), Fearless Sowing (Mark 4:1-9), and Fearless Giving (Luke 21:1-4). Financial commitments are presented during the final worship service.

Related Giving magazine volume: 16 (print and digital)

Available Materials:

- Theme Materials files (digital only)
- Companion Resource (digital only)
Jesus taught us that faithfulness starts with the simple and everyday things of life. If each day’s activities are a letter written to God, it should be our goal to sign off each night with the words “Faithfully Yours.” God has called us and equipped us to be faithful in our unique roles—be it as a plumber, accountant, mother, father, pastor, or teacher. God expects us to be faithful in our relationships with each other as well as with our resources.

The Found Faithful response method includes four worship services on these sub-themes: Called to Be Faithful (1 Corinthians 4:1-2), Found Faithful in Little (John 6:9), Found Faithful with Much (Matthew 13:45), and Found Faithful with All (Luke 19:17). The services include various types of response that can be used by leadership to help shape the congregation’s future mission and ministry. Financial commitments are presented during the final worship service.

Related *Giving* magazine volume: 13 ([digital only](#))

Available Materials:

- Theme Materials files ([print](#) and [digital](#))
- Companion Resource ([digital only](#))
Since ancient times, storytelling traditions have transmitted histories, great truths, and cultural traditions across generations. Jesus told stories to help people understand his teachings (see Matthew 13:10-13). Native American Indians' oral traditions have helped preserve their culture and the identity of their tribal communities. Every church also has its own stories about its beginnings, its people, and its ministry. It's important for us to be good stewards of those stories. And hearing those stories can serve as the basis for a unique giving emphasis.

In the Generations of Generosity response method, intergenerational groups meet together for three weeks, with the entire congregation meeting for a storytelling event on the fourth week. The church budget is shared in story form on the fifth week, and financial commitments are presented during the worship service on the sixth week.

Related *Giving* magazine volume: 7 *(digital only)*

Available Materials:
- Theme Materials files *(digital only)*
In Mark 6 we read about the evening Jesus astonished his disciples. They had asked him to make an announcement to a huge crowd that had been listening to him teach. It was getting late, and the disciples wanted Jesus to tell the people to walk to one of the local towns to get some food. Instead Jesus said, “You give them something to eat,” and he told the disciples to go and see what they had on hand. Imagine how awestruck they felt when Jesus fed those thousands of men, women, and children with five loaves of bread and two fish. When we go and see the resources God has provided and then receive and share them, the results can be astounding.

The Go and See response method features creating a mission fair to illustrate the mission and ministry of the congregation. A Bible study is included. Financial commitments are presented during the worship service closest to the mission fair.

Related Giving magazine volume: 6 (print and digital)

Available Materials:
- Theme Materials files (digital only)
I Have Called You Friends springs from an understanding of the offering as a time to respond to God’s grace. Through a four-week series of worship services and sermon ideas, I Have Called You Friends teaches the beauty of the offering and invites people to consider their giving for the next year. It explains and freshens the time of offering and infuses it with prayers, Scripture, and inspiring music. The offering is celebrated with joy. It becomes the expression of a Christ-centered community that is Christ-like in its compassion and that intends to be led by Christ in courageous witness to the world.

The sub themes for the worship services are Christ-Centered Community, Christ-Like Compassion, and Christ-Led Courage. The fourth worship service focuses on receiving financial commitments.

Related Giving magazine volume: 9 (digital only)

Available Materials:
- Theme Materials files (digital only)
- Companion Resource (digital and print)
Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:2
Response Method: Individual Reflection

With individuality comes individual methods for knowing God’s leading. These methods help us sort through options when making important choices. When it comes to discernment about giving, we know for certain that we want to follow God’s direction, but how we are led can take many forms.

In the Let God Lead response method, prayers, devotions, and journaling guidelines are prepared and distributed for individuals to use during the weeks of the emphasis. Five corresponding worship services are suggested, with financial commitments received on the fifth Sunday.

Related Giving magazine volume: 5 (print and digital)

Available Materials:
- Theme Materials files (digital only)
Twenty-first century North American culture has presented unprecedented challenges for the church and a new sense of what it means to practice our faith courageously. This includes our understanding of the spiritual discipline of stewardship and how we live that out through our generosity.

The Live Courageously response method suggests every home visits. In our technology-driven, overscheduled culture, we may think personal visits are passe or impossible. Yet many of us—and perhaps surprisingly, especially younger generations—welcome the opportunity for personal conversation. While often expected in conjunction with a capital campaign, visits related to your annual financial response provide a great opportunity to talk about faith, your congregation’s mission and vision, hopes and dreams for your church, and the importance of consistent giving. Resources for four worship services are also included, with financial commitments presented on the fourth Sunday.

The Live Courageously theme can be used with the Live Free, Live Simply, and Live Generously themes for a four-year emphasis focusing on 1 Timothy 6:18-19.

Related Giving magazine volume: 20 (digital only)

Available Materials:

- Theme Materials files (print and digital)
- Companion Resource (digital only)
Christians should live and act like the freest people on earth. The Complete Jewish Bible says it this way: “What the Messiah has freed us for is freedom!” Find a good steward, and you’ll discover a person who understands this freedom in Christ. They realize that their economic status does not define them. They know that true riches will not be found in their bank accounts. They freely and wisely give away what they’ve been given as agents of change and as God’s ministers of restoration and redemption. They have a mindset focused on abundance, not scarcity. These characteristics allow them to freely and joyfully seek God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness and to find rest for their souls in fellowship with our Savior whose yoke is easy and burden is light.

The Live Free response method offers four weeks of worship culminating in a special meal event. Financial commitments are shared at the meal event.

The Live Free theme can be used with the Live Courageously, Live Simply, and Live Generously themes for a four-year emphasis focusing on 1 Timothy 6:18-19.

Related Giving magazine volume: 17 (print and digital)

Available Materials:

- Theme Materials (print and digital)
- Companion Resource (digital only)
Generosity seems to be the buzzword these days when we talk about giving and stewardship. Our North American media tends to focus on sensational or trendy ways to be generous, such as Giving Tuesday, the Ice Bucket Challenge, or quick crowdfunding responses to personal needs or natural disasters. While we don’t want to discount any act of giving, as followers of Jesus we are called to practice faithful generosity at a deeper level as a measure of our discipleship.

The Live Generously response method focuses on small group gatherings. The gatherings allow for Bible study, mission interpretation, and sharing dreams for the future. Participants will be asked to consider a financial commitment that they will present during worship on Commitment Sunday.

The Live Generously theme can be used with the Live Free, Live Simply, and Live Courageously themes for a four-year emphasis focusing on 1 Timothy 6:18-19.

Related Giving magazine volume: 19 (digital only)

Available Materials:

- Theme Materials (print and digital)
- Companion Resource (digital only)
One of the simplest—and at the same time most comprehensive—descriptions of Christian stewardship is that it is “everything we do after we say we believe.” Living more simply involves reclaiming Christian discipleship as our priority, including stewarding our resources faithfully and giving generously. We know that Paul’s contentment came from his life in Christ.

The Live Simply response method focuses on four worship services and a simple meal and program for all generations. Commitment cards are shared at the meal event.

The Live Simply theme can be used with the Live Free, Live Generously, and Live Courageously themes for a four-year emphasis focusing on 1 Timothy 6:18-19.

Related *Giving* magazine volume: 18 ([print](#) and [digital](#))

Available Materials:
- Theme Materials ([print](#) and [digital](#))
- Companion Resource ([digital only](#))
More Than Enough invites people to be blessed as they bless others. As God's people invest their gifts and talents on behalf of God's kingdom, they experience God providing more than enough—more than enough to meet their needs, needs in the local community, and the needs of congregational ministry.

The More Than Enough response method focuses on gifts multiplication. Willing congregational members receive money to multiply and return to the congregation as a gift. Resources for four worship services are included. Commitment cards are presented at the final worship service.

Related Giving magazine volume: 12 (digital only)

Available Materials:
- Theme Materials (digital only)
- Companion Resource (digital only)
The book of Lamentations shows what happened to the Hebrew people when they persisted in living in rebellion against God. It encourages us to practice the spiritual discipline of repentance and let it influence our generosity toward God and others. Lamentations provides an excellent backdrop for considering again our readiness to bring the first fruits of our income and life to God as an act of worship. New Love, New Mercy invites congregations to meditate on the songs of Lamentations as they discern the depth of their relationship with God, their readiness to live in covenant with God, and their openness to connect again to the love and mercy of God.

The New Love, New Mercy response method includes resources for four worship services. Commitment cards are presented at the final worship service.

Related Giving magazine volume: 11 (digital only)

Available Materials:
- Theme Materials (digital only)
- Companion Resource (digital only)
The Remember response method suggests a year-round stewardship emphasis by recognizing the anniversaries of members joining the congregation. Persons receive an invitation to give in connection with this anniversary.

Related Giving magazine volume: 4 (print and digital)

Available Materials:
- Theme Materials (digital only)
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:1-4
Response Method: Mission Focus

People who give to support their local congregation’s ministries want to know that their giving makes a difference. Knowing how their giving blesses the lives of those who benefit from the ministries they support blesses the givers as well. To inspire people to give generously, it’s important to connect them with the fruits of their giving. Givers need to know how their gifts change lives and bring joy as hurts are healed, the lost are found, the hungry are fed, peace heals brokenness, hope replaces despair, and the love of Jesus Christ transforms lives.

The Saints Alive! Living Generously response method uses stories, volunteer opportunities, and visual media to connect people with ministries and programs that depend on their support. The focus is on growing people who give generously as they respond with gratitude for the immeasurable blessings God pours into their lives. Ministries are highlighted through stories, volunteer opportunities, and visual connections. Financial commitments are shared during a final Commitment Sunday worship service.

Related Giving magazine volume: 13 (print and digital)

Available Materials:

- Theme Materials (digital only)
- Companion Resource (digital only)
It is fun to do nice things for people—even people we do not know well. Share the Gift is built on the premise that people enjoy being nice to one another.

The Share the Gift response method uses an every home visit model. The visits can be done by designated teams or “chain-style” by creating lists where one household passes to the next. Visits are short and accompanied by a small gift, information about the congregation, and an invitation to give with commitment card. With “chain-style” visits, households can choose their own small gift to share with the next household. Financial commitments are shared during a final Commitment Sunday worship service.

Related Giving magazine volume: 2 (print and digital)

Available Materials:
- Theme Materials (digital only)
“The Gifts of God for the People of God. Come for all is now made ready.” These words are often used as an invitation to share the loaf and cup of Holy Communion. In the context of stewardship, they may be used as an invitation to reflection on God’s bountiful blessings. It is good to name the gifts, to count our blessings. It is good to be still and come to know God’s mysteries. It is good to receive the gift of silence to share with a world that is wary of chaos, darkness, fear, and hopelessness.

The Gifts of God for the People of God theme is paired with Giving Magazine vol 1, All God’s Children Need to Give. It features various scripture texts and many options for the response method including small groups, an intergenerational event, and worship service emphases. The theme materials include resources for five weeks. The final worship service includes making a financial commitment to the church’s ministry.

Related Giving magazine volume: 1 (print and digital)

Available Materials:
- Theme Materials files (digital only)