Go Forth!

2009 Year Round Stewardship Program
The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas
September 2009

Dear friend,

I hope you will enjoy using this year’s program which reflects upon The Great Commission.

The theme encourages us to remember the past; those saints who built up our church and our way of living. But we are motivated to move forward—to Go with God. With prayer and Eucharist, we erase uncertainty and doubt, and then use the gifts of grace to move into the world as Christ’s disciples.

I want to thank the very talented and dedicated people who helped prepare the program this year. Some of the reflections were written by retired priests in our diocese; we often don’t get to hear their voice and were so thrilled with their contributions.

The Reverend David Barclay, retired, Overland Park
Margie Burton, St. Michael and All Angels Church, Mission
The Reverend Sam Criss, retired, St. James Church, Wichita
The Reverend Don Davidson, rector, St. David’s Church, Topeka
The Reverend Kelly Demo, Lenexa
Tuck Duncan, St. David’s Church, Topeka
Barbara Gibson, Grace Cathedral, Topeka
Mary Hoard, Grace Cathedral, Topeka
Steve Knoll, St. Margaret’s Church, Lawrence
The Reverend Craig Loya, Campus Missioner, The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas
Marcia Ransom, St. David’s Church, Topeka
Chad Senuta, Youth Missioner, The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas
The Reverend Kevin Schmidt, Olathe
The Reverend Susan Terry, Campus Missioner, The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas
Heidi Wise, St. David’s Church, Topeka

Please feel free to call me with any questions or comments. You can reach me at cdewitt@episcopal-ks.org or by calling me, 785-250-0060.

Sincerely,

Charlene L. DeWitt
Director of Development and Stewardship
The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas
Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

Week One – Go with Worship

“When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted.”

Week Two – Go with Confidence

“And Jesus came and said to them,
‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me’”

Week Three – Go with Love

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”

Week Four – Go With God

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
Theme:

The Great Commission: Matthew 28:16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

Structure:

This is a four week stewardship program, with an ending celebration meal. Many parishes schedule their program to end with a meal on All Saint’s Sunday. You can either aim for that day to collect pledge cards, or collect them the previous Sunday and announce the totals at the celebration meal.

The meal is a very important component of your four weeks. It is a way to celebrate your blessings, and create a heightened sense of the importance of the pledge. Not the budget, but the pledge. Not the pledge card, but the statement that is made by affirming our desire to give back to God.

Collecting pledge cards on a specific Sunday is an important act. This allows you to gather the pledges and offer them at the altar. Do this before worship, during the service or afterwards, giving people an opportunity for quiet reflection.

This annual giving program is tailored to be used in any way your parish desires. Feel free to modify any of the writings or theme ideas for your use. This is the 150th anniversary of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, and our theme relates well to the spirit of pioneers who built the towns and parishes where we live and worship.

This year, we are including three exciting new programs you can use in your year-round stewardship programs. They are not directly tied to the Great Commission theme, which allow you to use them any time during the year. We targeted educational programs to three groups: youth, middle school/high school, and young adults. The diocesan Stewardship Committee is aware of the need to increase the level of discussion of money and values; we believe we have included thought-provoking programs for you to use. Use them in your youth groups, as Lenten studies, or as a multi-generational discussion.
How to organize the four week personal giving journey:

Committee:

Your parish can easily implement this program with as few as four people: a person to Chair the plan and handle the mailings; someone to coordinate the Youth, Young Adult and Children’s program; the Rector to carry out the theme in sermons, written notes or articles, or other educational opportunities in your parish; and someone to coordinate the Celebration Meal.

Depending on the size of your parish, each of these subcommittees may need helpers, so the chair must be responsible for delegating that to the committee coordinators.

Calendar:

This program is organized around four Sundays. The first week relates to exploring our worship and prayer life; week two is about setting aside our fears about discerning our call from God; week three is about accepting the love that God’s grace grants us; and the fourth week is going forward knowing that God is with us always. It is also a Sunday of making our pledge commitments and enjoying a Celebration Meal.

The Meal:

Having a meal together is an important part of this annual giving program. Food has important connotations; it shows we care about each other and that we want to come together as a family. For your special Sunday celebration, it is important to have the meal catered. The possibilities for catering may be limited, depending on your town or city. Nonetheless, try to arrange food prepared by someone else, brought in and cleaned up when finished. Make clean up as minimal as possible, but make the meal as nice as possible.

Don’t feel that you have to have an elaborate meal. You can have a great deal of fun with simple things like grilled burgers, pans of lasagna, or even a soup supper! The idea here is that it is not a potluck meal. Potluck dinners are terrific, but they don’t need reservations. This is a special parish event and you are asking for everyone to attend the meal as an important member. Having the meal catered in some way gives an expectation of needing a reservation.

Approach one or more parish members and ask them to underwrite the cost of the meal. The vestry can also be approached to provide and serve the meal.

Possible Timeline of Events: (letters found in the Appendix)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>Send out Letter #1</td>
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<td>October 11</td>
<td><em>First</em> Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td><em>Second</em> Sunday</td>
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<td>October 21</td>
<td>Send out Letter #2 with pledge cards</td>
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<td>October 25</td>
<td><em>Third</em> Sunday (remind folks to RSVP for upcoming meal)</td>
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<td>November 1</td>
<td><em>Fourth</em> Sunday &amp; All Saints Day (Celebration Meal day)</td>
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<td>November 2</td>
<td>Send out Letter #3 or Letter #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>Alternate Celebration Meal Sunday</td>
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Week 1 theme: “When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted.”

Go — with Worship

The life of the disciple is sometimes filled with confusion, uncertainty, and doubt. Time and again, Jesus asks us to “Go….see.” This includes the time when Jesus fed the 5,000 people, and he asked the disciples to go and see what food they had. Or when Jesus asks Peter to cast his net into deep water to seek the abundance that was the fishermen’s to claim. Or when Jesus asks Peter to get out of the boat and walk to him. As a disciple, what do we do when we are confronted with doubt?

There are times to be reflective; times to vigorously act.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Thinking</th>
<th>Doing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>worship</td>
<td>Jesus said….Go see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prayer</td>
<td>Jesus asks us to claim abundance</td>
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<tr>
<td>examination of our lives</td>
<td>Jesus asks us to open our hearts to conversion</td>
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Jesus says, “Be not afraid.” God has made all of us as we are; we are his children. If our spiritual life belongs to God, so do our fears and concerns. Everything we possess belongs to God, which means God is with us in the times we experience great joy, and in the times we have great fear and doubt.

Fear closes us off from the Holy Spirit. When our fears seem overwhelming, we lose hope. We feel shut out, alone and unsure. We can reconcile and overcome our fears through simple habits of prayer and worship. When we regularly pray and worship, we are more able to turn ourselves from focusing inward to focusing on the needs of others.

Each week at the end of our worship, we are sent out into the world with these words, “Let us go forth in the name of Christ,” or “Let us go forth in the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.” Hear these words each week! The Eucharist nourishes us, and the Grace of God empowers us to move into the world with our ministry.

How are you nourished by worship, prayer, and Eucharist? How are you launched into action?
Week 2 theme: “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me’”.

Go — with Confidence

Beneath everything, there is God. With God as the authority, we have God’s permission and instruction to help us carry out our call.

Sharing the gospel is God’s call to the pioneering spirit. It is God’s reassurance to us that our call can be carried out without fear. Fear makes us hold back, to hoard all that we possess (including time and talents, in addition to physical assets of money and “stuff”). But when we are sent out with God beneath us, we are confident that God will look after our basic needs, and that we can share freely with others.

In the Book of Common Prayer, we are given an outline of our faith called “The Catechism.”

Q. What is the duty of all Christians?
A. The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.

Q. What is the ministry of the laity?
A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.
Week 3 theme: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”

Go — with Love

God is Love. We are drawn into the life of stewardship when we recognize God’s love. Our growth as a steward deepens when we see our life and possessions in new ways. Seeing our life in new ways comes first from a deepening relationship with God.

Stewards are not beneficiaries—others are. We live as stewards when we go into the world and confess the faith that we discover in prayer — worship — Eucharist — confession. We have been given resources by God so that we might give them away. We have been given the authority and the permission to share many things: money — time — ability — influence — love — kindness. And we are drawn further and further into the love and grace of God when we do so.

All that we have is from God: our talent, our time, our influence, and yes, our money. All of it is on loan from God and we are the caretakers. The loan is made to us out of love, and the payback terms are simple — we manage a great portion of the loan, and we give back a portion. The mission of God in this world depends upon our ability to receive God’s love and our ability to share it in return.

Think of all the things you are stewarding on behalf of God. Your talents. Your time. Your influence. Your money. Think this week of all the gifts you make on God’s behalf. When you offer to take Meals on Wheels to someone in need, babysit your grandchild or a neighbor’s child, defend someone who is being treated unfairly, and your dollars and cents for the offering. Think how each gift was given to you with the love and grace of God and how your sharing is a reflection of that love.

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. Amen
Week 4 theme: “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Go — with God

Think again how many times the disciples faced fears and doubts. Remember when outcast people approached Jesus in faith and they were healed? Remember when Jesus healed a person without even seeing him or touching him? And remember when Jesus pointed out the precious gift of two coins given by a pious widow?

Over and over again, Jesus asked ordinary people to do extraordinary things. And he asks us today to step out and claim the abundance of grace that is ours. What do we do when confronted with God’s abundance? Do we sometimes say “no?” Do we walk away from giving our time in ministry or from using our influence to right a wrong? Do we hesitate to give in a way that transforms us?

No doubt, we are sometimes overwhelmed. We know that Jesus asks us to see the impossible! To see his love and grace in the poor, the hungry, and the outcast. Yet he calls on us, as he called on his disciples, to share that which we have in great abundance. We are called to be changed forever by that love which he gives to us without conditions and without end. We cannot know God and still believe we don’t have enough to give.

Are we listening to God’s call for us? Do we take time with prayer and worship to reflect on our calling?

Q. What, then, is our assurance as Christians?
A. Our assurance as Christians is that nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Just as we take in breaths of air, we must take in the love and grace offered us through prayer and the Eucharist.

This is the Great Permission Slip!! Go! — I’m always with you!
Week One theme ideas:

Bulletin Board:

Use ideas surrounding the 150th anniversary of the diocese. Think about what it was like to live in those times. Get information from physicians, local newspaper archives, or historians about life on the prairie: imagine a life with no antibiotics or medicines, no refrigeration. How was food preserved or how was water gathered? How did settlers build your town? What about the trauma of the Civil War? What kind of stamina was required to move out here to live? Imagine the faithfulness of those pioneers; how does that inspire us today? (See the photo of St. John’s Episcopal Church in the appendix.)

Bulletin Insert suggestions:

1. Ask someone to write a reflection about this week’s passage. Something to consider: What keeps me from believing fully? What are the barriers to faith? Or, describe a time when fear or doubt took a spiritual toll on you.

2. Use this week to discuss ways to prepare for worship/Eucharist. How can we move past the clutter in our minds and more fully hear God’s call to us? A suggested prayer for this:

Seek God’s grace to confront fear and doubt.

God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

3. In the Sunday School, use the Make Your Own Book instruction (in the Appendix) to create a worship booklet that kids can use in church.
Week 1 theme ideas continued...

You may use the following reflections for a bulletin insert, an e-mail blast to your parishioners, or for a newsletter article. An additional reflection, written by the Reverend David Barclay, is in the appendix.

“When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted…” Written by the Reverend Kevin Schmidt

In central rural Kansas, there always seems to be someone in need; therefore many church and community leaders are asked to help regularly. I remember one occasion when a young man came to our little church. He was pretty down and out. Many times a transient would come through town, and members of the congregation would dismiss the person as a temporary visitor, giving them a slight nod or maybe saying hello. However, this needy person was different; he went out of his way to introduce himself, not to ask for anything, but to simply look for a family.

He came back to church the next Sunday, and the next. Eventually he got up the courage to speak to me in private about his situation. I gave him a hand and he continued to come back to our little church. Occasionally he needed a little more help from us, but he started to serve our church in another capacity. He offered to mow the lawn and perform handiwork around the church, making minor repairs to our facility. It wasn’t long before we found the he was serving us more than we were serving him! The young man finally landed a job in a nearby town, but that wasn’t the last we saw of him. He was confirmed in our church and eventually served three years on the Bishop’s Committee as the Junior Warden.

What I learned from this is there are some who walk through our church doors whom we feel compelled to serve, yet they actually came to serve us! The young man saw our needs and responded to them. Though some may think that we showed him Christ through our hospitality, I believe that he showed us Christ through his service.

“When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted…” Written by the Reverend Sam Criss

I used to feel guilty about doubting anything either the church or my grandmother said was true. Now I have come to believe that faith always contains some doubt. The enemy of faith is not doubt but either certainty or indifference. Have you ever been with someone who is absolutely certain about God or politics or religion? Have you ever been with someone who is completely indifferent to issues about God, or politics or religion? I flee from them, harassed by the first, bored by the second. Faith is trust, and that contains risk. To trust him enough to worship him takes courage, even when I have some doubts. Trust is what God really wants from us.

“When they saw him they worshipped him, but some doubted.” Written by the Reverend Kelly Demo

I don’t know about you, but sometimes I get mad at the disciples and the other people who were around Jesus. I guess I get jealous. How could they doubt? He was right there! They got to see the miracles, hear the teaching directly from him. We are left to struggle and believe these 2,000-year-old stories. How dare they doubt!

But that kind of thinking, of course, relegates Jesus just to the past. If he is here, present, very real with us then we can have the same kind of assurances that the disciples had. And I can forgive them for their doubt as I struggle with mine.
Week 1 theme ideas continued….

Hymn suggestion:
Come and Worship page

Prayer Book suggestions:
Page 817, #11. For the Parish

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ongoing activity:
Create a cut-out that you can have at the back of the church. Use these to write prayers of thanksgiving, needs, intentions, etc. each week. Post on your bulletin boards or keep in an alms basin and then offer them at the altar on your last Sunday.
Week Two theme ideas:

Bulletin Board suggestions:

1. Each week following our worship, we are sent forth in the name of the Lord. In what ways does your parish “Go forth!”? Highlight the ministry and work of parishioners in their daily life. Don’t leave out the mission work of your youth and young adults.

2. Use this week to Go big! Post the 150 Personal Acts of Stewardship found in the appendix.

Bulletin Insert:

Print a paragraph from a parishioner, or from someone in your community who reflects on what “Go forth in the name of the Lord” means to them. Why do they feel confident in their mission? How does God’s authority assure them?

Hymn suggestion:

# 536, Open your ears, O faithful people

Prayer Book suggestions:

Page 832, #59. For Quiet Confidence

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ongoing activity:

Create a cut-out that you can have at the back of the church. Use these to write prayers of thanksgiving, needs, intentions, etc. each week. Post on your bulletin boards or keep in an alms basin and then offer them at the altar on your last Sunday.
Week 2 theme ideas continued…

You may use the following reflections for a bulletin insert, an e-mail blast to your parishioners, or for a newsletter article.

“And Jesus came and said to them, ’ All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me…” Written by the Reverend Sam Criss

When Barbara Harris, our first female bishop, was asked what advice she had for the new generation of leaders in the Episcopal Church, she thought for a bit and then said, “I would like for them to remember that whatever it is that is in front of them, is never so great or powerful as what is behind them!” I think that has always been true, whether in the struggle to achieve equality for people of color, or for women, or now for gay/lesbian persons. “If God is with us, who can be against us?”

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’” Written by the Reverend Kelly Demo

Whew! What a relief. What a weight off my shoulders. If I could live like this were really true, I would know that my life is given to me by God and I am just a steward of it. I am not the end-all-be-all of my life. My decisions are not written in stone. God’s are. There is great relief in that. With God in charge I know that while everything in this world, everything in my life, may not be easy, it will all be OK.

So, why do I keep wrangling control of my life back from God?
Week Three theme ideas:

Bulletin Board suggestions:

1. How has your parish put your call (or individual calls) into action? Enhance some of your ministry/mission focus by showing how you have addressed discipleship across social, economic, racial, and geographic lines. Guide parishioners to think about ministry in national and international terms.

2. Jesus gave instructions to the disciples about how they should travel and what to expect “on the road.” (for example, Matthew 6:25-34 and Matthew 10). Approach the idea about a light load. What things weigh us down and keep us from going forth? Is it time to examine our possessions and our buying habits? What are the barriers we face in our call as a disciple? Sometimes humor or lightheartedness can provoke much thought. Could we really sell everything? Is there someone you know that gives a vast percentage of their income away? What does that look like, how is it accomplished, and what is the outcome?

Bulletin insert:
Have a paragraph from someone who discusses how God uses their life for ministry. How did they put a call into action?

Hymn suggestions:
# 657, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Prayer Book suggestion:
Page 838 #3 For the Mission of the Church

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. Amen.
Week three theme suggestions continued...

You may use the following reflections for a bulletin insert, an e-mail blast to your parishioners, or for a newsletter article.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” Written by the Reverend Sam Criss

Some think this means just teaching the truth of the good news to others. I think it means much more. We teach, yes, but far more important is to inspire! We are the witness, not our words. If others can see in us the love and passion of God, they may want that for themselves. Gandhi once said, “I would be glad to become a Christian, if I could just meet one.” Of course those words can be turned around, “I would be glad to become a Hindu, if I could just meet one.” Gandhi’s passion and love for God does make a powerful witness. We would do well to become what someone called, “Winsome witnesses for Christ.”

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” Written by the Reverend Kelly Demo

“Who dares teach must never cease to learn.” – John Cotton Dana

A disciple is one who is open to learning. But, “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks.” As my days increase and I feel more and more like an old dog, I have to challenge myself as to how open I am to learning. I think as we get older we get rather set in our ways and, even more stubborn, our beliefs. Am I a disciple of Christ, open to new learning? Can “those people” who think so different from me, who approach scripture different from me, who see the world different from me, do they have something to teach me? Am I open to being a disciple? Because if I am not, how in the world can I ever follow Jesus’ commandment to be a teacher and go make more disciples?

Ongoing activity:

Create a cut-out that you can have at the back of the church. Use these to write prayers of thanksgiving, needs, intentions, etc. each week. Post on your bulletin boards or keep in an alms basin and then offer them at the altar on your last Sunday.
Week Four theme ideas:

Bulletin Board:

1. We are the beneficiaries of a pioneer spirit. Most of us worship in churches that were build by people for people they would never know. This week, highlight the acts of financial stewardship which built your parish and funded your ministry. Give details about any endowment or trust money (no matter how much). Detail how interest income is distributed. Highlight money used from memorials. List all the ways that people can give a gift from their estate.

2. Ask your young people for help with this idea: The Great Commission is sending people out to do the work of the Lord. You could have a “Do this, Not that” board. For example, one side pictures of helping with a food pantry vs. the other side of watching TV.

Bulletin insert:

Use this week to not only turn in a pledge card, but to also sign up for ministries in the parish. A sample card is enclosed in this packet.

Include prayers in your worship service to ask for strength in your mission.

Hymn Suggestion
The Spirit Sends Us Forth, information in the Appendix

Prayer Book Suggestion
Page 248
Almighty God, whose will it is to be glorified in your saints, and who raised up your servants to be a light in the world; Shine, we pray, in our hearts, that we also in our generation may show forth your praise, who called us out of darkness into your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
Week four theme suggestions continued...

You may use the following reflections for a bulletin insert, an e-mail blast to your parishioners, or for a newsletter article.

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” Written by the Reverend Sam Criss

Some would say to God, “You don’t know what it’s really like for me, how hard it is. After all, you are God!” From the ancient Greeks to the present, this is a common cry. “God is different, God doesn’t really know or care about how hard it is to be a human.” Jesus, on the cross, said, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” Jesus, as Emmanuel, God among us, experienced even the very worst that can happen, including doubt about the meaning of anything. There is no place we can go that God does not choose to go with us. Even in the most profound times of despair, we hear the voice, “I have been there, I understand, I am with you.” We say with the psalmist, “Yea, though I go through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for Thou art with me, thy rod, and thy staff, they comfort me.”

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Written by the Reverend Kelly Demo

I remember when I was a kid the Book of Revelation scared me to death. I didn’t even want to open that section of the Bible for fear of what was in it. Satan, “the number of the beast,” the end of the world. For a fiery childhood imagination this was scary stuff.

Ironically, now it is my greatest comfort. It is a whole book proclaiming what Jesus says, “Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Through whatever hardship, heartbreak, pain, suffering, loneliness, abandonment, fear, loss, rage, doubt, hellfire, and brimstone we might face, Jesus is right there with us. Whether it is the four horsemen of the apocalypse, losing our job, losing a loved one or even doubting the existence of God, Jesus is right there, holding us and loving us hard. To the end of the age.

Ongoing activity:

Create a cut-out that you can have at the back of the church. Use these to write prayers of thanksgiving, needs, intentions, etc. each week. Post on your bulletin boards or keep in an alms basin and then offer them at the altar on your last Sunday.
**Children’s, youth, and young adult stewardship programs**

This year, we include a multi-generational approach to your year-round stewardship efforts. In addition to our standard children’s stewardship program, we have available lessons specific to your junior/senior high youth and your young adults.

The latter two programs are not related to the Go Forth! program. We believe that it is increasingly important that families engage in deeper conversation about money values, and these programs will help you begin that conversation.

You can use them at the same time in your adult and youth/young adult classes, or in other ways that are appropriate for your congregation. Add to them, use the ideas to create their own bulletin boards, newsletter articles, or have short reflections given by a young adult or youth during the worship service based on the weekly theme.

Make sure you include all generations in the pledge Sunday. All families that receive a pledge card should include enough for every member of the household who is above a certain age (such as 1st grade and older).

Included in the appendix are instructions for making a worship booklet. Use this to help all of the children explore themes of prayer and worship.
Four week children’s stewardship program:

This year’s children’s stewardship program is story based. You can use it in place of your weekly curriculum, or you can take 15 minutes at the beginning or end of your regular plans to talk about the topic. With each week, it may work better to take each passage and retell it like a story. To expand the options, have the kids act out the various parts.

Week one:
Our relationship with Jesus.
(PASSAGE Jesus welcomes the children)
Ask:
Who is Jesus?
I wonder what it would be like to sit on Jesus’ lap? What would it be like to meet Jesus? What would you ask him?

Week two:
Stepping out in faith.
Peter steps out of the boat.
(PASSAGE Peter walks on water)
I wonder what Peter felt like when Jesus asked him to get out of the boat?
Would you do this? Would it seem scary or silly?

Week three:
Giving up our possessions
(PASSAGE Jesus feeding the crowds...child version)
I wonder what it must have felt like?
How do you feel when you do good things for others?

Week four:
Giving our coins
(PASSAGE Widow’s mite)
I wonder how the woman felt when she put her few coins in the collection? Have you ever given something that meant a lot to you? What does Jesus want us to do with our money and possessions?

Week five:
Service to others
(PASSAGE The Good Samaritan)
I wonder if we would do the same thing? I wonder who Jesus feels is our neighbor? How have you helped others?
Four Week Youth Stewardship Program

Facts
1. Teens spend approximately $100 billion a year in America and influence their parents to spend approximately $50 billion.
2. US companies spend nearly $200 billion a year on advertising and marketing to teens.

Key themes for discussion
- Teens drive the American economy
- Individually, they may feel they have little or no money, but the fact remains that as a group they have the largest amount of “disposable” income, and their influence on American culture and finances is huge.
- American corporations have long recognized this, and entire companies are devoted to simply figuring out what kind of products teens will want to buy, so that other companies can market those products to them successfully.
- Teens often feel powerless. But they do have power, power to impact their church and their community.
- This unit is intended to help teens recognize the power that has been given to them and their ability to influence their world in the way that God is calling them.

Week One

1 Timothy 4:12
“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

- Have you ever felt you are looked down on because of your age?
- What is Paul’s charge to Timothy?
- Who does Paul suggest has power to influence those who look down on the young?
- What can you do to NOT LET them look down on you?

Enrichment
- There is a PBS Frontline documentary called “The Merchants of Cool” available for sale at

- This would be a good video to give youth an idea just how much power and influence they have in the American economy.
- There are also teaching/discussion materials available online here:
Week Two

I Timothy 6:7-10

“For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many grief's.”

- Are you content?
- What are your desires when it comes to money and wealth?
- What temptations around money can lead to ruin and destruction?

Week 3

I Timothy 6:11-12

“But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

- How do we pursue the things Paul mentions in verse 11
- Notice the action words in this passage: flee, fight, take hold.
- Who has the power?

Week 4

I Timothy 6:17-19

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

- What does it look like to place our hope in God rather than in our wealth?
- Why should we do good deeds and be willing to share?
- How is God calling you to be generous with your time, talents, and wealth?
- Allow time for silent reflection and prayer.
- Give each youth pledge cards to fill out in silence and return.
Young Adult (20’s and 30’s) Stewardship Program

General thoughts:

Community is key. People born after the “baby boom” generation have largely grown up in a post-denominational culture. This means 1) an ever-increasing number of young adults were raised with no church affiliation, and 2) those who were raised in the church have less “brand” loyalty to a particular denomination than their parents and grandparents. Thus, they may very well change denominations several times during their lives. Young adults tend to join a church because its message and relationships are compelling, not because it is Episcopalian, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.

Hospitality is key. Because of this, we cannot assume that they will have even a basic level of familiarity with church traditions and practices. The reality of the church in the 21st century means that it is imperative for parishes to practice hospitality by speaking in a way that is sensitive to those who are not lifetime church insiders. For example, the following sentence is not hospitable to someone with little or no church background: “The vestry invites you to turn in your pledge card after Eucharist in the undercroft, which can be reached through the vestibule outside the sacristy.” We must practice the same hospitality in our speaking about parish finances and financial stewardship. Parishes consistently fail to give young adults the opportunity to give because they do not explain the basics of how parish finances work (e.g., how pledges give a sense of how much income to anticipate, which allows ministries to be planned, etc.). We cannot continue to do church like everyone knows how to do church.

Authenticity is key. Young adults are, even more than most people, severely allergic to anything that seems gimmicky, duplicitous, or insincere. Conversely, they are attracted to people and communities who are honest and authentic, communities that are the “real deal.” While stewardship is about much more than just money, when it’s time to talk about money, it’s best to just talk honestly and openly about how money is needed and used in the parish, rather than trying to roll talk about money into broader talk about stewardship.

Abundance is key. Like everyone else, young adults want to be on a winning team. They join a particular church because they find what happens there to be compelling. Appeals which focus on the strengths of the community rather than the desperation of the budget are most effective for reaching any age group, but especially people who don’t have a strong denominational or geographic loyalty. In other words, people who see belonging to a particular church as a choice might very well respond to appeals that sound desperate by thinking, “Why be part of a sinking ship when there are plenty of others that are sailing just fine?”
Week One—A Compelling Community

In the context of a multi-generational small group, consider the following questions designed to deepen our awareness of why we are part of this church:

--What congregations/denominations have you been part of during your lifetime?
--How did you come to be a part of this congregation?
--What drew you here/why did return after visiting?
--What about this congregation is most important to you?
--What ministries are you involved with?
--What ministries/programs would you like to see offered at this church?

Week Two—Personal Financial Management

Many young adults, especially those who are in college or who have just recently graduated from college, have never been given the tools for basic financial management and literacy. Before a person can make a commitment to proportional giving, one has to understand how to calculate 2 percent, or 5 percent, or 10 percent of their income. And in order for that not to be utterly terrifying, one has to understand what percentage of income is taken up by other expenses (food, clothing, rent, etc.). In other words, a person will have no idea what they can or should give to the church if they do not have a basic budget and a basic understanding of how much is spent in given categories each week, each month, etc. This class is best facilitated by someone who has some understanding/skill/experience with personal financial management.

Helpful topics to be covered include:

--How to create a monthly budget.
--Software programs available for tracking expenses/managing budget
--If I am going to make my gift to the Church be a certain percentage of my income, where do I start? How do I figure out what percentage that should be?
--Creating a long-term savings plan in your 20’s/30’s.

Week Three—St. Swithin’s 101

This session can be used as 1) an introduction to the variety of ministries and involvement opportunities available to members (education, outreach, liturgical ministries, etc.) and 2) an overview of the mechanics of how our congregation is administered. It might less appealingly be called “ministry, polity and finance.” The goal of this session is to educate people about what it takes to produce, sustain, and nurture the community that they find so compelling. Topics to be covered include:

--What is a rector, how are they chosen, and what are their basic jobs?
--What is a vestry, and other ministry teams in the community?
--What is the cost of this community? (how much does weekly Eucharist cost in terms of salary, supplies, etc.? How much does the feeding ministry, or the Bible study cost, etc.?)
--How does this get paid for?
--How is the parish budget set and how do pledges from parishioners fit into that process?
Week Four—Changing the World

This session has two goals: 1) to put our own financial situation in a global perspective, and 2) to show how our giving through (not to) the Church impacts the world.

Topics might include:

--A discussion of the Millennium Development Goals
   what they are, the Episcopal Church’s commitment to them, the concept of giving 0.7 percent of national, institutional, and personal budgets to achieving them.
--Inviting someone familiar with our diocesan outreach efforts in Kenya or Haiti to describe our ministries in those places and the reality of people’s lives there.
--Ways our church impacts poverty and injustice in our community.
--Ways in which our personal giving through this congregation is passed on to the wider Church and world through diocesan, national church, and other budgets (ERD, etc.)
Appendix

1. additional photos for your bulletin board
2. Sample letters to send
3. Poetic reflection written by the Reverend David Barclay
4. 150 Personal Acts of Stewardship
5. Sample pledge card
6. Make Your Own Book instructions
7. Order of Life daily prayer guide (compiled by The Rev. Canon Andrew Grosso)
Go!

150 years of Following Christ
The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas
This photo is of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Wichita, the first Episcopal church in that city. It was taken in 1871.
Dear __________________________

On ____________, we as a church family will offer our commitments to each other and to God. We will offer our financial and ministry pledges during the worship service and then gather together to share a catered meal.

Over the next four weeks, we will explore a great commandment to us: The Great Commission. Jesus calls us to be his disciples. The passage is Matthew 28:16-20. Go Forth!, this year’s stewardship program, allows us to think about the journey that we can take in our own lives.

Christian stewardship is about proper and generous use of our time, talent, and treasure. And, it’s about joyfully returning to God those riches we have all been given.

The mission and ministry that we have begun at _____ (church name)_______ are important, and our work changes lives. We have developed (new leaders in the church, initiated new ministry teams, and grown the outreach programs). You are an important part of our parish.

I invite you to participate in the giving journey for the next four weeks. At the same time, our youth will be learning about stewardship in their classes. Please notice the cut-outs at the back of the church. We will have them available all month for you to write a small word or two of thanksgiving, blessing, abundance, or prayer. Place them in the alms basin and we will bring these to the altar on our Sunday of Celebration.

I am grateful for your commitment and your contribution.

Faithfully,
Letter #2

Dear ___________

On _________ we as a church family will offer our financial and ministry commitments to each other and to continue as disciples in Jesus Christ. We ask you to pray and reflect upon the ways that God is leading you in ministry.

We ask you to think about the call of Christ in your life. For the past few weeks, we have focused on Jesus’ call to us and the confidence we can have to go and serve the world.

We have heard from some parishioners who have discussed their own journey into great abundance. (give some recaps of reflections or actual testimony that may have been given in a personal testimony)

Our time of reflection will conclude when we share a special meal we will share after the ____am service. This is a specially catered meal and your reservation is important. Please call the church office at __________ to reserve your place at the table.

Enclosed is a pledge card. Please take time to pray and reflect on your financial gifts for this year. Bring your pledge with you (next Sunday; on _____) and we will offer them at the altar during the worship service.

Thank you so much for your support of time and money to this congregation. Your gifts are precious and much appreciated.

In Christ,
Letter #3

Dear ____________:

Thank you so much for attending the wonderful celebration yesterday and for your pledge to fund the mission and ministry of ________.

As confirmation, your estimate of giving for 2010 is ____________. This amount is so important and helps continue (name two or three ministry or pastoral programs)

Again, thank you so much for the support of this parish.

In Christ,
Dear __________

We had a terrific turnout and response for our celebration yesterday. We are sorry you were unable to join us!

Could you help us complete the campaign by filling out the enclosed giving card? This is not about the amount of money you give. It is about our own personal need to give back to God. Your pledge is an important part of carrying out the ministry of __________.

We are grateful for your help and your support.

In Christ’s love,
The following reflection was written by the Reverend David Barclay

“When they saw him, they worshipped him, even though some of them doubted.”

A hill in Galilee
The end of the journey
The place where it all began…
The calling, the loaves and fishes,
The beatitudes…
What a spot
For closure
For a last and final summit
For those he loved
To the very end
There near Tagba by the Sea

It was hard to believe
But it was true
Indeed
He was there
Just as he had promised

What could they do
But
Give him reverence
And
Show their obedience
Honoring his very presence

However
Several were in disbelief,
Hesitantly uncertain

How easy it is
To identify with
The “several” who had
Their own misgivings that day…
Yet both the believers
As well as the doubters
Gave their immediate adulation
At first sight.
“Jesus drew near and said to them, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth’”

Approaching
These shocked and bewildered
Hand picked followers,
He told them of
The absolute
Authority and power
That had been given to him
By his Father

Little did they realize,
That moment
Above the lake in Galilee,
That power like that
Was just about
To be given to them…
Wow

They were about
To become
“Ambassadors Extraordinaire”
Who can literally speak
In the name of the one
Who sent them
And their words and actions
Will be backed up
By a Holy God.
“Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”

There is an immediacy
To the word “Go”…
Like “right now”

Do not hesitate…
Do not lollygag about…
But be off quickly,
As one under another’s command,
To whom you must show
Utmost,
Absolute and positive obedience

Yes, you must move out…
And be off…
But where are you to go?

He who issued the command
Is sending you to
The entire,
The complete sphere,
Commonly called the globe

Nothing, no nothing,
Can…nor will be…
Beyond the reach
Of the message
You are to carry

Not geography nor language…
Will be barriers to your task
Of disciple making
“And I will be with you always to the end of the age.”

What a promise Jesus gave
To the eleven friends
Gathered on that hillside
Above the lake…

His very last words
Were
An unbreakable vow
An unbreakable pledge
An unbreakable assurance…

To be with them daily
Each and every day
24/7
Around the clock
Throughout the years
Century after century

Constantly
Continuously and permanently

And for how long?
For eternity

**Wow**

What a timeless gift!


150+ Personal Acts of Stewardship

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things, food and clothing, will be added to you.

So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you.

Know how to give good gifts to your children.

Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

"Sow a thought and you reap an act; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny"

If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so he can continue to live among you.

If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs.

Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter — when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Pray to God regularly.

Honor your father and your mother.

Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands.

Exercise careful and responsible management of that entrusted to the care of the church.

It’s never too early to teach your children about money. Teach them how to work for it and they learn pride and self-respect. Teach them how to save it and they learn security and self-worth. Teach them how to be generous with it and they learn love.
Give blood.

Give baby clothes and toys that your children have outgrown to those with younger children.

Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Help keep a community clean. Pick up litter.

Offer to work on a holiday so fellow workers with family can spend it with their children.

Help a neighbor clean their house and pick their outside weeds.

Smile.

Use recycled paper.

Purchase locally grown organic products.

Check your tire inflation.

Carpool.

Compost.

Recycle at home.

Recycle at work.

Plant a tree.

Drink tap water instead of bottled water.

Use non-disposable cups and mugs.

Start a greening project with a school.

The earliest Christian community was faithful to the Lord and was devoted to living a communal life, praying and worshipping together, attending to the needs of each member, and living out the Beatitudes day-by-day.

Attend adult religious education programs when possible. Good stewards continually learn more about God and their faith.

Read through the Sunday lectionary at least once during the week. Good stewards recognize Sunday as the summit of their week.

Remove your watch when entering church for services to symbolize this as God’s time.
Baby sit for a couple that needs a night out.

Visit a shut-in.

Visit a nursing home.

Make your pledge.

Make a gift to God in your will.

Volunteer at a local food kitchen.

Volunteer at school.

Give to Episcopal Relief and Development.

Help a family in need at Christmas.

Read to your children nightly.

Visit with the best friend you have who does not attend a church and tell them, from your heart, why you would like them to join you for worship.

Erect five signs in your community directing people to your church.

Start a Vacation Bible School for the children in your community.

Form a children’s choir and teach the children about music AND the Christian faith.

Begin a new worship service on Sunday evening for young adults.

Paint the front door of your church red. Call the local paper to tell them why.

Visit a nice hotel or restaurant and look at the bathrooms. Using paint, wallpaper and new lighting, remodel the bathrooms in your parish to be just as nice.

Serve good coffee with real cream and fresh donuts every Sunday morning after service to develop stewardship of caring.

Begin a Bible study in your home. Invite friends and neighbors, as well as friends from church.

Make it possible for your priest to participate in a program that will help him or her learn how to attract newcomers to the Christian faith.

Read three books on growing your church. When you are finished, give them to three members of your parish.
Visit the editor of your local newspaper. Ask him or her how the ministries of your parish can be featured more prominently in the newspaper.

Hold a “Hanging of the Greens” ceremony in early Advent. Invite the community as well as a photographer from the local newspaper.

Create a “Candlelight Carols” service in early Advent. Invite the community and a writer from the local newspaper.

Observe the Feast of the Epiphany. Invite the children of the parish to participate. End the ceremony with a burning of the greens and midwinter barbecue.

Make up a brochure about your parish and make 100 copies. Take a folding chair and table into town and hand out free bottles of water (on a hot day) or cups of cider (on a cold day) with the brochures.

Obtain a list of newcomers to your community. Call them, introduce yourself and invite them to church.

Pray to the Lord that people will discover Christ in your parish.

Celebrate the “birthday” of your parish. Invite the mayor, the police and fire chiefs, the superintendent of schools and other local dignitaries.

Honor the teachers in your community with a special worship service at the beginning of the school year.

Buy 100 books on the Episcopal Church or the Christian faith and distribute them to a four block area (or, in a rural parish, a four mile area) around your parish. Place a card in each book giving the phone number of the parish and the times of worship services.

Start a soup kitchen or a food pantry to help the hungry in your community. Invite both volunteers and the guests to attend church.

Become trained to lead a bereavement group to help people work through their grief. Put a large sign on your church announcing when the group will meet and invite anyone who would like to come.

Replace the wooden doors to your church (which are usually closed six and a half days a week) with glass doors that will allow passersby to look into the church when it is closed. Keep some lights on to illumine the altar.

Light the outside of your parish 24 hours a day. Light the stained glass windows from the inside at night. Half the time when people are looking at your church, it is after dark.

Hold a “Blessing of the Pets” ceremony around the Feast of St. Francis in early October. Emphasize the responsibility everyone holds to be good stewards of creation. Invite local veterinarians and members of the SPCA to attend and participate. Place flyers to publicize the event at local pet shelters, kennels and veterinarian offices. Have doggie and kitty treats for the guests of honor afterwards.
Have a Stations of the Cross service on Good Friday and pray outside your local jail, hospital, courthouse, police station and cemetery for those in great need. Tell a local television station about it ahead of time.

If you live in a house, visit everyone on your street and tell them what you have found through being an active member of the Episcopal Church. If you live in an apartment building, visit everyone in your building and introduce yourself to your neighbors. Tell them you are a member of a local Episcopal parish and ask how you might be of service to them.

Have the calls that come to your church’s answering machine, when no one is there, redirected to a residence so a real person can answer the phone with warmth, grace and useful information.

Spend some quiet time alone reflecting on why you became a Christian.

Initiate a Parent’s Night Out program where parents can drop off their kids for fun, Christian education and a simple supper before picking them up. Hold an awards ceremony every three to six months and invite the parents to come and see their children honored for their participation.

Hold an event for children, their parents and grandparents on the second Saturday of Advent. Have a variety of crafts children can make with their parents and then use as gifts and/or Christmas decorations. End the event by reading the story of the birth of Jesus.

Give a leather-bound Book of Common Prayer to a colleague, friend or co-worker. Tell them you know a place where they can learn how to use it.

Make your church the local meeting place for a variety of groups helping people recover from addictions. (Don’t worry too much about the wear and tear on the building.)

Make sure the sign in front of your parish is every bit as tasteful, readable and well-lit as any sign in front of any establishment in your town. If your sign is not in the top 10 signs in your community, replace your sign.

Place a Forward Movement publication display in the narthex of your parish and keep it filled with pamphlets on the Episcopal Church and the Christian faith.

On the 7th day of the month, invite 7 people to your home at 7 o’clock to feast on 7 different dishes and to talk about the 7 most important moments in your life. Remember to tell them about a moment when you knew God as a present reality.

Create a visually exciting web site for your parish and keep it up-to-date.

Place an attractive ad in your local phone book featuring your parish.

Copy each pledge card, say Thank You, sign it and mail it back as a record of their commitment.

Pray - make an appointment to talk to God each day.
If you are a grandparent, invite all your grandchildren to your home for pie and ice cream. Tell them how much you love them and how much your experience in the Christian faith has meant to you. It may be the greatest inheritance you will ever leave them.

Pick out three people who are not a part of the Christian faith and pray for them every Sunday for three months.

Ask your priest what jobs he or she is currently doing that could be done by someone else so that he or she could concentrate on sharing the faith with those who are not yet part of the Christian faith.

Sit next to a newcomer and help them through their first couple of Prayer Book liturgies.

Redesign your church bulletin to make it more user-friendly. Try to imagine what a first time visitor would need to know to feel engaged in the liturgy.

Visit an excellent day care center and look at the nursery rooms. Using paint, wallpaper and new lighting, remodel the nursery in your parish to be just as nice.

Ask members of a neighboring parish to make a quiet visit to your church some Sunday. Have them keep a list of their honest first impressions. See what you can learn by seeing your parish through their eyes.

Give a special gift of time, tithe or talent to your parish. Tell your priest the gift is for the expressed purpose of growing the parish.

Don’t wait until people make their way through the front doors of the church to greet them. Have greeters in the parking lot to welcome people as soon as they get out of their car. (You would be surprised how many churches don’t have signs directing people from their parking lot to the nearest open door.)

Reserve the parking spaces closest to the doors of the church for handicapped people and for first-time visitors. Make your church accessible to people of all ages and physical conditions.

Think of five creative things you could do to grow your parish. Try your favorite one. If it doesn’t work, try one more.

Become part of an EFM, Alpha, Via Media or Kansas School of Ministry class or be part of a Cursillo experience. Tell others about what you discover.

Develop a list of prospective members from information gleaned from current members of your parish. Build a team of people to pray for these prospective members and to visit them.

Invite a neighbor to dinner and introduce them to your church.

Give to the United Thank Offering

Have patience with your local teen-agers.

Serve on a parish committee.
Build a Habitat House.

Do Mission work.

Buy Haitian artwork.

Buy free trade or Bishop’s Blend coffee.

Support the arts.

Be a kind driver.

Be a mentor.

Donate to worthy organizations such as the Salvation Army.

Hug your children.

Teach a class.

Plug someone’s parking meter.

Attend a chili or pancake feed.

Teach Sunday School.

Adopt a pet from the pound or cat shelter.

Shovel someone’s driveway when it snows.

Plant flowers at churches and public housing.

Walk a dog for a neighbor.

Cut someone’s lawn.

Teach a child to pray.

Always put some change in a jar or bucket that is for a good cause.

Donate bathroom and beauty supplies to a woman’s shelter.

Help someone without a car get to the grocery store.
Purchase a bus pass for someone.
Tutor a child in a subject you know well.
Teach children healthy eating habits.
Get to know your neighbors.
Host a few barbecues or gatherings each year and invite your neighbors so that you can stay connected.
Help a non-profit organization by donating your time to their efforts or offer to sit on one of their boards.
Clip cartoons and share funny stories with others.
Always send thank you notes.
When someone is going through a tough time, send a note of comfort and support.
When someone is celebrating a time of joy, send a note of recognition and support.
Always say thank you and please.
Treat service workers with respect.
Do not pretend to listen, but try to actually listen when people share their problems.
Help someone when they are moving.
Hold doors open for people.
Visit other churches and understand other religions.
Teach someone how to use a computer and e-mail.
Give to the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund at his next visit to your parish.
Throw a birthday party for someone in your parish with no local family.
Coach a local athletics team.
Start a parish bowling or softball team.
Add your own….
Check all areas where you would be willing to serve:
(For more than one person, place individual name next to check mark)

**Christian Education:** Providing year round
Christian Education to Children and Adults.
- [ ] Ministry Team Member
- [ ] Teach/Aid in Sunday School
- [ ] Vacation Bible School
- [ ] Nursery Assistance
- [ ] Lead Adult Education Class

**Youth:** Creating a vibrant, exciting program for
youth promoting Christian life.
- [ ] Youth Group
- [ ] Assist with Acolytes
- [ ] Activities Sponsor/Chaperone

**Communication:** Joining this creative outlet
reaching our Church family.
- [ ] Ministry Team Member
- [ ] Newsletter Contributor (photos, articles)

**Community Ministries:** Providing outreach
opportunities to our community.
- [ ] Ministry Team Member
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]

**Pastoral Care:** Caring for each other.
- [ ] Ministry Team Chair
- [ ] Ministry Team Member
- [ ] Lay Minister
- [ ] Visitation to Shut-ins, Flower Delivery

**Welcome & Parish Life:** Identifying and
welcoming newcomers.
- [ ] Ministry Team Member
- [ ] Mentor New Members
- [ ] Host Coffee Hour
- [ ]

**Worship:** Assisting the Rector in the celebration of
the Liturgy.
- [ ] Ministry Team Member
- [ ] Eucharistic Minister
- [ ] Lay Reader
- [ ] Altar Guild
- [ ] Acolyte
- [ ] Choir
- [ ] Usher/Greeter
- [ ] Sound Engineer

**Building and Grounds:** Helping to maintain a safe
and welcoming environment.
- [ ] Committee Member
- [ ] Building Maintenance Assistance

**Stewardship:** Communicating the wise use of our
time, talent and treasure for the glory of God.
- [ ] Committee Member
- [ ] Commitment to Pledge

**Personal Spiritual Growth:** Joining others in
seeking a closer relationship to God.
- [ ] Education for Ministry
- [ ] Daughters of the King

Please fold in thirds and tape card at the bottom. Mail OR drop in mail slot at the Parish Office by Nov. 4, 2007.

Please consider prayerfully the giving of your Treasure to the family of (church).

I/We pledge $__________ during 2010 to be paid: weekly monthly yearly (Please circle one)

Signed: ____________________________

( ) Check if you would like to receive the Newsletter Email Address: ________@__________

( ) Check if you would like Pledge Envelopes

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Make Your Own Book

A sheet of paper is usually a rectangle and with just one sheet, you can make your own eight page book. You may use either a standard 8.5 x 11 sheet of typing paper or a legal sized paper.

**Make sharp creases:** Fold the sheet in half short sides to short side and open, then fold the sheet long edge to long edge and open. The dotted lines are the new creases.

Make two more sharp creases by folding the narrow ends toward the center crease (labelled A) and reopen. The dotted lines are the new creases.

Now refold the sheet short edge to short edge along the A crease.

With the paper tightly creased along the center fold (A), cut on the dotted line from the creased edge stopping at the fold-line labeled B.
Reopen the sheet

Be sure that your cut sections can open like the one at the left.

Refold long length-wise and open up the cut sections.

Holding the two outer sections, push together to open the book where the cut was made.

There are now four sections with each of its sides as a separate page.

Fold the sections together to make a closed book like the picture on the right.

While your new book is folded, number the pages from 1 to 8 in with the number placed at the bottom in the center of the page. If you use pencil, you can erase it later.
Unfold paper from its folded book-shape. Notice where the pages appear on the opened sheet. This is the page order that you will use so that the folded book will have pages in the right order.

Turn the sheet around and you will see the page order for your story. Remember that your page number is at the bottom of the page so that you will not write your story or draw your pictures upside down.

Sample book:

Now refold your book as on the previous page so that page 1 is your front cover and page 8 is the back cover.