

2007 (3rd Quarter)

## STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

What is stewardship?

What do you think of when someone says the word stewardship? Many of you may think it just has to do with money, but it's much more. Herb Mather writes that "...biblical stewardship has to do with how we manage *everything* in life as a trust from God. Surely stewardship includes the way we earn money and the choices we make about purchasing, saving, and giving - but stewardship is much more than finances. In addition to finances, stewardship also has to do with ecology, with relationships, time, gifts, spirit, and leadership."

In this light, think about your stewardship. Here are some questions to ask yourself:

- How do I handle money? Do I purchase wisely, save prudently, and give all that I can?
- What could I do to be a better steward of the ecology? Recycle? Walk more often? Protect our water? Other ways?
- Do I manage my relationships that would be pleasing to God?
- Have I fulfilled the vows I promised to this United Methodist Church with my "prayers, presence, gifts, and service?"

Be the steward God intended you to be!!!!

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## HELPS FOR THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

*"Stewardship is how we manage everything in life as a trust from God"*

Read the book *Don't Shoot the Horse ('Til You Know How to Drive the Tractor)* by Herb Mather and begin a discussion in your stewardship committee on taking steps to move toward **12 month stewardship**.

Here are some areas/ways to integrate stewardship:

- New Member classes
- Making the offering a celebration
- Having people give testimony on how the church has helped them go to camp, in a crisis, or other times
- Saying thank you more often
- Involving people in ministry
- Offering Planned Giving & Estate Planning Seminars
- Offer a biblically-based budgeting course
- Talk about the key moments in the life of a giver
- Teach tithing to Sunday School classes from young to old
- Have you pastor preach about stewardship in the broadest sense and specifically about how to become a better steward
- Invite people to be a part of your church ministry

Please invite the Foundation to assist you in stewardship, wills/ estate planning, or other ways to give workshops.

