

THE EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR STEWARDSHIP
helping people live generously



The
Episcopal
Diocese
of San Diego

—
FEARLESS LOVE

Stewardship School Making Stewardship Transformative

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Agenda

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| 10:00 am | Opening Prayers, Welcome and Introductions |
| 10:15 am | Stewardship Bible Study & Reflection
<i>Handout: Scripture Passage</i> |
| 10:45am | Moving from Crisis Based Pledge Campaigns to
Year Round Generosity |
| Noon | Lunch—Networking Stewardship Conversations |
| 12:30 pm | Transformational Annual Pledge Opportunities |
| 2:00 pm | Closing Prayers and Dismissal |



Joy and Gladness

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his
presence with singing! Know that the Lord is
God! It is God who made us, and we are God's;
we are God's people, and the sheep of God's
pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and
his courts with praise! Give thanks to God;
bless God's name! Psalm 100:1-4



Jesus and the Promise of Abundance

Luke 5:1-6

1. In this story, a simple command of Jesus leads to abundance. Where might you follow a command of Jesus in your life so that you might experience abundance? How might that be reflected in your financial priorities?



Luke 5:1-6

2. How have you used the teachings of Jesus as you think about Stewardship in your life and in the life of your congregation?



Living Generously

“We have to make choices to give up some of our time and money to nurture the compassion and generosity that hold us together as families, communities, nations and the world.”

Dave Toycen, President Emeritus

World Vision, Canada

The Power of Generosity



Making Choices

- Choose how to see the world.
- Choose what's important in your life.
- Choose how you see yourself.
- Choose how you value others?
- Choose Ubuntu.



Small Group Conversation

What can I do to live more generously?



Small Group Conversation

What's keeping me from living more generously?



Overcome Fear

“...let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.”

FDR First Inaugural Address

March 4, 1933



Overcome Fear

- Accept All you have been Given.
- Resist the Lie of Scarcity.
- Relax.
- Pray.
- Work in Community



Creating a Culture of Generosity

- Err on the side of abundance.
- Show hospitality to all.
- Strive to thrive.
- Every month highlight something abundant at your church.
- Have monthly witnesses in church and in the newsletter from people who give generously of their time, talent, and treasure.
- Let your light shine to members and to the community.
- Encourage first time visitors not to give.



Creating a Culture of Generosity

Describe Three Examples of Abundance in
Your Congregation



Vestry Generosity Leadership

- Each Vestry Member must live abundantly.
- Every member must live joyfully.
- Vestry leaders must be the leaders of generosity in time, talent and treasure.
- Vestry needs to talk openly about money...not in terms of church budget, but in terms of the role of money in our lives.



Money

“Money is a tool, not an end in itself. Author Michael Adams comments, ‘In modern societies, money displaces secular and religious power as the principal medium of exchange.’ Money gets worshipped as something that in itself will bring satisfaction and fulfillment. The tool suddenly becomes the prized possession instead of a step in the process that leads to a fulfilled life. This choice faces everyone. **You cannot have a transcendent value in your life while still holding money of equal importance. Your ultimate value will come in conflict with your desire to gain and hold money at all costs.**”



Vestry Generosity Leadership

- Vestry must stop talking about finances and concentrate on mission and vision.
- Vestry must be leaders of telling the story of your congregation and it's mission.
- Vestry must be leaders of generosity and talking about generosity.



Year Round Stewardship

- Stewardship of Welcoming
- Stewardship of the Earth
- Stewardship of Facilities
- Stewardship of Community
- Stewardship of Money



Planning for Generosity

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit,
your church's pledge income increases by
35% Develop a plan for expanding the
mission of your congregation.



Start Planning Your Pledge Drive Now!

- Witnesses/Story Tellers
 - For Sundays and in the Newsletter
 - Guidelines



What to do NOW

- Targeted Dinners
 - New members
 - Long time-static pledgers
 - Major Pledgers



Step Up Your Plan

- ✓ Targeted One on One visits
 - ✓ Identify Visitors
 - ✓ Identify Members to be visited
 - ✓ Train Visitors
 - ✓ Assign Calls



Step Up Your Plan

- ✓ Call everyone just before pledge cards are distributed
- ✓ Call everyone one week after pledge cards have been distributed
- ✓ Call those who have not yet pledged 2 weeks into pledge drive
- ✓ Follow-up to those who have not pledged after in-gathering

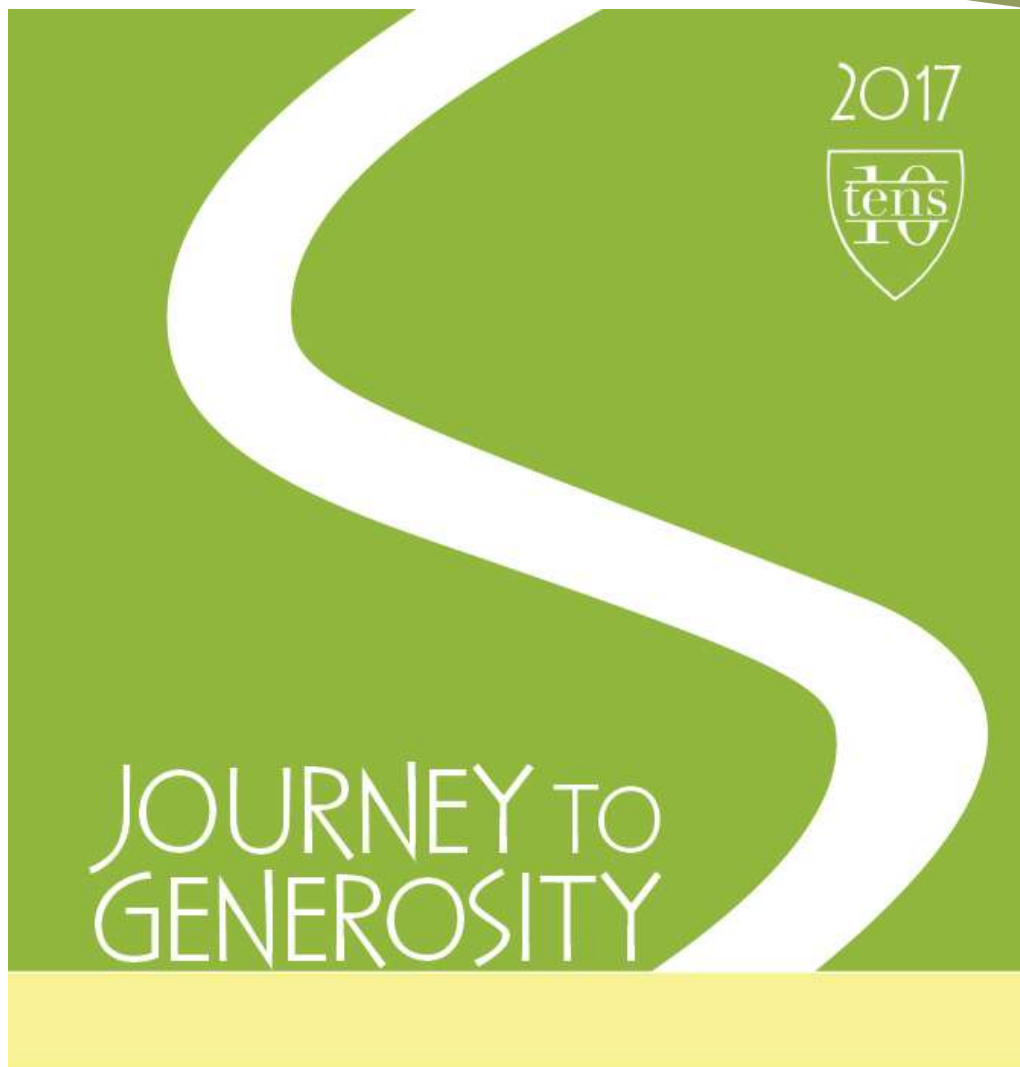


Have Fun!!!!

Celebrations

- To kick off pledge drive
- To celebrate ingathering

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Journey to Generosity Pledge Drive

- Bulletin Inserts
- Letters to Parishioners
- Pledge Cards
- Prayers of the People

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An opportunity to say 'yes'

Life is an opportunity. Life is a journey. A journey to saying “yes” to God who calls us the Beloved. Life is a journey to love; a journey to welcome; a journey to invite; a journey to peace; a journey to generosity.

From the moment we draw our first breath to the moment we breathe our last, we are both receivers and givers. How we move from takers of everything given to us to sharing everything we have is one measure of how we live into saying, “Yes.”

On our journey to generosity, we learn from our parents and other family members. We learn from friends and church members. We learn through our own actions and from hearing the stories of other generous people.

The gospel stories of Jesus inform, challenge, and inspire us. Whether it’s the story of the Good Samaritan, the rich young ruler, or Zacchaeus, Jesus invites us into what the journey to generosity looks like.

TENS has chosen “Journey to Generosity” as the theme for 2017 to invite everyone into that journey. It is not simply about how much we give to support the mission and ministry of our parish. The journey is about how we live our lives as the Beloved.

Are we generous in our dealings with others? Are we generous when we welcome the stranger and the strange to church on

“Put simply, life is a God-given opportunity to become who we are, to affirm our own true spiritual nature, claim our truth, appropriate and integrate the reality of our being, but most of all, to say ‘Yes’ to the One who calls us the Beloved.” — **Henri J.M. Nouwen**

Sunday mornings? Are we generous in our forgiveness and in our acceptance of forgiveness?

We hope you find our upcoming offerings helpful as your church travels on the Journey to Generosity.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Richard Felton, Executive Director, at rfelton@tens.org.

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CAMINO A LA GENEROSIDAD

2017

Una oportunidad decir 'sí'

La vida es una oportunidad. La vida es un camino. Un camino hacia decir "sí" al Dios que nos llama Querido. La vida es un camino al amor; un camino a la bienvenida; un camino a la invitación; un camino a la paz; un camino a la generosidad.

Desde el momento de la primera respiración hasta el momento de la última respiración, somos a la vez receptores y dadores. La manera en que nos convertimos de ser beneficiarios de todo dado a nosotros a compartir todo lo que tenemos es una medida de cómo vivimos el dicho, "Sí."

En nuestro camino a la generosidad, aprendemos de nuestros padres y otros miembros de la familia. Aprendemos de amigos y miembros de la iglesia. Aprendemos a través de nuestras propias acciones y de oír las historias de otra gente generosa.

Las historias del evangelio de Jesús nos informan, nos desafían y nos inspiran. Si sea la historia del Buen Samaritano, del joven rico, o de Zaqueo, Jesús nos invita a explorar lo que es el camino a la generosidad.

TENS ha elegido "Camino a la Generosidad" como el tema para 2017 para invitarlos a todos a ese camino. No es simplemente cuánto damos para apoyar la misión y el ministerio de nuestra parroquia. El camino trata de cómo vivimos nuestras vidas como el Querido.

¿Somos generosos en nuestras relaciones con otros? ¿Somos generosos cuando damos la bienvenida al desconocido y al extraño en

"En términos sencillos, la vida es una oportunidad dada por Dios para convertirnos en quienes somos, reclamar nuestra verdad, apropiarla e integrar la realidad de nuestro ser, pero sobre todo, decir "Sí" al Dios que nos llama el Querido." — Henri J.M. Nouwen

la iglesia los domingos? ¿Somos generosos en perdonar y recibir el perdón?

Esperamos que sean de ayuda nuestras próximas ofertas mientras que tu iglesia camine en el Camino a la Generosidad.

Si tienes preguntas o comentarios, favor de contactar a Richard Felton, Director Ejecutivo, en rfelton@tens.org.

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Joining in God's 'ever-rollingness'

THE RT. REV. ROB WRIGHT

There is a never-failing ever rolling-ness to God. That's what Amos said, "Let justice be like a rolling river and righteousness like a never-failing stream." —AMOS 5:24

Stewardship isn't first and foremost about money. Stewardship is first and foremost about the nature of God... never failing and ever rolling. This must be understood and lived out if you and I are ever to be called faithful stewards.

When we give, we are participating in the personhood of God. We are participating in what is most real in the universe—God's inexhaustibility! We are making God real in the world by lending God our flesh through partnership.

When we give, you might say, we are rolling the dice in a game, the outcome of which we are already certain. God is love. And loving is giving. Read along in the bible, Old or New Testament, and you will see the most stern rebukes by God through the prophets are reserved for the people who claim God but fail to enact God. Rebuke is reserved for those who would dam the flow of God's never-failing ever rolling-ness, either in word, deeds or both.

But that is not who we are. We are those who understand and incarnate God's generosity. We are the people who appreciate at a deep personal level that all we have is gift. And that anything we could offer to God is simply the act of returning resources to its author and true owner.

But not only that, there is a never-failing, ever

rolling-ness to be experienced personally in this giving business. Let's call it the experience of freedom born of fidelity. Freedom too often these days is defined as the absence of restraint or regulation. This definition of freedom is little more than the idolatry of the self or the market. The freedom that we were made for is the freedom that comes from faithfulness. This freedom births

For reflection ...

- When has giving made you feel most connected to God and God's people?
- What hinders you from trusting and replicating God's never-failing and persistent generosity?

spiritual maturity and a robust sense of neighborliness and common well-being.

It's no wonder that one of the 100 most influential people in the world, as I write this article, is Marie Kondo, author of "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up."

While on the face of it her goal appears to be decluttering the world one closet and home at a time, she's teaching the world that clutter and greed are bondage.

I believe her work is deeply spiritual. I believe her work is about removing the barriers to our experience of never failing and ever rolling-ness.

What hinders us in trusting and replicating God's never-failingness and ever rolling-ness? Maybe we could begin again by thinking of God's raging, persistent, goodness toward us. Maybe that could unlock the flow.



The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright is the 10th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, which covers north and central Georgia, and embraces 110 worshiping communities. He and his wife, Beth-Sarah Wright, have a grown daughter and four school-age children.



Journey to Generosity Resources

tens.org

Member Resources

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Questions?

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