

## ❖ ORDINARY STEWARDSHIP

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This is the disciplined practice of paying attention to the world around us and treating everything as God's creation because it is God's. It is the regular attention to family, church, work, community, and ourselves. Ordinary stewardship requires us to keep these needs in balance so that one piece doesn't begin to possess or oppress us.

The practice of returning to God a part of all that God has given to us reminds us that all we have is sacred. Each Fall you have an opportunity to make a financial pledge to the parish and indicate your interest in parish ministries.

## ❖ SPECIAL STEWARDSHIP

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Special occasions arise that call on us to give time and money beyond our ordinary giving. They involve increased risk and encourage us to experience sacrificial giving. These may be disasters or a need to reach an important goal.

Be open to special needs in the community: Summer Mission Projects, holiday giving for our Outreach partners, the Community Cupboard, the national church's Episcopal Relief and Development fund. The parish and diocese will from time to time have capital campaigns.

## ❖ LEGACY STEWARDSHIP

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This may be the touchstone for the four modes of stewardship listed here. You are going to leave this physical world. You can choose now how you are going to respond to God's love. What example of stewardship will remain when you are gone? Will there be signs that you were a good steward?

How did you treat family, friends, neighbor, or stranger?

Will you be remembered as a faithful person who was found in church most Sundays? ... Who was generous in supporting the ministry of your congregation? ... Who prayed and read the Bible?

You can remember the congregation through a number of options that are explained in detail at :  
[www.ecf.gift-planning.org](http://www.ecf.gift-planning.org)

## ❖ TEACHING STEWARDSHIP

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Have you taught your children how to handle money? To care about the creation? To respect the dignity of all people? To be generous?

If your children have money to spend do they have a pledge card?

# Stewardship Of Life



*We are a community of  
Christian people  
seeking to love God  
with all our heart, soul,  
mind, and strength and  
to love our neighbors as  
ourselves.*

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## STEWARDSHIP

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*is about our relationship with God and all of the creation. The universe was created good, it is the work of a single loving God who creates, sustains, and directs it. The world belongs to its creator; and we are called to enjoy it and to care for it in accordance with God's purposes.*

*adapted from The Catechism*

**Stewardship is what I do, with all that I have, after I say, "I believe."**

Stewardship teaches that all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God. We are, therefore, stewards of God's gifts during our lifetime. Discerning and carrying out God's purpose is the primary purpose of our lives. The gifts we have been given, time, talent, and money, are to be used for that purpose. The primary role of the church is to guide individuals in discernment of the mission for their lives and use of their resources in accomplishing it.

## BAPTISM

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- ❖ marks our relationship with God
- ❖ changes our lives
- ❖ commissions us in the service of God
- ❖ puts us under the Lordship of Jesus

## YOUR CALL, YOUR LIFE

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The word vocation comes from the Latin word *vocatio*, to summon or to call. A vocation is a calling, made by God and understood through our relationship with God and our communities. Vocation is about what we do, but it is also about who we are. As God creates, sustains and directs creation, we who are created in the image of God are called to participate in the creation by protecting it, nurturing it, and being creative for God's purposes.

## PRIORTIES

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We are challenged everyday to put everything in subjection under God's reign.

- relationships
  - employment
  - family
  - money
  - possessions
  - time
  - passions
  - talents
  - recreation
  - consumption
  - lifestyle
  - environment
  - voting
  - calling on government to serve the common good
- You will spend the rest of your life discovering how God wants you to be in service. Be attentive, pray and love the creation.