

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

April 2026

Are you doing your part? So much more can be achieved when everyone pulls together towards a goal. If everyone contributes something, then the total achievement will increase substantially with less effort from each person.

Alabama pastor, Thomas Lane Bush, tells a humorous story from his teen years, which carries a great lesson. Tom was helping an uncle harvest logs for a saw mill. After a rain one day, they started down a dirt road in a truck loaded with logs. Suddenly, the truck slipped off the road and became stuck in the muddy ditch. They knew that they needed help to get it back on the road.

Tom's uncle went to a farmhouse nearby and asked the farmer if he could help them. The farmer said he had a mule which he thought could




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do the job. A deal was made and the farmer was soon hitching a mule, which he called ol' Blue, to the truck. When all was ready, the farmer yelled, "Pull, Blue!" Blue pulled, but the truck did not move at all. The farmer yelled again, "Pull Blue! Pull Mack! Pull Maude!" Ol' Blue dug his hooves into the road, strained forward mightily, and the truck was soon out of the ditch and back on the road.

Tom and his uncle were relieved,

but both were confused. "Why," the uncle asked the farmer, "did you call out the names of two other mules besides ol' Blue?"

Smiling, the farmer said, "Well, ol' Blue is blind and when he thought he was pulling alone he couldn't do the job. But when he thought Mack and Maude were pulling with him, he was encouraged to pull all the more. So now your truck is out of the ditch."

Do you see the message in this story that has to do with stewardship? It is this. No one of us can meet all of the needs of our church. But when we know we are pulling together with others, we can accomplish whatever needs to be done. 

"You shall open your hands wide to your brother, and to your needy in the land." Deut. 15:11

In addition to faith, add brotherly kindness, love, self-control, knowledge, goodness and generosity to create a recipe for stewardship.






The Ceiling Fan

The tiny church sanctuary where I spent half my childhood had no opening windows or air conditioning. One blistering summer, I remember watching sweat roll down old men's necks and marveling as women folded bulletins into neat accordion fans to cool their faces. The singing melted into a lethargic murmur, and our pastor pressed his hands at his sides when he spoke to hide the wide, wet circles under his arms.

Then one Sunday, we entered the sanctuary to feel a cool, pleasant blast that seemed to emanate straight from heaven! High in the center of the room, a ceiling fan whirred. People had already gathered beneath it, awed by its air and questioning its origins. Later, the pastor publicly thanked an anonymous donor for his gift.

"Who do you think it was?" I asked my mom after service, as church members lingered, laughing, in the benevolent breeze.

She smiled and whispered, "It was your dad."

Although the rest of the world has probably forgotten the mysterious arrival of the ceiling fan, I still feel proud when I recall Dad's donation. He didn't have to contribute millions or make the evening news ... his small, but meaningful act sank deep into my heart and my memory. 


Inspiring others to help builds groups of stewards. Sometimes leading by example is not enough. A text from the Letter to the Hebrews is always relevant: "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, ...but encouraging one another." (Hebrews 10:24) So it's all together now!





Through the Stained Glass...

Jack is in our Men's Fellowship Group. He has worked for the local utility for many years and has done well financially. You'd never know it though because he is a little rough around the edges and always wears the same worn jeans and ruffled shirt. Time and again I've heard through the grapevine that whenever anyone from church was struggling financially, Jack was right there to help, usually anonymously. What he lacks in social graces is more than made up for by his generous heart and desire to help those who've fallen on hard times or are out of work.

The Bible says we are all part of one Body (Christ's), and that no one part is more important than another. We all need each other. Jack will never be asked to lead a ministry or sing a solo. He has no such aspirations. But when he hears of a family or individual in need, he's right there, never seeking anything in return. He knows God has blessed him with considerable wealth and he holds it with open hands. What gift has God given you for the support and encouragement of your local church? All God asks is open hands. 

I Thought You'd Never Ask

I was curious while visiting my neighbor, who had lived across our garden fence for many months. When she indicated she was a Christian, I wondered why she did not go to church.

I told my husband I was going to invite her to go with us the next time I saw her.


Soon we met over the garden fence and I said, "Would you like to go to church with us sometime?"

She smiled appreciatively, "I thought you'd never ask. Since I don't drive any more, I have no way to go places."

I offered, "It would be no problem for us to take you. We go right by your place."

"How about next Sunday? She quickly accepted.

She now attends services when her health allows. We have been privileged to minister to her in times of illness, and she has helped us in many ways. It is always a joy when she favors us with a loaf of freshly baked bread or a pot of home cooked beans.

I am encouraged daily to reach out to others when I remember the words my neighbor spoke, "I thought you would never ask?" 



God gave human beings superior minds...to be used to their fullest capacity in discovering God's plan, in understanding self and others. We were also given bodies in which to accomplish God's work. Use both to their fullest to inspire stewardship in your church and community.



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and to your needy in the land.” Deuteronomy 15:11**

Steward of the Month

A True Sister...

Submitted by: Franine, Jamaica, NY

In October, the Church of Saint James the Less had its first Blessing of the Pets. Many came out for this wonderful day. One person really stood out was Audrey D’Aguilar-Chalmers. She set up the chairs and the Altar for this outdoor event. She also donated refreshments for all the pets and their owners, although Audrey herself didn’t have a pet. Audrey is a long time member of this church. She also serves as a Lay Minister at 8:00 am services ... never missing a Sunday unless she was out of town.

She is also a member of the Altar Guild. She did the task of the altar very diligently often unselfishly replacing worn out articles for the altar. This past year she also stood in as The Angel for Episcopal Charities campaign for its annually appeal. Audrey loved her church. She was truly An Angel and my sister Audrey D’Aguilar-Chalmers passed away that same month. We will miss her. ☩

