

**Stewardship Education**  
**at**  
**Third Presbyterian Church**  
***Questions and Answers for parents and children***



## *What is Stewardship?*

Stewardship is caring for the things that God has given us. This includes the earth, our church, our bodies and others. We are called to use our time, talents and treasures to help build up God's kingdom and do the work that God has for us to do.

## *What are the ways that we participate in Stewardship?*

As good stewards, we share our Time, Talents and Treasures!

**Time:** We share our time. We volunteer, we make time in our lives for prayer, we make church a priority and dedicate our time to things that glorify God. If your parents serve on committees—they are giving their time. Your Sunday school teachers, the ushers, the deacons who visit our sick members in the hospital—they are all giving their time to the church.

**Talent:** We share the things that we are good at with others. You can share your talent by doing things like baking cookies for dining room ministry if you are a good baker or by singing in choir if you are a good singer. Adults in the church share their talents by teaching, serving on committees, singing in the choir, helping to do “fix-it” projects around the church, coming in to answer the phones in the office, traveling to New Orleans. . . and dozens of other ways! What talents do you have? How could you share them with the church?

**Treasure:** We share our things. Some ways we do that are to bring in food for the food cupboard or school supplies for Cameron Community Ministries. One of the biggest ways we share our treasures is when we give a portion of the money that we have to the church. That money supports our missions, but also does everyday things like pay utility bills (phone, electricity, heat), pay the salaries of people who work at the church and do things you might not think about like buy crayons for Sunday School and paper for the worship bulletins.

The church would not run without time, talents and treasures.. If we had lots of time but no treasure, we wouldn't have a building in which to spend our time! If we had treasures without talents, we would have gobs of money, but no one to help us be creative about how to be a church. Each part of stewardship is important, and we should try to balance to be sure that we are offering all three to God.

## *What should I do with my treasures (money)?*

It is important that you divide your money among money that you spend, save and share.

**Spend:** Everyone needs money to spend. People must buy things that they need and things that they want. We all need clothes, school supplies, gas for our cars and food for our bodies. It is also nice to have money to spend on things that are just fun like a trip to the movies or a new book. It's not a good idea, however, if we spend all of our money. . .

**Save:** We need to save money as well. We save for the future—young people might save for college and grown-ups save for retirement. We save money for emergencies and for big things that we will need to buy in the future like a new car or house. But all of our money can't be for ourselves. . .

**Share:** We all know that it is a great thing to share. Your families probably have their favorite charities to share their money with. Maybe you give money to the animal shelter or to the local fire department. Maybe you give money to help people with cancer or the homeless. We also need to give money to help the church. When we give money to the church, we are supporting all the ministries of the church from having pastors who can lead worship and visit sick members to keeping our building safe and nice looking to all of our mission projects like our dining room ministry and tutoring programs.

## *How much money should I give?*

No one can tell you how much money you should give. That is a decision between you, your parents, and God.

Some people say you should "tithe" which traditionally means to give 10% (that means if you had \$1.00, you would give \$.10). Some people believe in giving away some money when they buy something for themselves (for example, if you were saving for a \$20 wii game, you might give an extra \$2 to a charity or the church).

One idea is to get three piggy banks, and to divide your money among the three banks so that every time you get money, you are thinking about how you will best use that money.

Children's offering money, just like adults' offerings, go to the church to help pay for all of the programs and expenses of the church.

## *Suggested resources*

<http://www.upc.org/download/424.pdf>

<http://www.diobethkids.com/PDF/ChildrenAndStewardship-Oct02.pdf>

[http://www.youthandfamilyinstitute.org/pdf/news/Sharpe\\_July2003.pdf](http://www.youthandfamilyinstitute.org/pdf/news/Sharpe_July2003.pdf)