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# Starting Well for New Vestry and Bishop's Committee members

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# Stewardship!



# For what shall we pray?

**Generous and loving God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be yours, utterly dedicated to your service.**

**Use us and all of our resources—  
each minute of our day,  
each of our humble gifts and talents,  
and even our finances,  
as you will, and always for your glory and for the  
welfare of your people, in and through and with  
the power of your Spirit.**

**AMEN**

# From the Diocesan Canons

## Canon 2.6

For the previous year has been  
faithful in corporate worship. . . .  
praying,  
and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

## Canon 2. 9

[The vestry] shall administer the temporal concerns of the Church in the  
Parish.

# Disciplework:

Walk the grounds and the buildings.

Open doors and look in.

What would it be like to view these/care for these like “the vessels on the altar”?

# OUR LIVES IN THE OFFERING PLATE

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# Best Practice:

## The Offertory

# Offertory Sentences: Book of Common Prayer

## Rubrics from the Book of Common Prayer:

*The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with one of the sentences on page 376, or with some other sentence of Scripture.*

*During the Offertory, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung. Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and **money or other gifts**, to the deacon or celebrant.*

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. Psalm 50:14

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. Psalm 96:8

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

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I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:1

If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23, 24

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Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, or such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:15,16

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

Revelation 4:11

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Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all. 1 Chronicles 29:11

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.



# Pause

Which sentence surprised you most?  
What do the sentences say about an  
Episcopal theology of stewardship?

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# Best Practice:

Expanding our  
definition of  
stewardship

What are the  
resources/assets you  
have?

RESOURCES

What resources do you have to work with?



HUMAN

Who works with you?



FACILITIES

Where can you work?



FINANCIAL

How do you pay for it?



SERVICE

What do you do?



EQUIPMENT

What are your tools?



REPUTATIONAL

What are you known for?



NETWORK

Who do you know?



INTELLECTUAL

What do you know?

“

**Mission Amp** ”  
**can help with this**

“ Changing the parish culture from stewardship as budget funding to disciple making ”

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# Insights

# Best Practice:

Budget planning

Last year's giving prediction of this year's financial resources



“

# Enough

”

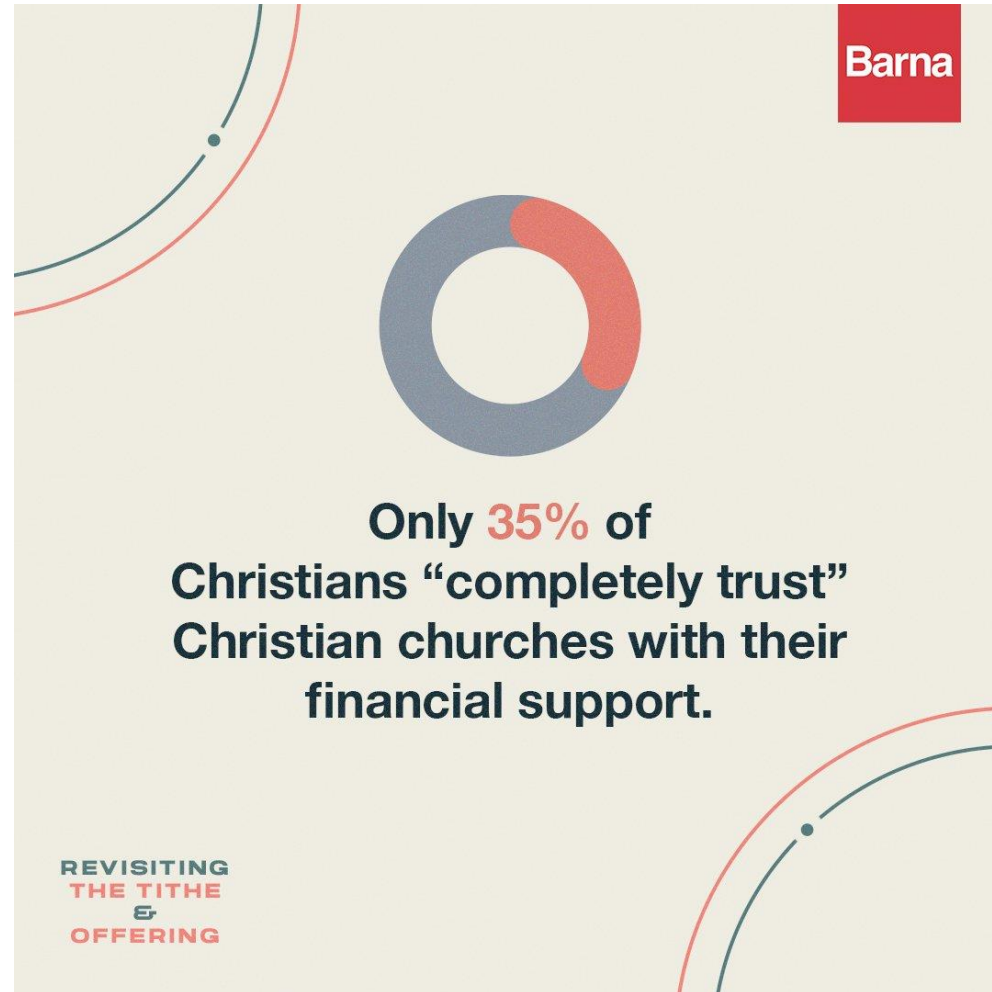
Year round

Building relationships

# Best Practice: Narrative Budget

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# Best Practice: Transparency



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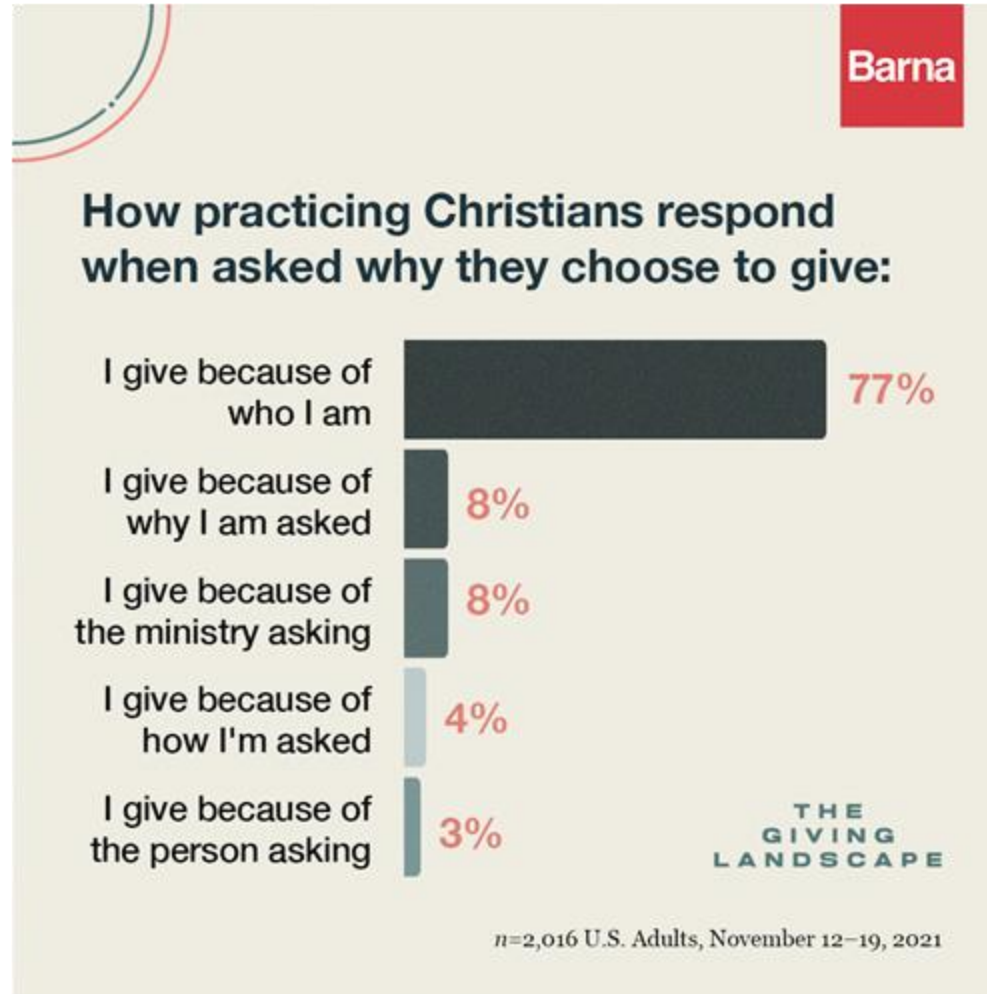
# BEST PRACTICE:

COMMUNICATION

AND THE STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TIME

# How we spend our time planning stewardship

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# The Stewardship letter

?

# How we are Communicating

- ★ “At St. Martha’s, our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world around them. When you sign up to staff our nursery, you are joining with God to love and nurture these children, expressing God’s grace to them. And thanks to your service in the nursery, the parent of that child will be able to be fully present in weekly worship, helping them to grow and mature in their faith. Thank you for your part in our disciple making.” (From *See All the People*)



Photo by [Erika Giraud](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# WHAT IS ESSENTIAL?

“

**Mission Amp** ”  
**can help with this**

# Whew! Let's pause

What resonates?

What doesn't?

What feels challenging?

What feels like an easy change?

# Best Practice:

Thank you

Thank you

Thank you

# Best Practice:

Variety of ways to give money

Who are we missing?

“

Jonathan  
Blaker can help”  
with this



Best stewardship  
practices over time  
will lead to increased  
congregational giving

No one size fits all  
No “magic” way

No one size fits all  
No “magic” way

What does this have to do with Jesus?

How do our efforts help us grow  
as followers of Christ?

Vestry as practice-discipling

# Stewardship Cohorts

Meeting one hour/month with teaching of research based best practices via zoom

Three to four congregations

Three persons/ congregation

Between session check in via zoom with cohort for encouragement, sharing, and prayer

Next session

March 4

@at San Mateo, Houston  
and on your screen

# Vestry and Mission

# A closing blessing