

The Episcopal Diocese of
Southern Virginia

132nd Annual Council

**WHATEVER YOU HAVE IS
enough... for a miracle.**

February 10, 2024

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This is a True Story



- When was the last time you saw, oh what's their name...?
- "Whatever happened to that family?"
- Who are you not seeing in church these days?

2

This Really Happened...



Elmo
@elmo

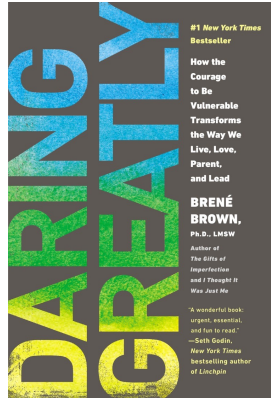
...

Elmo is just checking in! How is everybody doing?

10:46 AM · Jan 29, 2024 · **172M** Views

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People Crave Connection



- "Connection, along with love and belonging (two expressions of connection) is why we are here, and it is what gives purpose and meaning to our lives."

—Brené Brown

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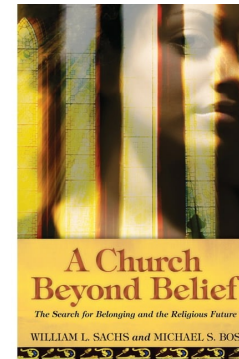
Stewardship: Love in Action

- Caring for the people that have been entrusted to us
- Helping people grow in their love for God, love for neighbor, and love for self through:
 - Connection
 - Inspiration
 - Transformation



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The Need To Belong



“There is no more urgent need today than the need to belong.”

*William Sachs and
Michael Bos*

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What Is TeleCare?

- A “phone call of love”
- A ministry of caring
- A true expression of stewardship
 - The care and tending of **relationships**



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How Does TeleCare Work?

- Volunteers call entire church membership on a routine basis
- **One** question:

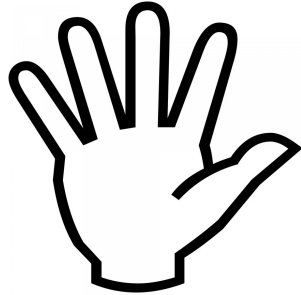
“We’re calling to see how you are and if there’s anything you want us to pray for?”



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What TeleCare is NOT

- Not about asking for money—or *anything!*
- Not about church attendance (or not)
- No promotion of church events
- Not a counseling hotline or service
- No gossiping!



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Who is Involved?



- People who listen
- Can pray *with* others, and pray **for** others
- Good phone skills
- Keep confidences
- Keep calm and non-reactive
- Make notes on form

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Where & When Does it Happen?



- Determine the frequency of calls
- Ideally, all calls placed from telephones at church—Caller I.D.
- Results of each call tracked and posted
- Pastoral information given to clergy upon request

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Key Benefits

- Calling all members: “We love you, and want to support you in prayer”
- People feel cared for, and looked after
- You **will** discover and respond to needs



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Always Practice Calls First



- Most calls will be straightforward
- Using the practice cards, try out different scenarios
- After each “call” discuss how it went
- Give everyone a chance to practice

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Next Steps

- Create a ministry team and recruit and train callers
- Calculate frequency of calling and number of calling pairs
- Draft sample scripts and select/create a reporting page
- **Promote widely!!**



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Next Steps

- Work closely with your parish office to keep your calling list and records up-to-date and ready to use
- *No matter your church size, TeleCare is a blessing to all.*



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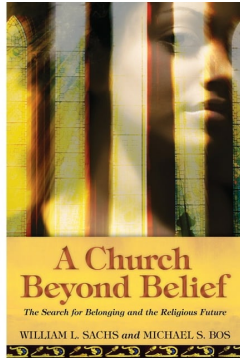
The Key Benefit for You



- Caring and tending to *relationships* extends your ministry of Pastoral Care in the best possible way
- It's what Jesus calls us to do...

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The Need To Belong



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William Sachs and Michael Bos

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Table Talk

- Who is your church has fallen through the cracks lately and needs to hear from their community?
- Who in your community of faith can you see as having the gifts for a ministry such as this?
- What other ideas came to mind during this presentation?

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Stewardship Essentials for Any Congregation

132nd Annual Council

whatever you have is enough... for a miracle.

February 10, 2024

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Some Definitions

- **Stewardship**
 - a theological belief that humans are responsible for the world, humanity, and the gifts and resources that have been entrusted to us.
- **A Biblical view of Stewardship**
 - Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of God's creation.

Holman Bible Dictionary, alt.

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Stewardship is Faith Raising, not Fundraising

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> spent with God in prayer and Bible study |
| Talent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> interests and skills shared with God's people |
| Treasure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> financial resources given for God's mission |
| Terrain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> care for God's global creation |

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Stewardship is Faith Raising, not Fundraising

- Stewardship: living generously in full gratitude for all that God has given us.
- Stewardship = a way of life, a spiritual habit or practice. It builds relationships, and focuses on the "Other"
- Fundraising: conducting events and activities designed to support the church or other church-related organizations.
- Fundraising = specific activities to raise financial resources.

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What Practices Keep Stewardship in Front of Us in A New Way?



- Make the Offertory more meaningful with a new sentence of Scripture:
All that we are and all that we have comes from God. Let us offer our best to God in thanksgiving, remembering that God loves a cheerful giver.

(2 Cor. 9:7)

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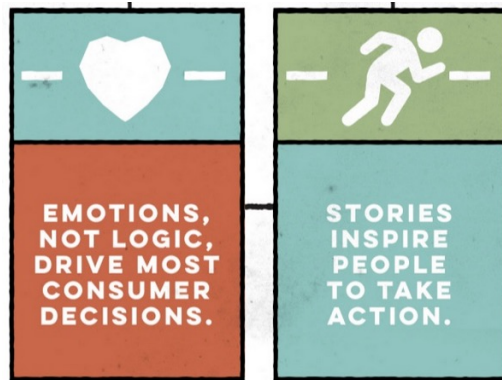
What Practices Keep Stewardship in Front of Us in A New Way?

- Tell stories of transformation:** "How does the money people give your church change lives or touch lives?"
- It doesn't all have to be outreach to have that impact



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Why Stories, Not Data, Matter Most



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What Practices Keep Stewardship in Front of Us in A New Way?



Teach True Stewardship from a Biblical Perspective

- From our "first fruits"- giving our first and best of everything, not simply what we have "leftover"
- Sacrificial - trusting that God's provision for all we need (not all that we want)

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What Practices Keep Stewardship in Front of Us in A New Way?



Biblical Stewardship, *cont'd*

- Proportionate to everything God has given us—those who have more are called to give more
- Nurturing and developing our gifts - generously giving with an increase, not just giving the minimum required

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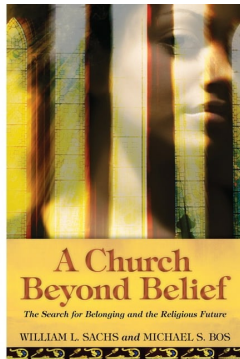
What Practices Keep Stewardship in Front of Us in A New Way?



- Use the Stewardship Snippets from
- Stewardshipoflife.org
- A free weekly lectionary based brief reflection on one of the lessons from a stewardship angle
- Free Monthly Newsletter article, too

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Remember: The Need To Belong



“There is no more urgent need today than the need to belong.”

William Sachs and Michael Bos

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What Practices Help Fulfill What People Need to Belong?



- Coordinated, Intentional Practices to Welcome Visitors and Invite Them To Tell Their Stories
- Introducing yourself and your visitors to others.

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What Practices Help Fulfill What People Need to Belong?

- **Food & Fellowship**
- Giving people the opportunity to sit down and share light food bites and conversation
- Freewill offerings and FSoM financial support
- Annual Social events from parish Men's & Women's organizations



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What Practices Help Fulfill What People Need to Belong?

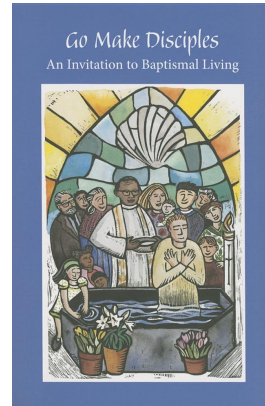


- Events that bring people to your church
 - Concert series
 - Arts & Crafts Fair
 - Community Theatre
 - 12 Step Groups and other community organization
- See Your space as an outreach asset

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What Practices Help Fulfill What People Need to Belong?

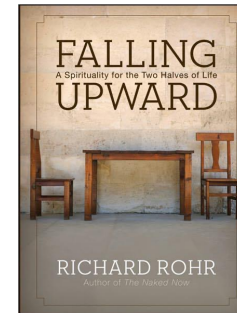
- Offer classes on Spiritual Growth and development
 - Gospels study
 - The Catechumenate
 - Kerygma
 - Education for Ministry
 - Second Half of Life spirituality



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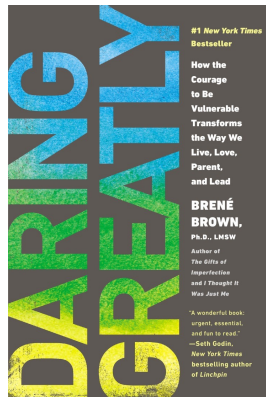
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People Crave Connection



- “Connection, along with love and belonging (two expressions of connection) is why we are here, and it is what gives purpose and meaning to our lives.”

—Brené Brown

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Table Talk

- What coordinated, intentional practices does your church use to welcome visitors and invite them to tell their stories?
- What events do you hold right now that help people feel they belong to your church?
- What new events could you offer?
- What other ideas came to mind during this presentation?

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How to Increase Your Giving: A Modest Proposal

132nd Annual Council

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How to Increase Your Giving: A Modest Proposal

- Begin early and meet regularly
- Use materials that are professional and straightforward
- TENS.ORG provides so much more than just annual programs



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How to Increase Your Giving: A Modest Proposal

- Give away “the plate” cash offering for outreach
- Typically, a small percentage of giving
- Makes an instant, visible, public impact
- Whatever you have is enough...
for a miracle!



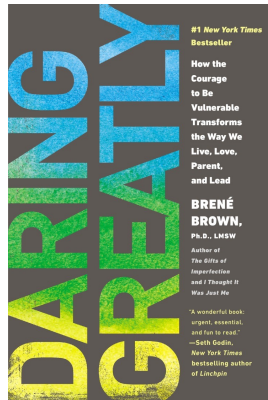
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Table Talk

- How much money does undesignated cash account for in your annual income?
- What local or national human service organizations would your parishioners like to support?
(Find out where people already volunteer)_
- Whatever you have is enough...
For a Miracle!
- When could you begin to *Give Away the Plate?*

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People Crave Connection

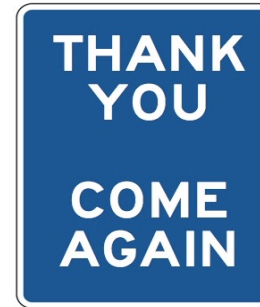


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—Brené Brown

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Any Questions?



- **Thank you, Bishop Susan Haynes** for the invitation to share time with you all—*again*!
- timothy.dombek@outlook.com
- *Travel Safely Home!*

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