

So what is a Director of Stewardship?

Last week (my first on the staff here), someone greeted me with “Oh, I better hold on to my wallet now!” Well, that set me back a little! I was the child who could not stand to sell things door to door for my elementary school. So what on earth am I doing in the position we call “director of stewardship?!”

Over the last three years I have served as the Director of Development and Communications for our Diocese, learning and sharing my knowledge of stewardship across the diocese. At the same time, I served as a vestry member here at Redeemer. I discovered how deeply I care about this place and the people in it. When Paul asked me to consider taking this job, I took a while to pray about it but ultimately, I knew that Redeemer is where my heart is. So here I am!

Doug Turner, a stewardship consultant for RSI Church Stewardship Group in Texas describes a *culture* of stewardship in this way:

The goal of stewardship is to be in relationship with God in order to realize eternal purposes. Relationships with God and with others in the community compel believers to trust in spiritual realities that invade the moment and, as a result, lead to extreme generosity. Because we have a relationship with God, giving, like all disciplines, is about seeing and understanding God. This is the distinction of the church.

A key component to encouraging a stewardship culture in your church is to emphasize relationships. Connect people to one another. Ask people to pray. Develop a vision around the concept of community — people feeding and clothing others, healing the sick, receiving the sacraments, and worshipping together. Fundraising is about raising money for needs. Stewardship is about nurturing relationships among God’s people.

Stewardship thrives in an atmosphere where church leaders create opportunities for people to share with one another how they are serving and being served in the community of faith. The ministry of the church is about real people serving one another in life-changing ways.

The ideas that Mr. Turner expresses so well are what I also believe stewardship to be about. It’s about much more than money; it’s about our life together as a faith community. This means that we need to communicate better, try to understand each other; in both our differences and similarities, and hold up all the good and wonderful things that help define us as a faith community.

I invite you to go on this journey with me. Call me, send me an email, go out to lunch with me. I want to hear where you are in your relationship with Redeemer and what your vision is for the future of our faith community. Let’s build and strengthen our relationship with God, each other, and The Church of the Redeemer!

Peace,
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