

Update Report to SMITF Vestry re: 2019-2020 Stewardship Committee

8-18-19 vestry meeting

SMITF Stewardship Committee met on Monday 8-12-19

Rev. Ron Pogue, Keen Haynes, Linda Seeber, Becky Snell

New Consecration Sunday (NCS) Stewardship Program, written by Herb Miller, published by Abington Press was discussed and approved for use in the 2019-2020 stewardship campaign.

- New Consecration Sunday worship service where all are asked to complete Estimate of Giving Card and then immediately afterward attend a complementary catered Celebration Luncheon for all worshippers.
- Focus on tithing and percentage giving, not a legalism, but as an appropriate faith commitment for which God's grace empowers us.
- By asking people to complete Estimate of Giving Cards during worship service, NCS models the idea that stewardship is part of our worship of God, rather than a fundraising procedure.
- Written publicity through the church publications and special mailings (4 letters to all congregants) videos and written text on website, 4 lay speakers (5 min) at weekend services
- Special worship features, including announcements, testimonies, sermons from the pastor, and leadership; 6-week program to New Consecration Sunday 20 Oct.
- Giving should occur as a response to God's grace, not as a tool to raise the church budget. Budget for 2020 is based off of commitments provided.
- Giving is a function of discipleship and promotes spiritual growth. • Giving, like other spiritual practices, must be taught, encouraged and modeled.
- The tithe is neither the beginning nor the end of one's spiritual journey, but serves as an important benchmark.
- All Congregants are contacted for reservations to complementary luncheon and worship service NCS rather than for 'pledge for money'

Timeline;

19 August: Save the Date request goes out

8 September: 6 weeks before NCS – Ron provides orientation and training for Leadership Team

22 September: 4 weeks before NCS – Printed publicity via church publication articles & videos begins (speaker at all 3 services)

week of

29 September: 3 weeks before NCS - *Request for SRP* Worship focus of NCS begins via special announcement in morning worship service; first letter is mailed (speaker at all 3 services)

6 October: 2 weeks before NCS - "Grow One Step" presentation takes place in morning worship service (at all 3 services) RESERVATION REQUEST

13 October: 1 week before NCS - Ron preaches on stewardship as an avenue for spiritual growth; final announcement is made securing reservations for NCS Celebration Luncheon. (speaker at all 3 services) Week preceding NCS - Leadership dinner (Vestry) is held (Sunday or Monday evening); additional contacts are made for those who have not made a celebration luncheon reservation (Tuesday-Thursday)

20 October: Consecration Sunday worship service (one service on Sunday- discussion to each service regarding invitation to NCS celebration & worship) Ron preaches in worship and leads worshippers in offering of Estimates of Giving (EOG); Financial Secretary calculates results while congregation enjoys complementary NCS Celebration luncheon after worship (celebration announcement, re: giving during luncheon, but no other announcements.) Time of community.

*Need assistance of Albert & Glenda to calculate results, and need nursery workers

*Some may sponsor the meal but no request for donations

21 October: After NCS - Follow-up letters are mailed to various constituents (those who weren't present for NCS; thank-you notes for those who made EOG) Begin budget formation 2020.