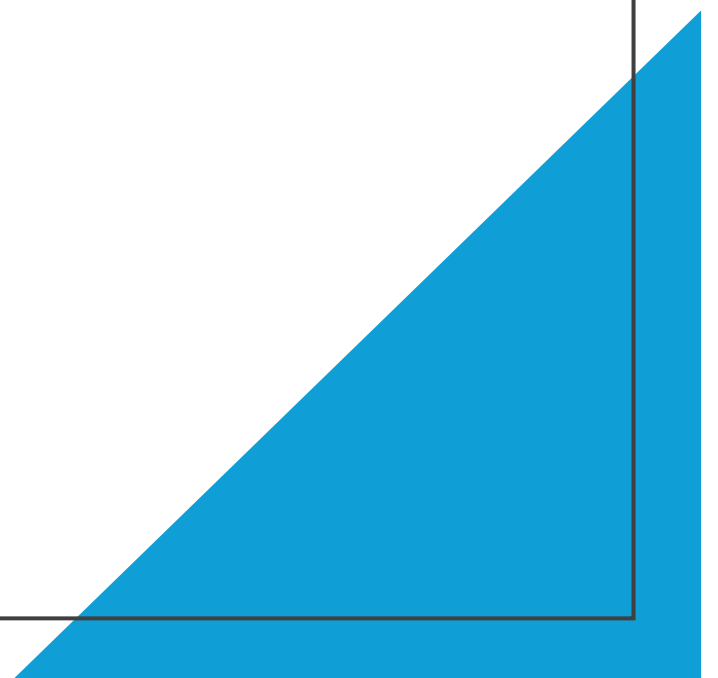
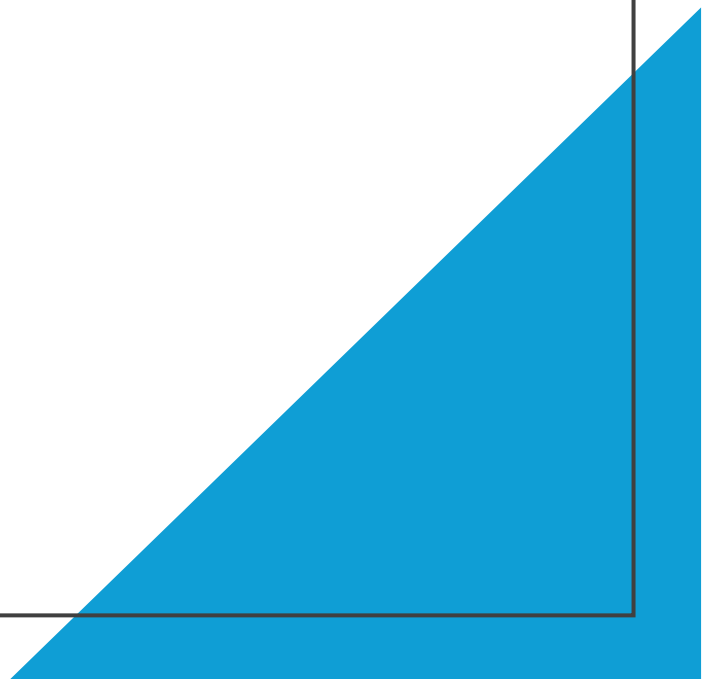


Stewardship and Worship

- Stewardship Kaleidoscope
- September 2024
- John Wilkinson, Director
- Ministry Engagement and Support
- Administrative Services Group
- John.Wilkinson@pcusa.org



Intros...



Goals and questions...

- Worship is the heart of a church's life. How can our worship practices reflect our commitment to stewardship through sermon, liturgy and music?
- Your questions...

Affirmations...

- Worship is the heart of what we do
- Money is a theological matter, and therefore appropriate for worship
- Worship can link stewardship and the mission and ministry of the church
- Don't be apologetic, defensive, evasive
- Do be clear, joyful, hopeful
- Stewardship is holistic AND particular
- Make stewardship and worship year-round, more than one Sunday

Approaches...

- When? How long?
- Theme – text, logo, wholistic
- Series of Sundays
- Involvement
- Terminology: Pledging vs. estimate of giving, commitment, etc.
- Online members and worshipers – how to involve...
- Recognition – say THANK YOU!!!

Highlights for Children

- Goofus: “Please pledge so we can meet the budget and not fire anyone...”
- Gallant: Grateful response to God’s gracious acts in Jesus Christ...abundance, generosity, vocation, mission and ministry

Liturgy

- Call to Worship
- Confession
- Litany
- Other responses

Money in
Book of
Confessions

- Heidelberg, 4.110 – “God forbids counterfeit money...”

Stewardship in Book of Confessions

- 5.156, Second Helvetic – “...the apostle adds that ministers are administrators and stewards of the mysteries of God...”

And yet...

- 9.46, Confession of 1967 – “...enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation...”
- 5.046, Second Helvetic – “God commands us to cultivate our natural talents, and meanwhile adds both gifts and success...”
- 10.3, Belhar – “...that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another...”
- 7.104, Shorter Catechism – “...we pray that, of God’s free gift, we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.”

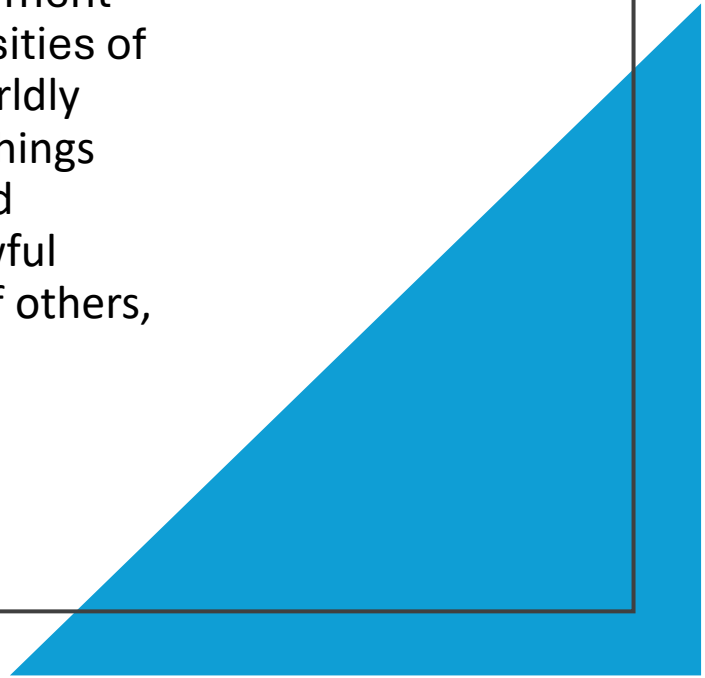


And more...

- 9.40, Confession of 1967 – “The church thus orders its life as an institution with a constitution, government, officers, finances and administrative rules. These are instruments of mission, not ends in themselves.”
- 4.064, Heidelberg Catechism – “It is impossible for those grafted into Christ through true faith not to produce fruits of gratitude.”
- 7.242, Larger Catechism – “The sins of equals are...the undervaluing of the worth, envying the gifts...grieving at the advancement or prosperity one of another...”
- 7.243, Larger Catechism – “...an express promise of long life and prosperity, as far as it shall serve for God’s glory and their own good, to all such as keep this (fifth) commandment.”

Still more...

- 5.114, Second Helvetic – “The same (faith) keeps us in the service we owe God and neighbor...and...brings forth good fruit of all kinds, and good works.”
- 7.251, Larger Catechism – “The duties required in the Eighth Commandment are...giving and lending freely, according to our abilities, and the necessities of others; moderation of our judgments, wills, and affections, concerning worldly goods; a provident care and study to get, keep, use, and dispose of those things which are necessary and convenient for the sustentation of our nature, and suitable to our condition; ...frugality; ... and an endeavor, by all just and lawful means, to procure, preserve, and further the wealth and outward estate of others, as well as our own.



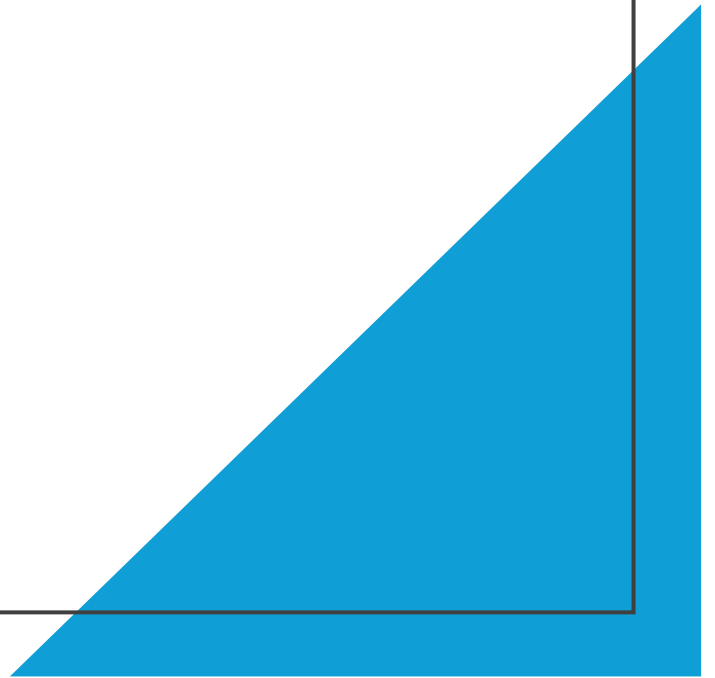
Finally...

- 8.14, Barmen – As Jesus Christ is God’s assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way with the same seriousness is he also God’s mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world or a free, grateful service to his creatures.”
- 4.043, Heidelberg Catechism – “...but that instead we may offer ourselves as a sacrifice of gratitude to him...”
- 4.103, Heidelberg Catechism – “(God’s will for you in the fourth commandment) First...that, especially on the festive day of rest, I diligently attend the assembly of God’s people to...bring Christian offerings to the poor.”
- 9.17, Confession of 1967 – “Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.”

Plus this...5.243, Second Helvetic

- **“Of the possessions of the Church**
- **THE POSSESSIONS OF THE CHURCH AND THEIR PROPER USE.** The Church of Christ possesses riches through the munificence of princes and the liberality of the faithful who have given their means to the Church. For the Church has need of such resources and from ancient time has had resources for the maintenance of things necessary for the Church. Now the true use of the Church's wealth was, and is now, to maintain teaching in schools and in religious meetings, along with all the worship, rites, and buildings of the Church; finally, to maintain teachers, scholars, and ministers, with other necessary things, and especially for the succor and relief of the poor.
- **MANAGEMENT.** Moreover, God-fearing and wise men, noted for the management of domestic affairs, should be chosen to administer properly the Church's possessions.
- **THE MISUSE OF THE CHURCH'S POSSESSIONS.** But if through misfortune or through the audacity, ignorance or avarice of some persons the Church's wealth is abused, it is to be restored to a sacred use by godly and wise men. For neither is an abuse, which is the greatest sacrilege, to be winked at. Therefore, we teach that schools and institutions which have been corrupted in doctrine, worship and morals must be reformed, and that the relief of the poor must be arranged dutifully, wisely, and in good faith.

Music...



Hymns...

(*all Glory
to God*)

- GRATITUDE
- 7 Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth
- 14 For the Beauty of the Earth
- 20 All Things Bright and Beautiful
- 22 God of the Sparrow
- 36 For the Fruit of All Creation
- 37 Let All Things Now Living
- 75 We Give Thanks unto You
- 334 With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring (Psalm 334)
- 367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

More Gratitude Hymns

- 643 Now Thank We All Our God
- 644 Give Thanks, O Christian People
- 647 Give Thanks
- 648 Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise
- 652 A Grateful Heart
- 653 Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries
- 654 In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful
- 731 Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm

More hymns...

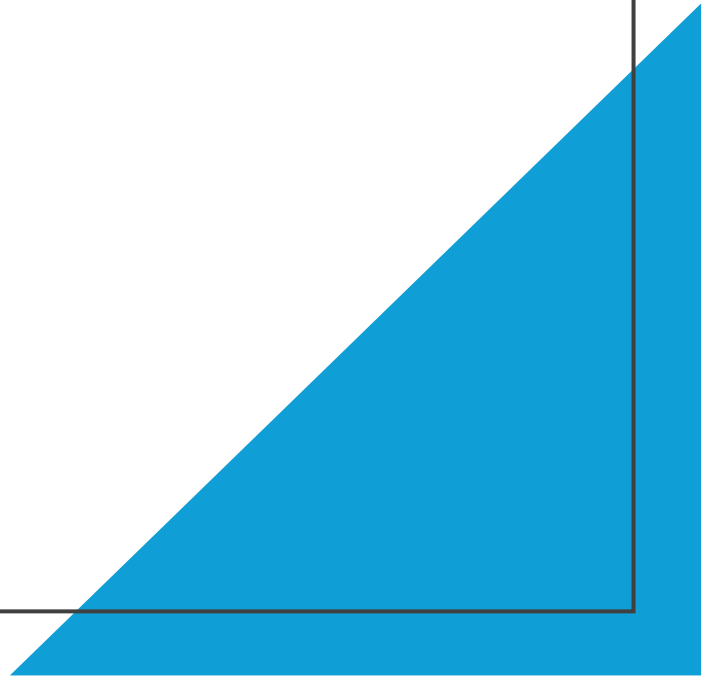
- RESPONSE
- 69 Here I Am, Lord
- 144 In the Bleak Midwinter
- 145 What Child Is This
- 151 We Three Kings
- 201 A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar
- 298 Lord, You Give the Great Commission
- 697 Take My Life
- 707 Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

More Response Hymns

- 708 We Give Thee but Our Own
- 710 We Lift Our Voices
- 711 Lord of All Good
- 712 As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought
- 714 God of the Fertile Fields
- 715 The Earth Belongs to God Alone
- 716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
- 717 For the Life That You Have Given
- 757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

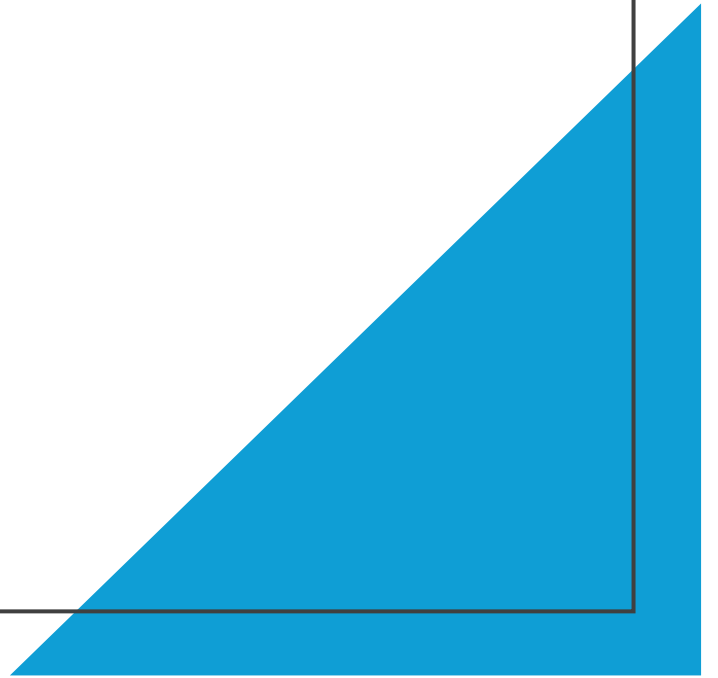
Let All Things Now Living (G2G 37, verse 2)

- By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,
- the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
- the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
- the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
- We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
- with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
- till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
- to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

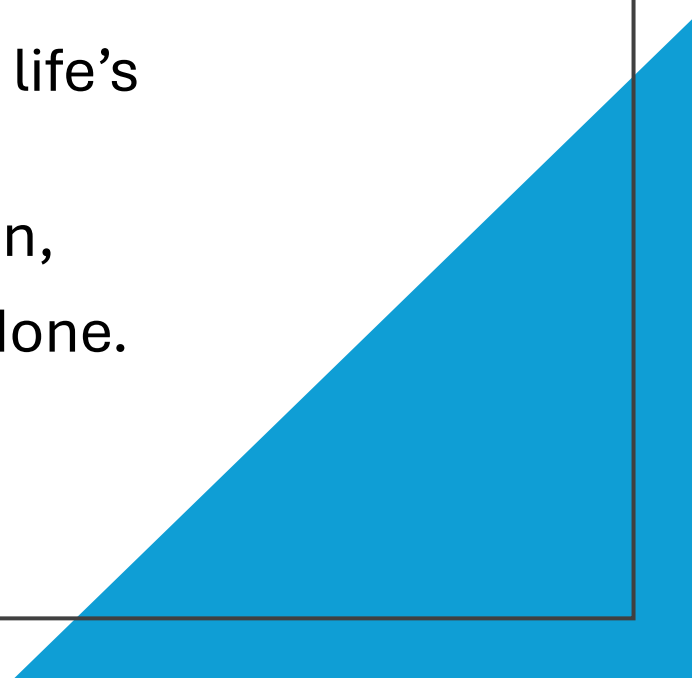


In the Bleak Midwinter (G2G 144, verse 4)

- What can I give him, poor as I am?
- If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
- If I were a wiseman, I would do my part;
- Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

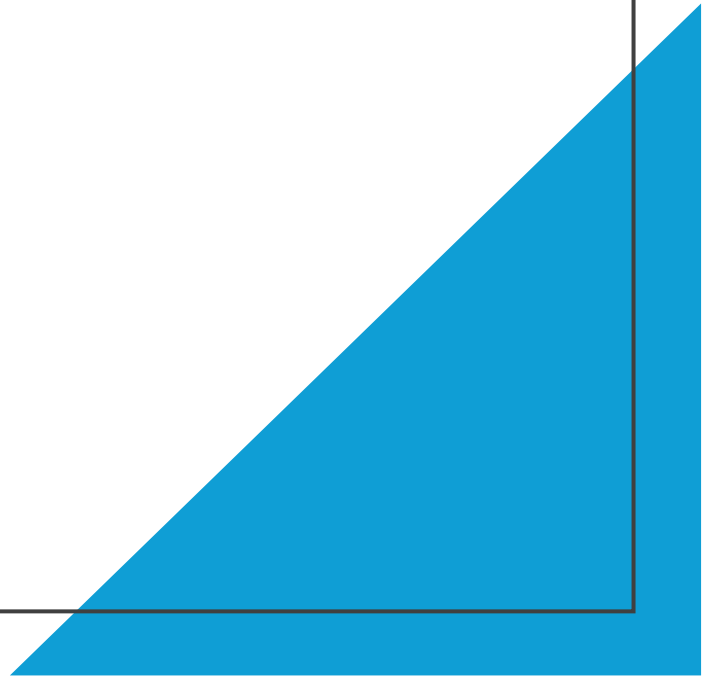


As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought (G2G 712, verse 3)

- In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
 - to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
 - O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
 - help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.
- 

For the Life That You Have Given (G2G 717)

- For the life that you have given,
- for the love in Christ made known,
- with these fruits of time and labor,
- with these gifts that are your own:
- here we offer, Lord our praises;
- heart and mind and strength we bring;
- give us grace to love and serve you,
- living what we pray and sing.

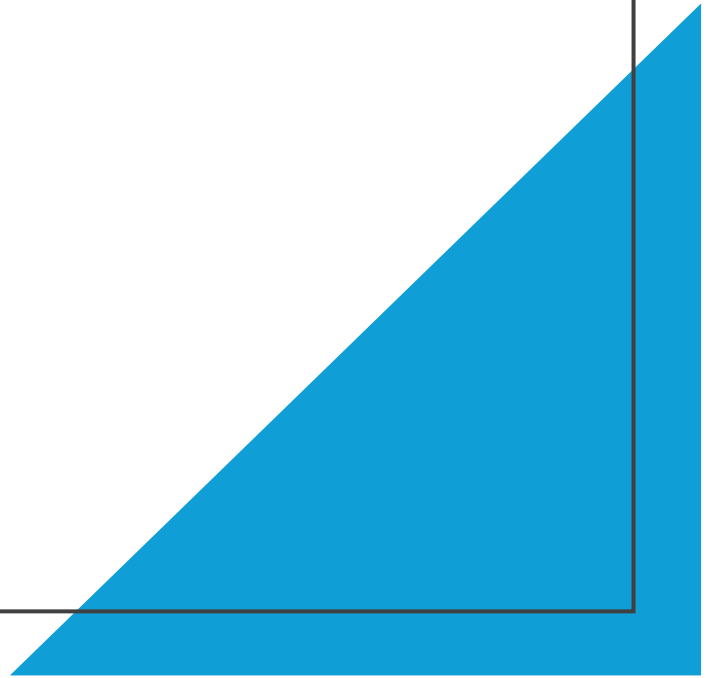


Preaching...

- Themes
- Series
- Texts
- Lectionary Fall 2024 – October = Mark 10, November = Mark 12 and 13
- Lectionary 2025 – October = Luke 17 and 18, November

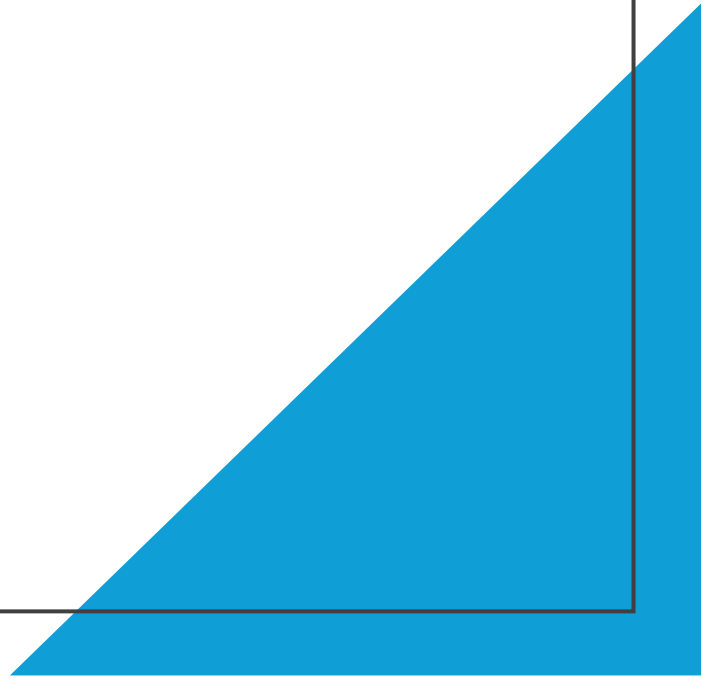
Other...

- Pledging rituals
- Receiving the offering
- Children and youth



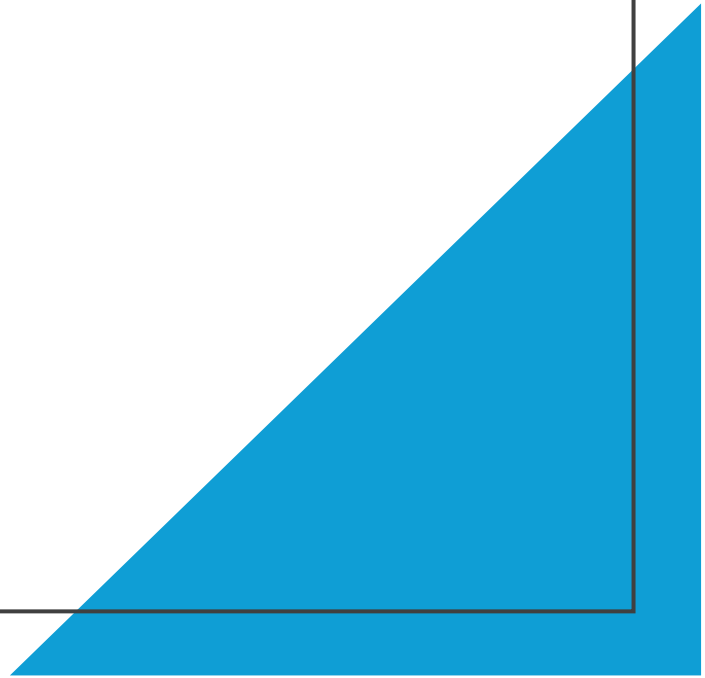
Handful of books...

- Douglas John Hall, “The Steward”
- Karl Travis, “God’s Gift of Generosity”
- Lynne Twist, “The Soul of Money”
- Lovett Weems and Ann Michel, “Generosity, Stewardship and Abundance”
- Sheryl Johnson, “Serving Money Serving God”
- Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, “The Problem of Wealth”



Also...

- Lake Institute on Faith and Giving – www.lakeinstitute.org



Discussion.....

