



Bulletin Inserts: Generosity

1. As we try to live a life that reflects Christ, it's important to recognize that our churches are made of individuals from various backgrounds that are on their own journey. Some of us like different types of worship or music. Also, folks at different life stages have different needs and concerns. One aspect we can all consider together is our pathway to generosity. How do you express generosity in your daily life?
2. Growing into Generosity:
We learn generosity from the people closest to us when we are young. Our parents and other relatives model generosity through their daily actions of providing for our needs, comfort, and love. Our extended church families also teach about generosity. In what ways did you experience generosity in your family or in your church?
3. So much of our lives revolve around the school year that it feels like a second New Year. Even though we might be sorry that summer is coming to an end, we feel so much possibility opening up in front of us – so much potential. Beginnings give us a new slate to start fresh or try something new. [The Strategy of the Clean Slate](#) is a powerful advantage and if you've ever thought of developing a gratitude discipline this is a great time.
4. When we take a moment each day to experience gratitude and experience the moments that fill us up, we are better able to be generous with others and with ourselves. What are you grateful for today?
5. You don't have to be a millionaire to make a difference in the world. Your own goals and dreams can provide the direction for your generosity. One way you can explore your dreams for the future is through a fun exercise. Give yourself \$800 million – or whatever is a large enough sum that it has no actual value in your hand or in your head. Free your creativity and begin thinking about what you do. Maybe you'll think about the people and places that have made a difference in your life or how a legacy gift would tell the story of their influence on you. How would you begin to think about who and what you value? How would you let them know?



6. How do you express your financial generosity? How were you taught to give and to express your gratitude for the gifts God gave to you? Do you still put money in an offering plate or do you give electronically?
7. We teach that stewardship is “using the gifts God has given to do the work God calls us to do.” It is our privilege to use all of our gifts from God, to be good stewards of them and to be accountable for them. Generosity is built through relationships, it’s not transactional. We try to remember that to be generous we also need to offer the grace to allow others to be generous to us – otherwise we’re robbing us both of an important experience. Have you allowed someone to do something generously for you recently?
8. Generosity is a practice. It’s hard to teach. Volunteering and community service have been mandatory for many high school students and this has certainly impacted the way younger generations express generosity. Through social media we’re often aware of friends that are fundraising for various causes and with technology at our fingertips we can make a donation. We can also give spontaneously at church through digital giving. This may or may not be how everyone gives but that’s not the concern, the what is. It’s the act of being generous that’s important and that powerful transformation within us when we allow ourselves to get out of the way and practice generosity. How have you shown others that you care for them?
9. When we teach good stewardship practices we repeatedly talk of time, talent, *and* treasure. Giving of our time, talent, and treasure on a regular basis. The work of ministry is to find the way that we can each be generous in our **time** using our **talent** with our **treasure**. What we want to fully develop is a way to cultivate impulses that become generous habits – a new way of life. This is the pathway of generosity to inspire us all to be givers – those people who are ‘other focused’ – and not only keepers who are centered on themselves. What gifts have you received that you most treasure?
10. What are you most thankful for? How do you express this gratitude?



11. Rising to the challenge, let's consider what it could look like to respond to issues in our life as the Christians that we are. Whose life could you change with a kind word or your generous hospitality? What lessons do you want to pass along to your children or grandchildren through the decisions you make with your gifts of time and the way you plan to give your money?