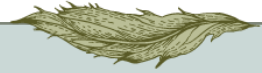




Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2025

Making the Offering a High Point in the Liturgy

About Me



- -Pastor
- -Father and Husband
- -Writer
- -Occasional Slow Runner
- -Trying to Live a Generous Life



What is the Offering Anyway?



- What is your first memory of the offering in worship?
- When you were a young(er) church goer, where did you think the offering went?
- What did your parents/family/pastor say the offering would be used for?
- How was the offering collected when you were young?

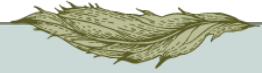


The Offering in the Bible

Too Many to Count...



What is the Offering Anyway?



- 1 Chronicles 29:9
- Acts 20:35
- Hebrews 13:15
- Deuteronomy 16:17
- Luke 6:38...and so many more

What is the Offering Anyway?



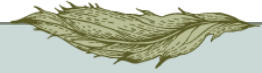
- *Karbanot*
- Functioned in three primary ways:
 - A giving and renunciation
 - A substitution
 - A means of drawing close

What is the Offering Anyway?



- Up to the 11th Century, the Offering was closely connected with the sacrament of the Eucharist—a gift of what was at hand
- In the Middle Ages this idea became distorted some and associated with appeasing God and a kind of “balancing of the sin-ledger.”
- The Reformation sought to reclaim the idea of the Offering as a response to God’s grace, not a response to God’s anger.
- The Offering is an essential part of the Christian life.

What is the Offering Anyway?



- Uniquely American?
- The early missionaries to the States in our tradition had to wrestle with the fact that this new nation would not sponsor state religion
- Sponsorship still happens in countries with a historic state church
- Offerings came to support the church more-so than support the mission of the church...we have to wrestle with the reality and justice-issues related to this fact.



The Offering is a Matter of Stewardship and Discipleship





”

oikonomos = Steward or manager

“(Practicing stewardship) is as spiritual as giving a sermon, entering a time of prayer, visiting the sick, or feeding the hungry! (Stewardship) is always a call to conversion”

(from “A Spirituality of Fundraising,” by Henri J. M. Nouwen)





”

Galatians 5:22-23

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, **generosity**, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness,
and self-control.

Stewardship is Generosity Mindfully Practiced as a Disciple



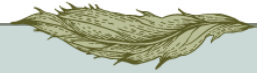
Traditional Paradigm vs. Emerging Paradigm

- Traditional

- Moral Obligation
- Theology of Duty
- Institution Centered
- Institutions are to be Trusted
- Institutions are Autonomous .

- Emerging

- Donor Cultivation
- Theology of Grace
- Donor Centered
- Institutional Trust must be Earned
- Donors are Collaborative Partners





The Offering in the Liturgy

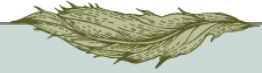


The Offering is a Response to the Word



- God has given graciously, and we respond with grace
- The Gospel calls us not to atone for ourselves, but to help our neighbor
- The Offering provides a way of participation
- The Offering allows us to give of ourselves for our neighbor
- Mission, mission, mission...the Offering allows us a time to connect God's mission with our work

The Offering is a Response to the Word



The Offering Gives Us the Opportunity to Respond in Generosity to a Generous God.

...so let the people respond, by God!



How Can We Rethink How We Do Offering?

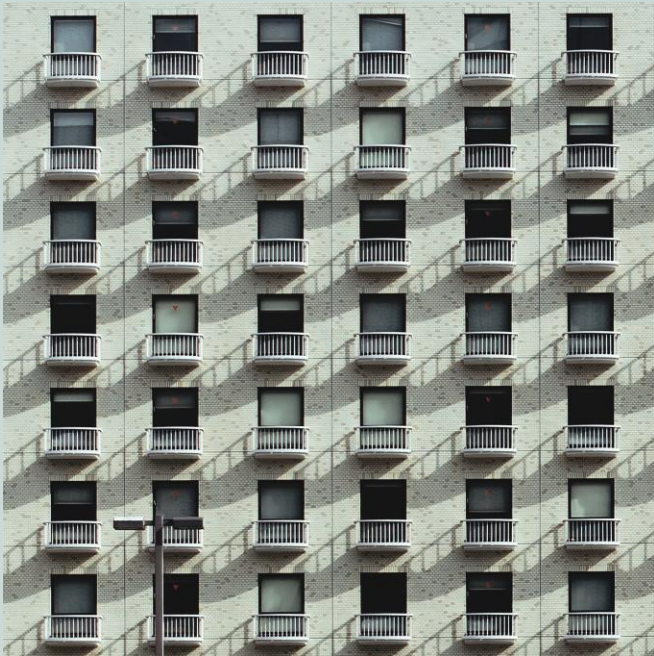
- Pass the plate (or basket)
- Laminated online giving forms
 - QR Codes
 - Testimony
- Stations around the sanctuary
 - Processional celebrations





We Need a Reframe





Re-Frame

What is this?



Re-Frame

And this?



Re-Frame

And now?



Short Story Time: The Grind



What Unique Thing Does Your Church Do to Change Lives?

What would be missing in your town/city/neighborhood if your community was gone tomorrow?

What stories of life-change through Christ are alive in your church?

How are those in your community uniquely generous and how can you tell these stories?





How Can You Tell The Story?

Connect the Offering with the work you're doing,
weekly?

What stories of life-change through Christ are
alive in your church?

How are those in your community uniquely
generous and how can you tell these stories?





It's Not Just About Money!

Utilize your bulletin differently to highlight all the ways you do ministry!

What stories of life-change through Christ are alive in your church?

How are those in your community uniquely generous and how can you tell these stories?





It's Not Just About Money! (pt 2.)

Utilize your context!

Utilize the season!

Utilize your annual meeting!





Aha?! Take Away? Note?

What are you walking away with here?

What next step in your community will you take?





Thank you



Rev. Tim Brown

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*Curating and cultivating
resources and relationships so
congregations can fuel their
Christ-centered ministries*