

Stewardship January 2006

Creating Good Habits in Stewardship

New Year's can be a time to start new, healthy habits. Experts in human behavior have found that to create a good habit, a person needs to first make a mental commitment to the habit. Then the individual needs to consistently and deliberately practice the habit for several weeks or months, until it becomes routine.

St. Paul teaches just this application in his letter to the Corinthians. During his missionary journeys he was taking a special collection for the saints in Jerusalem. He wrote to the Corinthian church that prior to his arrival, each member should set aside a weekly amount to be placed in the collection when they gathered for worship (I Corinthians 16:1-3). In this way they would not have to make one huge offering, but the offering would be ready when he arrived. At the same time, the participants would develop the good habit of giving on a regular basis to God's work.

At St. Andrew's, we encourage such a habit by first asking our members to make the mental commitment to Christian giving by making a financial pledge. Then we encourage those who pledge to consistently act on that promise by giving each Sunday at worship. For some people the writing of the check and the placement in the offering envelope are a significant part of their worship preparation. For others, we have provided new means for giving, such as direct deposit or the use of credit cards. Whichever path you take, continue to practice the good habit of stewardship throughout 2006.

Pastor John Keller
Stewardship Ministry Team