



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE of AMERICA
DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΗΠΕΡΕΣΗΣ
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



Igniting the Flame

A Culture of True Orthodox Christian Stewardship and Generosity

(Part 4)

“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.”

Luke 12:48

Bill Marianes

Bill@stewardshipcalling.com



**Stewardship
Calling**

Helping people and parishes discover and
live their stewardship callings so that
they may have a good account before
the awesome judgment seat of Christ

www.stewardshipcalling.com



**ORTHODOX
MINISTRY
SERVICES**

Helping transform and improve
Orthodox Church parishes,
organizations, and ministries in
order to strengthen
the Body of Christ.

www.orthodoxministry.org/

WHY Are You Here ?





**“That the end of
our lives may be
Christian, without
pain, blameless
and peaceful,
and for a
GOOD ACCOUNT
BEFORE THE
AWESOME
JUDGMENT SEAT
OF CHRIST”**

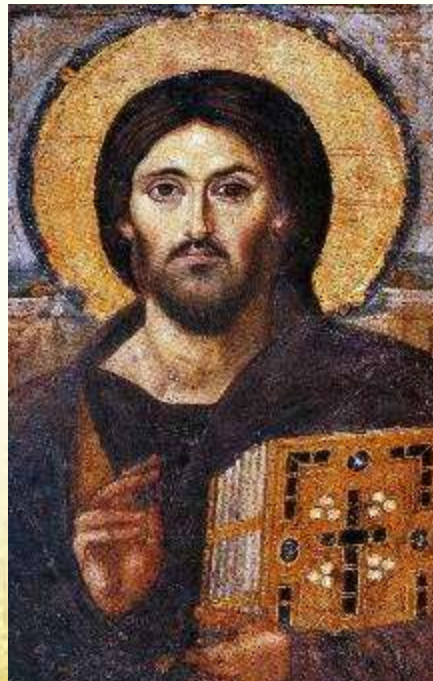
**2 Corinthians 5:10
Orthodox Divine Liturgy**



Christ's Possible Question To You



“What did You do with MY Church under Your watch given all of the gifts I gave You?”



You can download this presentation at:
www.stewardshipcalling.com

Stewardship Calling
What are you doing with all of the gifts God has given you?

WHY ARE YOU HERE? EFFECTIVE CHURCH MODEL **STEWARDSHIP** YOUR BUDGETING INTERNET BABY / BUDGETS

KEYNOTES & LEADERSHIP BLOG RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP TRAINING VIDEOS PERSONAL HAGIA SOPHIA

DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT & METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY - IGNITING THE FLAME OF TRUE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

THE PROBABLY METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY THODOS METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

Direct Archdiocesan District & Metropolis Igniting The Flame Of True Orthodox Christian Stewardship

With the blessings of Archbishop Elpidophoros, Archdiocese of America, I am honored to be del presentation of the Igniting The Flame of True Orthodox Christian Stewardship Program for the Direct Archdiocese New Jersey. We will discuss the 15 proven best Stewardship.

Here is the agenda of the 6 sessions

Stewardship Calling True Stewardship Best

Session 1 - December 8, 2020
1. Facts & Figures Of What Is Happening In Our Churches
2. Covid / Crisis Strategies
3. Questions & Answers

Session 2 - January 26, 2021
1. The Move From "Does" To Percentage Giving & Tithing
2. Increasing Engagement
3. The Personal Touch
4. Questions & Answers

Session 3 - February 23, 2021
1. Youth Stewardship
2. Effective Messaging
3. Questions & Answers

Session 4 - February 9, 2021
1. Welcoming
2. Thanking
3. Small Groups
4. Questions & Answers

Session 5 - March 6, 2021
1. Campaigns - Stewardship, Capital & Planned Giving
2. Transparency & Accountability
3. Stewardship Team
4. Questions & Answers

Send questions to: Bill@stewardshipcalling.com
archdiocalline.com

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO - IGNITING THE FLAME OF TRUE CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP ANALYSIS (FSA) FOR CHURCHES

2020 GSA CLERGY LAYTY STEWARDSHIP & COVID-19

STEWARDSHIP SHORT VIDEOS

STEWARDSHIP TRAINING MATERIALS

Subscribe to Blog via Email

Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Join 163 other subscribers

Recent Posts

November 29, 2020 - Chris Hilman - Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Member, Musical Superstar & Orthodox Christian

November 4, 2020 - Bringing Light Into The World - a Millennial's Calling

How to Survive Crazy COVID-19 Times with 2020 Vision - Proven Strategies

Why Are You Here?

HAGIA SOPHIA - The Attack on the Cathedral of Holy Wisdom and Religious Freedom

Recent Comments

Under the Stewardship Tab go to the Direct Archdiocesan District & Metropolis of New Jersey - Igniting the Flame of True Orthodox Christian Stewardship page at <https://stewardshipcalling.com/direct-archdiocese-district-metropolis-of-new-jersey-igniting-the-flame-of-true-orthodox-christian-stewardship/>

Send questions to: Bill@stewardshipcalling.com



Stewardship Calling Culture of True Stewardship Best Practices



Session 1 - December 8, 2020

1. Facts & Figures Of What Is Happening In Our Churches
2. Covid / Crisis Strategies
3. Questions & Answers

Session 2 - January 12, 2021

1. Science Of Generosity Studies
2. A Culture Of True Stewardship
3. Leadership Alignment
4. Questions & Answers

Session 3 - January 26, 2021

1. The Move From “Dues” To Percentage Giving & Tithing
2. Increasing Engagement
3. The Personal Touch
4. Questions & Answers

Session 4 - February 9, 2021

1. Welcoming
2. Thanking
3. Small Groups
4. Questions & Answers

Session 5 - February 23, 2021

1. Youth Stewardship
2. Effective Messaging
3. Questions & Answers

Session 6 - March 9, 2021

1. Campaigns - Stewardship, Capital & Planned Giving
2. Transparency & Accountability
3. Stewardship Team
4. Questions & Answers

Send questions to: Bill@stewardshipcalling.com
www.stewardshipcalling.com

Healthy & Effective Parishes Have:

A culture of true, engagement,
stewardship and **GENEROSITY**

GENEROSITY





7 of 15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices



7. Total Welcoming Experience

A total and comprehensive welcoming experience (not just a welcoming committee in the Narthex) is critical in the development of true Stewardship



Top 5 Things People Look For In Picking A New Church



- 1. Quality of sermons (83%)**
- 2. Feeling welcomed by leaders (79%)**
- 3. Style of services (74%)**
- 4. Location (70%)**
- 5. Education for kids (56%)**

Pew Research Center Study: “Choosing a New Church or House of Worship - Americans look for good sermons, warm welcome” (August 23, 2016)

<http://www.pewforum.org/2016/08/23/choosing-a-new-church-or-house-of-worship/>



Welcoming Ministry Is Among Your Most Important



- ~ It is Orthodox and sets the tone for the whole loving church experience
- ~ It is the second most important factor in people picking and staying in a church
- ~ It helps the people feel they made the right decision to worship with you
- ~ It makes people want to come back
- ~ It makes people feel like family
- ~ The Parish must emulate the kingdom of God, a culture overflowing with joy, peace and love

“A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; as I have loved you... By this shall all men know that you are my disciple.

John 13:34-35



Welcoming Ministry Is Among Your Most Important



- ~ Greeting newcomers in the narthex is merely the first (easiest) step**
- ~ Find out about them and connect them with someone similar in the Parish**
- ~ Have people available to sit with them and answer their questions (or translate)**
- ~ Have someone take them around to meet similar people at the coffee hour**
- ~ Have someone personally follow-up with them within a week to meet them in person and get to know them better**
- ~ Personally bring them to at least one other Parish activity**
- ~ Eventually, engage them in a Parish ministry**



Provocative Question



**When was the last time you
invited any non-Orthodox
friend, neighbor, work
colleague or person you met
to join you in church on
Sunday?**



Provocative Question



71% of Protestant or non-denominational church goers have invited an individual or family to attend a worship service with them in the last 6 months

(and 25% of them have invited at least 3 individuals or families in the last 6 months)

LifeWay Research's nationwide survey <https://lifewayresearch.com/2018/07/12/two-thirds-of-churchgoers-have-invited-someone-to-church/>

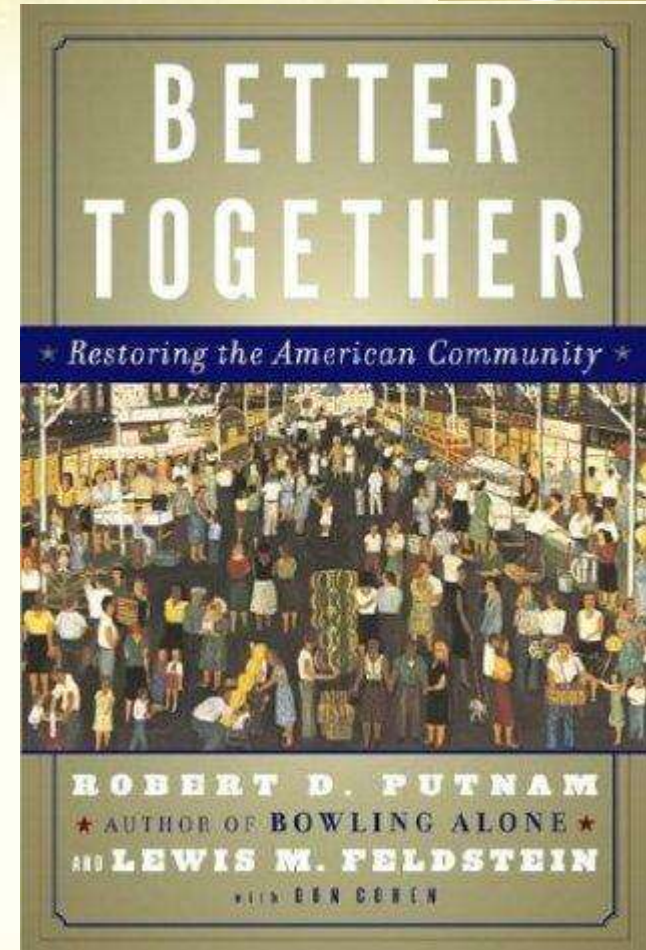


Total Welcoming Experience



Read: Better Together

- ~ A welcome package is not enough
- ~ Connect them with people similar who escorts them into the life of your church family
- ~ Get them to come back for more



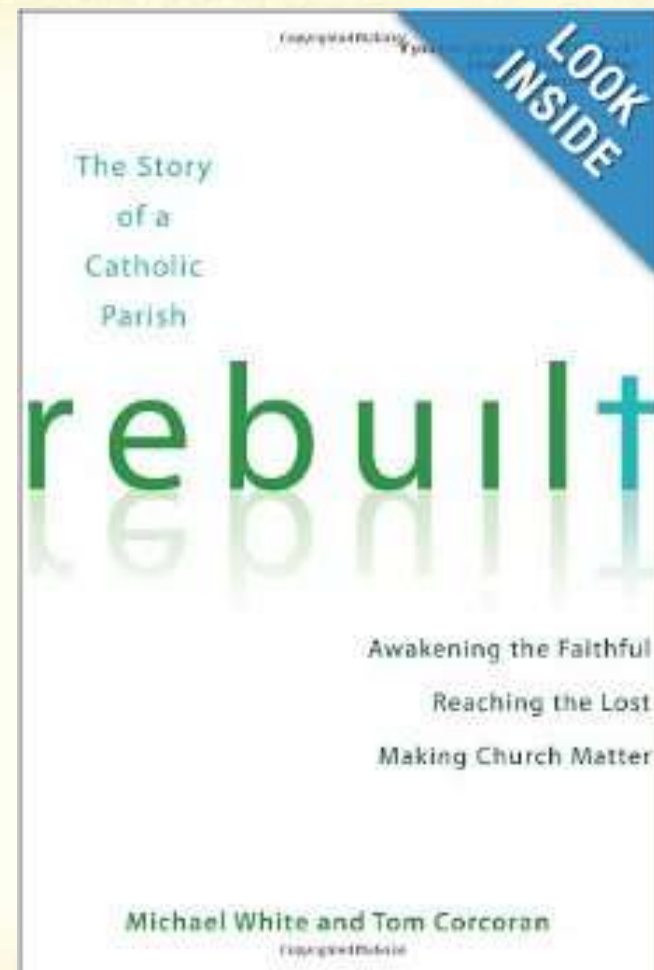
**Especially read
chapter 6**



Total Welcoming Experience



Read Rebuilt: where a comprehensive Welcoming Ministry transformed Nativity Church by tripling their weekend church attendance and yielded increased giving, flourishing ministries, and a vibrant and solid spiritual revival.



**Especially read
chapter 6**



Pandemic Data Review

- ~ 66% of people watching online services said they have NOT watched ANY online service in the last month¹
- ~ “WRITE” a new chapter for your parish and don't take your faithful for granted. Treat ALL parishioners as if they were newcomers.
 1. Welcome back
 2. Reach out
 3. Invoke
 4. Thank
 5. Engage



8 of 15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices



8. Thanking Culture

A Parish that implements a comprehensive thanking culture, substantially improves relationships, results, engagement and accomplishments



Our 4 Primary Body Chemicals That Drive Emotions



SELFISH CHEMICALS (feel good hormones)

Endorphins - are pain-masking chemicals that help us push ourselves through tough circumstances (e.g., pain and stress motivators)

Dopamine - the addictive performance chemical meant to motivate us to achieve goals (also pervasive in those dependent on alcohol, gambling, social media likes, and other addictions)

SELFLESS CHEMICALS (happiness/cuddle hormones)

Oxytocin - the chemical produced by positive feelings we get from emotional bonds and physical touch (e.g., a warm feeling from spending time with someone you like)

Serotonin - the chemical produced when we are respected, admired and given positive treatment (e.g., a boost in our confidence that makes us feel awesome)



Thanking Culture



- ~ True appreciation, and expressions of gratitude, are among the greatest motivators
- ~ Who doesn't like to be thanked, (even if you merely did what was expected)
- ~ Expressions of appreciation reinforce desired behavior (and for most people, the more, and more public, the better)



Thanking Culture Science



~ A 2014 study in *Emotion*

Thanking people made them more likely to seek an ongoing relationship

~ A 2012 study in *Personality & Individual Differences*

Grateful people were more likely to take care of their health

~ Dr. Robert Emmons (leading gratitude researcher)

Gratitude increases happiness and reduces depression



Thanking Culture Science



~ 2012 University of Kentucky study

**People who thanked more
retaliated less and were more
prosocial**

~ 2014 Journal of Applied Sports Psychology study

**Gratitude increased an
athlete's self-esteem, which is
an essential component to
optimal performance**



Thanking Culture

YOU SHOULD THANK

- ~ Personally
- ~ Genuinely
- ~ In writing
- ~ Publicly
- ~ Repeatedly
- ~ For everything
- ~ Encourage others to thank
- ~ Share it



Thanking Culture



Write personal notes or thank you cards (or sign the form thank you letters) and send a variety of thank-yous for:

- ~ Stewardship pledges**
- ~ Volunteer activities**
- ~ Ministry service**
- ~ Each contribution of anything**
- ~ Attendance**
- ~ Mentoring**
- ~ Service to others**



**“You either have
a thank you
culture or you
do not have a
very good one.”**

Ken Makovsky – Forbes Magazine 11-29-12



14 of 15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices



14. Small Groups

**SMALL GROUPS IS ONE OF
THE MOST
TRANSFORMATIONAL THINGS
A PARISH CAN DO TO
CULTIVATE A SENSE OF
COMMUNITY**



The Power of Small Groups



“The bigger a church gets, the smaller it must become!”



The Power of Small Groups



- ~ Up to 10 people who gather weekly at people's homes (not at the church)**
- ~ Discuss some spiritual or religious educational content**
- ~ Discuss whatever life is dealing them**



The Power of Small Groups



~ It is Orthodox even though non-Orthodox have proven its validity

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Matthew 18:20

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...”

Hebrews 10:24-25



The Power of Small Groups¹

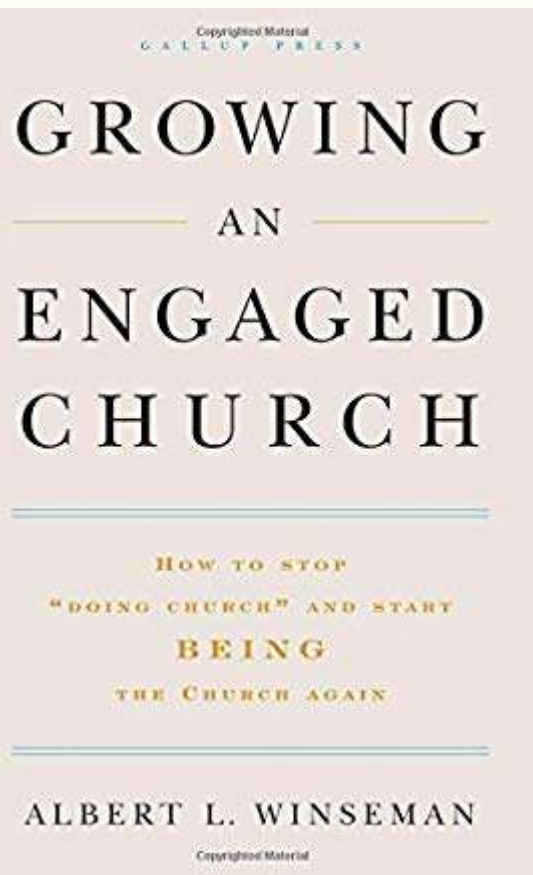


- ~ 63% of regular SG attenders intentionally spend time with other believers to grow in their faith (vs 22% of those not in a SG)
- ~ 73% of SG attenders say they are intentionally putting their spiritual gifts to use serving God and others (vs only 42% of those not in a SG)
- ~ 79% of churchgoers who belong to a SG are more likely to go to church at least 4 times a month

¹ Lifeway Research: “Culture Change: Recognize the Value of Small Groups” <https://lifewayresearch.com/2014/06/05/culture-change-recognize-the-value-of-small-groups/>



A Must Read For Every Priest and Church Leader



Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop “Doing Church” And Start Being The Church Again

By: Al Winseman, Global Practice Leader for Faith-Based Organizations for the Gallup Organization



The Power of Small Groups



- ~ Churches with established small group ministries have remained more engaged with their parishioners during the pandemic**
- ~ The Small Group Network has special COVID-19 small group resources**

<https://www.smallgroupnetwork.com/covid19/>



10 Benefits of Small Groups¹



- 1. Life change happens best in small groups**
- 2. Small groups make churches personal**
- 3. Small groups provide a nearly unlimited leadership development pipeline**
- 4. Off-campus small groups provide nearly unlimited space at optimum times**
- 5. “Come over to my house” is a much easier invitation than “come with me to church.”**
- 6. Small groups provide the best opportunity for “one-anothering”**
- 7. Small groups can provide a sense of family for many whose biological family lives far away**
- 8. It is easier to ask questions in a small group**
- 9. Small groups make it possible for more people to be cared for between Sundays**
- 10. Small groups provide an ever-expanding network for communication and impact**

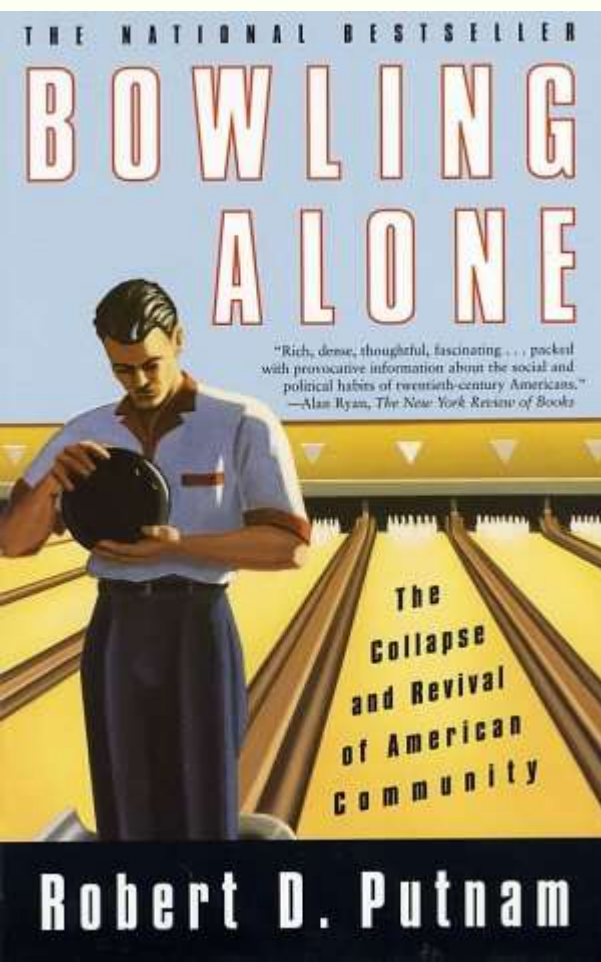
¹ Mark Howell, founder of SmallGroupResources.net and the pastor of discipleship communities at Canyon Ridge Christian Church. See full article and references at: <https://ministrytodaymag.com/outreach/discipleship/20558-10-powerful-benefits-of-a-small-group-ministry>



“Social Capital”

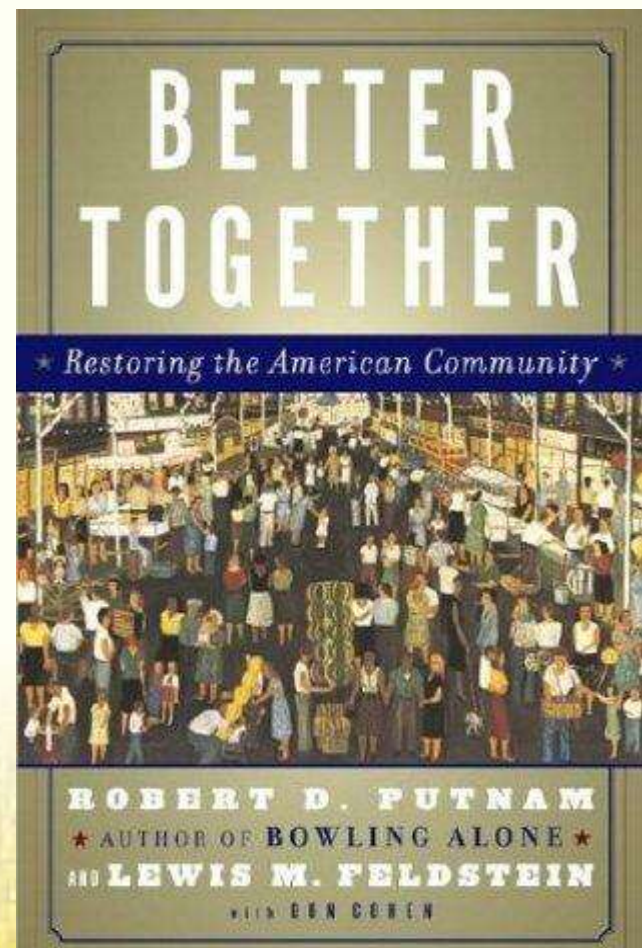


A key to a growing Parish is to increase “Social Capital.”



Social Capital =

1. the collective value of everyone you know (your “social networks”)
2. the desire to do things for each other that our networks foster (“reciprocity”)





The Power of Small Groups



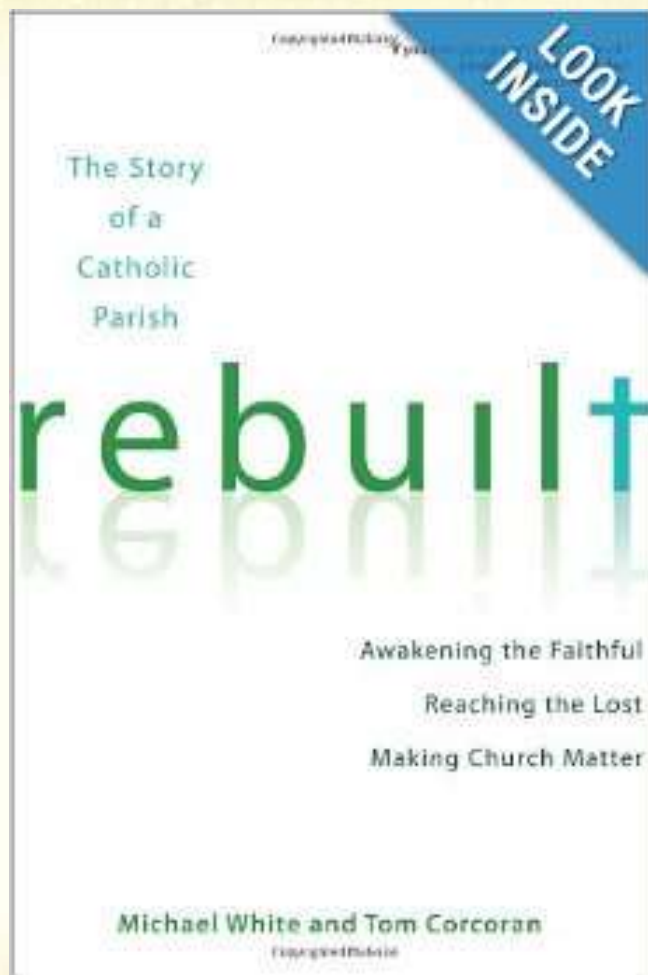
- ~ Small groups can be created around any groupings that makes sense for your parish/community
- ~ Typical small groups
 1. Geographic - people who live near each other
 2. Demographic - men, women, teens, young adults, singles, empty nesters, widows/ers, etc.
 3. Topic - Bible studies, raising kids, parents with special needs kids, women who miscarried, etc.



The Power of Small Groups



Small groups helped transform Nativity Church by tripling their weekend church attendance and yielding increased giving, flourishing ministries, and a vibrant and solid spiritual revival.



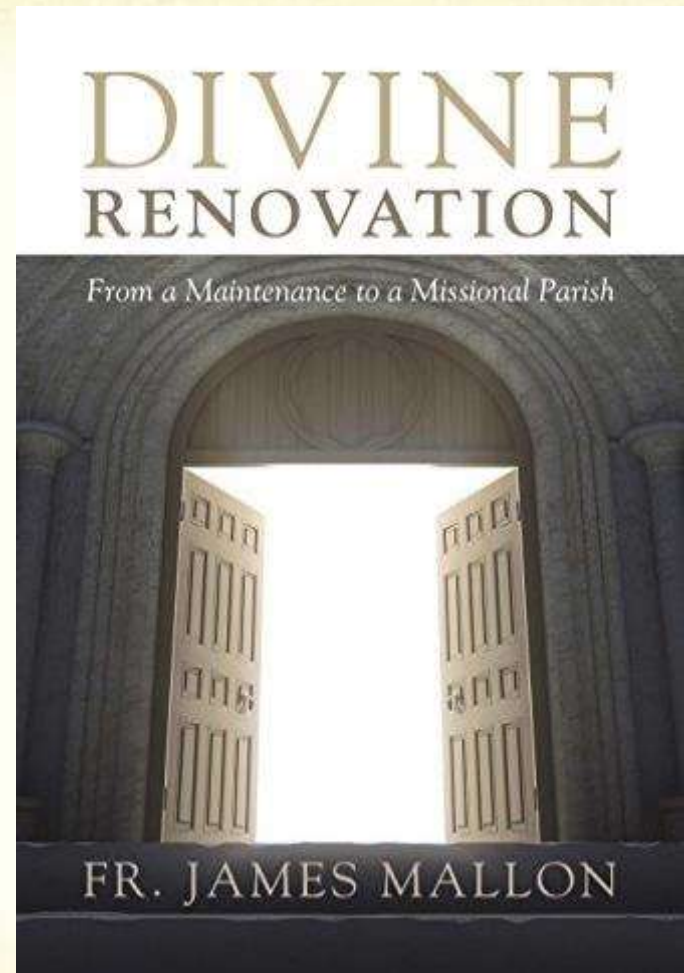
**Especially read
chapter 9**



The Power of Small Groups



**“Small Communities”
(small groups or mid-sized groups) have transformed St. Benedict Church into caring and loving sub-communities within the whole of their church community.**



**Especially read
pages 168-176**



Selected Orthodox Small Group Examples



Small Groups Pilot Program

A small group is an intentional gathering of parishioners for the purpose of growing spiritually through structured discussions. Small groups will meet weekly for 6-10 weeks. Participants should be able to commit to attending 8 sessions. We will begin with 3 groups with up to 10 participants in each group.

Groups will meet in a host parishioner's home and will be facilitated by a parishioner trained by our Priests. All groups will use the same notes and discussion guides. The meeting location and date/time for each group will be determined by the facilitator and host and will

Annunciation Cathedral - Atlanta

<https://www.atlgoc.org/small-groups>



Small Groups

Contact Us Now

JOIN US

Interested in joining a Small Group?

What do small groups talk about?

Anything! Small Groups are a time for you to make connections with others.

What if I can't come every week?

We do encourage full participation for the entire week system, but

Orthodox Christian Fellowship

<https://www.ocf.net/smallgroups/>



MISSION
The Holy Trinity Fellowship is a non-profit organization dedicated to the spiritual growth and development of its members and the wider community.

Our vision is to be a place where people can find meaning and purpose in their lives, and where they can grow in their faith and love for God and each other.



ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

The Orthodox spiritual journey is a lifelong process of growth and transformation. It is a journey of the heart, mind, and soul, and it is a journey that is shared with others.

Our spiritual journey is a journey of the heart, mind, and soul, and it is a journey that is shared with others.



FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

Our faith is a journey of the heart, mind, and soul, and it is a journey that is shared with others. We are a community of people who are committed to the growth and development of our faith and love for God and each other.

Holy Trinity – San Francisco

<https://www.holytrinitysf.org/holy-trinity-fellowship-groups>



Lead Personal, Transformative Ministry

Bring people together for personal ministry.

SET UP SMALL GROUPS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Don't have any experience with small groups? No problem! We'll provide a straightforward, step-by-step checklist for you to follow and leadership to see as they set up their groups in their community.

For details about our Small Groups (SG) program

For Small Group leaders (SGL)

For Participants (PG)

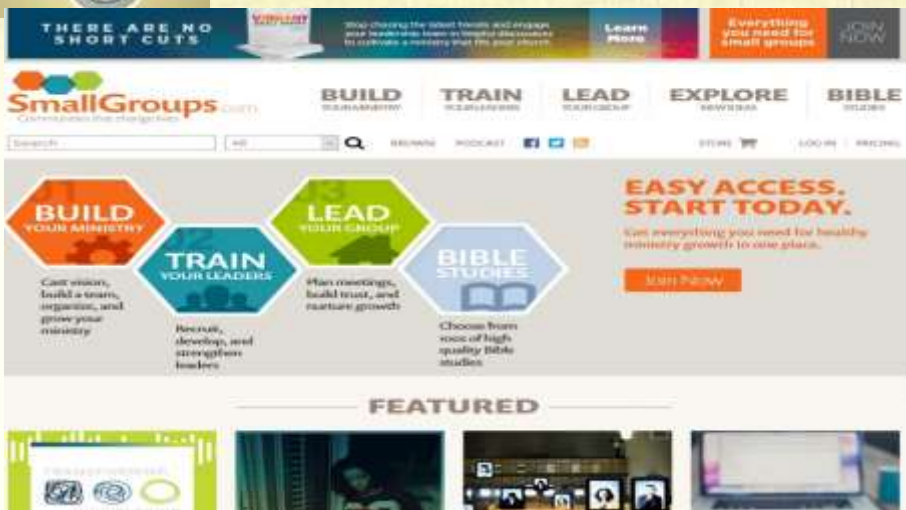


LEARN HOW TO BE A SMALL GROUP LEADER

Have you been called to lead a small group? We'll offer you the training you need to be a better

GOA Y2AM Ministry

<https://www.y2am.org/smallgroups>



Small Groups.com

<https://www.smallgroups.com/>



North Point Community Church

<https://northpoint.org/groups>



Small Groups.net

<https://smallgroups.net/>



Saddleback Church

<https://saddleback.com/connect/smallgroups>

Additional Small Groups Ministry Resources

- **Donahue, Bill; Robinson, Russ; Building a Church of Small Groups: a place where nobody stands alone, Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 2001.**
- **Donahue, Bill; Robinson, Russ; Building a Life Changing Small Group Ministry: A Strategic Guide for Leading Group Life in Your Church (Groups that Grow), Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 2012.**
- **Donahue, Bill; Leading Life Changing Small Groups (Groups that Grow), Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 2012.**
- **Donahue, Bill; Robinson, Russ; Coaching Life Changing Small Groups: A Comprehensive Guide for Developing Leaders of Group & Teams (Group that Grow), Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 2012.**
- **Donahue, Bill; Robinson, Russ; Walking the Small Group Tightrope: meeting the challenges every group faces, Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 2003.**
- **Cloud, Henry; Townsend, John; Making Small Groups Work: What Every Small Group Leader Needs to Know, Zondervan, 2003.**
- **McBride, Neal; How to Lead Small Groups, NavPress, 1990.**

Additional Small Groups Ministry Resources

Bunch, Cindy; Small Group Idea Book: Resources to Enrich Community, Worship, Prayer, Nurture, Outreach, InterVarsity Press, 1996.

Lee-Thorp, Karen; How to Ask Great Questions: Guide Your Group to Discovery With These Proven Techniques, Pilgrimage Small Group Resource, NavPress, 1998.

Nyquist, James; Leading Bible Discussions, InterVarsity Press, 1976.

Block, Peter, Community, the Structure of Belonging, Berrett-Koehler Publ, 2009

Bolsinger, Tod, Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory, InterVarsity Press, 2015.

Hybels, Bill, New Identity: Discovering Who You Are in Christ, InterActions small group series Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 1996.

Hybels, Bill, Essential Christianity: Practical Steps for Spiritual Growth, InterActions small group series Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 1998.

Additional Small Groups Ministry Resources

- **Hybels, Bill, Marriage: Building Real Intimacy, InterActions small group series (6 sessions), Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 1996.**
- **Hybels, Bill, Jesus: Seeing Him More Clearly, InterActions small group series (6 sessions), Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 1997.**
- **Hybels, Bill, Getting A Grip: Finding Balance in Your Daily Life, InterActions small group series, Willow Creek Association, Zondervan, 1998.**
- **Reapsome, James & Martha; Marriage: God's Design for Intimacy - 12 Studies for individuals or groups, A LifeGuide Bible Study, InterVarsity Press, 1986**
- **Hunt, Gladys M.; The God Who Understands Me: The Sermon on the Mount, 15 inductive studies for neighborhood, student, and church groups, Fisherman Bible Studyguide, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1971.**



Stewardship Calling Culture of True Stewardship Best Practices



Session 1 - December 8, 2020

1. Facts & Figures Of What Is Happening In Our Churches
2. Covid / Crisis Strategies
3. Questions & Answers

Session 2 - January 12, 2021

1. Science Of Generosity Studies
2. A Culture Of True Stewardship
3. Leadership Alignment
4. Questions & Answers

Session 3 - January 26, 2021

1. The Move From “Dues” To Percentage Giving & Tithing
2. Increasing Engagement
3. The Personal Touch
4. Questions & Answers

Session 4 - February 9, 2021

1. Welcoming
2. Thanking
3. Small Groups
4. Questions & Answers

Session 5 - February 23, 2021

1. Youth Stewardship
2. Effective Messaging
3. Questions & Answers

Session 6 - March 9, 2021

1. Campaigns - Stewardship, Capital & Planned Giving
2. Transparency & Accountability
3. Stewardship Team
4. Questions & Answers

Send questions to: Bill@stewardshipcalling.com

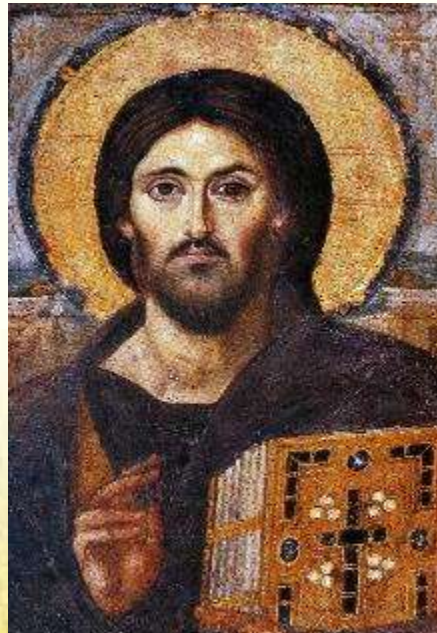
www.stewardshipcalling.com



Christ's Possible Question To You



“What did You do with MY Church under Your watch given all of the gifts I gave You?”





GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE of AMERICA
DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΕΣΗΣ
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY



Igniting the Flame

A Culture of True Orthodox Christian Stewardship and Generosity

(Part 4)

“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.”

Luke 12:48

Bill Marianes

Bill@stewardshipcalling.com



**Stewardship
Calling**

Helping people and parishes discover and
live their stewardship callings so that
they may have a good account before
the awesome judgment seat of Christ

www.stewardshipcalling.com



**ORTHODOX
MINISTRY
SERVICES**

Helping transform and improve
Orthodox Church parishes,
organizations, and ministries in
order to strengthen
the Body of Christ.

www.orthodoxministry.org/