

## Byron Presbyterian Church - Stewardship Skit #3

- A: Live from Byron, the greatest town in the whole world, it's the Late, Late, Late, Late, Late Show, starring Eric George. The show that starts so late that it's early. Featuring Liz Weber and the BPC Orchestra. Special guests, Jim Renfrew and Wayne Marion. And now ... eeeeRRRRiiiiCCC George! [Applause]
- E: Hello everyone, it's another beautiful day in Byron. Do you like the traffic in Byron? You know how it is driving to church on Sunday morning in Byron: massive traffic jams at the Arrowmart, fighting for the best parking spaces in the church parking lot, lost cows, gridlock, you know what I'm talking about? Here's how tough it is driving in Byron: I got into the car this morning and the navigation lady isn't speaking to me anymore! [bada-boom] Yes, traffic is tough. And speaking of traffic jams, how about the way those Yankees are running the base paths? Anyone here a Yankees fan? Have you seen how many bad calls the umpires have been making? Woo-doggy! How about that one with the guy called safe at third when he was a mile off the bag? It turns out it wasn't the umpire's fault, his view of the play was blocked by his seeing-eye dog! [bada-boom] No, it wasn't his fault.
- Now let's go right to tonight's Top Ten List, the topic is "**The Top Ten Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Fill Out That Card Next Sunday**". Certainly a timely topic around here, "**The Top Ten Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Fill Out That Card Next Sunday**".
- Liz, you know what I'm talking about? That Estimate of Giving card? It's that card that we get every year around this time. I'm never sure how to fill it in; big number, small number, yesterday's high temperature, the number of points that Bills are scoring, yen, pounds or pesos, I'm never sure. Maybe you'll find a good reference point for yourself as we go through the list. So here we go: "**The Top Ten Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Fill out That Card**". Here to read the Top Ten List are three leading members of YOUR Byron Presbyterian Church Stewardship Committee, Marilyn Britt, Harley George, and Jim Renfrew. Take it away! "**The Top Ten Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Fill out That Card**".
- M: **Number ten:** Do I have a pen or pencil handy? [bada-boom] You can't fill out the card if you don't have a pen or pencil! If you don't have one, just shout for help, "Hey, anyone got a pencil or pen?" Our Stewardship Committee always ready to help you!
- H: **Number nine:** Have you prayed about it? Stewardship is a serious decision and we need all the help we can get as we decide. Even if you are already almost certain about the number you're going to write down, pray first!
- J: **Number eight:** Have you talked about your commitment with anybody? Talk it over with your family. Think about the blessings you have received, and the blessings you are able to share. Parents, talk to your children about why you give. They won't know unless you tell them. Children, ask parents about why giving is important, if you don't ask they might forget to tell!

- M: **Number seven:** Have you thought about a percentage? Think of a percentage, a percentage of something, a percentage of your income, a percentage of your allowance, a percentage increase over last year.
- H: **Number six:** Are you using your imagination? Picture in your mind all of the smiles that will be produced because of your commitment during the coming year: Connor Nesbitt ringing the bell to begin our Sunday worship, Jean Roda making Prayer Chain phone calls, Susie Blair opening packages in Afghanistan, Audrey Blount and Erica Hickey polishing the weathervane on the top of the steeple.
- J: **Number five:** Are you thinking of a Bible verse to guide your thinking about stewardship. How about "New Love, New Mercy" from Lamentations 3:22. What new things about God's love and mercy have you experienced lately? How can you share them with others? How about Mark 12:28, the woman with the two coins. Or see if your favorite Bible verse helps you figure out how to fill out the card.
- M: **Number 4:** Are you only thinking about money? We'd like you to enter a number on your card, but don't stop there, think of all the things described in our Narrative Budget that you can join in on, visiting the sick, helping trustees mow the lawn, volunteering to fill school backpacks. These are the things that we do, using our heads, hands and hearts. Stewardship is so much more than money!
- H: **Number 3:** Yearly, monthly or weekly? What pattern of giving works best for you? Some like to give all at once at the beginning of the year, and that gives our Finance Committee a great start as we budget our income and expenses through the whole year. Some like to give every week, and we like that, too, because we receive a steady stream of support week by week, month by month, spring, summer, winter, fall.
- J: **Number 2:** How generous has God been with you during the past year? When you get right down to it, Stewardship is not something we invent out of our own heads. Stewardship is our grateful thanks for what God has done, is doing and will do in Jesus Christ. Stewardship is our generous response to God's generosity. So if you want to know what to write on that card, consider how much God has committed to you!
- M: **Number 1:** Have you prayed about it? Yes, we come back to one of our earlier questions, because it is so important. Have you prayed about all of this. Prayed with thanks for what God has done. Prayed with gladness for this beautiful church and the wonderful people in it? Prayed with anticipation for the amazing new things that God is leading us to do and be in the coming year? Imagine that powerful spiritual explosion as we all pray together this week, seeking New Love and New Mercy for our church, for our families, for our community, for the whole world!
- E: And there you have it, tonight's "**Top Ten Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Fill out That Card Next Sunday**". Good night from Byron, New York!