

August is back to “everything” month in church life. Children, to their chagrin and the joy of parents are returning to school. Faithful alumni are becoming excited about the fall football schedule. Preachers are overjoyed because there will be a big Sunday in August that signals summer vacations are over and “we are back in that church mode.” August is also a time for leaders of the church to reflect on matters of stewardship.

If your stewardship Sunday is not on the calendar for the fall, put this article down, and put a date on the calendar. Your United Methodist Foundation can be of great help in suggesting campaigns that you can consider using this fall. You should begin thinking about your ministry priorities for 2010 and what changes will need to be made to your budget. If you don’t have a budget, get one. If you are not planning a fall stewardship campaign because “we have never done one before” shelf that bad idea too!

Teachers make preparation for returning students. They have been working on lesson plans and their classrooms for weeks. Teachers do not show up on the first day of school and have a successful year of teaching because they are teachers. Teachers work hard in their preparations and their work before class and after class results in a great learning environment.

Stewardship will not simply happen in the fall because it is the fall. Stewardship is the essence of discipleship. Stewardship is an honest reflection of how we are growing, or not, in our relationship with Christ. Our check book will not lie about what is important in our lives.

With August being back to school and back to church month, for us it is back to the work of planning for a fall campaign and for a year round emphasis on faith and money.

It’s time to unpack the books and get ready to do some homework. There will be a test this fall.