

# The Leigh Stewardship Newsletter

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## Guidelines for the Clergy and Lay Leaders of the Church

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### THE ENERGY OF ASSEMBLY

#### Stewardship Banquets Put It To Work For You!

Why on earth are we bringing up the subject of banquets now -- here in the middle of July, in the summer heat, during the early vacation time when we've hardly started working on our suntans?!

For two reasons: 1) Thinking about and mulling over the idea of a stewardship "party" (which is actually what a stewardship banquet should be) is one of the most painless, yet most productive, activities -- or inactivities -- you can engage in during the lazier days of summer.

And, 2) of all the stewardship techniques you can think of -- mailings, door-to-door canvassing, etc. -- banquets probably require more lead time than any of the others. Many elements must come together, all at the same hour, on one particular day, with many people involved, to make the banquet technique perform its magic.

Is it worth it? Just ask any of the churches that have had stewardship banquets in the past and continue to have them year after year! Their answer is always simple and obvious: Banquets work. They produce substantial income for the church.

However, many churches dismiss the idea of stewardship banquets for any number of reasons: Too much drudgery is involved on the part of the same few people; not enough members would come to justify the effort; the people who would show up are the same ones that come to everything and who give generously anyway; "the entire membership will be receiving our stewardship letters -- why do we have to feed them, too?" etc., etc.

But they overlook the one great, overwhelming strength of banquets as far as stewardship is concerned ...

#### Group Psychology

While I'm hardly qualified, and it would be presumptuous of me, to go into the scientific basis of things like human behavioral patterns in assembly, psychological synergism, "the effect of the whole is greater than the sum of its parts," etc., I do know this: A powerful energy can be produced in a group that cannot be achieved in the separate members of the group individually.

You know this, too. You've seen it happen as often as I. How many

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TO PAGE 2 ...