

St Andrews United, Truro
Stewardship campaign 2025 -2026

At the annual meeting of St Andrews in 2025 there was no active Stewardship Committee, so Sue King Darby and Kay Dean decided to do something. Starting out we put parameters around what we could do. It was to be fun for us and others. It needed a defined timeline and a financial goal. Education was to be a key component and involve others as much as possible. The church council was to preapprove our plan.

To have fun a HIPPO was chosen as an icon. We added words to the HIPPO icon: High Impact Potential Positive Outcome.

Wood workers on council made a HIPPO money bank. A few hundred HIPPO stickers were sourced to make thank you cards, and book marks by the youngsters in Spirit Quest (Sunday school). They made book marks for everyone one Sunday. Envelopes with HIPPO sketches were available at all times.

A large display board promoted the campaign. The financial goal was \$15,000. Our church celebrated its 150th anniversary so we multiplied 150 years by \$100 to get \$15,000.

To track the donations, a large painted paper HIPPO was cut into 150 pieces. For every \$100 received from all sources, a piece of the puzzle was added to the blank outline in the display board. We often referred to it as the Hungry Hippo.

For the educational component, two full Stewardship services were presented using UCC Stewardship resources. Once or twice month presentations were made. Here are some of the topics: Regularity skit, Stone Soup for St Andrews, how to assess many charity requests, Wanalda presented a regional moment on Stewardship, a sermon based on the charitable givings book Ram Bam's Ladder, a clown mime of part of the Creed "We are called to be the church", and Church stewardship is like the ingredients of home-made pancakes. On Power Point every Sunday we had a picture and quote from famous people on giving and gratitude.

Throughout the six months we emphasized giving to people and programs of our church. We fell short of the \$15,000 goal but we reached \$10,000. It was interesting to see the desire to make it work, especially in the last two months. At the annual meeting in February 2026 everyone got a HIPPO thank you card.

HIP HIP HIPPO Hurray !
Kay Dean