

# Stewardship

*Teaching & Testimony*

for

# 2011



**Church of The Apostles**  
170 Fairview Avenue  
Coventry, Rhode Island 02816

**Church of The Apostles**  
*Evangelical Anglican*

*Our Mission*  
*is to*  
*Obey,*  
*Follow*  
*and*  
*Bear Witness*  
*to*  
**Jesus Christ.**

Church of The Apostles is a member of the  
*Conservative Congregational Christian Conference.*



# Stewardship Sunday

at

Church of The Apostles

*The Twenty-Fifth Sunday  
after Pentecost*

November 13, 2010

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

November 14, 2010

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

and

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

*“Ascribe to the LORD you families of the peoples;  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.  
Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name,  
bring offerings and come into his courts.”*

(Psalm 96:7-8)

## Christian Stewardship: *A Way of Life*

God has given us all we have: our life, health, property, the earth and the Gospel. Everything is a gift from God.

*“The earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it,  
the world and all who dwell therein.”* (Psalm 24:1)

Jesus invites us to be disciples. You are invited to answer Jesus’ call to follow his example of Christian living.

*“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest.”* (Matthew 11:28)

Disciples are stewards. Being a disciple means committing your heart and mind – your whole life – to God!

*“If anyone would come after me, let them deny himself and  
take up his cross daily and  
follow me.”* (Luke 9:23)

Being a good steward means being generous with your time, talent, and treasure.

*“As each has received a gift,  
use it to serve one another, as good stewards  
of God’s varied grace.”* (1 Peter 4:10)

Stewardship is an expression of God’s love for you and your love for God in return.

*“O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor  
and power; because you have created all things,  
and by your will they are created and  
have their being.”* (Revelation 4:11)

## The Biblical Tithe

*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,  
that there may be food in my house.  
Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty,  
and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven  
and pour out so much blessing  
that you will not have room enough for it.”*

(Malachi 3:10)

The Old Testament guideline for giving was the tithe (ten percent). *“Jacob then made this vow: ... ‘Of everything you give me, I will faithfully return a tenth part to you’”* (Genesis 28:20, 22). The Christian Church embraced the Jewish tradition of the tithe from her earliest days. The tithe was, therefore, the expected standard of giving for all the followers of Jesus. The CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS of Church of The Apostles states the following about tithing: “... members are expected to affirm this Congregation’s belief in the tithe – the cheerful giving of ten percent of one’s income – as the generally received Biblical norm and the traditional standard of Christian giving ...” [Article V.1], *“for God loves a cheerful giver”* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

How close do you come to giving what the apostles taught the earliest Christians to offer to the one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church? If you are not yet tithing, or have never even considered working toward the goal of doing so, why not pray about the issue of your own Christian stewardship and ask God to guide you in the Holy Spirit as you make your pledge to His holy Church for 2011.

*“As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone,  
and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”*

(Galatians 6:10)

## *From the Stewardship Minister*

Each week during the Sunday service we offer our pledges and gifts to God with the prayer “*All things come from thee, O LORD, and of thine own have we given thee*” (1 Chronicles 29:14) and as we continue in the service we recite *The Lord’s Prayer* with the ending “For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever, AMEN!” Our *AMEN* is a declaration, “Yes, I



agree with that, I believe it to be true.” We are acknowledging that everything we have and everything we do is a result of some gift that God has placed in our hands.

This leads us to the question: Is what we are praying during the service what we believe, and if we do believe this, do our lives reflect what we pray? God owns it all (*all things come from thee, O LORD*); we are managers of all that God has given (*of thine own have we given thee*) and the God ordained results of our lives are to give all glory to God. It appears that each week we are telling God that we truly understand what Christian stewardship is all about.

We are managers of everything that God has given us: our time, our abilities, our possessions, our money, our whole lives and most importantly the Gospel. To define Christian Stewardship is to describe a way of life, a life in which we regard ourselves and our possessions as a trust from God to be used in his service. The how and why we should give becomes clear when we recognize that we own nothing. Colossians 1:16 tells us that everything was created for God: “*For by him all things were made: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.*” The God of creation, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords has given us the unbelievable privilege of serving him and his creation.

In this stewardship booklet you will find testimonies of the faithful, the giving history of Church of The Apostles, guidelines for giving and many Scripture references about stewardship. Please

take the time to read and pray about what you are reading. There is also a Bible reading plan that may help you as you grow in your understanding of stewardship.

If we are managers then it should be expected that we have instructions on how we are to perform our duties. My son recently started a new job and commented that he would be overwhelmed with the job if he didn't have a comprehensive policy and procedure manual to guide him. A good business practice has always been for the owner to give the manager a clear definition of the goals and expectations of the business. In our Christian life we have only to open the Bible to see that God has given us the ultimate policy and procedure manual and the added remarkable gift of the Holy Spirit (see John 16:7-15). The challenge before each of us is: will we use THE BOOK and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Deacon Kathy Kettle

*“Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power  
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,  
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.  
Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom,  
you are exalted as head over all.  
Wealth and honor come from you;  
you are the ruler of all things.  
In your hands are strength and power  
to exalt and give strength to all.  
Now, our God, we give you thanks,  
and praise your glorious name”*

King David's Prayer  
(1 Chronicles 29:10-13)

## *Testimonies of the Faithful*

Being a Christian is both an honor and a responsibility. Christ came into this world to deliver his message of eternal salvation for all who believe in him and then he died a gruesome death on a cross for me. How can I possibly live a life worthy of all that? Or, more aptly, how can I NOT? It is my responsibility to live my life everyday in a manner that would bring glory to Christ. And as I fall short, and fail, everyday, I need to acknowledge my shortcomings and pray for forgiveness, and do better the next day. Finding ways to give of myself to Christ, my time, my talent, and my treasure seems so inconsequential compared to what I have received in HIM. But, it is what he asks of me, and you: to show our love for him and our love for our neighbor. We've read and heard the Bible stories many times about words without works, storing treasures in heaven, using our talents. It is important to ask ourselves over and over, are we doing the best we can?

—*Deb Adams*

When I was asked to write a testimony on stewardship I had a mixture of sadness and confusion because I don't feel that I follow the pattern of a disciplined, joyful giver — the kind of person I know God loves. From age 14 to age 50 I always worked — wonderful, interesting, challenging and rewarding work. Then, for most of the past four years I didn't have any steady employment. Throughout these four years God has been very faithful. We have been able to give — sometimes more than the normal 10% — often much less. Every week and every month — we had what we needed. There were months (actually most months) when we had exactly what we needed — ending the month with one or two dollars to spare. This was not a subtle message. God was always exactly on target. My son Will and I weren't truly tried. We didn't lose our home or have to sell our belongings. God never asked us to go without necessities. Over and over, he made it very clear that he is the owner and provider of all things.

My sadness around tithing is that I very often did not want to give. Giving was the right thing to do — but I simply did not want to do

it. When I gave with the wrong spirit it only led to bitterness. So for me, giving is a work-in-progress: a little learning done and a lot still to go. I learned that all I was most proud of in my work came from God. When he is pleased to provide and bless my work, it is because he is gracious. To make it clear, he often provided in ways that were totally unrelated to working.

This year the Lord has reunited our family, he has provided a job that is allowing us to clear much of our old debt and even begin to rebuild and he has brought us to a church with good and joyful hearts. As Superintendent Mark says, a church that believes in reconciliation. My prayer is that I will finally learn to be a cheerful giver — cheerful because I will trust him. I'm praying that I will trust him to do all that I know needs to be done — and all that I know I can never do — because he is strong and he is loving.

—*Bill Karner*

Countless times I have heard the word 'stewardship' mentioned in church and in Sunday School, but I never really understood what it meant. As I read through references in my Bible, I gained knowledge of its true meaning. Stewardship, I recognized, is the act of spending time focusing on the Lord, building relationships with others and using the gifts God has given us. This once mysterious word became a word that defines me. I try to reflect my beliefs through my actions every day, showing God how grateful I am for the faith he has helped me build, the family he has blessed me with, and the gifts he has given me. I set aside time every day, even through the tedious hours of homework and studying, to pray not for my own benefit, but to thank God for everything in my life; even the tribulation that eventually makes me stronger.

Church is another important dedication of mine. It has been a routine for me, ever since I was in third grade, to attend church every Sunday. I admit that up until a few years ago, it seemed like a chore; something my parents made me do. But now, more than ever, church is not something I like to miss. Church is an imperative way for me to stay connected with God; learning new things every week that help me grow stronger in my faith. Another way that stewardship is seen in my life would be the amazing,

strong, and unbreakable relationships I have with people of all ages in the Congregation. Our church is built with so much passion and faith, that I am amazed every week to have such wonderful, admirable people around me.

Lastly, God has given me more gifts that I could possibly count, and not a day goes by that I don't thank him for each and every one. Prominently, God has given me a voice to be heard. With this gift of singing, I have found a new way to spread his Word. With these blessed gifts, whether it be the church, my family, or a voice with growing power, stewardship will always be an essential part of my life.

—*Sarah Bethel*

(*Sarah, 17 years old, is a Junior at Tollgate High School in Warwick.*)

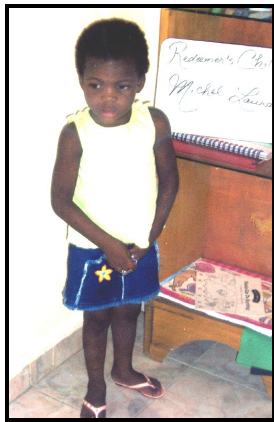
One of the most difficult things we may face as a steward in our journey with Christ is the word tithe. It is a hard thing to let go of what we work so hard for so little of: money! It certainly was for me! I am the proud owner of a family run remodeling business that was established over 30 years ago, and with this responsibility comes a great deal of pressure. With rising costs it has become almost impossible for the small business to exist in the working world of today. However, miraculously, we are pushing forward. I am certain that this is solely due to the intentions that God has for me. With that being said, how can I deny him what is rightfully his? The sooner one submits to the love of God and acknowledges the fact that we are simply caretakers of all the good fortune he has blessed us with, the easier it is to realize that we are not giving away 10%, rather being given 100%. We are only given what the Good Lord thinks we need and it is our duty to live within those means. When we stand in judgment the amount of money we have accumulated will do us no good, in fact we will then realize the distance it has set us apart from the Almighty. Our good fortune is there to serve one purpose and one purpose only: to assist those in need. Stewards of God do not put their trust in earthly things, rather they put their trust in God's promise. Why? Because God always keeps his promise.

—*Mark Tellier*

## Redeemer's Child

*"Just as I have loved you, so you should love one another.  
By this will all men know that you are my disciples  
by love that you have for one another."  
(John 13:34-35)*

Church of The Apostles is sponsoring a four year old child from Haiti. Her name is Laura Michel. She was born October 29, 2006 in the town of Ile De La Gonave, Haiti. She attends kindergarten at the Redeemer's Child Orphanage which is a ministry of the outreach of Monadnock Bible Conference. Laura has a twin sister Laurie who also lives at the orphanage. Their mother is physically handicapped and had been abused by the men on the island. The mother's first set of twins died from starvation and when Laura and Laurie were born, their mother asked an older couple to



help her find a home for these girls. God led that couple to Redeemer's Child Orphanage. Our last correspondence from the orphanage said that "the twins are thriving and growing and learning about Jesus and attending school at Redeemer's School". At present Monadnock Bible Conference operates five schools in different areas of Haiti with sponsorship of about 700 children and also supports two orphanages in Haiti, the one we speak of above and another in the central mountains in St. Michel. Each orphanage houses about 35 children.

There is no easy answer for the extreme poverty in Haiti but by sponsoring a child we give that child a chance to break the cycle of poverty and we are given the opportunity to use our treasures to show the love that Jesus asks of each of us. Please keep Laura and her sister in your prayers and if you and your family would like to make a monetary donation you may place it with the weekly collection (specify: for Laura). If you would like more information contact Deacon Kathy Kettle.

*A Daily Bible Reading Plan for Stewardship*  
*Through your Bible: an insight into giving*

- DAY 1 • *God's first gifts to us*                      Genesis 2:7; 1:29, 30; 3:21
- DAY 2 • *The first recorded tithe*                      Genesis 14: 17-20
- DAY 3 • *The joy of giving*                      1 Chronicles 29:1-18
- DAY 4 • *The reward of obedience*                      Isaiah 55:1, 2
- DAY 5 • *The reward of giving*                      Malachi 3:6-10
- DAY 6 • *The servants choice*                      Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13-15
- DAY 7 • *The freedom of giving*                      Matthew 6:25-26; Luke 12:22-31
- DAY 8 • *The disappointed man*                      Mark 10:18-25
- DAY 9 • *The generous women*                      Mark 12:41-44
- DAY 10 • *The dishonest gift*                      Acts 5:1-10
- DAY 11 • *Putting things into perspective*                      1 Timothy 6:6-10
- DAY 12 • *Regular, planned, proportionate*                      1 Corinthians 16:1, 2
- DAY 13 • *God gives...we give...God gives*                      2 Corinthians 9:6-10
- DAY 14 • *Let us thank God!*                      2 Corinthians 9:10-15

*“Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!”*

(2 Corinthians 9:15)

## *A Statement of Leadership*

At the Church Council meeting held on October 21st, our Congregation's leadership collectively made their pledges to the work of ministry here at Church of The Apostles for the year 2011. Eleven Council members (the Superintendent, three Elders, five Deacons, the Treasurer and Clerk) pledged as follows:

*Total pledges for 2010: \$93,696.00*

*This is an average of \$8,517.82 or  
\$163.80 per week for each member.*

*Total pledges for 2011: \$105,270.00*

*This is an average of \$9,570.00 or  
\$184.04 per week for each member.*

*“This is the LORD’s doing  
and it is marvelous  
in our eyes.”*

(Psalm 118:23)

## Five Year Giving History

The following is a breakdown of offerings received in the weekly offering envelopes for 2006 through the first nine months of 2010. The year 2006 is presented in two parts: the first half of the year is the giving to Church of St. Andrew and St. Philip and the remainder is to Church of The Apostles. While individuals give in various frequencies (weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc.), **all offerings were calculated to determine each giver's weekly offering.**

<u>Offering Amount</u> (per week)	<u>2006</u> (Jan - Jun)	<u>2006</u> (Jul - Dec)	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u> (Jan - Sept)
\$200.00 or more	—	—	—	—	2	4
\$150.00—\$199.99	—	1	3	8	5	8
\$100.00—\$149.99	5	9	10	6	11	4
\$50.00—\$99.99	16	14	16	20	22	22
\$25.00—\$49.99	34	31	31	30	22	25
\$10.00—\$24.99	45	46	36	30	30	27
Less than \$10.00	<u>67</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>43</u>
Total Givers	167	168	167	172	149	133
Average Weekly Offering	\$23.62	\$26.80	\$28.30	\$30.53	\$39.23	\$46.06
<b>Total Annual Weekly Offerings</b>	<b>\$225,261.55</b>	<b>\$245,741.85</b>	<b>\$273,031.00</b>	<b>\$303,973.75</b>	<b>\$318,525.06 *</b>	

\* Projected Weekly Offering for 2010 based on the current level of giving year-to-date.

## *Guidelines for Giving*

<i>Hourly Wage</i>	<i>Weekly Income</i>	<i>Annual Income</i>	<i>Percentage of income for weekly offering</i>			
			<i>1%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>10%</i>
\$8.00	\$320	\$16,640	\$3.20	\$16.00	\$22.40	\$32.00
\$9.00	\$360	\$18,720	\$3.60	\$18.00	\$25.20	\$36.00
\$10.00	\$400	\$20,800	\$4.00	\$20.00	\$28.00	\$40.00
\$12.00	\$480	\$24,960	\$4.80	\$24.00	\$33.60	\$48.00
\$14.50	\$580	\$30,160	\$5.80	\$29.00	\$40.60	\$58.00
\$16.75	\$670	\$34,840	\$6.70	\$33.50	\$46.90	\$67.00
\$19.25	\$770	\$40,040	\$7.70	\$38.50	\$53.90	\$77.00
\$24.00	\$960	\$49,920	\$9.60	\$48.00	\$67.20	\$96.00
\$36.00	\$1,440	\$74,880	\$14.40	\$72.00	\$100.80	\$144.00
\$48.00	\$1,920	\$99,840	\$19.20	\$96.00	\$134.40	\$192.00

*Where does your giving fall?*

## *Tithes & Offerings*

*Tithes* are the regular, proportional (10%) giving from our income as an expression of our thanks for God's daily care and provision, and are used for the regular operating expenses of the church.

*Offerings* are the occasional extra-ordinary gifts which people give above their tithes as they are moved by God to give, and are used for extra-ordinary expenses, whether for the needs of the church, or for the needs of others.

*Tithes* are a matter of discipline, that is, having a plan for what you need to do, and then doing what you have planned.

*Offerings* are 'over the top' gifts, that is, doing what you are free to do however you want to do it and doing it with joyful abandon.

*“He who sows sparingly  
will also reap sparingly,  
and he who sows bountifully  
will also reap bountifully.”*

(2 Corinthians 9:6)

## Stewardship Sunday

*“From everyone to whom much has been given,  
much will be required;  
and from the one to whom much has been entrusted,  
even more will be demanded.”*

(Luke 12:48)

On the weekend of November 13th & 14th, Congregants will be asked to make a financial pledge, as well as a commitment of their time and talent, toward the work of the ministry of Church of The Apostles for the year 2011. Pledges should be made after prayerful consideration. Church members are asked to take the pledge cards that you will receive in the mail with you to worship on November 13th or 14th and bring them to the holy Table at an especially appointed time during the 5:00 p.m., 8:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, so that as a community of faith we may *“present [ourselves] as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is [our] spiritual worship”* (Romans 12:1).

Please continue to pray for the mission of Church of The Apostles as we jointly prepare to make a commitment of our time, talent, and treasure to God for the year 2011. For we are the Lord’s people: *“servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God”* (1 Corinthians 4:1), a people called to “work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God” [Bylaws, Article V.1].

*“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and make good your vows to the Most High.”*

(Psalm 50:14)

## *Some final thoughts to ponder...*

### **Stewardship is about choices**

*“Do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,  
so that you may discern what is the will of God –  
what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

(Romans 12:2)

### **Stewardship is giving thanks**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Thomas Ken  
(1637-1711)

### **Stewards invest in eternity**

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,  
where moth and rust consume and  
where thieves break in and steal;  
but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,  
where neither moth nor rust consumes  
and where thieves do not break in and steal.  
For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also.”*

(Matthew 6:19-21)

# CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES

*Evangelical Anglican*

170 Fairview Avenue  
Coventry, Rhode Island 02816

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Church Office: (401) 821-7609 • Superintendent's Residence: (401) 397-3652

Website: [apostlesri.org](http://apostlesri.org)

E-mail: [office@apostlesri.org](mailto:office@apostlesri.org)

The Holy Eucharist	Saturday 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Christian Education	Sunday 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Brunch	Sunday 11:45 a.m.
Evening Prayer Meeting	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Morning Prayer	Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.

## Church Staff

Superintendent	The Reverend Mark R. Galloway
Church Administrator	Barbara Battey
Communications Officer	Barbara Bickerstaff
Christian Education Minister	Chris Lloyd
Pastoral Assistant (MSW, LICSW)	Roberta Tvenstrup
Youth Minister	Roger Hall
Health and Wellness Minister	Sharon Galloway, RN
Organist and Music Director	Marianne Salisbury
Sacristy Minister	JoAnn Ruppert
Property Maintenance Technician	Jim Quinn
Treasurer	Bob Bickerstaff
Clerk	Susan Farrell

## Board of Elders

Elder Chad Tvenstrup	385-9958
Elder Nina Deuel	789-3837
Elder Rob Geoffrey	943-4661
Elder <i>Emeritus</i> Conrad Ruppert	

## Board of Servants

Archdeacon Tom Bourn	<i>Servant Evangelism Minister</i>	294-4186
Deacon Bill Sexton	<i>Congregational Care Minister</i>	726-4549
Deacon Cathy Morgan	<i>Outreach Minister</i>	781-8577
Deacon Kathy Kettle	<i>Stewardship Minister</i>	822-2460
Acting Deacon Harry Sacchetti	<i>Buildings &amp; Grounds Minister</i>	374-4273

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