

Our stewardship efforts must be grounded in constant prayer, for others, for our parish, for ourselves; to be open to the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength, to guide us all into our ministries and to sustain us in them. This stewardship ministry, into which God has called us, must be undertaken in love and gratitude.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen* . Collect for Stewardship Sunday, 2009, (Proper 20), BCP p. 234.

***(SAINT LUKE'S) STEWARDSHIP PRAYER
2010***

Gracious God, from you comes every good and healthful gift. Help us through our faithful Stewardship to acknowledge that all things come of you, and to learn that it is in giving that we receive. Give us grateful hearts and make us joyful and cheerful givers, as we put our trust in you. Guide and strengthen us as we make our gifts to you through (Saint Luke's) for the spread of your Kingdom: In the name of your greatest gift, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.



***(SAINT LUKE'S
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY)***

Grace to you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This Stewardship Sunday is an important day in the life of this great parish and in the lives of each of its members. Building on the foundation of our teaching and themes from the past year, we have come again to the action portion of our stewardship ministry – the time when we each make a pledge of those portions of our life that God has called us to share through his parish of Saint Luke's. This commitment is one of the most important spiritual disciplines we undertake as faithful Christians, and, potentially, one of the most joy filled and life giving. Because we take this very seriously for our soul's health, and not primarily as a means of raising funds for our budget, we ask you to spend a few minutes of this Sunday in prayer and introspection, discerning into what ministries God is calling you, and into what acts of generosity he is leading you. The enclosed guide is intended as a framework for your use. We invite you to employ whatever portions seem appropriate and helpful. Remember that your decision is between you and your Lord, and therefore is a prime subject for prayer. Know that your clergy and lay leaders are praying for you and for Saint Luke's today, as we make our own stewardship decisions.

May the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit be with all of us this day, guiding and sustain us forever. *Amen*.

(Signatures of Rector and Rusty – Priest Affiliate)

“All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.”
I Chronicles 29:14b

Jesus said, "I came that (you) may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10b

1. Jesus came to transform us. That is the goal of Discipleship, and Christian Stewardship is at the very heart of it, one of the primary tools of Discipleship, and absolutely necessary if we are to "grow into the full stature of Christ." It, Christian Stewardship, is about learning to trust God and His promises to us.
2. God cannot and will not love us more than He already does, regardless of our response or lack thereof. The more readily and completely we can respond however, determines the degree to which we are able to know and receive God's grace and love.
3. The reason "God loves a cheerful giver" is that cheerful giving is an indication that the giver has truly heard the Gospel.
4. Christian Stewardship is at least partly selfish. The more we give, the better we feel, the more joy we have in our lives, the more fulfilled our lives become and the closer and better our relationship with God. Who would not want that for themselves and those they love?
5. Trust God to provide resources for you to make your gift
6. We are called by God to proclaim, in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our brothers and sisters. That is what we are about in our Program of Christian Stewardship Education.
7. *We all must be converted, there must be a shift in how we see, believe and act in order to receive new life in God's Kingdom. When we are converted we then become a New Creation (Paul). Good Christian Stewardship follows Conversion. It is primarily a Spiritual Relationship between us, God and His creation. It is not Fund Raising, and when done properly builds Christian Community.* (Extracts from Henri Nouwen's book on Stewardship.)

A Stewardship Bible Study – The Rich Young Man

Then someone came to (Jesus) and said, 'Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?' And he said to him, 'Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into (true) life, keep the commandments.' He said to him, 'Which ones?' And Jesus said, 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' The young man said to him, 'I have kept all these. What do I still lack?' Jesus said to him, 'If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, 'Then who can be saved?' But Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.' Mt. 19:16-26

Questions for Discussion

1. What is God saying to me in these words?
2. What is God promising me in these words?
3. What is standing in the way of my responding to God's call and receiving God's gifts?
4. If I overcame these barriers, how might my life be different?

A Private Analysis Of My Stewardship

A. What I think my stewardship response of time and treasure ought to be:

B. What my stewardship response really is: _____

C. What I would like my stewardship response to be: [May be different from A or B]

Today... _____

In 1 year... _____

In 3 years... _____

In 5 years... _____

D. These things are preventing my stewardship response from being what I would like: _____

E. These are things I can and will change to move closer to the response I would like: _____

Steps Toward Becoming A Tither

This worksheet is for Christians who:

- ___ Trust God to give us the gifts he promises;
- ___ Want to give a responsible proportion of what God has given them to do what God wants done in the world;
- ___ Believe in tithing as an important Biblical standard for Christian stewardship;
- ___ Cannot, because of already existing commitments, become tithers immediately;
- ___ Are considering making tithing an active goal for their lives.

1. Enter your total annual income \$ _____
2. (Optional: subtract the amount you pay in taxes) _____
3. Balance _____
4. Move the decimal point one place to the left. _____

THIS WOULD BE YOUR TITHE.

5. Enter your annual contribution to your parish and to other Godly causes Outside your family. _____
6. Add these up. _____
7. Divide line 6 by line 3 _____

THIS IS THE PERCENTAGE OF YOUR INCOME YOU ARE NOW GIVING.

Set a date by which you want to achieve your goal of tithing:
1 year? 3 years? 5 years? _____

8. What percentage would you give next year to reach your goal of tithing by the date you have set? _____
9. What would be the total dollar amount of your giving next year? _____
10. How much would you give through your parish? _____

THIS WOULD BE YOUR PLEDGE.

