

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Originally published on April 20, 1979, the following paper gives some insight into a slightly different Church of the Ascension. I must admit that I really didn't appreciate this paper, or the importance of the following kind of stewardship, until recently. Since that time, I've come to believe that all children...including God's...seem to learn an "abstract" concept more easily if they've first manipulated something "concrete"...like the practice of building a tower out of blocks before learning to count. Perhaps that's why some of us may need to understand the physical aspects of stewardship before we can fully appreciate the spiritual...like the practice of giving our time, talent, and treasure, before we can understand what it means to give our lives to God.

It may be that the spiritual doesn't mean much to those caught up in the physical struggle of day-to-day living, but...without the struggle, there would be no one caught up in the Spirit. February 9, 2003.

Service

For each of us, to keep watch over our "spiritual" houses is, of course, our most important concern; but we might have had a difficult time doing this if it hadn't been for the people who managed our corporate "physical" house this past week...the church...and, therefore, allowed our hearts and minds the opportunity for the "spiritual" to take place.

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The Altar Guild, whose duties and responsibilities necessitated many additional hours of work...

The people who worked so hard on the Seder...

The availability of so many services, in order that some might fit into our varied schedules.

The participants in the different services: the acolytes, the readers, the choir, the priest, the congregation...

All these, plus the warmth and sharing...the kind words...the caring and the many prayers...made it possible for us, as best we could, to "remain here and keep watch"...with Him.

(Written, April 20, 1979. Edited, November 4, 2012)