

November 5, 2023

Dear Apostles family,

The Lord is moving in our community, and we are thankful! As we come to the Thanksgiving season, it is appropriate for us to reflect on the Lord's provision for us: our families, our Church, and the communities in which we live. Our prayer is that we will respond to the Lord's generosity with joyful giving of our time, talent, and treasure, trusting his continued provision for us.

The Lord has generously provided for our church. A practical way we can all express our gratitude for the Lord's faithfulness, participate in His calling, and demonstrate our trust in Him is to make a pledge to give for the 2024 calendar year. A prayerfully discerned pledge allows for us to faithfully submit to the Lord as the giver of all things and steward our church's resources as we go forth make disciples for the Kingdom of God.

In the last year, we have ordained a Deacon, called a Family Life Minister, and increased the number of adults to our life groups to 123. The Lord continues to raise up godly men and women as leaders in our congregation. We celebrated Eric Mingle's ordination to the priesthood, are discerning ordination with others in our congregation, and added our first even ministry intern, David Paiva. As the Lord calls our next Rector, we prayerfully strive to continue discipling adults and children within our church, reach out to our community, and foster an environment to welcome more into our midst. Your time, talent and treasure support this continued work.

To do this work, your Leadership Council has proposed a 2024 budget of \$1.035 MM, which represents a 9% increase from our budget in 2023. The increases to our budget are primarily driven by being fully staffed for the full year in 2024 and appropriately resourcing our staff to minister to our church body and community through discipleship and reverent Sunday worship services. We ask you to prayerfully consider a pledge in support of this ministry work, that we may be blessed by one another and bless those around us.

The Lord calls us to give not from guilt, but in joy and confidence in His provision. The Lord doesn't need us to make disciples, but rather invites us to participate in His eternal redeeming work, despite our imperfections. Praise the Lord for using us to fulfill his good purpose!

Thank you for considering how God is inviting you to be a part of this mission. You may pick up to a pledge card in the lobby or go online to apostleshouston.org to **make your pledge by November 30th**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to a member of the Leadership Council. The Lord has richly blessed this special community, and we are deeply grateful for all that you do to help glorify Christ and proclaim his Gospel!

Gratefully in Christ,

Scott Phillips
Senior Lay Leader

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:1-4

Jon Casselberry
Treasurer

2023 Apostles Leadership Council: Mike Foderetti (Junior Lay Leader), David Munson (Secretary), Peter Wareing, Michael Lohan, Anthony Sanderson, Julie Gillaspie, Bonnie Likeover, Britt Dearman, Les, Clark

2023 – 2024 Budget Comparison

	2024 Budget	2023 Budget	Increase / (Decrease)
Tithes and Offerings	\$1,005,000	\$920,000	\$85,000
Interest Income	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
Total Revenue	\$1,035,000	\$950,000	\$85,000
Expenses			
Salaries and Benefits	\$560,000	\$486,000	\$74,000
<i>Building Operations</i>	<i>\$71,000</i>	<i>\$66,000</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Net Interest Expense</i>	<i>\$46,000</i>	<i>\$51,000</i>	<i>(\$5,000)</i>
<i>Maintenance Expense</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Building and Grounds	\$167,000	\$167,000	\$0
Administrative	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$0
Worship	\$91,000	\$76,000	\$15,000
Ministry Programs	\$53,000	\$57,000	(\$4,000)
Special Programs	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$0
Diocese Tithe	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
	\$1,035,000	\$950,000	\$85,000