



# JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY



## Stewardship 2017

### WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines stewardship as “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.” As Episcopalians, stewardship is God’s call to us to share in God’s mission of caring for the world, using all the gifts God has given us. We are stewards, caretakers of God’s gifts. Everything we have was a gift from God, and God asks us to use it all for God’s purposes. Generosity flows naturally out of our gratitude for the gift of love, family, and life itself.

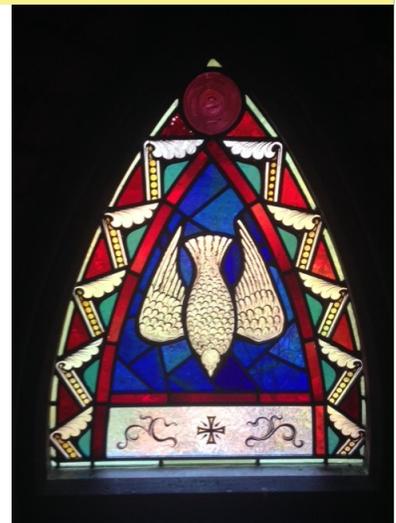
At times it can be hard to feel generous. When our lives feel overscheduled, when we run into adversity, we may ask ourselves: why am I doing this? Why give my money and my time to the Church? God can do just fine without me.

Maybe he can, but how well can we do without God? Living a life in concert with God is living a life of abundance. When we open our hearts, the abundant blessings from God, flow into our lives. When we worry that we don’t have enough - enough money, enough time, enough of anything – we become blind to the abundance all around us.

*Stewardship is... Everything I do after I say, “I believe.”*

We are all called to be faithful stewards of the gifts we receive from God. When we embrace this calling our lives are transformed and made richer. During our stewardship campaign this year, we invite you to join us to commit to cheerfully sharing time, talent and money to enhance God’s work at Christ Church.

The Christ Church community has much to be grateful for: We’ve worked hard during the past few years to improve the financial stability of the Church. In addition, we have invested our time and talent in ways that add so much to our spiritual journey and parish life. We have made significant progress, but work remains to be done. We ask each of you reading this brochure to extend your generosity and make an annual pledge to Christ Church.



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**WHY ARE  
ANNUAL PLEDGES  
IMPORTANT?**

**Our parish budget** is built around our annual pledge income.

In the Episcopal Church, each church is responsible for generating all the funds needed to operate the church.

Your annual pledge -- and the pledge of all the other members of Christ Church -- supports the operating costs of our ministry programs, our priest and all the expenses of building operations and upkeep.

**FAITHFUL STEWARDS**

To help Christ Church continue its ministry to our community, we are asking for your commitment as faithful stewards.

Spiritual growth comes through commitment and involvement in this special faith community. Your Stewardship of time, talent and treasure is an outward sign of your thanksgiving to God for the gifts you have received.

An important aspect of commitment is to give of your time - to spend a fixed proportion of your week for the ongoing work of Christ Church. Dedicating your time to volunteer opportunities and group efforts helps us as we strive to be a living symbol of God's presence and love in our communities.

Another way to give is through helping to increase participation in the liturgical, *Blessings from our church garden.*

volunteer, social and educational events. We have found a home at Christ Church and we are called to share the good news with our neighbors.

Making a pledge and committing to an intentional program of giving to the church can be a spiritual discipline that helps us feel closer to God, and more closely committed to the special faith community of Christ Church.



**HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?**

Your pledge is as personal as your prayer, and only you can know what is right for you - at this stage of your journey, in your current financial circumstances, at this point in your overall life plan.

We urge you to begin your commitment to proportional giving with a small step:

The average pledge to churches nationally is 2.6% of income, and maybe that is a good place to start.

**A GUIDE TO PROPORTIONAL GIVING**

Annual Income	Weekly Income	Proportional giving											
		Beyond a Tithe		Tithe									
		15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$22,000	\$423	\$63	\$51	\$42	\$38	\$34	\$30	\$25	\$21	\$17	\$13	\$8	\$4
\$25,000	\$481	\$72	\$58	\$48	\$43	\$38	\$34	\$29	\$24	\$19	\$14	\$10	\$5
\$30,000	\$577	\$87	\$69	\$58	\$52	\$46	\$40	\$35	\$29	\$23	\$17	\$12	\$6
\$40,000	\$769	\$115	\$92	\$77	\$69	\$62	\$54	\$46	\$38	\$31	\$23	\$15	\$8
\$50,000	\$962	\$144	\$115	\$96	\$87	\$77	\$67	\$58	\$48	\$38	\$29	\$19	\$10
\$60,000	\$1,154	\$173	\$138	\$115	\$104	\$92	\$81	\$69	\$58	\$46	\$35	\$23	\$12
\$70,000	\$1,346	\$202	\$162	\$135	\$121	\$108	\$94	\$81	\$67	\$54	\$40	\$27	\$13
\$80,000	\$1,538	\$231	\$185	\$154	\$138	\$123	\$108	\$92	\$77	\$62	\$46	\$31	\$15
\$90,000	\$1,731	\$260	\$208	\$173	\$156	\$139	\$121	\$104	\$87	\$69	\$52	\$35	\$17
\$100,000	\$1,923	\$288	\$231	\$192	\$173	\$154	\$135	\$115	\$96	\$77	\$58	\$38	\$19
\$110,000	\$2,115	\$317	\$254	\$212	\$190	\$169	\$148	\$127	\$106	\$85	\$63	\$42	\$21
\$120,000	\$2,308	\$346	\$277	\$231	\$208	\$185	\$162	\$138	\$115	\$92	\$69	\$46	\$23
\$140,000	\$2,692	\$404	\$323	\$269	\$242	\$215	\$188	\$162	\$135	\$108	\$81	\$54	\$27

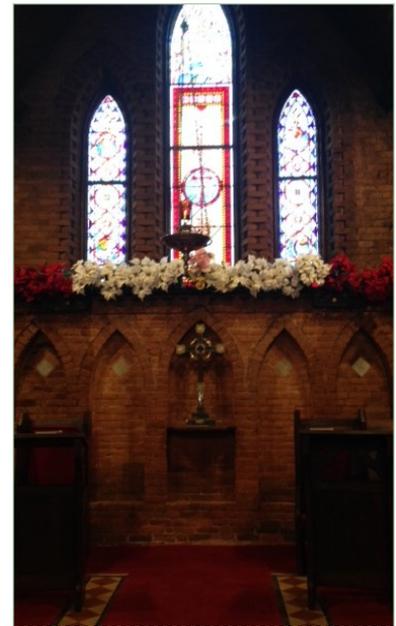
## AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY “YES”

Richard Felton

Life is an opportunity. Life is a journey. A journey to saying “yes” to God who calls us the Beloved. Life is a journey to love; a journey to welcome; a journey to invite; a journey to peace; a journey to generosity.

From the moment we draw our first breath to the moment we breathe our last, we are both receivers and givers. How we move from takers of everything given to us to sharing everything we have is one measure of how we live into saying, “Yes.”

On our journey to generosity, we learn from our parents and other family members. We learn from friends and church members. We learn through our own actions and from hearing the stories of other generous people.



*“Put simply, life is a God-given opportunity to become who we are, to affirm our own true spiritual nature, claim our truth, appropriate and integrate the reality of our being, but most of all, to say ‘Yes’ to the One who calls us the Beloved.” — Henri J.M. Nouwen*

The gospel stories of Jesus inform, challenge, and inspire us. Whether it’s the story of the Good Samaritan, the rich young ruler, or Zacchaeus, Jesus invites us into what the journey to generosity looks like.

TENS has chosen “Journey to Generosity” as the theme for 2017 to invite everyone into that journey. It is not simply about how much we give to support the mission and ministry of our parish. The journey is about how we live our lives as the Beloved. Are we generous in our dealings with others?

Are we generous when we welcome the stranger and the strange to church on Sunday mornings? Are we generous in our forgiveness and in our acceptance of forgiveness?

We hope you find our upcoming offerings helpful as your church travels on the Journey to Generosity.

*Christ Church uses the Prayers of the People and other resources offered by TENS.*



*Young stewards cleaning our church.*

Richard Felton is the Executive Director of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship

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## HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT: ROOTED IN GIVING

Science has begun to discover what people involved with others have known all along: Happiness is not rooted in what we can gather for ourselves, but in what we have to give to others.

“There are some people who think stewardship is exclusively about the church’s need to

receive,” writes Bruce Rockwell, steward evangelist. “This is not true. Stewardship is about our need to give. If we are to become the people God created us to be, we will learn to be generous.”

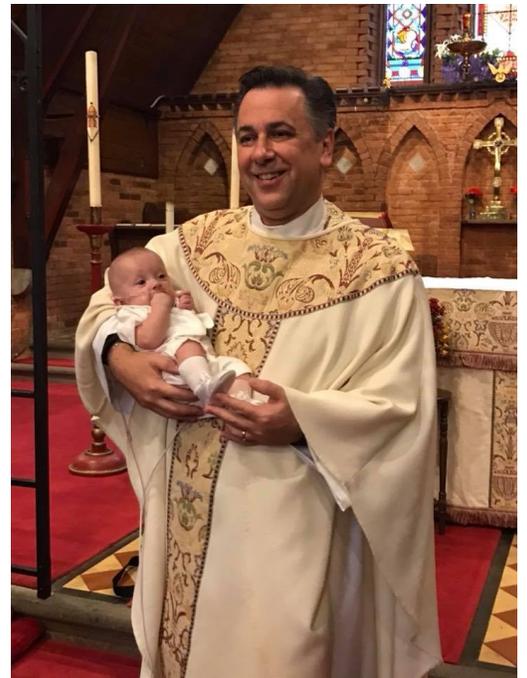
*Our Journey to Generosity concludes on Sunday, December 3rd.*

## GIVING AND RECEIVING BY PLEDGING

The Rev. Dr. Paul Kolbet

One of the clearest teachings of Jesus is that life is made fuller and better by giving. He said, “Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back” (Luke 6:38). Many people have learned from him that without generosity, there is only scarcity no matter how much you have. When we feel scarcity, it feels too risky to give, and fear’s grip upon us can get tighter and tighter. Jesus’ invitation to generosity is the invitation not only to give, but to believe that God can help you, and to live each day with the expectation that good things will happen to you and us. This insight of Jesus applies not just to money, but also to other things such as time and love.

I invite you this year to take the risk of pledging and believing Jesus that if you do, more of what you need the most will come back to you “pressed down, shaken together, and running over.” Let us walk together on this Journey to Generosity so that the glory of God continues to shine through the presence of Christ Church in Medway and its ministries for years to come!



*The newest member of Christ Episcopal Church (above) and one of our most faithful members (right).*





*Members of our 2016 Christmas Pageant*

## “I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS”

Terry Hofmann

In John 15:15, Jesus invited his followers to be his friends “because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.” And, what was that message? To put it simply, love – love of God, love of creation, love of neighbor, love of self. Jesus embodied that love in all his relationships and invited love in return.

For his followers, belonging to Jesus did not mean just offering words of friendship in return. It meant taking action and sharing earthly resources, as needed. That including taking care of Jesus’ own needs. Just consider a few events we recall during Holy Week – Jesus enters Jerusalem (someone had to provide the donkey and make arrangements for housing); Jesus and his disciples eat the Last Supper (someone had to buy the food and drink); Jesus dies and is buried (someone has to provide the tomb and the burial spices). His friends provided.

As members of Christ Church, we, too, are invited into God’s love and into friendship with Jesus and with one another. Belonging to Christ Church means that we, too, are called to take action and share our earthly resources (time, talent, treasure) so that this “little church with a BIG heart” can continue to function and flourish, witnessing to God’s love in the greater Medway community. By making an annual pledge of financial support we affirm our membership and honor our friendship. I look forward this November to making my first pledge of financial support to Christ Church – will you join me, friends?

The goal for our

2017

Stewardship

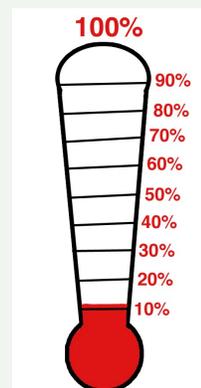
Campaign is

**100%**

**participation**

among church members.

**Please help us reach that goal!**



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DECEMBER 24TH SERVICES

9:00 am

4th Advent service

4:00 pm

Christmas Pageant

followed by

Holy Eucharist

10:00 pm

Candlelight Service

## CHRIST CHURCH UPDATES

- ⇒ This year's Christmas Pageant is a multi-generational production. Would you like to have a role? Email Rebecca White: [Rebecca.a.white@gmail.com](mailto:Rebecca.a.white@gmail.com) The more the merrier!
- ⇒ Construction on the kitchen is progressing nicely. There are still opportunities to contribute to finish this ambitious project. Check out the board in Crowell Hall!
- ⇒ Food Pantry Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Help us stock the Medway Food Pantry to make this an abundant holiday for our neighbors in need.
- ⇒ The Angel tree is up. Pick an ornament, buy the gift listed and show your generosity this Christmas season! Return items, unwrapped, to Christ Church no later than Sunday, December 3rd. If you would like to help out, but will not be in church to sign up, or if you have any questions, please contact Sarah Brady at [bonjournskj@yahoo.com](mailto:bonjournskj@yahoo.com).
- ⇒ The Christ Church garden project, headed by Steve Muza was a great success this year. We were able to donate between 100-125lbs of fresh produce to Medway House this year.



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THE LITTLE CHURCH  
WITH THE BIG HEART

