

Blessings in the name of Christ!

October 5, 2014

Going to church as a child, I clearly remember my dad putting his offering envelope with \$5 in the basket every Sunday. Each of us seven children were given a nickel to put in as well.

However, my father's hard-earned money and my nickel disappeared each week without any of us knowing what we were contributing towards. We contributed strictly out of obedience.

At St. John's, I know exactly what my yearly pledge makes possible: salaries, worship services, heat, Sunday School, MUSIC, bulletins, insurance, building maintenance, candle oil...and the list goes on. In fact, part of my contribution even goes towards an assessment, or tax, from the diocese and the national church. We do not *receive* money from our national church, we *send* money. A portion of my tithe helps the world-wide church continue God's mission work in places where the need is greatest. I find that comforting.



Consequently my annual pledge has significance in so many ways:

- I give in thanksgiving for the church and the generosity of God in my life.
- I give in knowledge, and with trust, clear about the places where my pledge will be used and proud of the way the Treasurer and the Vestry budget that money for best use.
- I give in obedience because the Bible talks about giving of our first fruits, of donating ten percent of the 100 percent we receive from God.
- I give in love because everything I am, and everything I have, is a loving gift from God, and I love giving back to His church.
- I give in faith because I don't always know where the money is going to come from, but I always seem to have enough to give, and more to spare in most months.

I am also aware, as your Rector and as a member of St. John's, that we need to maintain our historic family home—the church. Our Capital Campaign invites us to offer our mustard seeds of faith, love and financial generosity. God multiplies these offerings through prayer and mission as we care for His church, and as we welcome new family members into this church home.

Please prayerfully consider how your pledge, or your promise, to our annual Stewardship Campaign and our Capital Campaign will help us plant seeds that will grow, with God's help.

Thanksgiving, knowledge, trust, obedience, love and faith. How is God asking you to share from your abundance?

With thanks for your prayers and generosity,

Mother Laurie +