



**Giving to Grow:
The 2018 Annual Stewardship
Campaign**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am pleased to write to you as we begin our 2018 Stewardship Campaign. The annual stewardship campaign is much more than the solicitation of pledges for financial commitments in the following budget year. It is a time for us to pray not only about how much we give of our money but also how we as individuals are living out our baptismal vocations as followers of Jesus.

This parish has a history of dedicated and generous parishioners. Despite the challenges of the past few years with respect to the conversation around amalgamation and the upset to the lives of both St John's and St Barnabas' since our amalgamation, the commitment of our parishioners not only has not wavered but appears to have been strengthened. Perhaps it is because we now have a sense of the incredible potential for growth and new ministry that lies ahead in addition to the established traditions of our parish. So many of you give very generously of your money, time, and energy, for worship, education, fundraising, fellowship, property maintenance, outreach, and a whole host of other endeavours. Were it not for this incredible gift, we would not be able to do what we do. Thank you.

As in previous years, we invite you to complete the Commitment Brochure. This form contains two important sections. The first is a list of our various ministries. If you are not currently involved in a ministry but think you might have a passion and calling for one, please check the appropriate box so that a coordinator may contact you with more information. The second section is to indicate a level of financial support for 2018. Please do pray about your financial commitment: this is an area in which we Anglicans typically struggle, but as Jesus himself said, "where your treasure is, there your heart is also." Does your gift accurately reflect your heart for the Church? If you donate through pre-authorized giving (PAG) it is very easy to adjust the amount of your monthly gift by submitting a letter or email to the office. PAG is a stress-free way of giving that doesn't require preparing an envelope each week and it allows the parish to count on a regular cash flow at no cost to the donor.

This year, participating in the Stewardship Campaign is more convenient. To practice good stewardship of the environment, we are sending printed versions of this letter and the commitment brochure only to those without email. Those with email will receive this letter via email and the brochure will be found online as a fillable PDF to print or complete and email to the office. It can also be filled out online: www.stjohnspeterborough.ca/serve/giving-to-grow. If you prefer a printed version, please ask the parish office. All commitment brochures should be returned on or before Sunday 7 October, Harvest Thanksgiving, at which time we will pray over our commitments and ask God to bless our offering of our time, energy, skills, and financial resources. I hope that this campaign will be an opportunity for us to enter into prayer as we seek how best to respond to God's generous presence in our lives through our offerings to further God's mission through the parish.

In Christ,