

Friday, October 28, 2016

My Friends in Christ,

Every Fall, Christ the King conducts a Stewardship campaign in order to solicit pledges from parishioners. Normally, this is an incredibly stressful time of year. I worry about whether giving will increase or decrease, and I fixate on what programs might need to be cut or modified in light of what the budget looks like.

But I'm not worried this year...

I am not worried because as I look around this parish I see faithfulness—both God's and ours. I am in awe of all we have accomplished together in the past year: a vibrant and expanding Children's Ministry, new programs, an increased community presence, and we have nearly doubled our Sunday Attendance! Our success is a sign of God's faithfulness in supplying leadership and resources to guide our parish through the years, and I am convinced that God will continue to provide for Christ the King out of the riches of God's grace.

In essence, that is what Stewardship is all about: recognizing how God has blessed our lives. That's why I am not worried about fundraising like I used to be. I realize that each of us will respond to the needs of the Church with the same grace and generosity that you have shown in the past.

Attached to this letter, please find both our 2016 Pledge Form and a Pledging Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). If this is your first time making a pledge to Christ the King, the FAQ will hopefully answer many common questions about how your gifts are utilized by the Church. Before you fill out the Pledge Form, I ask that you consider prayerfully the many ways in which God has blessed our lives, and in what ways you can return some of those blessings back to God for the work of the Church. The Pledge Form asks each of us to consider the many ways in which we can give to the Church. We can give of our Time, our Talents, and of our Treasure in service of God's Kingdom.

Finally, I would like to thank you for being a part of our parish family. It is a honor to be a part of your lives, and I am constantly humbled by the opportunity to help us all grow in faith and discipleship.

May God bless you continually in this new year. I, for one, can't wait to get started...

In His service,



The Rev. Matthew Warren
Vicar

CHRIST THE KING

Episcopal Church

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on Stewardship

Stewardship

1. What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is how we care for the gifts we receive from God. The word “steward” describes someone who is responsible for another’s property. As Christians, we believe that “all things come from God” and that we called to manage our resources in a way that honors God.

2. What does the Bible say about stewardship?

The tradition of giving back to God and the Church comes from the custom of “tithing.” Numbers 18:26 in the Old Testament describes the practice of giving a portion of one’s income back to God for the work of the religious community. This practice continued for centuries and was adapted by early Christians. In the New Testament, Acts 4:32-35 describes the virtue of Christian giving as a kind of “Holy sharing,” with the resources being used for the work of the Church.

3. What is a pledge?

Each fall, many Episcopal Churches will invite parishioners to make a pledge to contribute to the well-being of the church for the following year. A pledge is exactly that—a commitment to share part of our resources with the church.

4. What can I pledge?

Christ the King welcomes gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure.

5. How is a pledge stewardship?

Making a pledge to the church is a sign that we are grateful for all God has done in our lives. When we make a pledge, we are sharing a portion of our gifts back to the church. Whether it is Time, Talent, or Treasure, the actions of giving back to God are all forms of stewardship.

Time

6. How can I pledge my time to the Church?

There are lots of ways to share your time with the Church! The best way to share your time is in attending our worship services. Making time to listen to scripture, sharing the Peace with other parishioners, and participating in the Sacraments are all critically important to the life of the Church.

7. How else can I pledge my time?

There are a number of ways to volunteer your time to Christ the King. It can be as easy as staying a few extra minutes at the conclusion of an event to help clean up, or volunteering your time to represent the parish at events like Safe Trick-or-Treat or the Holiday Sparkle. Offering your time is one of the most valuable gifts you can share with the Church. “Many hands make light work.”

Talent

8. How can I pledge my talent to the Church?

Sharing your talents is a unique way to help the Church—and for every talent, there is a way for the Church to utilize a person’s gifts in the service of the Gospel.

Many parishioners share their talents with the church in worship. Reading Scripture and leading prayers is a wonderful way to share your talents with the congregation. We also need parishioners to help lead Lego Sunday School and serve on the Mission Committee. Fr. Matt is especially appreciative when parishioners share their baking talents in providing refreshments at Coffee Hour.

Treasure

9. How can I pledge my treasure to the Church?

Supporting Christ the King with a financial commitment is vital in providing for the material needs of the parish. A monetary gift not only helps to “keep the lights on,” it goes towards the very heart of our mission of “Making Disciples, Raising Up Saints, and Transforming Communities for Christ.”

10. I currently offer cash in the offering plate. Isn’t that enough? Why should I pledge?

We are incredibly grateful for the many ways in which our parishioners support the mission of the Church.

The biggest difference between offering money in the offering plate and making a formal pledge is commitment. Because we don’t know exactly how much Christ the King will collect on a given Sunday, we can’t use it as a reliable source of income for budgeting purposes. A pledge, on the other hand, allows Fr. Matt and the Mission Committee to understand the financial picture of the parish when we create our Annual Budget.

If you currently give to the church through the weekly offering, we encourage you make a pledge.

11. From where else does Christ the King receive money?

Christ the King is completely self-supported—that means that our entire budget is based on the gifts of our parishioners. In fact, as an Episcopal Church, we forward a part of our budget to the Diocese and the wider Episcopal Church. It is

a demonstration of how we support the mission and ministry of the church in our community and around the world.

12. How much should I pledge?

Unfortunately, this is the one question where there is no “one size fits all” answer. What we are able to give is dependent on our resources. Jesus shares the story of a widow who, while poor, gave two small coins. While her gift may not have had a high monetary value, Jesus praised her because she gave so generously from her poverty.

At Christ the King, we encourage everyone to make a pledge to the church, no matter the size. A pledge can be as little as \$1 a week. What we feel matters is the commitment.

When we decide to formally pledge a gift to the church, we begin to notice how much God is active in our lives. The more we recognize how often God’s blessing is a part of our lives, the more aware we become to God’s presence. We have learned that as our gratitude grows, so does our desire to return our blessings back to God.

That’s what Stewardship is all about!

Other forms of Stewardship

13. Are there other ways to give to the church?

Of course!

The pledges we request on behalf of Christ the King help us to draft a budget for the upcoming year, but there are lots of other meaningful ways to support the mission and ministry of the church. We are always encouraging parishioners to help guide our efforts in serving our community. If you feel that you have a gift you would like to share with the Church, please let us know!

An important way we can all serve Christ the King is by remembering the church in your estate planning. Including Christ the King and other philanthropic organizations in your will is an important responsibility for Christians.

14. I still have questions about pledging. Where can I go for answers?

Fr. Matt is always available to answer questions. He is available following the Sunday Service, during Office Hours (Tuesday and Wednesday from 9-Noon) and by appointment.

2016 PARISH PLEDGE FORM

"It is a right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth"

NAME(S):

PHONE:

HOME: _____ CELL: _____

MAILING ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

PLEASE CHECK THIS BOX IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS VIA E-MAIL.

TIME AND TALENT:

I (WE) WISH TO PLEDGE _____ HOURS PER (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

WEEK

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO STATEMENTS AS BEST DESCRIBES HOW YOU WOULD PREFER TO HONOR GOD WITH YOUR TIME:

MONTH

PLEASE CONSIDER ME AS A GENERAL VOLUNTEER FOR PARISH ACTIVITIES.

QUARTER

I WOULD PREFER TO BE CONSIDERED AS A VOLUNTEER FOR THESE TYPES OF MINISTRIES AND/OR ACTIVITIES:

YEAR

HOSPITALITY

CONVENTION DELEGATE

ALTAR GUILD

MISSION COMMITTEE

LECTOR (READER IN CHURCH)

GARDENING PROJECTS

CHALICE BEARER

REPRESENTING CTK AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

LEGO SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

OTHER: _____

TREASURE:

I (WE) WISH TO PLEDGE \$ _____ (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

PER WEEK BI-WEEKLY PER MONTH PER QUARTER PER YEAR

FOR A TOTAL OF: \$ _____

I AM INTERESTED IN PAYING MY PLEDGE VIA CREDIT CARD.