

Reflections from Vestry on Stewardship...

These are reflections on stewardship written by members of your Vestry. The prompt for the reflections is our theme, "Generous Hearts Shape the Future," with a focus on why they give to Christ Church. You will see a wide variety of perspectives and experiences, some of which you can identify with, and others maybe not. Just like our parish, our Vestry is made up of disciples seeking to follow Jesus, but in different parts of their faith journey. I thank the Vestry for this offering, and I hope it provides food for thought and a challenge to you to take some time and reflect on your generosity, the future, and serving Jesus at Christ Church. ~ Webster

Why I Give to Christ Church

by David Hawkins



My family and I plan on supporting Christ Episcopal Church through both pledged tithing and volunteer service to the church in 2024. There are many verses in the Bible that reference the importance of tithing, and Leviticus 27:30-33 is one of my favorites. What we as a family enjoy most in giving back to God through our tithes is that we get to see our financial commitment at work through many of the church-supported ministries. These ministries work in helping to make our community a better place to live, especially with supporting the children's ministry at our church.

Another important aspect of stewardship for our family is that of volunteering our time to help the church - whether it be sponsoring a coffee hour, serving on the Vestry, or participating in services and a host of other programs. To us, this is our church family and, as members, we want to do what we can in making this a very welcoming environment for the church's parishioners and visitors. We see the church as our spiritual refuge and, as Christians, we feel it's very important to be involved and do what we can to make the church a better place for the entire community.

Why I Give to Christ Church

by Joseph Wingenbach

Perhaps the most direct expression of stewardship is the acknowledgement, ultimately from First Chronicles, often spoken during the Offertory that: "All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee." This simple statement is profound and beautiful in its acknowledgment that God is the true source of all things good, and that it takes no less than the Grace of God to overcome our human inclination to impede this giving through our misunderstanding.



Why I Give to Christ Church

by Pat Shaner



When my husband and I moved to Winchester in 2016, it didn't take long for us to not only join Christ Church, but also get to know a lot of people and feel a real connection with our church family. The church is not only a place for us to worship, but to be active in our community, which we have grown to love. Dan and I enjoy working on different committees and feel privileged to be able to participate in community outreach programs through the church. While there are several programs in which we do not physically engage, we know that our pledged funds help to keep them going. It takes money to "keep the machine running" and it is our duty and joy to participate financially. "Where your treasure is there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

There have been changes in our church family over the last few years. We've had to say goodbye to some people who have moved or are no longer with us. On the other hand, we are seeing some new faces and noticing a little more energy in the church. Some new families are in attendance and recent receptions have been well attended. We'd love to

see our church not just maintain its status quo but grow. We can all hear the children in the church, and we hope they enjoy the kids' classes and continue to attend; we want to continue to contribute to people in need; we enjoy the choir and want to see it and the music programs expand. All of this takes funds, and we feel that we need to do our part, by participating where we can and continuing to pledge. It is our duty and our joy to contribute to our church, which provides so much for us and the welfare of others. Most of us are generous with our family and those whom we love. We consider Christ Episcopal Church our family, so we need to be generous with our pledge, so that this family can continue the good work.

Why I Give to Christ Church

by Clare Dame



Having been blessed with an abundance that allows me to meet my needs, wants, and more, giving to Christ Church helps me make a difference in this world. The work of Christ Church, both inside and outside our walls, enables me to know Christ and to participate in the work Christ has called us to do. Our future is our children, our families, the community, and the world. Giving to Christ Church touches young children, their families, the aging, the hungry and the homeless. The Lord set the example for us and we need to follow that example through our pledging to Christ Church.

Why I Give to Christ Church

by Bill Major

The church I grew up in was an important part of our family for multiple generations. The church's importance and influence over the spiritual health of the community was significant and ongoing. The ministers changed, the congregation changed, and the economic and political forces of the time changed, but the church maintained its role as a moral force and a source of spiritual comfort. While this role is presently under some challenge, the need for this institution has not been greater.



While many charitable organizations independent of a church support many aspects of our ministry, it remains essential for there to be an institution which can serve as a center of religious activity for the community, a place for meetings and fellowship, and a forum from which the teachings and principles of Christianity can be taught.

My family never considered restricted giving. While continuing to allow the church to function, paying the bills, maintaining the properties, and paying salaries are not at all glamorous, they are essential for the continued existence of the church and its ability to carry out its mission.

How much to give is, of course, very personal and will be significantly affected by individual financial considerations. One should also consider the role that church life has played in one's life previously and what value will come from having one's self and family being involved in church life going forward. While personal and family needs and desires are important, giving decisions need to be based, to a large degree, on the values of the church and its positive influence on the moral and spiritual atmosphere of the congregation and the entire community – both local and global.

Why I Give to Christ Church

by Mary Margaret Applin



As a child, I was given a box of offering envelopes at the beginning of each church year. My parents expected me put a quarter or two into the envelope and place it in the offering plate each Sunday when it passed. I didn't know about budgets or programs, but I knew that giving to my church was an important part of attending that church.

Now, as an adult and member of Christ Church for 23 years, I know that giving is much more than just putting money in an envelope. It is pledging, or formally promising, to support the operation of and programs of this holy place I call home.

I can most assuredly say that the community of Christ Church has been there whenever I or my family has needed it. From the early arrival of our son and the support of the Parish Nurse program to the sale of Apple Blossom chairs to support mission trips and youth pilgrimages, the programs of Christ Church have supported my understanding of God and my purpose in God's kingdom.

Would it be nice if we didn't have to rely on congregants to fund the operating of our facilities and the continuing of programs? Of course, it would. God always provides, maybe not in manna

from heaven, but in placing thoughtful, spiritual people in a place where they can give monetarily, along with their talents, to work together and grow the Church.

My family pledges to support Christ Church monetarily and physically because we see how much good Christ Church does in our own congregation and outside of her physical walls. We want to be a part of that. Our pledge amount has changed through the years because of our own circumstances, but we have always pledged to support an overall ministry that allows us to do good in this world. We trust that the leaders of this church will use our money wisely.

Do we always agree with the budget or how some programs are funded or not? No, we don't. The way I see it, John and I don't always agree with each other on certain topics, but it doesn't mean that we don't still support each other. It is in the overall good of our relationship that keeps us growing. And the same is true with our commitment to Christ Church.

I invite you to consider what Christ Church truly means to you and your family. In doing this, I also invite you to prayerfully consider pledging monetarily to support it.

Why I Give to Christ Church

by Scott Arthur



I was recently asked why we give to Christ Church. It's pretty simple because I grew up in this Church. I was baptized and confirmed here. When I was in high school, I was an acolyte. After coming back to the area after college, I became an usher. I also have served on the Finance committee for many years and am finishing up my second time of serving on the Vestry. Our children also grew up at Christ Church and were also baptized and confirmed here. They became acolytes and our youngest was an usher with me.

So, we give because we want to support the operation and ministries at Christ Church. A church has monthly operating expenses like any other business. We have staff that supports us in the operation of the church and the maintenance of our church facilities, but they also help us in supporting our ministries.

As we reach the season of stewardship, we all need to consider our gifts to the church. Gifts include our time and talents as well as our personal resources. We will thoughtfully discuss our pledge as a family and proudly pledge for the next church year. By supporting the church now, we keep the church strong for future generations as our predecessors did for us.

Why I Give to Christ Church

by Pam Kennedy

I have found, over the years, several quotes/ aphorisms that have inspired me regarding giving/tithing/serving:

“In a society that functions well, those who can should naturally want to provide for those who cannot.”

And, “Giving liberates the soul of the giver.”

This is how we carry out God's work in the world, through our acts of giving to and through the church.



More about stewardship and pledge cards can be found online at www.ChristChurchWinchester.org/stewardship.

