

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

**‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures for ever.’**

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! *2 Corinthians 9:6-15*

As I write this, my heart is filled with overflowing joy as we conclude a terrific week of Day Camp, serving our congregational families and reaching out to others with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our Congregation exercises all sorts of ministry through ordained and lay leadership, staff implementation and volunteer support. Our Worship, Discipleship Development, Resource Management, Pastoral Care, and Outreach all happen because of intentional offering of gifts that God has given each of us to share.

We are together companions on a journey; marching in the light of God; seeking the lonely and the lost so that they too might know the riches of God’s grace.

We worship the living God. We preach Christ and him crucified ~ the Saviour of the world. We configure small groups and ministry opportunities in which to learn and grow in faith, hope and love for: children, youth, adults and seniors. We believe, confess and teach, even with words, the good news of Jesus Christ. We reach out in Christian love to our neighbours in serving the poor and marginalized. We take our place in this multi-cultural community in building the *City of God* and partnering with other Christians through St Louis Outreach, Regeneration, Knights Table, JFJ Hope Centre and International Christian Voice.

What Christ Church is able to do, comes as a result of each member household intentionally giving back a portion of the monetary resources God has blessed each of us with. We can - because you give.

Every year we ask our households to submit an annual stewardship pledge for the coming year and it is my joy to send personal “thank you” letters to all those who do so. If, you have not yet made a commitment to financially support Christ Church and submit an annual pledge, I ask you to prayerfully respond. If you have not requested offertory envelopes or a

PAR (pre-authorized remittances) form, or need a new one, please contact our Envelope Secretary Caroline Atkinson and she will be glad to assist you.

When we walk in love and generosity we will find the paradox that our hearts do not diminish through love. When we give, we will find that there is always more than enough.

Winston Churchill, toward the end of his life, famously said that “we make living by what we do, we make a life by what we give”.

May God give us each the grace to be people who make a life by giving back to God a portion of the abundance entrusted to us.

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do more than we can ever ask for or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. AMEN.

Byron+

STEWARDSHIP MYTHS AND REALITIES

Myth #1 - There's always been lots of money at Christ Church – there must be overspending somewhere.

- There has never been “lots of money at Christ Church”. That is simply our reality. As good stewards, we make use of volunteers and gifts as best we can. Our expenses have remained historically flat for a number of years with one exception ~ and that is staffing. It is through our staffing that our ministry becomes alive but there is always a financial pressure in this area.

Myth #2 - The money will come from “somewhere,” it always does. I don't need to be the one to give more.

- As good stewards, we must make choices about what we do with our gifts from God – our time, abilities and financial resources.

Myth #3 – Why should I pledge? No one else does.

- Not true. Annual pledge commitment invitations have been extended annually since 2006 ~ we are a pledging church. Last year close to 60% of our households made an annual commitment to Christ Church.

Myth #4 - I can't afford to give as much as the church needs.

- Not one person can give as much as the Church needs – this is absolutely true! BUT we are all called upon to give what we can.
- We recognize everyone has different life circumstances and different financial situations; this is about being prayerfully reflective of our own circumstances to determine what we are called to give.
- We do ask that you intentionally and prayerfully review what you intend to give on an annual basis.

Myth # 5 - The church doesn't support people in need.

- Teams of clergy and lay people conduct services in local nursing homes and care facilities. We visit parishioners in hospitals and institutions as well as those confined to home.
- We provide counseling to those facing life challenges related to sickness, family issues, and other concerns.
- We regularly provide volunteers and donations of food, clothing and personal care items to those in need through our local mission partners: Regeneration, Ste. Louise Outreach, and Knight's Table.
- We support the Primate's World Relief (Anglican Church of Canada), Faithworks (Diocese of Toronto) as well as local outreach and social action ministries in our parish; caring for the poor and marginalized.

Myth #6 - Money will come from somewhere else.

- Christ Church is a self-supporting and self-sustaining. The life and vitality of our Church is an expression of the life and vitality each one of us gives. Financial support is the means of ensuring the mission that God has given us continues to flourish.

Periodically, we receive grants from the Diocese of Toronto. Most recently, we received a Curacy Grant resulting in the placement The Rev. Michelle Jones. This particular grant is for 2 years. Each year, we were provided \$18,000; however Christ Church is tasked to match this grant.

- We offer two ways to provide regular offerings – Envelope Sets and monthly Pre-Authorized Remittances (“PAR”).
- Regular intentional giving is the key to the financial health of Christ Church and helps us individually to express our call to Christian stewardship. Regular intentional giving is rooted in prayerful discernment and expressed in commitment through an annual stewardship pledge.
- To be clear, the combined total of your pledges (*only the aggregate number is reported to Corporation from the Envelope Secretary*) provides Corporation with an indication of what financial support that can be expected when crafting the annual budget. The results of this Stewardship Focus period will be used in determining the F2020 budget.

Myth #7 - I think I'm giving enough (although really, I'm not quite sure what I “should” be giving.)

- What is God asking of us? Please take time to read this mailing ~ in it you will find useful information to help you answer this question. In terms of understanding giving as a percentage of one's annual household income, we would challenge you to consider move up a percentage point.

Myth #8 - Electronic giving is risky (aka Pre-Authorized Remittance “PAR”)

- Simply put ~ not so! In Fiscal 2019, \$152,000 was directed to Parish Operations were received via PAR.
- On average \$12,650 is received monthly for Parish Operations ~ this goes a long to normalize seasonal swings in offerings.
- A number of PAR subscribers take advantage of designating a portion of their monthly contribution to a designated fund (i.e. FaithWorks, Clergy Discretion, etc.).
- Once a figure is decided upon and committed to, it becomes helpful and easy to remain current with one’s pledge.
- Of all the ways that we can give – envelope giving, cheques, cash – electronic giving minimizes seasonal adjustments to parish income (expenses continue even when you are not here!).
- Participating in PAR, is an effective putting your spiritual giving plan into action.

WHY TITHE

A tithe is the gift given to the work of God that equals 10 percent of what God gave you in the first place. Such a gift is often referred to as “first fruit” because the first 10 percent of one’s increase is given back to God, while the remaining 90 percent is to be used by the one to whom the increase is given.

Many may ask reasonable questions like the following:

- Is my tithe before or after taxes?
- I work on commission; I have no idea what my income will be. How do I determine my tithe?
- What if I donate to other charitable institutions? Is that part of my tithe?

The short answer is that the Bible and our tradition teach that a tithe is a full 10 percent or one’s increase given specifically to the work of the Church. However, that may be quite a new understanding of giving for some. You may not be prepared to tithe, which is why ~ like many things ~ the place to start is with prayer.

At Christ Church, we have suggested to all members that they focus their giving on a percentage of income rather than a dollar amount. The goal would be the tithe but perhaps you begin at 1 or 2 percent and consciously work your way up until you reach, or like some, surpass the tithe. If you give a percentage of your income, then, if your income goes up, so does your gift and vice versa.

You have to determine, within your own heart, what part of your tithe is going to the work of Christ Church. For instance, it is reasonable to assume that a gift to the Primates World Relief, an overseas Christian mission or another Christian ministry is part of your tithe. However, a gift to an arts organization, local hospital or university while also tax deductible – and honourable as well – would not, in principle, be part of the Biblical tithe.

TITHE GOALS

To better help you reach the goal of tithing, please take some time to review this chart below. Find the income level in the first column that most closely matches your income and then following the number horizontally to determine your level of giving to Christ Church. Percentages are listed at the top. Consider stepping up your giving by moving one or more columns to the right.

| ANNUAL GROSS INCOME | ANNUAL PLEDGE | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | 1% | 2% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 6% | 7% | 8% | 9% | 10% |
| \$ 20,000 | \$ 200 | \$ 400 | \$ 600 | \$ 800 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,200 | \$ 1,400 | \$ 1,600 | \$ 1,800 | \$ 2,000 |
| \$ 30,000 | \$ 300 | \$ 600 | \$ 900 | \$ 1,200 | \$ 1,500 | \$ 1,800 | \$ 2,100 | \$ 2,400 | \$ 2,700 | \$ 3,000 |
| \$ 40,000 | \$ 400 | \$ 800 | \$ 1,200 | \$ 1,600 | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,400 | \$ 2,800 | \$ 3,200 | \$ 3,600 | \$ 4,000 |
| \$ 50,000 | \$ 500 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,500 | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 3,000 | \$ 3,500 | \$ 4,000 | \$ 4,500 | \$ 5,000 |
| \$ 60,000 | \$ 600 | \$ 1,200 | \$ 1,800 | \$ 2,400 | \$ 3,000 | \$ 3,600 | \$ 4,200 | \$ 4,800 | \$ 5,400 | \$ 6,000 |
| \$ 70,000 | \$ 700 | \$ 1,400 | \$ 2,100 | \$ 2,800 | \$ 3,500 | \$ 4,200 | \$ 4,900 | \$ 5,600 | \$ 6,300 | \$ 7,000 |
| \$ 80,000 | \$ 800 | \$ 1,600 | \$ 2,400 | \$ 3,200 | \$ 4,000 | \$ 4,800 | \$ 5,600 | \$ 6,400 | \$ 7,200 | \$ 8,000 |
| \$ 90,000 | \$ 900 | \$ 1,800 | \$ 2,700 | \$ 3,600 | \$ 4,500 | \$ 5,400 | \$ 6,300 | \$ 7,200 | \$ 8,100 | \$ 9,000 |
| \$ 100,000 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 2,000 | \$ 3,000 | \$ 4,000 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 6,000 | \$ 7,000 | \$ 8,000 | \$ 9,000 | \$ 10,000 |

Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong has been done, and there is no partiality.

Colossians 3:23-25

ONE FINAL MESSAGE

- † Prayerfully consider what God is doing in your life.
- † Prayerfully consider your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- † Prayerfully consider what Christ Church means to you and your family, and what Christ Church can mean in the Brampton community.
- † Prayerfully consider what God has done in providing for your “goods and kindred,” and what you will return to Him.

Christ Church does not presume that if you have given in the past your prior pledge will continue to carry over. We need your completed, written pledge to ensure not only the continuation of our many ministries, but to enhance your personal Christian growth.

**Our Stewardship Focus Period concludes on Commitment Sunday.
This year Commitment Sunday coincides with Rally Sunday (September 8th).**

We bless the pledges and then enjoy a time of rejoicing and fellowship the Welcome Back BBQ following 10:00 am service.



Serving breakfast before attending church on Sunday, March 24, 2019 | Regeneration Outreach Community is one of our local ministries partners.



2019 Day Camp “Shipwrecked – Rescued by Jesus” | Our biggest day camp yet!
