



The Parish of Christ Church

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What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

Psalm 116:12

Fellow Members in Christ,

It is extremely hard to believe the summer has ended and we are entering another year of stewardship. This year we are starting our campaign earlier to allow our budget committee the ability to reap all the benefits of our 2025 pledge commitments.

We live our lives by budgeting our resources around the plans that we have made based upon our basic needs and the vision of how we want to live our lives. We identify the costs of priorities such as health care, food, and housing. We consider the needs of transportation and communication within the world we live in. We acknowledge the need for rest and relaxation and the time necessary for interaction with family and friends.

The same is said for Christ Church; we have a budget. We must plan for how we want to live the life that God has called us to live. We need to ask ourselves, as a church, what will allow us to continually move forward in God's vision. What are the steps we need to take? What are the resources needed to achieve this? The Vestry has committed to increase our diocesan pledge to 10%, and in order to grow our mission and activities, we are exploring the possibility of restoring a full-time parish administrator. Do we have the ability and commitment to act on this? All very good questions that start with stewardship -- a spiritual practice committed to the wise and virtuous management of our resources to honor God and further his kingdom.


Vestry continuously works diligently to curb expenses. In addition, our Endowment Fund Trustees and financial advisors, McLaughlin Private Wealth, have worked to help us bridge the gap between our annual pledge and our expenses. In 2024, for example, our budget is \$328,000 and our projected revenue is \$264,000 – that is a gap of \$64,000! Historically, we have drawn around 3-4% (a healthy draw) from the Endowment Fund per year. This year we will draw close to 7% (a non-sustaining draw) to help meet our budget. This is simply unsustainable and not the intended use of an Endowment Fund for any organization. Specifically, endowments are usually designed to keep the principal amount intact while using the investment income for charitable efforts. Fortunately, Christ Church has an Endowment Fund to rely on during difficult times, but the time has come for us to become self-sustaining and to use the Fund for that which it is truly intended. That is, to do God's work and develop programs and services that will provide much support to those in need and welcome those looking for a spiritual home into our parish family.

We know that so many of you already give generously to Christ Church. It is your consistent and substantial giving of time, talent, and treasure that allow Christ Church to continue as it has for more than 170 years. So, Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Our plea is that you continue to give as you have, and seriously consider whether you can give more.

As we prepare for **Stewardship 2025**, please know that October will be stewardship month. After we spend 4 weeks discussing the importance of stewardship, we as a Parish family can prayerfully decide on our commitment to Christ Church in God's house on **Stewardship Sunday, November 3rd**.

Like you, we are doing the best we can with what we have, but like you, we strive for more and we *know* that Christ Church is meant for more – with God's help and your generous support, we can accomplish it.

With Grateful Hearts from your Stewardship Chairs:



Sherman Yeiter
Stewardship Chair



James Bathhurst
Stewardship Chair



Sarah Cranston
Warden



Tara Mass
Warden