

CHRIST CHURCH

The Messenger

PO Box 1246 • 320 Pollock Street • New Bern, NC

www.christchurchnewbern.com

November 12 - 19, 2023

252.633.2109



A Moment with Stewardship

Writing these weekly stewardship articles has been a labor of love. What started out as a leap of faith last year, has become a lesson in faith ever since. Drawing from many sources, I've been blessed to grow in love and faith and to find fellowship with members of Christ Church who have now become family.

The inspiration for this article comes from listening to the wonderful, heartfelt "Stewardship Moment" speakers in our congregation who spoke on why they serve and why they give. The idea of belonging to a community of faith has been a recurring theme and reminded me of the "Sermon of the Dying Ember" (author unknown).

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a mo-



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mentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail." Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.

Just before the pastor was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

Dear Lord, as we gather at Christ Church, help us remember that each of us is an ember glowing with others "with the light and warmth" of a Christian community. We are grateful for opportunities to be with others who share our faith and our love for Jesus, and we pledge to do our best to keep that fire burning in our church and in our hearts. Help us to always cast that light and warmth outward to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN UPDATE AS OF 11/8/2023

Pledge Amount Received: \$601, 927

Number of Pledges Received: 142

To make a pledge for 2024, visit <https://www.christchurchnewbern.com/stewardship>. You can also stop by the Reception Desk or call the church office to pick up a pledge card.

Vestry Nominations

We are grateful to the following parishioners who will stand for election to the Vestry of Christ Church:

Stephen Clayton
Elmer Praul

Peter Mnatzakanian
Wayne Rowe

Laura Overman
Graham Underhill

Members of the Nominating Committee and Vestry will receive any further names from the floor on Sunday, November 19th at 10:00 am beside the Baptismal Font in the Nave. All nominations must be made and seconded to be valid, and each nominee must agree prior to nomination. No nominations will be received after 10:00am, November 19th. Biographies for all of the nominees will be available on or before Sunday, November 26th.

Voting occurs during the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held Sunday, December 10th. Parishioners must vote for FOUR nominees. We encourage you to pray for all of the nominees and pray about how you will cast your ballot on December 10th. Many thanks to the Nominating Committee for their work: Senior Warden Elizabeth Livingston, Susan Husson, Barbara Rice, Carl Huddle, Darrin Embrey, Betsy Jutras, Howard Furnas, Jettie Pelletier, Jim Behl, John King, Nancy Mansfield, Sims Wayt, Tony Embrey, and Phyllis Fox.

Personal Stories of Stewardship

Elizabeth Livingston

When I began writing what I wanted to say it started pretty much the same way I always talk about my life: cradle Episcopalian, preacher's kid, a life of faith, doubt, searching, more questions than answers. A life filled with love, joy, tragedy, heartache, loss, triumph... always a resurrection/transformation story. And as I began to really ask myself the question about tithing, my shift focused -- as has my relationship with what it means to tithe -- not just give or donate, but tithe.

As I thought about my history of giving, service, stewardship, of course I can't help but look at my upbringing. I was modeled a life of service, an abundance mentality, and the idea that this is all God's anyway so of "thine own have we given thee". I must admit though that for much of my relationship with the tithing part of that equation, I was probably motivated more by duty than my actual relationship with God. Let me try to explain, I grew up with all the same scriptural references we are all familiar with. And in truth they have been my experience, in giving I receive, the blessings multiply, when I faithfully tithe it feels better, I am doing the right thing. Giving from a place of gratitude and thanksgiving are joyful and in line with my desire to keep an abundance mentality.

If I am honest though, I have to explore more deeply what it is about tithing that is different than just trying to be a good person and doing the right thing and donating money to great causes. Donating my time, money or talent still has me a little bit in control.

Tithing isn't just about my relationship with money, it's about my relationship with God. Do I trust God to be in control? Well at this point in my life I clearly know I'm not, but that doesn't mean that I don't still think I might do it better. Tithing helps break down my ego's thought that "I am in charge." It challenges me to ask the question, "Where does my security come from -- money or my relationship with God? Tithing is a complete letting go of control. Tithing is a way to bring God into my relationship with money.

For me Tithing is saying "This is God's money," and it isn't about how much I have. It's about giving back a 10% tithe from whatever that amount is. I'm sure when I had a smaller income 10% might seem like too much, and I'm sure I thought those making plenty of money should have no trouble giving more. That probably says as much about my "oh yee of little faith" because truth is it none of that is my business. I read recently that if we aren't a little beyond our present faith when we tithe, we ought to tithe more. My challenge was -- and is -- to gather my courage and plunge in, trusting that God will provide. I have had enough practice now to assure you that They will. Tithing for me has activated a subtle connection between my faith and the flow of God's blessings in my life. And I am not talking about monetary blessings, although I have had more than my share. I am talking about recognizing the blessings everywhere in my life and the abundance of God's love for everything, all of it, on this fragile earthly home we are all just passing through. And that is the greatest blessing of all.

Kim Huddle

Good Morning, My name is Kim Huddle, and I am pleased to speak with you about the importance of giving at Christ Church. For me, my faith in Christ is the cornerstone of my life. This church, this historic place of worship, centered in downtown New Bern, has been a sanctuary where I come to seek solace, guidance, and offer my thanks to God for the abundance of grace in my life.

Christ Episcopal Church holds a special place in my heart. I grew up in these pews, finding my spiritual home and community here. It has been the guiding light from my earliest childhood, leading me on a path towards a meaningful relationship with God.

I remember those early years, attending Sunday school and hearing the stories of faith that ignited my young heart. It was here that I took my first steps in understanding the teachings of Christ. As I entered my teenage years, the EYC provided a supportive and nurturing environment where I could explore my faith with like-minded peers. The church served as a compass, helping me navigate the complexities of adolescence.

In my young adult years, this sacred space bore witness to some of the most significant moments in my life. It was here that I exchanged vows with my husband, Carl, in a ceremony filled with love and hope.

The baptism of our children, Campbell and Jack, was an incredibly cherished event in our lives. It was not only a symbol of our faith but also a public declaration of our unwavering commitment to raising them in the ways of love, goodness, and the rewarding path of Christian faith.

Just as we found comfort and strength in this church, we knew it would be a haven for them as they grew and discovered their own faith.

And then came the day when our daughter, Campbell, was married to Josh. The church became the setting for their union, a joyous celebration of love and commitment.

These milestones were not just ceremonies; they were milestones of faith and love that were deeply woven into the fabric of our lives.

During the darkest days of my life, when my family lost my dear mother, it was to Christ Church that we turned for support. The comforting embrace of this congregation, the whispered prayers within these walls, and the loving support of our church family helped us find strength and healing in the midst of profound grief.

For all that Christ Church has given me, it is only right that I give back. My faith in Christ, nurtured here, has guided me, sustained me, comforted me and blessed me.

So, I am committed to ensuring that Christ Church remains a beacon of hope and grace for generations to come. Giving to Christ Church is my way of expressing gratitude for all that I have received, and my hope for those who will follow in our footsteps.

In peace we pray to you, Lord God

For parishioners who have requested

prayers: Mike Pridgen, Mary Hasell, Betty Jane Bonapartian, Bob and Joan Burnett,* Champ Mitchell, Janet Anderson, Bob Kohn, Susan Rivenbark, Warren Meadows, Hal Cameron, Joe Mansfield, Barbara Odderstol*, Jim Keeter, M. Carolyn Lawson, Evelyn Hunter, Katherine Gill, Kathy Blanchard, Pat McCotter, Ralph Cowan, David Watrous, Vicky Allen, Lindy Emory, DJ Bessack, Carol Kross, Carol Athing, Rena Knott, CB Evans, Mike McCulley, Willis Stevens, Betsy Primavera, Mollie Bales, Robert Lane, Sheridan Holstein, Judy MacDougall, Vickie Evans, Joan Kunkle, Margaret Scott*, Jim Banks, Jim Gruenebaum, Ann, Kaye Frampton Brown, Myra Lewis, Sandy Valentine, Eugene Simon, Frank Rice, Bruce Baker, Geoff Wood, Maggie Bagg, Charlie Henke, Patty Willis, and Peter Mnatzakanian.

For our friends and families: Liesel, Niels, Trinity, Mary, Ann, George, Anne, Bruce, Nancy, Lynda, Mike, Connor, Stephen, Inez, Ed, Karen, Bob, Cortney, Craig, Larry, Eleanor, Julie, Denni, Santa, Teresa, Monika, Margie, Laurissa, Paul, Stephanie, Pam, Ellen, Kate, Corey, Stephanie, Bambi, Justin, Judy, Nancy, Paula, Kelly Ann, Lois, Laurissa, Martha, Melissa, Melissa, Anna, Dave, Elle, Halle, Mariya, Laura, Christina, Mary Ann, Billy, Bob, Ted, Rosemary, Bill, Naomi, Carol, Joseph, Jimmy, Grant, Eunice, William, Marie, Melanie, Sylvia, Aline, Rose, Rosemarie, Shelly, Susie, Larry, Anne Marie, Ginny, Lisa, Louise, Selma, Jackie, Kathi, Julia, Ardean, John, Peggy, Patty, Margaret, Jackson, Julie, Butch, Jim, Joan, Wes, Gerry, Mandy, Jim, Larry, and Hamp.

For our deployed military: Lt. Christopher Miller

For refugee families and those seeking asylum.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Andrew's on the Sound, Wilmington

**These parishioners live out of the area but have requested to remain on the Christ Church prayer list. If you would like to add or remove someone from the list, contact [Betsy Downard](#).*



REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

**Greening of
the Church**

9 am - 12 noon
Saturday, December 16

Come help us beautify the interior of Christ Church for the Christmas season. Please drop in any time. All ages welcome.
simswayt@embarqmail.com

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Please note that not all weekly church events are listed here. If there are no changes to your regularly scheduled event, it might not appear below. The entire Christ Church calendar can be found at www.christchurchnewbern.com/calendar and in the Sunday morning email. Signs with the complete calendar are posted on the kiosk in the Reception Area and the bulletin board across from the Library. Daily calendar signs are posted on the church's exterior doors.

Sunday, November 12

Second UTO Collection

8:30 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave)

9:45 am: Sunday School for All Ages

11 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave / [Online](#))

4 pm: Holy Eucharist and Confirmation with Bishop Skirving

Tuesday, November 14

7 am: Al-Anon Meeting (2nd Floor Living Room)

8:30 am: Eucharist (Chapel)

6:30 pm: Small Wonders NA Meeting (Pelletier Room)

Wednesday, November 15

6:15 pm: AA Meeting (Harrison Center)

Thursday, November 16

3:30 pm: Growing in Grace Thanksgiving (Parish House)

4 pm: Finance Committee Meeting (Library - NOTE Location Change)

6:30 pm: AA Meeting (Pelletier Room)

Friday, November 17 - Saturday, November 18

Fall Conference for Middle Schoolers (Trinity Center)

Sunday, November 19

8:30 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave)

9:45 am: Sunday School for All Ages

11 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave / [Online](#))

FIRST ANNUAL CHRIST CHURCH

Holiday

ARTS AND CRAFTS
MARKET

Saturday, December 9, 2023
9 AM until 4 PM

Downtown New Bern
Christ Episcopal Church
320 Pollock St, New Bern, NC
holidaymarket@christchurchnewbern.com

THE GOODS

Vestry-Appointed Committees

Each year, the Vestry is responsible for appointing new members to various committees in the Church. The 2023 open positions are:

-- Endowment Board (one position, four years; meets quarterly to review the current assets in the Endowment and to review how those funds are allocated; a background in investing is very helpful)

-- Finance Committee (Two positions, three years; meets monthly to review the parish's financial position; serves an advisory role to the Vestry) NOTE: Previous Finance Committee members must have been off the FC for two years before being re-appointed by the Vestry.

-- Diocesan Convention Delegate (Diocesan Convention is in Greenville, February 9-10, 2024)

-- Two positions, three years (must have been off for two years before re-appointment); Two alternates, one year

-- Personnel Committee (Two positions, three years; one position, one-year; meets periodically to review policy and procedure and job descriptions)

For more information, please be in touch with Senior Warden Beth Livingston (elizabethcherrylivingston@gmail.com) or (252) 617.9719) or the Rector, the Rev. Paul Canady (paulcanady@christchurchnewbern.com) or (252) 633.2109).

If you would like to be considered for one of these positions, please complete the form found [here](#). You may check as many boxes as you feel called to check. Please also tell us a little bit about why you would be good for the role.

Countdown to Cookie Walk

What is Santa's favorite Christmas Cookie? We asked the Cookie Walk Elves, and they said the classic sugar cookie. Why not invite some friends over and decorate cookies based on this recipe? <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchen/the-best-sugar-cookies-for-decorating-7422971>

In addition to bakers, we also need volunteers to help in the days leading up to Cookie Walk. Come join us for Boxing Day on Thursday, December 7 from 10 am - Noon. We will also be plating cookies all day on Friday, December 8, at the Harrison Center. Pop in and package for an hour or two.

Cookie Walk -- the big event -- will be held from 10 am to Noon on Saturday, December 9, and, of course, we'll need volunteers that day, too!

Click [here](#) to volunteer and [here](#) to bake. A paper sign up is located in the Reception Area. Also, you can sign up using the tablet kiosk in the Reception Area. All of the proceeds from this event are returned to our community. Contact Sims Wayt at simswayt@embarqmail.com with questions.

Where Can You Plug In?

- **Worship:** Volunteer to serve in our upcoming services. November services are available [here](#). For more information contact Sarah Risty Davis at sarahristydavis@christchurchnewbern.com.

- **Volunteer Receptionists:** If you can help us answer the phones, welcome visitors, and complete odd jobs here and there, we'd love to have you! Click [here](#) for November dates and [here](#) for December dates.

- **Coffee Hour Hosts Needed:** We are looking for hosts in order to make Coffee Hours happen. To volunteer to host an upcoming coffee hour, click [here](#). Hosting instructions are included on the Sign-Up Genius page. Many thanks to Holly Lippitt, Betsy Phillips, and Ann Bustard for hosting this week's Coffee Hours.

- **Christ Church Cooks** will meet at 9:30 am, Monday, November 13. To clear out some freezer space, pick up a meal or two today and take it to someone who could use it.

- **Backpack Blessings Build:** The fall Backpack Blessings Build will take place November 13 and 14 at Garber Methodist Church. This will be a great time of service and fellowship, as we continue to carry out the mission of serving food-insecure homes and feeding hungry children in Craven, Jones and Pamlico counties. Click [here](#) to sign up.

- **Interfaith Refugee Ministry:** IRM is in need of personal hygiene items for incoming refugees. We are expecting about 15 or more refugees by the end of November. Please drop your donations in the IRM box in the Reception Area. Items needed include: tooth brushes, toothpaste, shampoo, men's and women's deodorant, and bar soap.

- **Gas Cards for RCS:** Religious Community Services is in need of gas cards of \$10 or more to use to reimburse peer support volunteers who take RCS guests and clients to appointments and interviews when they have no other transportation. The cards can be dropped off at RCS or delivered to Terry Brubaker (terrytb49@gmail.com).

