



Grounded in Faith
Growing to Serve

Stewardship at Christ Church

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

— 1 Peter 4:10

October 2022



Growing, Giving, Serving

First and foremost, thank you. Thank you for being part of Christ Church, New Bern. Whether you are with us occasionally or at the church multiple times during the week, your presence is a symbol of God's love. We continue to be thankful for all the ways in which the people of Christ Church, no matter their age, contribute to its life, mission, and ministry. We are grateful for over 300 years of faithful service and ministry.

In the pages of this publication you will find information about Stewardship at Christ Church. Whether it is new information or old, we hope you will find it helpful. There are a variety of resources about proportional giving and ways for families to talk together about Stewardship. We encourage you to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest all that is here.

Saint Paul, in his first letter to the Christians in Corinth, wrote, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..." So, too, we at Christ Church are many individuals yet one body whose vision is to be a church that loves the way God loves. This is lived out through our mission of welcoming and inspiring all people to faith, hope and spiritual growth through worship, Christian fellowship, and service to one another and to the community beyond.

We live out this mission through the time, talent, and treasure of the people of Christ Church. We give, not out of requirement or obligation, but out of love, thanksgiving and gratitude for all that God has done for us and for those in our lives. Because of our giving, the faithful people of Christ Church make a lasting impact on the lives of countless people in our church, local community, state, country and the world!

Grounded by our faith, we grow to serve as a church community. Seeing and experiencing God's unconditional love inspires us to **GROW** in the ways we give and **SERVE** others in God's name and with God's help. Growing in faith and understanding of God's will is a natural outcome of our giving and serving. What a privilege to serve God and his people and to experience His love as we extend it to others!

Developing a parish budget is amazing, faith-filled work. How will we share and show God's abundant love in the world? Input is gathered from ministry leaders (volunteer, staff, and clergy) about the funding resources they might need in the coming year. The Vestry and Finance Committee work together with designated church staff members and the treasurer to develop a budget that helps all the people of Christ Church fulfill the mission and vision of this house of God we all cherish.

Your Stewardship Committee, which includes all 12 members of the Vestry, has set a goal to grow in our financial giving by a minimum of 3 percent over last year and to increase the household units which give. This modest growth, will help to increase community outreach, connections, and care for our buildings and infrastructure.

We hope you will begin making plans to join us in this journey of sharing God's love for the world with everyone we meet along the way.

In Christ,

Randy and Joanie Bogle, Stewardship Chairs

Keith Thompson, Senior Warden

The Rev. H. Paul Canady, Rector

The Rev. Suzanne Hood, Associate Rector

A Guide to Proportionate Giving

Step 1: Looking at Stewardship

As we consider our pledges for the upcoming church year, it's important to keep in mind Christ Church's needs to meet its budget. Without adequate income, parish programs and services can't function effectively.

But stewardship is much more than paying bills. Stewardship is a personal journey in faith that lets us give back to God some of what he has given us. Consider God's gifts for a moment:

- All of us have life;
- We are the inheritors of a fruitful earth, rich with the raw materials necessary for life;
- We have a brain to think with and a body to work with;
- We have talents to develop and use;
- We have a wide variety of opportunities through which to use the gifts we have been given;
- Most of all, we have known in some measure God's boundless love through Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit.

In short, Christian stewardship really begins when you start to give in response to all that has been given you. This is not to say that the needs of Christ Church are any less. They are very real, and we have just begun to understand the kind of ministry we could undertake together. But there is a basic difference between raising money for the Church and practicing stewardship with God. The former is an admirable goal, but the latter is a religious one.

As we begin our annual stewardship campaign, you are being asked to become a steward of God's gifts.

If this makes sense to you, move on to Step 2.
(If it doesn't please go back and reread.) ↓

Step 2: An Honest Look at the How of Giving

Let's assume that you want to be a steward of God, that you really want to begin to give in response to what you have been given. The question still remains: **how do you know what to give?**

There is an answer to that question and it is called proportionate giving. Simply stated, proportionate giving is giving in proportion to what you have been given. Financially speaking, it is sharing a proportion of your income with God through the Church. A conscientious steward is one who doesn't play games with God, and proportionate giving helps you to know clearly what you are giving in relation to what you have.

If you have read this far, read on.
Step 3 gets to the heart of the matter. ↓

Step 3: Proportionate Giving Made Simple

Okay, you want to begin to share as a proportionate giver. What does that really mean in practical terms? The truth is it means different things to different people. The Bible has clearly laid down a measure for stewardship – the tithe, or one-tenth of that which we have. Many Christians begin their sharing with a modern tithe; that is, 5 percent of their income to God through the Church, and 5 percent to other charities. Many Christians give more than that. Others, while they are not able to make a 5 percent tithe all at once, begin at 2 or 3 percent and resolve to increase the percentage of their giving each year.

Whatever percentage you may be able to consider, proportionate giving is one way for you to give conscientiously, and to be honest with God and yourself.

This information is still very general.
The specifics are in Step 4. ↓

Step 4: The Question is "HOW MUCH?"

How long has it been since you really measured your giving? What percentage of your income are you really sharing with God through the work of Christ Church? The tables on page 5 provide a simple way to answer that question and to help you consider your sharing in 2023 and beyond.

You may be feeling a bit overwhelmed. Don't be. Read Step 5. ↓

Step 5: Rome Wasn't Built in a Day

The same can also be said about stewardship. There are those at Christ Church who very carefully, thoughtfully and prayerfully evaluate their giving year by year. Some of us, on the other hand, have not always done so or been able to.

If your giving to the Church is not where you would like it to be in terms of the gifts God has given to you, make a beginning this year by responding more thankfully and generously. If you are giving at the 2 percent level, for example, try stretching to the 3 or 4 percent level. Set a goal for yourself for the next few years whether it be 3 or 5 or 10 percent and make a beginning.

As you do that, remember that stewardship is finally a matter between a giver and God. Be honest with yourself and with God. Jesus once told his followers that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). That's true. Why not look that truth squarely in the eye right now and if what you see bothers you, do something about it. Make a beginning.

You now know something about
Proportionate Giving. There's one
final step that only you can take. ↓

Step 6: Stop, Pray, Act

In a couple of weeks you will receive a pledge card where you will be able to express your commitment and support for the mission and ministry of Christ Church for 2023. Please use the information in this publication as you give this matter prayerful consideration. Here is a prayer that might help to center your thinking:

O, God, you are the Holy One who has created all things. We thank you for the gift of life and all that sustains it. We bless you for Jesus Christ, given to us as Savior. We rejoice in the presence of your Spirit who inspires us to step out in faith. Make us joyful givers of our time, talent and treasure, so that your work in the church and the world will be done. With you and in you and through you, we make a difference. Free us to do more. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

10% GIVING			
Income	Yearly Pledge	Monthly Pledge	Weekly Pledge
\$10,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$83.33	\$19.23
\$20,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$166.67	\$38.46
\$30,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$250.00	\$57.69
\$40,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$333.33	\$76.92
\$50,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$416.67	\$96.15
\$75,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$625.00	\$144.23
\$100,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$833.33	\$192.31
\$150,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$1,250.00	\$288.46
\$200,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$1,666.67	\$384.62

5% GIVING			
Income	Yearly Pledge	Monthly Pledge	Weekly Pledge
\$10,000.00	\$500.00	\$41.67	\$9.62
\$20,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$83.33	\$19.23
\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$125.00	\$28.85
\$40,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$166.67	\$38.46
\$50,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$208.33	\$48.08
\$75,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$312.50	\$72.12
\$100,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$416.67	\$96.15
\$150,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$625.00	\$144.23
\$200,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$833.33	\$192.31

3% GIVING			
Income	Yearly Pledge	Monthly Pledge	Weekly Pledge
\$10,000.00	\$300.00	\$25.00	\$5.77
\$20,000.00	\$600.00	\$50.00	\$11.54
\$30,000.00	\$900.00	\$75.00	\$17.31
\$40,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$100.00	\$23.08
\$50,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$125.00	\$28.85
\$75,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$187.50	\$43.27
\$100,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$250.00	\$57.69
\$150,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$375.00	\$86.54
\$200,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$500.00	\$115.38

Will our children know stewardship?



A Child's Point of View

One's understanding of personal stewardship is a continuing journey that should begin in childhood. Most children already have a sense of wonder of how to respond with thanksgiving to God who created them and the world in which they live. There is an "attitude of abundance," according to John Westerhoff when discussing healthy stewardship with children in ***Will Our Children Have Faith?*** The question is not only, "How can we teach stewardship to children?" but "How can we encourage children to continually respond to God's creation by caring and enjoying what God has given them, personally and in the world around them?"

Children need space to ask questions, and to have questions asked of them. They need hands-on experiences of being stewards — using the gifts they have to care for others and for God's creation and God's family.

Children need to **hear why** parents, grandparents, and other adults in their lives give out of their abundance back to God. And they need to **see** us doing it! In teaching stewardship concepts with all God's children, it is helpful to build upon different focal points:

- Stewardship of creation
- Stewardship of ourselves and our bodies
- Stewardship of talents and spiritual gifts
- Stewardship of time and priorities
- Stewardship of our relationship with others
- Stewardship of treasure and material possessions

Adapted from an article written by
Sharon Ely Pearson
originally published at [https://
www.buildfaith.org/children-
stewardship/](https://www.buildfaith.org/children-stewardship/)

Questions to talk about as a family to help children understand their roles as stewards:
















- How do you think God wants us to take care of the church?
- How are we ministers to others for Jesus?
- What are some ways the church can help take care of the world?
- What are some things you can do to help the church in its ministry?
- What can you do to help take care of God's world?

Things you can do to help your children learn more:

- Let them see you putting your offering in the plate.
- If they don't receive an allowance, give them a dollar or a few coins to put in the plate themselves.
- If they do receive an allowance, have them give a portion of that back to God and help them see how much they have left.
- Talk to them about why you give back to the church and to God's work in the world.

Look at this chart with your child...

Ask them to think about how much they'd have left. How much would we have if other kids at Christ Church gave that much?

If you have...	Then giving 1% is this much	Then giving 5% is this much	Then giving 10% is this much
\$1	1¢ 	5¢ 	10¢ 
\$5	5¢ 	25¢ 	50¢ 
\$8	8¢ 	40¢ 	80¢ 
\$10	10¢ 	50¢ 	\$1.00 
\$15	15¢ 	75¢ 	\$1.50 

Our faith-filled pledges keep all things going and growing at Christ Church. Your pledge is your commitment to help.

Inside this leaflet:

Stewardship & Our Budget

Proportional Giving

Giving Charts

Children, Youth, and Stewardship

**Save the Date — Sunday, November 20
Harvest Sunday Service and Luncheon**



Christ Church

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