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ANNUAL
STEWARDSHIP
CAMPAIGN

Live Generously

YOUR CHRIST CHURCH GENEROSITY GUIDE

Gracious God,

You taught us to let our light shine. Help us to lead luminous lives of generosity: to pour love, praise and patience upon others; to give without expecting a return; to hold our treasures with open hands; to increase our joy by sharing it; to provide and care deeply for those in need, and to know that ultimately we only have what we give away. In the name of Christ, our one true light, *Amen*.

The Reverend Lisa G. Saunders

How did you learn about generosity? Who taught you? How do you live out your response? _____

When have you felt an inner nudge to be generous? _____

How have you experienced generosity at Christ Church? _____

In what ways did Jesus live a generous life? _____

What are some examples of God's generosity to us? _____

We invite you to take

the next step

As you can tell from this study guide, stewardship at Christ Church will play an integral part in celebrating generosity this year. We hope the growing ministry and education around generosity will make stewardship at our parish feel deeper and more meaningful, as we focus on God's calling for us to be generous in every part of our lives. Leading up to **Celebration Sunday, October 29**, we ask every parishioner to take time to pray about their commitment to God, and to Christ Church in 2018, and to be generous with the gifts God has entrusted to each of us.

Celebration
Sunday

■
**October
29**

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.* – BCP, p. 259

Almighty and gracious Father, we give thee thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we beseech thee, faithful stewards of thy great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our

Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

– BCP, p. 194

Scripture and prayers

for this season of generosity

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

– 1 Timothy 6: 18-19

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. – 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Let's start a conversation about generosity.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." – Matthew 6:21

Jesus said it best ... our money and our love go together. Does this mean we need only look at our bank statement to see what we live for? Does your checkbook reflect your beliefs? Think of ten big purchases that you have made in the past year. Now mentally label them "provided by and belonging to God." How does this change your approach to using God's gifts?

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." – 1 Chronicles 29:14

Our talents, our upbringing, our education ... it all comes from God. He loves us and gives us what we need to spread his grace even further. What else have you received from God? How is your life different because of His gifts? Can you think back to a challenging time and thank God for the gift of clarity that came from the situation?

"Keep your lives from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" – Hebrews 13:5

Every day, we see hundreds, if not thousands, of advertisements, each trying to convince us that what we have is not enough. We need something new, better, faster. Desire becomes hope, which leads to wants, and wants become needs. Pay attention to and identify five ads today ... what type of salvation do they offer (security, prestige, comfort)? Do any of them sell hope, grace or forgiveness?

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?" – Matthew 6:25

Jesus said that worrying about money and the future indicated a lack of trust in God. What do you worry about in your life? How can you learn to share what you have today without worrying about needing more tomorrow? Do you proceed through life knowing God has your back?

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver

2 Corinthians 9:7

Generosity means living for God and others, not only for ourselves. Stewardship is just one aspect of a lifestyle of generosity. But it is an important part for our parish as we answer the call to do God's work in the world. Intentional giving requires discernment. Use this helpful chart in your decision-making process.



Christ Church Charlotte
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

YOUR GENEROSITY IS VITAL

Annual Household Income

% of Household Income	1%		5%		7%		10%	
Yearly Combined Income	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
\$ 25,000	\$ 21	\$ 250	\$ 104	\$ 1,250	\$ 146	\$ 1,750	\$ 208	\$ 2,500
\$ 50,000	\$ 42	\$ 500	\$ 208	\$ 2,500	\$ 292	\$ 3,500	\$ 417	\$ 5,000
\$ 75,000	\$ 63	\$ 750	\$ 313	\$ 3,750	\$ 438	\$ 5,250	\$ 625	\$ 7,500
\$100,000	\$ 83	\$ 1,000	\$ 417	\$ 5,000	\$ 583	\$ 7,000	\$ 833	\$ 10,000
\$150,000	\$ 125	\$ 1,500	\$ 625	\$ 7,500	\$ 875	\$ 10,500	\$ 1,250	\$ 15,000
\$200,000	\$ 167	\$ 2,000	\$ 833	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,167	\$ 14,000	\$ 1,667	\$ 20,000
\$300,000	\$ 250	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,250	\$ 15,000	\$ 1,750	\$ 21,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 30,000
\$400,000	\$ 333	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,667	\$ 20,000	\$ 2,333	\$ 28,000	\$ 3,333	\$ 40,000

Financial generosity is a spiritual discipline.

Where are you on your path?

Everyone finds themselves in stages – we all go through periods of challenge and abundance. A first-time giver can decide to make a sacrificial gift. Out of habit and not prayer, a long-time parishioner may give the same amount year after year. The key to financial generosity is to be thoughtful and prayerful as you walk along your own journey.

First-time giver

I have prayed about my commitment to Christ Church, and I'm moved to make a year-long financial pledge in writing.

Consistent giver

Christ Church is an important part of my life, and making a pledge promotes my spiritual growth. I am committed to the growth of Christ Church.

Sacrificial giver

I pray about my generosity journey (it's not just a reflex), and I stretch to make an impactful financial commitment to Christ Church, my spiritual home.

Visionary (tithe and beyond)

I give 10% or more of my income to Christ Church as an important part of living into my spiritual principles. Giving monetarily to the future of Christ Church's ministry and mission is a vital part of my calling as a Christian.



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