



FAITH • FILLED GENEROSITY

*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 2020

Hello Parish Family,

I have the pleasure of being your Stewardship chair this year. I'd like to share a thought about what Stewardship means to me.

I think of Christ Church as a big old glorious tree with a full canopy of leaves that's been around for hundreds of years. People drive by and admire its beauty and what it produces. Like this tree, many people admire the beauty of the property and the good work that comes forth from Christ Church. This work includes the local community support we provide to organizations such as Bread and Roses, which feeds the hungry, or being co-founders of Esperanza which provides free education to underprivileged girls in Lawrence, or providing Thanksgiving meals and Christmas gifts to needy families each year. Many enjoy the children's center and thrift shop we operate. Some applaud the work we do beyond our local area, such as our annual campaign for the people of Rwanda which has provided an array of support over many years ranging from the building of houses, to funding water tanks and hundreds of goats. Christ Church takes seriously God's call to not only nourish a spiritual community but be an active member of the Body of Christ in our town and beyond.



The roots of a tree are unseen to the eye but are essential to maintain its health and beauty. Christ Church is no different. The beauty of the buildings and the wonderful work that comes from this place cannot thrive without healthy roots that support it. My friends, WE are these roots that a passerby or an observer of our deeds never sees. Without us as its roots, Christ Church cannot thrive and respond to God's mission for us.

Parishioner pledges represent the largest portion of the revenue (60%) we need to keep our buildings maintained, our staff paid, and to do the works we are called to locally and around the world. I continue to be amazed at how many of you understand this and respond to our annual pledge appeal with your generosity. I marvel at how many of you give your time and talent in addition to the treasure you pledge. The hands that keep this place beautiful and well-maintained, the hands that serve meals in Lawrence, the hands that gather meals and gifts for the needy and support our brothers and sisters abroad are OUR hands.

I ask YOU to be one of the roots in this glorious tree that keeps this place alive, beautiful and active in doing God's work.

Some people don't pledge but support us by putting money into the plate each Sunday. We are grateful for any form of support but making an annual pledge is important to us since we need to know what funds we can expect in order to plan our financial year. To that end, we hope to receive a pledge from everyone!

We are grateful and blessed to receive anything you are able to pledge, but we ask you to prayerfully consider your pledge this year. Not only are costs rising but the pandemic has played a heavy toll on our finances. This year we

were tremendously blessed with a Paycheck Protection Program loan which saved us, but next year we cannot expect to be so lucky. So pledging this year has never been more important.

Your pledge is ultimately about relationship. Yes, relationship with your parish family but, more importantly, it's about your relationship with God. God is continually blessing us in many ways known and unknown. I ask you to prayerfully consider what you are willing to give back to God to carry on God's mission.

Ok, I get it! Now tell me how to pledge!

There are many ways to send in your pledge. Pledging online is our preferred method, however, if you prefer, there are non-electronic ways to send in your pledge as well. Here are three ways to send in your pledge:

- [click here to make a 2021 pledge online](#),
- [download this pledge card](#) and send it back to the church offices, or
- [contact Karen Aalto via e-mail](#) or phone at 978-475-0529, ext. 18.

Remember that a pledge is only a promise to provide funding throughout the year. You provide the actual funds at a time and amount of your choosing.

Please use one of these three ways to send in your pledge by **Sunday, November 29th** so we can plan next year's budget.

For those interested in seeing what the year-to-date parish financials look like, please see the enclosed document.

Thank you for continuing to be part of this vibrant spiritual community and for your consideration of financial support for who we are and what we do. If you have any questions about the parish financials or pledging don't hesitate to call the church office.

Peace and blessings,



Michael Marcinelli
Senior Warden