

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Why is our annual giving campaign always in the Fall?**

The beginning of the new program year invites everyone to recommit to ministry with gifts of time, talent and treasure. Pledge commitments made in the Fall for the following year allow the Finance Committee and the Vestry to plan for the most effective use of every penny received.

## **How often do I need to give to be an active member of the church?**

Your pledge is a signal of commitment to God's work at Christ Church Grosse Pointe. The payment schedule you select, as indicated on your pledge card, is entirely up to you.

## **Every Sunday I put money in the plate, why should I make an annual pledge?**

From a spiritual point of view, your pledge is a promise and commitment to God's ministry. A pledge to God binds you to the good work done in His name. From a practical point of view, each year, your Vestry needs to create and approve an annual budget. This planning and fiscal management is usually done in December, and is primarily determined by the amount of money that is pledged by the parish for the coming year.

## **What happens if my income changes?**

If you want to adjust your pledge up or down, you may do so at any time during the year. Simply contact the Church office to let them know your change.

## **If I volunteer, doesn't that count as giving since that is giving my time?**

Stewardship, defined as "all that we do with all that we have once we say we believe," is most effectively a combination of gifts of time, talent and treasure.

## **What if my giving is small? What if I have big financial obligations in my life?**

Every pledge makes a difference. Every person makes a difference. You can make a pledge based on a reasonable estimate of your capacity, and then add to it if things work out better. The important thing is to commit to God's work at Christ Church, because without commitment, our ministry together will suffer.

## **What happens to the money I give?**

As Episcopalians, each of us supports all of Christ's ministry in our community of faith. A full financial report of how pledges are spent is contained in our annual report, available on-line or through the church office. Throughout the year the Vestry holds open forums partly to explain this in detail.

### **Who determines where the money is spent?**

This responsibility lies solely with the Vestry (elected lay leaders) of the church. A budget is outlined by the Finance Committee, which is comprised of parishioners designated by your Vestry. The budget is approved by your Vestry on an annual basis; usually in December.

### **How Can I Give My Time and Talent?**

An easy to use list of ministries in the parish and ministries in the wider community and world are kept on the Good Shepherd web site. On the home page, go to the "get connected" tab and look for the link to "Volunteer Opportunities." When you signify an interest about a specific ministry your request will go directly to the person who leads that ministry. This same information can be requested in the mail from the church office. Additionally, there is a ministries board in the lobby of the Parish Hall that lists all ministries at Good Shepherd.

### **Is My Financial Commitment Kept Confidential?**

The amount of money that you pledge to Good Shepherd is kept strictly confidential. All pledge information is collected and controlled by the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Parish Bookkeeper.

### **Are There Other Ways to Give?**

The **Good Shepherd Stewardship Trust** is an endowed fund that continually gives back to the mission and ministry of the church. Continued contributions to the Good Shepherd Stewardship Trust are welcomed and overseen by the Stewardship Trust Board. There are numerous vehicles of giving that provide the donor with various types of tax advantages. Bruce Daughtry is the chair of the Stewardship Trust Board and he would be glad to answer, or find the answer, to any questions you may have (454-0788).