



And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces. Luke 9:16-17, NRSV

November 25, 2022

Dear Christ Church Members and Friends,

Leading the annual campaign is never simple, but it *is* easy to talk about giving back to God through Christ Church! As Vestry members and Stewardship Co-Chairs, we both witness the power of how your gifts fund the mission and ministry of our church in the community. Because of you, we can share our message of love with many, and that is a gift that means everything.

This year's Annual Giving campaign theme, "More Than Enough", comes from Jesus' Feeding of the 5,000. This story teaches us that by contributing faithfully from God's blessings, we will have more than enough to fund our ministry, annual operations, and our mission to our neighbors.

Today, we are asking you to consider what you will pledge to our community for the coming year. If you haven't pledged before, or if it's been a while, we want you to know that this faithful act is integral in enabling us to fulfill our ministry and mission. Many parishioners may not be aware how directly pledging is connected to everything that we are able to do as a Church: from Worship to acts of Outreach, from Youth and Adult Formation to Welcoming New Members, from caring Visits to reconnecting through Fellowship events, **and so much more**. Please know that none of our funding comes from the Diocese. In fact, like all Episcopal Churches, we tithe to the Diocese to help and maintain the work of the wider church.

A helpful way to think about a pledge is that it is your intention to give back some percentage of your blessings to God through Christ Church. The process is simple but the act is so central to who we are as beloved children of God. You simply fill in the included card and bring it back on Dec. 4th, mail it or fill it in online soon (an email is going out this week with a link)! You can fulfill your pledge on a weekly or monthly basis – either by returning your designated pledge envelopes or by setting up a convenient recurring credit card gift – or as a one-time contribution, whatever is easiest for you.

Each year, the Vestry utilizes our shared resources to sustain our ministry, grow as disciples, and serve our neighbors. So much of our work begins and multiplies **because of YOU!** If you've pledged before, you know the difference it makes and how good it feels to support this community we've inherited in Christ. If you haven't done so before, we would love for this to be the year to start. It is our hope that everyone will fill these out for 2023. We encourage you to be as generous as possible as we move out of this pandemic in love, in faith and in community with each other.

Please bring this card with you as we worship with the Bishop on Dec. 4 at the 10am combined service, mail it back or fill it in online soon. Together, we thank God, who always provides more than enough. Thank you to Christ and thank you for always being an important part of Christ Church.

In the spirit of love,

Katie Benvenuto and Laura D'Alessio