

Frequently Asked Stewardship 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.

What does "tithe" mean?

Scripture and Christian historical documents refer to the tithe (meaning tenth) as a portion (10%) of one's income given back to God or the church for support of ministry. Today, we understand the tithe as that which I give to God as an honest reflection of my thankfulness for what God has already given me.

How do I pledge?

Simply complete a pledge form and submit it to the Church office, or call the church office with your intentions.

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.

Who knows how much I pledge? Is the amount kept confidential?

The amount of money that you pledge to Christ Church is kept strictly confidential. All pledge information is collected and controlled by the Rector and the Church Office Administrator.

Why do you post the names of people who pledge?

Every year we openly acknowledge and celebrate those who have pledged financial support to Christ Church. We feel that their commitment reinforces the giving culture at Christ Church, and invites more to participate in pledging. We should all be proud of our support of Christ's ministry. However, we always honor requests from those who wish to remain anonymous in their giving.

What does the Christ Church First group do?

We are focused on educating the parish throughout the year on the true meaning of Stewardship. We promote an open, giving culture at Christ Church. We measure our success by the number of pledge commitments Christ Church receives in the fall. It is our goal to have 100% of our parish pledge their support every year.

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 on the [vestry minutes page](#) or through the church office. Also please reference our "Ministry Budget" for a more practical look at how our dollars are distributed amongst the core ministries of our church.

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.