



# Thoughts on Stewardship from your friends at Christ Church Charlotte

When we were asked to chair the Annual Stewardship Campaign, we spent a lot of time discussing ways to get our entire congregation excited about giving back to Christ Church – that is after we spent a lot of time praying! We believe the best way to share the stewardship story is to tell it in the voices of our own parishioners – young and old, new to our parish or life-long Christ Church members. Everyone has a unique, individual perspective when it comes to stewardship. Throughout the fall, you will be seeing short videos on Sundays, reading quotes in weekly emails and hearing thoughts from a wide variety of parish members. Consider their perspectives on stewardship, and we hope they inspire you to make a sacrificial pledge to the 2012 Stewardship Campaign.

**John and Julie Stedman**  
2012 Annual Stewardship Campaign Chairs

Christ Church  
annually  
supports over  
20 local agencies  
with funding  
and volunteers.

I can't put a price tag on all the experiences, relationships, and faith building that I've received from Christ Church. It's certainly more than we are able to give back in return. Regarding stewardship, Wellford and I try to push ourselves to get to an uncomfortable place, that is probably not even close to what we could or should give. But we try to do our best.

- Ann Tabor



I believe that *everybody* who is a member of Christ Church ought to give. To me, it's almost more important that everybody give, than the amount given. It seems to me that when you come to this Church, and you have all the benefits this Church offers, that you must give something.

- Sally Robinson



I think Sally is right, and I think that is a point that needs general recognition by the congregation. Sometimes I fear that there is not that realization, generally, among the congregation. That if you are going to be a member of Christ Church, you really must be a participant in the support of it.

- Russell Robinson

I think stewardship is one of the most delicate and yet most important things we have to manage here at Christ Church. One concept is very secular and cold. It's simply ... look how many lights there are, look how many square feet there are, look how many people work here. If you are coming here, you are using that service, and there is an obligation to carry your fair share. It may not sound very faithful or God-like, but it's a simple accounting fact. I think the other concept is totally separate, but not distinct, and that is what God calls us to do. And that is to give joyfully and prayerfully because everything that we have comes from Him.

- Bird Anderson



In an average  
week,  
Christ Church  
hosts more  
than 100  
meetings,  
events, &  
worship  
services.

When Rob and I discuss stewardship, and he writes the check, it still astonishes me ... he gets a little bit giddy. He says it's his favorite day of the year! Yes, the favorite day of the year for Rob Vest is writing that check to Christ Church. He truly gets joy in doing it. It always surprises me, in a good way.

- Katherine Vest

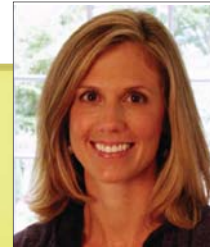


Christ Church sends missionaries to 2 countries and 3 states each year.

On Parish Day, we packed and shipped 5000+ meals for earthquake devastated Haiti.

The Parish Life Commission has a yearly budget that allows us to distribute funds to certain events. If we didn't know our exact budget, it would be very difficult for us to organize our year. In order to keep on track, and to keep offering all of these programs, it's important for parish members to make a commitment to a yearly pledge.

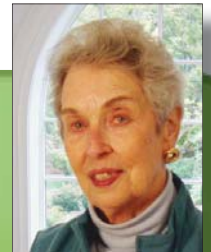
- Danby Donlan



The current annual maintenance budget is \$14,000 LESS than it was six years ago, even though membership is 1,000+ greater.

I was raised, and blessed to be raised, in a family that taught me that the first nickel of my 25 cent allowance went to God, the next dime went to the bank to my savings, and then I could do anything else with the rest of it. I was always raised with the fact that everything I have, even my breath, my life, my heartbeat is God's gift to me.

- Nancy Dooley

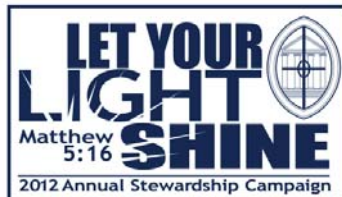


Parish programs and activities have increased by more than 60% in the last six years.

Asking people for money is giving them the opportunity to put their resources at the disposal of the kingdom. Stewardship offers people the chance to invest what they have in the work of God. Whether they have much or little is not as important as the possibility of making their money available to God. When Jesus fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, he was showing us how God's love can multiply the effects of our generosity. God's kingdom is the place of abundance where every generous act overflows its original bounds and becomes part of the unbounded grace of God at work in the world.

- Henri J. M. Nouwen  
Author, Priest

Many of the items we use every day, such as tables and chairs, are over 20 years old.



Where does God, and a spiritual home for your family, rank on your list of priorities? As you consider all of your commitments, please take time to pray about the value of God's gifts in your life. Take time to share those gifts with others by making your 2012 pledge to Christ Church today!