

Holy Trinity Church in Hampstead
107 Deerfield Road Hampstead, NC 28443
910-270-4221

A STEWARDSHIP GUIDE

and information about the

2014 pledge campaign

prepared by the

Holy Trinity

Stewardship Committee:

Marjorie Bribitzer, Co-chairman

Gary Miller, Co-chairman

Doris Castellano

Norman Gopsill

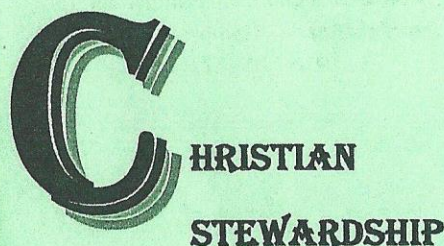
Kitty Norman

Roger Rick

Roger Kersey, Vestry Liaison

For all things come from you, and
of your own have we given you.

1 Chronicles 29:14



As Christians we believe that everything we have comes from God. We are but the stewards of God's bounty, charged to use our many blessings in God's service.

It isn't always easy to decide exactly how to go about fulfilling this expectation. How we manage our time, our skills and talents, and our finances can all be good (or not so good) Christian stewardship. We are stewards in God's service whenever we reach out to care for our parish, our community, or the wider world.

The request for pledges of money and time that you receive each year from Holy Trinity is related to, but not synonymous with, the concept of Christian stewardship. It is an opportunity to examine your intentions for giving of your time and money in the coming year.

Why pledge?

The practical reason Holy Trinity solicits monetary pledges from its members each year is to provide the Finance Committee and the Vestry with a solid amount on which to base a budget. The budget is based on expected income, largely from member pledges.

However, there is a spiritual reason for pledging which is far too often ignored. When we engage in prayerful contemplation of God's expectations of us, God will guide us in the investment of the blessings which have been showered upon us. The examination of how to carry out our intention to support God's work in the world is a spiritual exercise, not an arithmetic problem.

As each member enters into a dialogue with God in deciding on his or her pledge, the income received is a gift from God that the parish must be responsible to use wisely in the pursuit of God's glory. Whether it is a little or a lot, God expects us to work within it to further our common mission.

Frequently asked questions

How much is enough? What is my share?

The work of the church is not based on some even division in which each of us is called to support a certain percentage. You alone know your own circumstances and can decide how much is enough.

Scripture and tradition ask us to aspire to the tithe. A tenth of one's income is one guideline which some of us use to decide whether our charitable giving lives up to God's expectation of us. For many, though, this seems too high. If so, consider giving some other percentage of your income. Another possibility is to consider increasing the percentage of your gift each year as your commitment to God's work increases. No matter how you measure it, as you feel yourself increasingly blessed by God, your response will increase.

I always give during the offering on Sunday. Should I pledge instead?

If your intention is to support the work of Holy Trinity in the best way possible, you should pledge so that your

contribution can be included in the budget. A gift in the offering plate is a meaningful act of participation in the liturgy, reminding us each Sunday that we should give as well as receive. You can use pledge envelopes to pay toward your pledge weekly, or if you wish to pay toward your pledge in larger amounts and still participate in the ritual, you can put a smaller amount in the offering plate. The loose plate offering goes to the general fund except on the last Sunday of the month when it goes to the Rector's discretionary fund.

I am a newcomer. When should I start pledging?

If you expect Holy Trinity to be your church home during the coming year, please consider participating in the life of the parish by pledging.

I'd prefer that my pledge remain confidential. Who sees the pledges?

The Treasurer, currently Bob Muller, is the only person who keeps track of each individual pledge, and he is very careful not to reveal this confidential information to anyone else. If you pledge, you will receive a quarterly statement from Bob reminding you of

the status of your payments. It is the tradition at Holy Trinity that the Rector and the Stewardship Committee do not have access to the amounts of the pledges. When you receive a thank you note from the Stewardship Committee, it is because we appreciate the act of your pledging; we don't know the amount.

What if my circumstances change and I cannot keep up my pledge?

Your pledge is not a binding contract, but an expression of your intent. If your circumstances change, you may adjust it; speak to the Treasurer. As always, the conversation will be confidential.

HOW DO I MAKE MY PLEDGE?

You will receive a letter containing pledge cards for 2014 for each member of your family on Sunday, October 6, or in the mail shortly after. We hope you will be in church to participate in a celebratory gathering, but pledges can be returned anytime up until October 20. You may mail your card to the church or bring it in person and put it in the Treasurer's box in the room outside the Rector's office.