How Do I Decide?

As you consider your pledge to Christ Church, think first about the benefit you receive from being a member of our parish family. The vitality of our church, and all that it means to each of us and to our community, is only possible when you THANK GOD with your generosity.

Why Is It Important to Pledge?
At its heart, pledging to the church is a faith practice, not a financial one. Grateful financial giving is a tangible expression of the relationship between your personal priorities and your desire for a deeper relationship with God. Your pledge enables you to take part in living out the church’s mission in a way that transforms both your life and the lives of everyone in our community.

Can’t I just give to the offering plate each Sunday?
Each year at this time, Christ Church families are asked to pledge an annual amount -- a commitment to support one another as a parish family. The total amount pledged by parishioners is the only way the Vestry can plan and commit to the programs that create and sustain our shared life as a parish community -- worship, pastoral care, fellowship, Christian education, music and outreach.

How Much Should I Pledge?
Your pledge should reflect the value you place on your relationship with God and our church. In Genesis 28, Jacob promises “If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I go...of all that God gives me I will surely give one-tenth to Him.” Based on this biblical concept of “tithing”, the Episcopal Church encourages members to “strive to tithe” – or to work towards a personal goal by pledging a percentage of their income rather than a dollar amount. This percentage can be small to start with – many members start with 2% -- but members are encouraged to increase that percentage annually.

Some Useful Facts and Figures
• For 2015, the average annual pledge at Christ Church was $4,100
• In 2015, twenty-nine families gave $10,000 or more
• Our largest pledge in 2015 was $35,000

To help you determine what amount you want to pledge this year, be sure to take a look at the worksheet on the back of this page.

REMEMBER, the ultimate goal is that our pledges demonstrate a spirit of grateful and abundant generosity with all that we have, and all that we do, all the time.
Consider the following as a way to think about your pledge amount:

Start with your **Adjusted Annual Income** (after taxes) $_____________

Select a percentage that reflects your commitment to our life together at Christ Church X ____________%

Multiply to determine your **Annual Pledge** = $_____________

Now ask yourself: how do you feel about this amount?
- Is this amount representative of the value I place on my relationship with God?
- Does this amount reflect my desire to grow my personal faith?
- Is this amount in proportion to the importance of Christ Church in my life?
- Is this amount realistic given my personal financial circumstances?

As you consider the amount of your pledge, the following guidelines may also be helpful:

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<th>Adjusted Annual Income</th>
<th>2% OF INCOME</th>
<th>4% OF INCOME</th>
<th>5% OF INCOME</th>
<th>10% OF INCOME</th>
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