

Christ Church Episcopal  
Established 1733

Questions and Answers  
2011 “Lift High the Cross!”  
Stewardship Campaign

**What is the appropriate amount for my commitment?**

*Your commitment to Christ Church Episcopal is a personal decision. Any gift offered to God through the church will be greatly appreciated and respected.*

*In our Sunday liturgy, we regularly quote I Chronicles 29:14. “All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.” As a spiritual recognition of our belief that everything we have comes from God, we would encourage you to consider a proportional commitment to the church.*

**What is a proportional commitment?**

*Proportional giving or the “tithe” is a blessing in which Our Lord encourages us to participate. A proportional commitment is generally accepted as an important spiritual practice. Establish your commitment at a level you feel led (3%, 6% or 15% of gross income). We recognize and appreciate every individual’s and family’s financial situation is different. As you choose where your giving level will be, the following chart may be helpful.*

Income	3%	4%	6%	8%	10%	12%	14%
\$25,000	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
\$50,000	\$1500	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,000
\$75,000	\$2,250	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$9,000	\$10,000
\$100,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$14,000
\$150,000	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$9,000	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$18,000	\$21,000
\$200,000	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$24,000	\$28,000
\$250,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$30,000	\$35,000
\$350,000	\$10,500	\$14,000	\$21,000	\$28,000	\$35,000	\$42,000	\$49,000
\$500,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$70,000

**I have not given proportionally in the past, where do I start?**

*An initial commitment to proportional giving may be 3% which is approximately the national average. Hopefully in future years, you will be able to build on that percentage.*

**Do we actually have members of our congregation that give proportionally?**

*Yes. We do have members who are giving proportionally across a wide range. Some, including our rector and his family, are giving at or above the 10% level.*

**What example does our church leadership set?**

*Our Vestry has made a strong commitment to encourage proportional giving and building to the tithe. Our Vestry represents a cross section of our congregation. The commitments of these fourteen church leaders are typically in excess of 25% of our parish’s total annual commitments.*

**By when do I have to pay my commitment?**

*We anticipate full payment would be made by December 2011. As our expenses occur all during the year, our preference would be for payments to be made early or on a monthly or quarterly basis.*

**How often will I receive a statement on the status of my commitment?**

*Our treasurer, Jane Espy, will send out quarterly statements indicating any unpaid balance on the 2011 commitment. You can receive this statement by email or you can be mailed a paper statement.*

**May I make my payment by contributing marketable securities?**

*Yes. Notify Jane Espy, our treasurer, and she will provide instructions. A number of our members contribute in this way. If you have a low cost basis security, you may contribute the security to the church and thus avoid capital gains tax. Please check with your tax professional before making a securities contribution.*

**Are there any other alternative payment methods?**

*Yes. For your convenience the church can set up an automatic charge to your bank account or credit card.*

**May I make my commitment payment online?**

*Yes. Go to the "Giving" TAB on our Christ Church Episcopal web site [www.ccesavannah.org](http://www.ccesavannah.org) If your commitment is greater than \$1,000 we would appreciate your paying by check due to the significant fees associated with online payments.*

**May I change the amount of my commitment during the year?**

*Yes. Your commitment may be increased or decreased at any point during the year based on your personal circumstance. This is not a legal obligation. Notify our treasurer, Jane Espy, and she will make the appropriate adjustment.*

**I have heard about a "Transition Fund." What is it?**

*The Transition Fund is an amount of money which we are setting aside to ease the financial impact of our transition back to our home on Johnson Square. We want to be in a position to assume control of and maintain our property in a fiscally responsible manner.*

**How much do we need to have in our Transition Fund?**

*We have no current financial information from the Breakaway congregation on which to base our estimate. We have already raised in excess of \$250,000 and are hopeful of strong support in order to continue to build the fund balance. .*

**How will these funds be used?**

*We are hopeful this fund will enable us not only to appropriately maintain our large historic church building and parish house but also to continue our mission offerings and expand our membership. We recognize the need for additional financial support and are committed to having this be a sensitive and loving transition led by the Holy Spirit.*

**What is the status of our legal proceeding?**

*On October 27, 2009, the Superior Court of Chatham County ruled in favor of The Episcopal Church, The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia and Christ Church Episcopal by granting us immediate ownership of all assets of Christ Church, including our historic church buildings. The Breakaway Congregation appealed this decision. On July 8, 2010, a three judge panel of the Georgia Court of Appeals affirmed the Superior Court's ruling. The Breakaway congregation has now asked the Georgia Supreme Court to review the appellate court's decision. The Georgia Supreme Court has not decided whether it will take the case. In the opinion of most legal and church experts, Christ Church Episcopal will prevail. To read a copy of the court's rulings go to our Christ Church Episcopal web site at [www.ccesavannah.org](http://www.ccesavannah.org)*

**How long will the appeal take?**

*The Georgia Supreme Court can decide one of two things with the Breakaway Congregation's request: (1) deny the petition and not hear the case or (2) accept the case for review. The Court should make a decision by the end of October or early November. If they decide to deny the petition, it will take a minimum of ten days to have the judgment formally entered into the trial court record. If, on the other hand, the Court agrees to hear the case, additional briefs will be required and we should have a final decision in the first or second quarter of 2011. .*

**Do we anticipate the Breakaway Congregation will appeal further?**

*We do not know. Their only remaining appeal opportunity is the Supreme Court of the United States. Most legal experts indicate that would be an expensive and unproductive effort, but we respect their right to take whatever action they deem appropriate.*

**What is the status of the Christ Church Endowment Fund?**

*As an asset of the church, the Superior Court ruling would indicate it would become an asset of Christ Church Episcopal. Based on the disputed claim, the fund is frozen until the Supreme Court of Georgia appeal is ruled upon. While the fund has been diminished, the balance is still substantial.*

**What were the giving levels for our 2010 "Lift High the Cross!" Stewardship Campaign?**

<b>Commitment Range</b>	<b>Percent of Givers</b>
Above \$10,000	7%
\$10,000 to \$7,500	6%
\$7,499 to \$5,000	22%
\$4,999 to \$2,500	19%
\$2,499 to \$1,000	35%
Below \$1000	11%

*With our congregation's commitment to proportional giving, we are hopeful of seeing increases in our higher ranges for 2011.*

**Does Christ Church Episcopal have a 2011 budget?**

*Our church is currently in a very solid and balanced financial condition. Your Vestry is committed to continued financial discipline and integrity. We typically review our parish's 2011 budget at our annual meeting in January. If you are unable to attend the service, please let us know and we will be glad to review it with you.*

**What if I have additional questions regarding my commitment?**

*Please feel free to call any of the following:*

Jack Jones	Stewardship Co-Chair	912.897.2200	tallpine@comcast.net
Bill Haile	Stewardship Co-Chair	912.944.1211	wbhaile@gmail.com
Jane Espy	Treasurer	912.233.5572	treasurer@ccesavannah.org
Michael White	Rector	912.414.0378	michael.white@ccesavannah.org

**Will you please provide biblical support to assist us in this important decision regarding our commitment to Christ Church Episcopal?**

The Holy Bible is full of stories of the people of God giving back to God from the gifts they have received. Below are only a few examples from both the Old and New Testaments:

**Leviticus 27:30** ..... "All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or fruit from the tree, are the Lord's; they are holy to the Lord."

**Proverbs 11:25** ..... "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

**Luke 12:48** ..... "Everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required."

**I Chronicles: 29:14** ..... "All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee."

The Book of Common Prayer of The Episcopal Church also provides an important prayer for us.

*For the Right Use of God's Gifts*

***Almighty God, whose loving hand hath given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor thee with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

***Amen.***