



St. David's
Episcopal Church

— EST. 1715 —

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October 1, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First off, a bit of important theological business: God **loves you**, already and completely.

As the Stewardship Commission at St. David's, we feel privileged to tell you that God will continue to love you fully and forever, even if you don't give any of your time to volunteer, or don't share any of your God-given talents, or even if you don't give one penny to the church. The people of St. David's and the clergy will always love you, and you will always be a welcome member of the community.

There! We've said it, and it is true.

What is the essence of being a good steward?

Our time is not really ours; our talents are a gift from God, and our possessions are only on loan. God gave all of that to us. And at St. David's, God has given us a calling to make Christ's love known in the world.

We will do a lot of good work again this year through more than 100 ministries—from feeding and clothing those in need, to opening a new day school—much of it for the benefit of people we may never meet.

This work requires a significant amount of resources, volunteer time and a fair amount of money. Your giving makes that good work possible.

How much should I give?

One biblical example Jesus offers is tithing, or to give one-tenth away. That would mean giving \$96 each week if you earn \$50,000 a year. Does this mean pre-tax or post-tax, to church or other charities, of my income or my assets? If you are wrestling with these questions, then God bless you, because you are in the right place. Keep on wrestling!

What do other people do at St. David's? The pledge average last year was \$4,700, but everyone's individual pledge is held in confidentiality; it is a sacred transaction between you and God.

Okay, let's do this.

Wrestle with this pledge card, and bring it to church with you on November 6th, Commitment Sunday. Whatever you commit, it is in your discernment where the healthy spiritual struggles arise, where God enters in, and where together we build up the Kingdom of God.

The Stewardship Commission is eager to hear your thoughts. Please let us know if we can be a resource to you in your discernment. Thank you for your consideration.

Gratefully,

Jane and Martin Wilson
Gillian and Jeff Waldron
Alison Hastings
Mike Mayer
Susan and Mike Damiano
John Lander
Tom Johantgen
Terry Cunningham
The Rev. Matthew Dayton-Welch
Marilyn Callaghan