



PRINCE OF PEACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Reverend John Major, Rector



October 25, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

These days, it seems like money is on everyone's mind. We hear theories on how the government should spend it, watch it vanish in the stock market and spend much of our days trying to earn it. As vestry members, we also spend part of each month ensuring the church's resources are spent wisely.

Even the Bible has a lot to say about money – how we should earn it and what we should do with it once we have it. That's why we'd like to invite you to join with us in using the reflections in the "Renewing Gratitude" booklet you received recently. With its essays on the upcoming Scripture readings for the next few weeks and their implications for our lives, this book is a helpful resource for all of us to determine if our giving practices reflect our gratitude for all the blessings God has given us.

As you read these short essays, you may wonder how to apply their messages to your giving. These readings make it clear that beyond the fact that your giving makes it possible to keep the church open and moving forward with mission and ministry, giving in gratitude for what we have received from God is necessary for our spiritual health and growth. But how much should you give?

Both the Old and the New Testament hold out tithing – ten percent of income – as a giving standard. While some parishioners already give at this level, we realize it is a stretch for many. But because what we give to our church is a symbolic act of giving back to God from the bounty He has given us, we invite you to consider taking a percentage step towards the tithe.

Our willingness to stretch to new levels of giving is a direct reflection of the importance we place on our relationship with God. Please keep this in mind as you prayerfully reflect on the readings in the "Feasting on Gratitude" booklet and consider where giving to your church fits into your priorities.

On November 6, as we prepare for our Thanksgiving celebrations and the upcoming season of Advent, reflecting on all the good things God has given us – including His own Son – our celebration of the Mass will include an opportunity to place a "promise of support" in the Sunday offering. It is our hope that this promise will serve as a gesture of the renewal of the consecration of our lives to God and our promise to serve Him always with our time, our talents and our treasure.

Please join us in prayerfully completing the enclosed "estimate of giving card" and make this estimate part of your thanksgiving offering on November 6, 2011.

Sincerely,

Prince of Peace Vestry

Carl Goeringer, Sr. Warden

Jean Carson, Jr. Warden

Matt Stretanski, Secretary

Karen Atkinson

Bev Cushner

Ed Dreisbach

Sandy Hunt

Mary Jillson-Stout

Ann Russin

Charlotte Williams