



Doing What Love Requires

Christ Church
B.R.A.M.P.T.O.N.

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

Dear

Since March of 2020, everything has changed. Covid-19 has brought with it new realities, regulations and requirements (masking, social distancing, hand washing and successive closure orders) altering how and where we are able to work, eat, gather, serve, and worship. During this past year of unprecedented and fluid change clergy, lay leaders and parishioners at Christ Church have “stepped up” to ensure the vital work of ministry continued.

We moved beyond the building, in physically distant but relationally close ways, to be the church in the world. Using the digital tools of Zoom, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and our Website along with the phone and good old fashioned Canada Post, we remained together for worship, small group ministry, Sunday school, youth group gatherings, committee meetings and pastoral care. We strengthened our relationships with our community partners to minister to some of the most vulnerable in Brampton and Peel; as we stepped out in faith, love and service to those around us, we found our own needs more than met. God is so good - all the time! And you, the people of Christ Church, were so faithful in your love and support.

This year’s Annual Giving theme, *Doing What Love Requires*, reminds us that our financial support, in the form of a pledge, is essential in our ability to plan and execute ministry for the coming year. Whether we gather physically or online, we continue to be the body of Christ through our ministries, witness and care for one another and those around us.

We do not know what lies ahead of us, but we remain confident in God’s abiding and steadfast love. Because of your generous and faithful gifts, our church is able to keep *Doing What Love Requires* of us by nurturing life-giving, joyful ministries.

Pledging Households

You have always been so supportive of Christ Church, generously giving of your time, wisdom, experience, passion, and financial resources to sustain and grow our work and ministries. As we begin this year’s Annual Giving campaign, we hope we can count on your support again.

New Comers

Since 2006, Christ Church has had an Annual Stewardship Focus and, as a result, many members make an annual financial pledge. Some members tithe, committing ten percent of their income to the work and mission of our church. Others give proportionally by committing a certain percentage. Still others give as they are able. We ask that you consider prayerfully supporting this year’s campaign *Doing What Love Requires* in the form of a financial pledge.



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Non-Pledging Households

For the above reasons, we ask that you prayerfully consider joining others in our parish family in making a financial pledge this year.

Included with this mailing is a pledge card for our 2022 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022). Please prayerfully consider how you might respond so that Christ Church can continue *Doing What Love Requires*, by sharing God's love with more people and by making a positive difference in our community and beyond. We ask that you return your pledge card by Sunday, May 23 – The Day of Pentecost when together we will celebrate the birthday of the church and ask for God's blessing upon our pledges for the coming year.

If you have any questions, or would like to further discuss making a financial pledge to Christ Church, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Canon Byron R. Gilmore
Incumbent



Confirmation
All Saints, November 1, 2020



Lessons & Carols
December 13, 2020



THE BUILDING IS CLOSED, CHURCH IS NOT

We used this title last year and nothing could be further from the truth! With the use of technology we have definitely moved outside the walls.

Discipleship: Children, Youth, Families and Adults

We didn't skip a beat this past year ~ from weekly Sunday School, to semi-monthly Friday night Youth Groups, to workshops, to Small Group studies, to Faith Stories being shared we explored and enriched our faith. Plans continue to unfold in the area of Discipleship Development so stay tuned to our website!



In addition to weekly Sunday School, we had parties ~ Pumpkin, Advent and Pancakes!

Small groups gathered for studies on racism, parenting in a pandemic and our Lenten Study *God's Story Our Story*

Liturgy & Worship: Sunday Online & Celebrating the Seasons

While we were open in the fall for a number of weeks and for another few weeks over Easter, we now find ourselves exclusively online for the foreseeable future. We are so grateful for our production team of nine that so faithfully provide us with online worship each and every week. A word thanks must also be extended to our Re-opening Task Force who worked so diligently to develop and "operationalize" a re-opening plan to ensure that worship was safe.



Socially-distanced members of our weekly production crew bringing Church Online to us every week.

Members of the Altar Guild working on the reopening plan. Can you see the roped off pews?



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Outreach: Serving Others

Both Caring & Sharing at Christmas and the Coldest Night of the Year were wonderfully successful local outreach initiatives. We are hoping that our Drive-By | Drop-Off in support of Ste. Louise on Saturday, May 15th will be equally as successful.



Our Christmas Caring & Sharing program partnered with JFJ Hope Centre and also provided a meaningful Christmas for families identified by other local social agencies



Support Christ Church Brampton

It's cold out there. And on February 20, our team is going to do something about it. Together with thousands of Canadians across the country, we're walking and fundraising to support and serve people and families experiencing home
More

For many years, Christ Church has participated in the Coldest Night of the Year in support of Regeneration Outreach Community. Our 2021 raised over \$8,000 to help the homeless and near homeless in Brampton.

Donate Now!



107% of goal raised
Fundraising Goal: **\$7,500.00**
Amount Raised: **\$8,050.00**

Included in mailing are details for our *Doing What Love Requires* outreach initiative (see the coloured paper). Cut along the dotted line and give one half to a neighbour or friend and invite them to participate in our Drive-By/Drop-Off.

Parish Life: Developing Relationships

So how do you develop relationships in a pandemic? Our Annual Parish Life video can illustrate it better. It is set for release during our May 2nd Sunday Service and will also be available after that on our website. Also every 4th Sunday of the month, we have Coffee Hour via Zoom at 11:30 am. Have you popped in to say hi?

Pastoral Care: Staying connected

Our volunteers still continue to contact our parish families to how people were coping, to provide a listening ear and to provide information on what was happening in the parish. How wonderful is that! We continue to hear stories of new relationships being formed. Another round of calls will be made towards middle of this month. In the meantime, please do call the clergy or the church office should a need occur.

Resource Management: Keeping You Informed

Throughout the year, our Clergy and Corporation have endeavoured to keep you informed through frequent mailings that cover our financial position, news of the parish and seasonal worship opportunities. An excellent way to stay up to date is to follow Christ Church on Instagram and like us on Facebook. These social media platforms, along with our website at: www.christchurchbrampton.ca will definitely keep you in the loop and give you a sense of belonging.



STEWARDSHIP MYTHS

Below is a copy of an article from the April edition of *The Anglican* (the newspaper of the Diocese of Toronto). In it Peter Misiaszek, the Director of Stewardship Development, teases out some of the myths associated with stewardship.

For Christ Church, an interesting change in giving patterns has emerged for which we are extremely grateful. During the first nine months of this fiscal year (July 2020 to March 2021), an astonishing 66% of our donations were received electronically (Pre-Authorized, E-transfers and CanadaHelps). While many of our envelope subscribers faithfully and routinely made “plate” donations in the way of cash and cheques, a significant portion adopted e-transfers as a way of giving. Towards the end of Peter’s article, he speak directly about the pandemic. This has been our experience at Christ Church ~ people want to give. We are struck by the generosity of our parish family.

Seven stewardship myths, revised



What motivates people to be generous? Throughout my career as a stewardship educator, I have encountered countless people who have made a priority of giving generously and joyfully to their church. Thank goodness, because it is the ongoing, dedicated, and regular giving of time, talent and treasure that ensures our parishes are vibrant faith communities.

Too often parishes derive the greatest sum of their giving from a minority of donors. Our own analysis indicates that about 30 per cent of church members are responsible for 70 per cent of all plate and Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) contributions. Another 30 per cent give almost none of their treasure.

We encounter all sorts of arguments that push back against our efforts to inspire a more profound level of generosity in our churches. This can be even more pronounced during the pandemic. Here are seven stewardship myths (plus one that is pandemic-specific) that need to be banished from our conversations about giving, receiving and contemporary Christian living.

Myth: More people = more money.
Truth: Stewardship begins at home. If we can't make it work with those who are present, what makes you so sure we can make it work with newcomers? Continue to ask regular givers to convert to PAR and invite newcomers and non-givers to help fund ministry.

Myth: Talking about money is taboo.
Truth: Faith and finances do mix. Jesus spoke about money and those things we turn into false idols in nearly half of His parables. The story of the widow's mite isn't just a cute

THE STEWARD

By PETER MISIASZEK

fable, it's a teaching that Jesus hopes we will emulate. Jesus continually challenges us to cut ties with our materialism and to see relationships as more important than things.

Myth: Stewardship is the same as fundraising.
Truth: Fundraising is always done to support a need; it is about fixing the roof, buying a new organ, installing an elevator, or painting the church walls. Stewardship is a complete lifestyle of accountability to God. The steward gives because the act of generosity itself frees us from our attachment to thinking only about ourselves.

Myth: Stewardship is just about money.
Truth: To be a steward is to acknowledge that everything we have – our talents, our wealth, our families and all those things that we acquire – is God's. We give generously and joyfully of all that we have because we have already received the gift of life and its accompanying benefits.

Myth: People in our parish can't afford to give.
Truth: This statement reflects a theology of scarcity that will completely engulf all aspects of one's life, including relationships with others. The theology of scarcity is one of the greatest impediments to growth in our churches. Adopting this principle is also one of the quickest ways to close a church.

Myth: Guilt motivates giving.
Truth: If giving is forced, it will not grow and it certainly cannot be sustained. God wants our giving to be joyful and abundant. A spirit

of altruism – to give without expectation of recognition or return – cannot be nurtured and shared if it is rooted in guilt.

Myth: People automatically know to give generously.
Truth: Unless congregants are informed of the time, talent and treasure demands on a parish, they may never feel inclined to give more than \$10 a week. Dedicated annual stewardship education is essential if we are to inspire full participation from our church membership.

Pandemic Myth #1: It's not good form to ask people to give during the pandemic.
Truth: People want to give. If this weren't the case, then FaithWorks would not have experienced its second-best fundraising year on record in 2020 and our invitations to give to other projects would have floundered. Anglicans across the Church have opened their hearts and wallets during this difficult time because it is often the challenges in life that bring out the best in people.

The real problem with any of these myths is that they often lead us to do the exact opposite of that which inspires growth in our churches. If you would like to cultivate a spirit of generous living and a deeper commitment to discipleship in your church, think about how you might incorporate the truths about stewardship – and then act.

The invitation to give is an opportunity to contribute to God's work on earth. It is a chance to look beyond our own needs and comfort and participate in the transformative life as expressed in the Gospel. Now is a great time to inspire, invite and thank!

Peter Misiaszek is the diocese's director of Stewardship Development.



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WHY TITHE

A tithe is the gift given to the work of God that equals 10% of what God gave you in the first place. Such a gift is often referred to as “first fruit” because the first 10% is given back to God. Commitment to tithing does not mean it is a requirement but it does mean we try. **We strive to give proportionately** as we work towards the tithe or even exceed it.

There are many reasons to make a pledge, of which the following may help you determine whether to pledge or not:

- It is an important part of our faith journey ~ the only document that most of us sign every year where we claim our faith as part of our identity
- It is an intention you make to Christ Church that provides a sense of belonging
- It helps Corporation develop a more accurate plan for the next fiscal year (*only aggregate results are provided to the Corporation by the Envelope Secretary to maintain confidentiality*)

TITHE GOALS

To better help you reach the goal of tithing, please take some time to review the chart on the back of the pledge card. Find the income level in the first column that most closely matches your income and then following the number horizontally to determine your level of giving to Christ Church. Percentages are listed at the top. Consider stepping up your giving by moving one or more columns to the right.

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” *John 13:34-35*

ONE FINAL MESSAGE

- † Prayerfully consider what God is doing in your life.
- † Prayerfully consider your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- † Prayerfully consider what Christ Church means to you and your family, and what Christ Church can mean in the Brampton community.
- † Prayerfully consider what God has done in providing for your “goods and kindred,” and what you will return to Him.

Christ Church does not presume that if you have given in the past your prior pledge will continue to carry over. An annual pledge ensures not only the continuation of our many ministries and it is an act of thanksgiving in response to all that God has given us.

**Our Stewardship Focus Period concludes with the Blessing of the Pledges.
The Day of Pentecost | May 23**

Stewardship Pledges may be dropped off at the church or mailed in. Simply place your pledge in an envelope addressed to the Envelope Secretary.

You may also call or email our Envelope Secretary, Carolynne Atkinson who will be pleased to complete a pledge for you. These pledges will be included in the Blessing of the Pledges. Carolynne can be reached at:

Telephone: 905-453-8323 | Email: carolynneat@yahoo.ca