



Stewardship Program October 2009

BUILDING ON A SURE FOUNDATION

Dear parishioners and friends of the Church of the Transfiguration,

Bishop Andrew's recent stewardship letter reminded us to put our treasure where our heart is. For many of us, our hearts are woven very much into the fabric of Transfiguration. We find in this community of faith a haven from the storms of life. The sermons and the Eucharist strengthen us to face the world; the liturgy, the music and the garden grounds bring us peace; and the friendships we have formed here provide us with warmth and welcome.

We invite each of you to help Transfiguration continue in this mission and ministry. One way to serve is to share our time and talents by joining a parish committee or ministry. Enclosed with Bishop Andrew's letter was an interest survey that we encourage you to complete and return. Another way is to share our treasure by making a pledge. Pledges provide the Church with a significant portion of the resources it needs to meet its operating costs and continue to help those in need.

Bishop Andrew encouraged us in his stewardship letter to think proportionately as we consider our pledge. Proportional giving means giving a set percentage of our income to the church. Tithing (giving 10% of your income) is an example of proportional giving. Some people calculate the proportion on their after-tax income, while others compute it before tax. Some people support several charities with this money, while others give all of it to the church and support other causes with additional funds. If our pledge is proportional, regardless of what happens to our income, we are honoring God with the same percentage of what we earn.

Below please find a chart illustrating how proportional giving works, based on a yearly salary of \$50,000, which is assumed to yield \$40,000 after tax.

% of Salary Given	Amount Given to the Church			
	After Tax Gift; 1/2 to Church and 1/2 to Other Charities	After Tax Gift; Total Amount Given to Church	Before Tax Gift; 1/2 to Church and 1/2 to Other Charities	Before Tax Gift; Total Amount Given to Church
4%	\$800	\$1600	\$1000	\$2000
6%	\$1200	\$2400	\$1500	\$3000
8%	\$1600	\$3200	\$2000	\$4000
10%	\$2000	\$4000	\$2500	\$5000

Fides opera.

The Church of the Transfiguration

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We also invite you to sign up for e-pledging. E-pledging is a way to make our pledge electronically, and helps simplify the church's accounting and back-office financial tasks. We hope you will join the parishioners already e-pledging by completing the authorization form. Please see the brochure enclosed with Bishop Andrew's letter for further information.

Another way to contribute our treasure is by remembering the Church in our planned giving. Many of us have retirement accounts or life insurance policies which require us to list a beneficiary. By including the Church as one of these beneficiaries, we can help keep Transfiguration strong and vibrant for many years to come.

The Vestry is grateful to all parishioners for contributing their time, talents and treasure towards the future of the Church of the Transfiguration. As you consider making your pledge, joining a committee, or including Transfiguration as part of your planned giving, please reflect on what the Church has meant to you and to so many over the past 161 years.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth L. Carr
Treasurer