

MONEY:

IT'S A SPIRITUAL MATTER

Stewardship is not just about raising money; it is a matter of faith. Many of us are caught in the clash between the culture of acquisition and the abundant world of God's love.

In the economic world there is never enough money. We fear that we might enter a place of scarcity.

The gospel, on the other hand, invites us to give freely and joyfully, to offer our money and time and talent generously.

AFTER PRAYER AND MEDITATION, let us:

- Confront our fears of scarcity
- Embrace God's abundance in our lives
- And do Christ's work through generous giving.

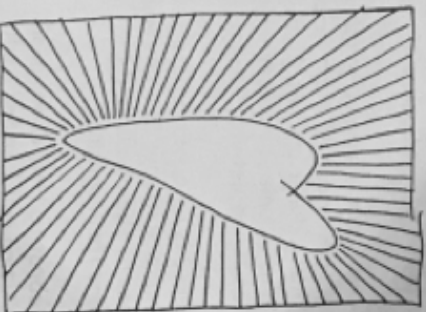
TOGETHER

we can become the loving and giving body our world needs us to be!



MONEY
IS A
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MATTER

**All About Pledging
At Nativity**



TOGETHER

we can make a difference!

Church of the Nativity

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WHAT IS A PLEDGE?

A pledge is a financial commitment to support the programs and ministries at Nativity for the next calendar year.

You are making a gift, not signing a contract. If serious financial problems should come up during the year, simply notify the rector or stewardship chairperson on the Vestry. This notification will permit changes in the parish budget, if needed.

We encourage everyone to pledge a certain percentage of their income, rather than a dollar amount. That way, if your income should change you can easily adjust your giving.

YOUR PLEDGE is an acknowledgment of God's presence in your life, and your awareness of the needs of the church and its programs:

- Celebrating Holy Communion
- Baptizing children and adults into Christ
- Sharing in the healing ministry
- Caring for the sick
- Nurturing children in Sunday School and worship
- Building a community of hope and renewal
- and much, much more.

WHO SHOULD PLEDGE?

Every member of the congregation is asked to pledge. Pledging is evidence of our commitment, and therefore essential to full membership. Our goal is to have every member of this congregation make a pledge.

If you are an occasional worshiper, we encourage you to join us. If you find Nativity to be a community of Christian faith and love, where you can grow and receive the blessings of our Lord, there is no more tangible response than your pledge.

You are essential to our ability to grow and continue as a deeply spiritual community. There are no endowment funds at Nativity—it's up to us!

TITHING

The Episcopal Church affirms the tithe as the Biblical standard of giving. A tithe is ten percent of a person's income.

One frequently asked question is, "What is the modern tithe?" Some people use their net or after-tax income, since some tax monies are used for charitable purposes. Others use their gross income to reflect their "standard of gratitude."

Some people use the tithe as a goal for their total charitable giving, with a substantial portion to the church. Others tithe to the church and also contribute to other charities.

PROPORTIONAL GIVING

Those of us who do not tithe at this time are encouraged to pledge a portion or percentage of our income for the coming year. (You can easily determine your present level of support by dividing your pledge by your total income.)

THE ADVANTAGES are:

- We begin to see clearly the priorities we have set in our lives.
- We can give significantly, relative to our income.
- We are freed from wrestling with a dollar amount when we give based on what we have.
- Proportional giving helps us set realistic and challenging goals.
- It lifts our focus—from simply supporting the church budget to a higher level of stewardship.

What good does it profit a person to say he has faith if he does nothing to show it?