



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
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Stewardship Committee

John Ashton, *Chairman*

Nancy Cord
Ruth Lieder
Candice Pate
Maryanne Whitcomb
Patience Ziebarth

The Rev. Ken Brannon,
Ex-officio

Vickrie Cutler,
Vestry liaison

Judi Fuller,
Staff liaison

Dear Fellow Parishioners;

The theme of our 2018 Stewardship Campaign is “Journey to Generosity.” The idea is that life is a journey and during the course of this journey we learn that sharing the blessings God has given us (not just money!) with others is a critical part of a joyful and contented life. From birth to death we are all takers and givers. We start as babies taking everything given to us and then, through interactions with our parents, teachers and friends and our own actions, study and reflection, learn the importance of generosity to others in our lives. As Christians, of course, we also have the example and teachings of Jesus Christ to motivate us along this journey.

Your Stewardship Committee determined that a theme which emphasizes all the various ways sharing with others can enrich our lives was preferable to one which focuses entirely on the need to support the ministry and mission of St. Thomas Church. We decided to eschew the “dig deeper” approach. What we want to do this year is emphasize how important generosity is to a well-travelled life and how supporting our beloved church is only one, but dare I suggest the best, of the ways we Christians in the Wood River Valley have to enjoy the benefit generosity to others can have in our lives.

While there are undoubtedly few long standing and faithful members of our parish who have any doubts about this, over the course of the next few weeks you will be hearing a lot about generosity and the remarkable work St. Thomas Church has done and can do in our lives and in this community. Initiating this message, you have all recently received a letter from our Rector on what we have done and what we have left undone. (The focus of the letter is “love,” but generosity is simply a manifestation of love.) As Father Ken points out, there are opportunities in the areas of outreach, discipleship and capital improvement that can be achieved through a highly successful Stewardship Campaign.

You are receiving pledge cards which give you the opportunity to make a meaningful next step in your Journey to Generosity. Your pledge is obviously critical to sustaining St. Thomas Church and its mission, but it also has the potential, when combined with others, to allow the Vestry to consider during the budget process ways in which the Church can do those things which we have “left undone.”

One final and very practical (perhaps even selfish) plea on behalf of our Committee. Over the course of serving on the Committee for several years, I have learned how considerate it is to make your pledge early in the campaign process. All pledges and other donations are gratefully received at any time, but the ones that come in early, and relatively effortlessly, make the work of the Committee less stressful....and more joyful!

Yours very truly,

John B. Ashton, Chairman