



CHRIST CHURCH FULLY FUNDING OUR MISSION & MINISTRY

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

As I write this message, we have just travelled through our first Holy Week together. I took joy in all of it, from the palms to the culminating Hallelujah, as only Handel can express it, resplendent with organ, tympani and brass and, more importantly, a packed church full of God's people, singing! Thank you for that gift. My soul is still ringing with it!

"Thank you for welcoming us into the church. We look forward to being part of such a special community."

Are you a long-time member? I want you to pause for a moment and imagine that had been your first encounter with Christ Church. Look at what you have become here, with fresh eyes, and then appreciate anew the gifts represented in your community. Now, how shall we foster and care for the health of this place, and help it thrive?

Frankly, I don't think I need to put a pitch to you about the merits of this community versus all of the other things you can support in life. I've made my own statement about that in a journey that's brought me here to Christ Church over three provinces and more than three decades of ordained ministry. Just six months in, I see how you give thanks for the gifts of this place. You are the ones who made the pitch to me!



So, you already know the church is never just another cause or charity. And you know the incredible difference faith makes in life, and how Christ can be made known through our work, fellowship and mission. Christ Church is building Christian community that is central to the heart of human meaning: a place where we learn to love and where we are loved. Christ Church is formed to be a true spiritual home, where the "why" and the freedom of generosity are known and grow all life long. It is the place we learn grace, and the life-giving consequences of living our baptismal vows. It is a place where we remember that perfection or being right isn't the mark of faith. Joy is.

So, about those fresh eyes. What are the gifts you take joy in? Some have told me of the way they value this physical place... a lasting spiritual home, from bells in the

tower to stained glass or the labyrinth, or chapel, from the kitchen to the fresh renovations completed. Others watch the upsurge in children's ministry and participation, and place great joy there. Some find central joy in the music and worship. Some live out a Christian commitment here to life-long learning and prayer. Others point to our robust outreach and want to see it grow. Still others are determined to endow all of the above as a legacy to the future. And I am reminded, too, that a lot of you are anxious to hire an associate and get back to a multi-staff situation as soon as possible... I couldn't agree more!

True spirituality is the faith you actually live. Christ Church is a place that seeks to live as a reflection of the heart and mind of Christ. May that inform what we can and will become. May we build this home with that reality at its heart. So, as you make your commitment to give, be aware of the things that give you joy... the things that give you passion. I want to hear and see them! And, most of all, I want you to see how those things all point to the same place: to the gift of Jesus Christ, risen indeed.



Thank you for your pledge to give to empower the work we are set to do, to build the community we are called to become, and to give glory to God in Christ in all of it.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Over the past year, our music ministry has supported Sunday Liturgy and other services including funerals and weddings. We have been blessed to also have the following musical events through the past year:

- Sang the Fauré Requiem for the All Souls service
- Advent Procession and Lessons and Carols
- Evensong services
- Held a very successful fundraising concert "Anthems & Carols" which raised \$20,000 to help eliminate the operating deficit
- Christmas carolling to the homes of parishioners
- Held our annual Christmas wreath sale, with the proceeds going to outreach projects and to help support the music program
- Provided soloists throughout the summer to enhance Sunday worship
- Musical support and leadership at the Holy Week services culminating in the service on Easter Sunday which included brass and timpani



"Please thank the choir for the beautiful music at Easter. It truly was like listening to heavenly voices."

Giving Beyond the Plate...

We are and do so much more with a culture of service to all of our communities and a volunteer spirit that is at the heart of all we do and who we are at Christ Church.

VOLUNTEERISM



Being a "member" in the body of Christ denotes relationship... in which we live out our faith together. So... we are not sustained so much by volunteers, but by the way our members gift their time according to the amazing abilities they have. With 43% of our members actively engaged in service to our communities, we simply could not carry out our mission with our current staff resources.

From our youth to our senior members and at every age in between, we rely on our members for a broad range of responsibilities. Members serve in over 40 volunteer categories within our Parish and those range from assisting with worship services as a member of the Altar Guild, sides person or reader and the coffee hour service; serving in a leadership role on the Management Committee or Mission Committee; singing in the Choir; serving on a program committee such as Outreach or Stewardship; helping maintain our building, lawns and gardens; and many, many more. But we are more than volunteers. We form a missional community that lives the purpose of Jesus Christ together. The need for members to engage in the many opportunities to serve our mission continues to grow as our Church innovates and expands.

OUTREACH

Gifts within our budget, discretionary gifts & gifts of time



There are a number of projects within and outside our outreach budget that parishioners support with their time and donations.

The following are a few of the many projects that our Parish supports:

- Collective Kitchen
- Support for Syrian family
- "Feed the Hungry" Dinner
- Baby supplies
- Prayer Quilts
- Primate's World Relief & Development Fund
- Rector's Discretionary Fund
- Deacon's cupboard
- Running shoes followed by sock party for Elementary School
- Multiple Food Bank drives (food, non-food items and birthday supplies)
- Bankview apartments' dinners, toys, furnishings and Christmas hampers



PASTORAL CARE

Our pastoral care team is composed of clergy and lay people and provides care and compassion to others in our parish community and beyond. The team consists of one staff member, 5 visiting ministers and 4 visitor volunteers. The ministry includes:

- Bringing the sacrament to sick, hospitalized and shut-in members of our community. Our pastoral care team currently visits 37 parishioners in nursing homes and seniors' lodges and 12 parishioners in their own homes on a monthly basis (or more often as required).
- Organizing four special services for seniors' with a festive lunch at Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and during the summer.
- Guiding members in preparation for baptisms, marriages and funeral services.
- Ministering to families following the death of a loved one.
- Providing a monthly church service to residents of Fountains of Mission.

An important part of this ministry is the work of the Prayer Shawl Group. They have made over 350 shawls and scarves since they began their quiet work six years ago. These have been blessed and passed along as gifts of love and caring to those within and outside of our parish in need of comfort during a time of illness or loss, or to celebrate a special occasion.



FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES & PROGRAMMING

We are blessed with a growing and vital family, youth and children's program at Christ Church. Our efforts include the following:

Thank you for organizing and assisting with our son's baptism. It was a very special day for our family and we know a lot of hard work went into it."

- Curriculum for youth and Sunday school
- Nursery program with qualified attendants
- Family luncheon in June
- Deacon's Closet
- Mother's Day flowers

- Father's Day chocolates
- Sorrento Young Sojourners Weekend
- Outdoor Nativity for community outreach
- Shrove Tuesday at Sunday luncheon
- Good Friday interactive family service
- Young families gathering of faith, family and fun
- Summer programming for children
- Confirmation class for youth from five parishes in Calgary
- Baptismal instruction and gifts
- Grab bags for services in church to occupy children



ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Administration and human resources are the unseen backbone of our ministry. The Church Office is open weekdays with staff and volunteers ready to greet people, answer phones, and take care of the daily administrative support of the parish. Staff also manage the weekly emails and updates to notices. Volunteers are working on the development of a new website. The financial assistant handles the day to day finances for the parish, paying bills, recording donations and monitoring expenditures. Our full time caretaker, often working in the background and after hours, ensures the facility is always clean and ready for any event.

Special efforts over the past year included:

- Supporting the new Rector, the Reverend David Pickett, during his first months with Christ Church.
- Working with the Rector and wardens as the organizational structure was clarified and strengthened.
- Making changes to the Sunday bulletin and the presentation of notices each week so they are more accessible.
- Working with the new Treasurer and Management Committee on budgeting and development of monthly statements.
- Adding two new computers, one for the new Rector, the other for the Director of Stewardship.
- Providing support for the ongoing ministry of the parish and the various groups within the parish who carry out our mission.

FACILITIES

We are blessed with a wonderful space at Christ Church, not only for our own worship and programs but for other groups as well. We are happy to be able to provide:

- A meeting space for a number of support groups, including 12-Step, chronic pain therapy, AA, Prospect.
- Space for Alberta Guide Dogs training, yoga, children's music classes, Sparks, Guides & Brownies.
- A popular venue for concerts and music workshops such as Calgary Girls Choir, Early Music Voices, Calgary Welsh Society, Alberta Winds, Mountainview, Spiritus and many others.
- Space for Leanne's Summer Art Camp.
- Host a number of Diocesan committee and group meetings.
- Provide a venue for other groups: Calgary Horticultural Society, Women's Friendship Group, karate classes, physiotherapy workshops, Ujaama Grandma's annual meeting, meditation groups



STEWARDSHIP

"THE NEED" – We are indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated Board of Management, Treasurer, and Accounting Assistant to plan and monitor our budget. Thanks to your generosity and their careful oversight, we have been able to hold the line the past two fiscal years. At our Annual Meeting of Parishioners last October, we received a clear message from all of you that the hiring of a new Associate Priest was our top priority for this year. Our 2017-8 budget provides for a few modest increases in a couple of priority areas and the restoration of the Associate Priest position to bring our staff back to full complement. This will result in an increase in our budget year over year of 6.5%.

"I INTEND" - The Practice of Pledging

As Christians, a helpful spiritual practice is to take time to reflect on our abundant blessings and intentionally share a portion of what we have been given. This practice, "Responsible Proportionate Giving," cultivates a deeper, stronger faith.

Like an ordinary household, the expenses of the church are due on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. A clear indication from as many members as possible of their regular and meaningful offerings will permit our parish leadership to establish programs and budgets that correspond with our gifts.



What next?

We are asking all who call Christ Church their spiritual home to:

- Review our accomplishments for 2016-7
- Imagine the possibilities with the continued growth of our parish and mission
- Prayerfully consider your own capacity to give and desire to help us reach our goals
- Fill out the enclosed pledge form and return it to the Church at your earliest convenience

Choosing a Convenient Contribution Method That's Right for You

A Pre-authorized Donation (PAD) is a form of automatic, convenient monthly electronic payment. This convenient giving vehicle is used by almost 100 parishioners. Other methods include online or telephone banking, the use of weekly or monthly envelopes, and debit or credit card payments.

New this year is the addition of e-Church "Pushpay." Enjoy the convenience of an online "APP" which provides you the convenience of making a one-time gift or setting up a recurring gift with your mobile phone or tablet in just seconds.

Tax Benefits to You

It is encouraging to know that most donors are motivated less by tax considerations than by their commitment to the causes they support. The Province of Alberta and the CRA have provided very favourable tax considerations to charitable donors in Alberta. The provincial rate of 21%, when combined with the federal rate of 29%, provided Albertans with a 50% tax credit on charitable gifts after the first \$200. A gift of \$5,000, for example, will ultimately have a net "cost" to the donor of only \$2,500. Meanwhile, Christ Church will have use of the entire \$5,000 gift to fulfill our mission.

Gifts of Securities

Gifts of securities have become an increasingly popular gift method in our parish with an annual transfer of securities to complete the pledge. Gifts of publicly traded securities are an excellent way to earn additional tax credits to maximize your giving. Appreciation of securities is subject to capital gains tax. By donating the securities, you avoid the capital gains tax on the appreciated value. In such cases, the resulting tax credit on the appreciated value can increase your net gift by almost 20% thereby reducing the net cost of your gift to as low as 31%. In all cases, we encourage parishioners to consult an Accountant or Financial Advisor for advice.

Stewardship Events

We are pleased to announce the creation of a Stewardship Committee to support the planning and direction of our stewardship programs. Annually, we provide stewardship education programs to offer advice and information to assist you in your giving to Christ Church and the other charitable causes you support. Our annual stewardship education program includes a number of events and information sessions during the year including our Legacy Circle Reception, a Wills and Estate planning workshop, and two "Stewardship 101" presentations on charitable giving covering a broad range of philanthropic subjects.



Bob Baker, our Director of Stewardship Development, invites your questions and information requests on any aspect of your annual or legacy charitable giving. You can reach Bob at 403.243.4680 x127 or devofficer@christchurchcalgary.org

JOIN GENERATIONS OF GENEROSITY

Christ Church Endowment Trust

An endowment is an enduring gift made in your lifetime that will provide income in perpetuity. The *Christ Church Endowment Trust* is managed by *The Calgary Foundation*, and the annual income is used to carry out the mission of the Church. You may designate the work or ministry of the church that you wish to support.

Endowments may be created and added to at any time through gifts of cash, securities, or proceeds from your RRSPs or RRIFs. You may also use bequests from your estate, gift annuities, the proceeds of an insurance policy, or through a charitable remainder trust. You or your estate will receive a charitable donation receipt for the full amount of the gift. An endowment can be named after yourself, a family member, or to memorialize a loved one.

Benefits of an Endowment Gift

- You celebrate the joy of giving.
- You are making a statement of hope for the future.
- You are making an act of faith in the future of the Church and its mission in service to our many communities.
- Your endowment is secure within *The Calgary Foundation*.
- The income supports the ministry that you and your family valued through your lifetime.
- You receive a charitable donation receipt for the full amount of your gift.



The Christ Church Legacy Circle

Have you remembered Christ Church in your will or arranged some other kind of “legacy gift?” If so, we’d like to know. And we’d like to say thank you! We would also like to invite you to be member of the *Christ Church Legacy Circle* – a community of individuals who have made a legacy of faith to ensure that Christ Church will be strong to serve, and have the capacity to care, for generations to come.

It is not necessary for you to provide any details on your gift, just your intention. A Legacy Reception is held annually to bring together this unique group of supporters. “You don’t have to be wealthy to insure the ongoing health of our Church.”

The current tax laws were designed to insure a “win-win”. Donors get to experience the joy of making a larger gift than they thought possible because of the tax benefits and the Church benefits in perpetuity from your gift.



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