



CHRIST CHURCH

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October 30, 2018

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom which concludes Morning Prayer each day.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Stewardship Sunday is this Sunday **November 4**. Our annual Stewardship season is a good opportunity for each of us to reflect on why we support the church. We have about 600 members at Christ Church, so there are 600 different stories that could be told around that topic. I'll tell you a bit of mine.

My starting point is that I love Jesus Christ, and I love the Church which is the most tangible expression of Jesus' Body in the world. I love gathering together for prayer on Sundays and other occasions. Yesterday three of us gathered for Morning Prayer (offered every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.) and one person noted the importance of this short, midweek time of intentional prayer with others. Jesus said, "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20) This is true, and the reality of those words are lived out every day of the week at Christ Church. Sometimes two or three hundred are gathered in Jesus' name for worship or some important event, other times twenty or thirty are gathered for a class or some event that appeals to a wide swath of the parish, and sometimes two or three are gathered for prayers, pastoral care, or some small project. I love those gatherings, I love the people, and I love the fruit of ministry that is born whenever two or three are together. The Church is the people, and the fruit of the Church is outreach, formation, pastoral care, worship, and fellowship.

If you want to know what the Body of Christ looks like stop by Christ Church any day. Our buildings are in use and people are gathered together. That reality makes it easy for me to

support our Church financially. My money goes to keeping our many doors open, ensuring dozens of rooms are heated and hospitable, providing space, programs, and resources for our members and community, and paying clergy and staff to facilitate and oversee myriad ministries at Christ Church.

Stewardship Sunday is this Sunday **November 4**. In preparation for this Sunday we've sent out a series of documents that take a more granular look at where the church's money comes from and where it goes. This letter includes the third and final document entitled: "Stewardship & Pledging at Christ Church". Please take the time to read it and the first two documents.

Also enclosed with this letter is an Estimate of Giving (aka Pledge) Card for 2019. For a bit of fun, we made this year's card gold. Take time to pray over what you will give in 2019. Please know that filling out a Card makes it possible for us to plan for the coming year. You can bring the Card to worship on Sunday, drop it off at the parish office, or mail it to the church.

I hope that every single parishioner will be able to gather for worship at Christ Church on Sunday, November 4. I'd love to see a packed house, two or three hundred gathered together in Jesus' name. Each service will feature special prayers for stewardship and an opportunity for Estimate of Giving / Pledge Cards to be blessed. After worship we will gather for a very festive coffee hour featuring an array of tasty donuts, excellent coffee, and refreshing mimosas. I hope you will be with us this Sunday!

You and I are the Church and the Body of Christ in the world. May Almighty God bless us, and may the Holy Spirit fill us with grace as we pray about the financial support we will give to ensure that Christ Church continues to grow and thrive.

In Christ,

The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Hoxsie Mead". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long tail.