

This is the season of stewardship with its focus on giving. For many of us that means pledging. But what is or rather what should be a pledge? First, even though we record our pledge with a document signed by us, the church does not enforce it by law nor require its backing by our physical assets. It is rather our freely accepted obligation that is both a commitment and a sacrifice. It reflects our commitment to financially support our spiritual family (community) and our sacrifice of enjoyable but unnecessary pleasures for the benefit of that family.

In determining the extent of that obligation, the key word is unnecessary. Some of us may have family or personal needs or commitments that must be put first in determining the extent of our financial commitment. The church does not expect nor want our sacrifice to put ourselves or our personal families at risk. But what of those things and activities that we enjoy but are not truly necessary for our health and welfare. By sacrificing a few of these we may find greater pleasure in our spiritual family. But how to start? And how much to commit?

The answer is truly individual. We know that the church talks of a 10% tithe. That is a good target, but our financial commitment may be constrained by dependents, children and/or other family members, or other legal obligations. Remembering that we are sacrificing, we can start with the value of something, treats and/or activities, that we can give up without financial harm to our other families or ourselves. A start is to determine a weekly amount that we could sacrifice, even as little as \$1.00, and build on that over the years. Or there may be an annual amount, such as a tax refund or other periodic financial event, that could be sacrificed for our spiritual family. The amount is not as important as is consistency in giving and in growing that giving.

Remember, the important thing is to start contributing and to try to consistently grow our contribution as our personal and family obligations tend to decline. Regardless of the amount, you are and remain a member of our spiritual family.

Please also consider a donation of your Time and Talents as they are also needed to help Saint David's fulfill its mission to the local, state, national and worldwide communities.

Please Remember to bring your Pledge Card on Pledge Sunday November 13, 2022

Thanking you from the members of the Stewardship Committee as well as the Vestry,

Ken Nogacek, Senior Warden