STEWARDSHIP OUR GRATEFUL RESPONSE TO GOD'S GENEROSITY

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is not a program.

It is a way of life.

Stewardship is not an activity,

It is an attitude.

Stewardship is not the latest fad,

It is biblically based.

Stewardship is not just a decision of the head,
It requires a conversion of the heart.

Stewardship is not a topic to learn,
It is a process of becoming.

Stewardship is not an option, It is integral to our Christian faith.

Stewardship is not another thing to do,
It is why and how we do what we do.

Stewardship is not about our generosity,
It is about our response to
God's generosity.

Stewardship is what you do after you say, "I Believe."

Author unknown

When we see the word stewardship, our minds may jump to financial giving, but stewardship has a much broader meaning.

The words **Time**, **Talent and Treasure** are often used. Stewardship is how we say "thank you" for all the blessings in our lives. It is the use of our time, our gifts and our resources toward the goal of living a Christian life and enabling the Cathedral to fulfill its deep desire of revealing God's presence in our world.

We can each express our gratitude in so many ways. It may be as simple as encouraging others, even with a warm smile and maybe a few words or it may be making a newcomer or visitor feel welcome. Just saying "thank you" to somebody makes a difference.

Each of us has individual gifts which we can share. Our gifts are varied and multiple and we may not even recognize them. Sharing those gifts builds community which is a gift to others and to ourselves. There are many ways to volunteer, using our personal gifts in a variety of ways in our Cathedral community and beyond. Here are some ideas:

- Welcoming people when they arrive or worship.
- Sitting in our magnificent space for several hours a month and greeting visitors.
- Doing some garden tasks or some clean up tasks in the spring.
- Reading at worship services.
- Knitting a prayer shawl and chatting in a room of likeminded people.
- Serving food with a group of other parishioners at Our Place
- Contributing to the work of a committee or special outreach project.
- Occasionally serving coffee or helping to clean up afterwards.

The list is endless. While contributing in such ways, we feel more and more part of the parish community. The feeling of belonging is important to everybody, those we serve, as well as our fellow volunteers.

If you want to learn more about sharing your time and talent and making a difference, please speak to one of the clergy, a member of the Cathedral Management Team or call the office for more information.

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Some of the reasons people are choosing to financially support the work of Christ Church Cathedral:

- "Christ Church Cathedral plays an important role in my life by providing an inclusive space to grow in faith through worship and fellowship. Supporting the Cathedral by giving regularly throughout the year, participating in fund-raising events and including the cathedral in my estate planning ensures the ministries that enrich my life today will continue now and in the future."
- "It comes down to this-the Cathedral community is an extension of my family. And if members of my family need financial support, I do what I can to help. It's as simple as that."
- "I support the Cathedral financially because it is my spiritual anchor. It is a place to feel at home in the presence of God and a place to light a candle, to confess and to be forgiven. It is a place to hear and study the word of God, to learn, and to hear inspirational words of wisdom spoken in homilies. It is where we grieve and celebrate lives together. It is open every day and a quiet place of solace for many. The annual traditions of the liturgy provide anticipation, comfort and joy. A spiritual anchor is vital to me."
- "I want to express my sincerest gratitude for what the church and its members have done and continue to do for my community and me. Christ Church Cathedral is my chosen spiritual home. CCC has enabled my engagement with the scriptures and hymns to be strengthened which has provided me with more meaningful perspectives and support for my weekly activities and routines. I truly love my Christ Church Cathedral and absolutely adore its clergy and congregation as if they were my own family. My choice to support the church is out of the necessity to serve those around me and work diligently towards a brighter future for those that will come after my time is over."
- "The cathedral is the first church I've ever made an ongoing financial contribution to. I did it because the cathedral is precious to me. It has become a spiritual home for me, a place where the beautiful liturgy and music honours and connects to the Creator and where I feel welcomed accepted and cared for in my entirety by clergy and congregation alike. I've never felt quite like this before and consequently want to contribute to safeguarding this precious space and place of worship for myself and others."