



Growing Home

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Volume 2

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
11526 – 162nd Avenue
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We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Romans 12:6-8

Calendar of Events

October 25

All-Church Bible Study

October 1–November 15

Enrichment Gatherings

November 1

Sunday School Art Day

November 7

Prayer Vigil

November 21

Advance Commitments
Event

December 5

All-Church Banquet
and Children's Party

December 6

Commitment Sunday

January 24, 2016

Celebration Sunday!

Not Equal Gifts—But Equal Sacrifice *What is Sacrificial Giving?*

God is pleased with our sacrifices

When David wanted to buy Araunah's land to build an altar, Araunah generously offered it as a gift. But David refused, saying, "I will not sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing." (2 Samuel 24:24). David wanted to offer a sacrifice to God. The word "sacrifice" implies giving that costs the giver something. To give sacrificially requires more than a token effort or gift. God wants us to give voluntarily, but He wants it to mean something.

God is pleased with a sacrificial attitude that puts everything we have at His disposal

Should we sell everything we own and give it to the church? No. We should, however, be willing to give up anything God asks us to. This kind of attitude allows nothing to come between us and God, and keeps us from using our God-given wealth selfishly.

God gives us gifts so we can build up His church

To use them effectively, we must:

- Realize that all gifts and abilities come from God;
- Understand the ways in which God has blessed us uniquely;
- Dedicate our gifts to God's service and not to our personal success;
- Be willing to commit our gifts wholeheartedly, not holding anything back from God.

God wants us involved in Kingdom work

We have been given excellent resources to build and expand God's kingdom. He expects us to use what he has given us so that these blessings multiply and the Kingdom grows. God asks each of us to account for what we do with His gifts. While awaiting the coming of the Kingdom of God in glory, we must do His work here on earth.

God was willing to sacrifice

Jesus went to the cross for our salvation. In what ways do we mirror that model of Christ's sacrifice in the way that we serve others and give of our gifts for those who don't yet know Christ in their lives?



All-Church Bible Study Explores “Christian Stewardship: Believe It or Not!”

“Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.” *Psalm 119:105*

On Sunday, October 25th, we will have the opportunity to hear an inspirational Bible Study entitled “Christian Stewardship: Believe It or Not!” Led by Marc Rieke, our stewardship consultant from The Enrichment Group, this Bible Study will lead us through what God has to say to us in scripture about giving, generosity, and Christian stewardship.

Weaving together elements of his own stewardship experience, Marc will share insights into a variety of both old and new testament scripture texts, and provide us with good food for thought as we continue our **Growing Home** stewardship campaign.

The Bible Study will be offered as an adult forum following each worship service. Plan now to be a part of this special program on October 25th.

Attend an Enrichment Gathering

One definition of the word *enrich* is “to make fuller, more meaningful, or more rewarding.” That is the goal of this series of gatherings: to provide information, conversation and inspiration so that every participant’s experience of the **Growing Home** stewardship campaign may be full, meaningful, and rewarding.

The gatherings will give members of Holy Cross an opportunity to learn about the goals for the campaign, to ask questions and make comments. *Participants will not be asked to make a financial commitment during the gatherings.* Instead, it is hoped that everyone attending will leave with a clearer sense of Holy Cross’s mission and its ministries.

The Enrichment Gatherings program is an ambitious project intended to involve every member of the Holy

Cross family. They will take place over the months of October and November in members’ homes and at the church. Sign-ups will be available in the Fellowship Hall.

A member of the campaign team will be at each of the gatherings to show a short DVD presentation which explains the church’s mission and ministries, and the **Growing Home** goals. The presentation will be followed by plenty of time for questions and conversation.

The entire Campaign Leadership Team invites you to participate in these gatherings, so that you can be informed about the current needs of the church and have a part in shaping our dreams for the future.

Living Our Faith: A Stewardship Bible Study Series

What does the Bible say about stewardship? Is stewardship a necessary part of living our Christian faith? What are the spiritual blessings of stewardship...and just what does stewardship mean, anyway? Adult Formation and the **Growing Home** Capital Campaign invite you to explore these and other questions during a Bible Study

series on faith and stewardship. The studies will take place after the 10 o’clock service. Because each week is a stand-alone lesson, during which we will read and discuss short Bible passages, we encourage you to attend any/all of the dates that are possible for you.

- October 11th Living Our Faith: Sacrificial Giving
- October 18th Living Our Faith: How Much is Enough?





All-Church Banquet

Save the date of Saturday, December 5th and plan to celebrate the ***Growing Home*** campaign with our church family at an All-Church Banquet in our new Fellowship Hall.

Gather together with drinks and hors d'oeuvres at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Activities will be provided for the kids. Watch the mail for your invitation!

Christian Money Management

What is “Christian” about money management? Perhaps it’s in the way we look at it. Certainly non-Christians can also manage their money, but Christians are unique in that they know the ownership is not theirs, but God’s. Therefore, our responsibility to manage money well is a higher responsibility or calling. God wants us to be good managers and we are accountable to Him for our management of all His gifts and resources, including our lives.

Two basic tools can be helpful: the family budget and the net worth statement. No matter how great or small our assets, we can all benefit from these basic tools. For samples of these helpful tools or for more information, please contact David or Robyn Hutchinson: david.hutchinson@axa-advisors.com or robyn.hutchinson@axa-advisors.com.

Food For Thought

The Parable of the Rich Fool – Luke 12:13-21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I

Prayer Vigil

Prayer is the spiritual foundation for our stewardship campaign, ***Growing Home***. A prayer vigil will be held on Saturday, November 7th. Please plan to attend an hour or two of the prayer vigil to praise God for all He’s done and will continue to do. The vigil will include prayers for the needs of the congregation, the ministries of Holy Cross and success of the stewardship campaign.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the Fellowship Hall for your chosen hours of prayer during the vigil.

Advance Commitment Event

A special event will be held for those parishioners who wish to start the momentum by making their commitments to the ***Growing Home*** campaign in advance of Commitment Sunday (December 6).

Join us for wine and hors d'oeuvres the evening of Saturday, November 21st at the Alexandria Nicole Cellars at Hollywood Schoolhouse in Woodinville. Contact Sherri and David Nichols for more information: 425-861-9903, sherri@nicholshome.org, or david@nicholshome.org.

do? I have no place to store my crops.’ ¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’ ²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ ²¹“This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”

- 1) In this parable, Jesus refers to “all kinds of greed.” What do you think he means by this? (Notice the repeated use of the pronouns “I” and “My” in the parable.)
- 2) In what ways is greed dangerous to our relationship with God?
- 3) How do our actions demonstrate our faith and trust in God? When we act faithfully, who is at the center of our lives?
- 4) What would happen if we all prayed about our gifts and followed scripture?

