



Growing Home

November 2015
Volume 3

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
11526 – 162nd Avenue
Redmond, WA 98052

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:9

Calendar of Events

Be sure to mark your calendar with these dates!

November 21

Advance Commitments
Event

December 5

All-Church Banquet
and Children's Party

December 6

Commitment Sunday

January 24, 2016

Celebration Sunday!



Sacrifice and Generosity *Giving and Growing in Faith*

When we think about our giving to the church, have you ever noticed how easy it can be to think we can't possibly do any more than we're already doing? But when we take the time to be still with God, we realize how much He has given us—all of our time, all of our talents, and all of our financial resource.

Before any of us can make a good decision about our true ability to support the **Growing Home** campaign, we need to look inside ourselves. We need to pray, and then we need to listen for God's guidance. What is God calling us to do? How would God have us respond in discipleship and commitment to the ministry of Holy Cross?

Do you remember the first time you walked through the doors of our church? Do you remember experiencing the inspirational beauty of the sanctuary? Do you recall being welcomed with warm Christian fellowship? Were you struck by the love demonstrated for God and one another in worship? Each of us is truly blessed in so many ways by the ministries of our church, and we are grateful to Jesus Christ for the joy of living in His love and grace, and for the opportunity to worship and grow in faith in such a wonderful community.

Growing Home is our campaign for both our annual operating (a 1-year pledge) and capital fund needs (a 3-year pledge above and beyond our regular offering). Confident in God's assurance to provide for us, each of us is encouraged to make financial pledges – to both our annual operating and capital funds – that will challenge us to grow in faith and reliance on God. Armed with hope and faith, we are asked to stretch ourselves in our giving over the three-year period above and beyond our regular gifts to the church.

As you consider how God has blessed you in your life and through the ministry of our church, please consider with joy what you can do for Holy Cross. We can do all things in Him who strengthens us. With all of us working together, we will indeed fulfill our mission!



Financial Goals for our Growing Home Capital Campaign

Celebration.....\$750,000

Pays off our building debt, provides start-up funding for a Youth Minister, pays for finishes on our building and creates a Future Maintenance Fund.

Challenge\$650,000

Pays off our building debt, provides start-up funding for a Youth Minister, and pays for finishes on our building.

Cornerstone\$500,000

Pays off our building debt and provides start-up funding for a Youth Minister.

Making Your Commitment

In a few days, you will receive your Commitment Card for next year’s annual stewardship pledge and the **Growing Home** campaign. Please fill it out and bring it with you to church on Commitment Sunday, December 6th. If you are unable to attend Holy Cross that day, you may mail your card to the church office, or place it in the offering plate during worship between now and then.

Starting the day after Commitment Sunday, volunteers will make “Commitment Visits” with those house-

holds from whom we did not receive a commitment card. The purpose of these visits is to help collect the commitment cards (who hasn’t forgotten or misplaced a card before?), as we would like to have an accurate total from the campaign by Celebration Sunday, January 24th. Note that the volunteers will not see your commitment card; they are simply friendly faces who are facilitating the return of commitment cards to Holy Cross.

Food For Thought

The Shrewd Money Manager – Luke 16:1-13

¹Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ²So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’ ³The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg—⁴I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’ ⁵So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶‘Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.’ ⁷Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. He

told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’ ⁸The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. ¹⁰Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

- 1) What point(s) do you think Jesus is trying to make in this parable?
- 2) What do you think Jesus is saying to you about your use of the money entrusted to your care?
- 3) How can we encourage one another in the church to have faith enough to live as Jesus teaches? How can we help our children to live and act with such faith?
- 4) What is the relationship between “faithfulness” and “finances”?



Do Not Give Money to God!

Can you imagine the confusion on the faces people when they hear that? Do not give money to God? But that is what we are told Sunday after Sunday. "All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee."

Why give money to God? What is God going to do with it? God doesn't have a bank account, a savings account, or a 401k. God doesn't have a mortgage to pay, kids in college, or elderly parents to care for. So do not give your money to God.

That is what we are talking about here at Holy Cross this fall. Instead of putting the emphasis on our giving, we are emphasizing our doing. Instead of focusing on funding the budget, we are asked to fund God's work. We are asked to transform our money into ministry. We are asked to **use** our money, not **give** it.

From giving to using

We are not giving our money to God. After all, the young rich man was not told to sell all and give the money to God; he was told to sell all and give the money to the poor. That's transforming money into ministry.

So at Holy Cross, we talk about funding ministry. We talk about doing God's work. We talk about each of our ministry areas and exciting successes in each. We talk about how our money can transform our ministries in the next year.

At Holy Cross, we are partnering with God, using the money that God has given us to enable God's vision for a more perfect world – a world where we worship, care for each other, learn, and reach out to those less fortunate.

Compiled and edited by David Hutchinson from an original article by Sandra Swan. Used with permission.

Sandra Swan is the director of resource development for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville, NC.

Planned Gift Opportunities

To make an estate gift to your church, a bequest in your will is a good plan. Other plans are available and, under given circumstances, could be better. Among these are outright gifts, gift annuities, charitable trusts, revocable trusts, and life estate agreements.

For samples of these helpful tools or for more information, please contact David or Robyn Hutchinson, your co-directors of Planned Giving at Holy Cross, at home at (425) 877-1272 or via email at robyn.hutchinson@axa-advisors.com.

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 on Saturday, November 21st, at 7 p.m., 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.

*They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.*

Psalm 145:7

Holy Cross Episcopal Church
cordially invites you
to a banquet and children's party
celebrating **Growing Home**
on Saturday evening, December 5th
at Holy Cross

Gather at 5 p.m.
Dinner served at 6 p.m.

The banquet will include a program
of speakers, a great meal,
and wonderful fellowship.

*Please let us know you are coming:
banquet@HolyCrossRedmond.org or
617-767-1159 (Lynn Ray's cell) by November 22nd*



**Parishioners joined our campaign consultant, Marc Rieke for an All-Church Bible Study on October 25th:
"Christian Stewardship: Believe It or Not!"**