



Stewardship Season: 2024: Walk in Love

Our Stewardship theme this year is *Walk in Love*, and it calls us to remember that our greatest gift in community is how we come together in purpose and mission. When we

walk in the same direction, we can do so many things.

During this season we talk a lot about money, about our budget. Yes, those things are important, especially for me being the Bookkeeper /Treasurer. Don't get me wrong: Financial contributions are the way we fund the Church, but our real focus is on what our gifts can do for the world.

This is why I would like to speak about mission. Jesus calls us to heal, visit, feed, accompany, protect, advocate, love our neighbor. Sharing our time, talent, and treasure is the way that we make this happen.

Our small community tithes its income. The mission accounts are in addition to our pledged income. I am always amazed when I add up all the mission accounts and the total amount is a tithe. Through the third quarter this year our income is \$100,190 and our mission accounts total \$10,230. You can't get much closer to 10 percent than that.

Our mission accounts are the Mission Plate, Food Share, Daughter's of the King, United Thank Offering, Mampong Babies Home, the Rector's Discretionary account and the Parrettie Fund. These accounts are a tithe of our treasure and are monetary. Our other donations that are not quantifiable are the food donations given to local food pantries, school supplies for the West Street School and Eastford Road School coats for the Winter Coat Closet and donations for shipments to Liberia.

The Mission Plate is the plate at the head of the pews. The Daughter's of the King manage the organizations that receive the funds with vestry approval. The requirements for the organization must be a 501C. At budget time the Daughters of the King ask the congregation for suggestions of charities to donate to. They are flexible and change designations, especially when a natural disaster occurs like the fires in Hawaii and the hurricanes in the South.

The Food Share is monies in the offering plate that are not designated or, as we refer to it, *loose plate* on the Second Sunday of the month. We are trying to be more



diligent about reminding everyone on the second Sunday.

Daughters of The King in the past have raised money for shipments to Liberia and now are donating to New Hope, Inc., which runs a shelter and programs for women who are victims of domestic violence.

The United Thank Offering is transferred to the diocese for the missions of the wider church community.

There are two opportunities to give to the Mampong Babies Home. One is by signing up at the beginning of the year to pay \$35 for one month. The second is to give your spare change in the large water bottle on the table in the Narthex.

The Rector's Discretionary fund is funded with a designated amount from interest from the Parrettie account.

The Parrettie account is funded with the interest earned on the account and is used for the poor of the Parish. The Parrettie Committee makes decisions for applicants based on need. Bills must be in addition to supporting missions that parishioners contribute to with their treasure. Parishioners also contribute time and talent to mission, for example to The Winter Coat Closet, Food Share, Friends of Saint Luke's and the Liberia project.

Each of us hears this call differently, just as each of us has been blessed by God differently. Our talents and training have been gifts freely given to us in Creation so that we may share them with a world in need. How will you feel God's call to walk in love this year? How will you determine how you will share your gifts with God's people in the world?

Pay special attention to both sides of the pledge form, and let us know what time and talent offerings you would like to learn more about this year.

Walking together in Love together with our mission makes a difference in our community and the world.

Nancy Waugh, Stewardship Committee

