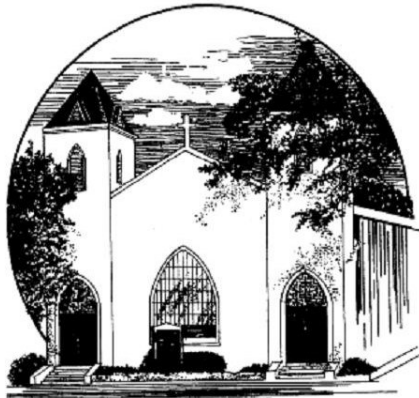


Christ Episcopal Church **an historic site and landmark**

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Why should I TITHE / PLEDGE?

What the Bible say about Tithing/Pledging

At the beginning of every year, we distribute offering envelopes in this parish, as a means of enabling members of the parish to have a systematic means of tithing. Tithing (the giving of one tenth or ten percent of one's income to God) is a biblically based practice that is expected of all baptized Christians.

In the book of Leviticus, we read that there were many reasons that God's people made offerings to God. They made offerings generally (Leviticus 1), but also to effect peace among themselves (Leviticus 3), and as an act of penance for their sins whether intentional or unintentional (Leviticus 4 & 5). Whatever the reason, they could only offer the best: e.g. young males without spot (Leviticus 22:15-25).

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses passes on God's command to His people about tithing. He instructs them to offer of their grain, wine, oil, and herds (Deuteronomy 14:22-28) – no matter how they make a living, because their means of living was accomplished through God's grace and mercy: therefore God is entitled to a tithe. Deuteronomy 26:1-15 outlines the actual act of tithing, and demonstrates that tithing is based on God's saving acts, and His provision for His people. Not only should tithing be done as a result of God's goodness, but Deuteronomy 28:1-14 also pronounces various blessings on those who are faithful to paying tithes: blessings on city, country, children, livestock, for traveling, and on all that you set your hand to.

In the book of the prophet Malachi, the people are accused of robbing God by not paying their tithes. God responds by assuring the people that if they are faithful in their tithing, He will richly bless them:

“Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, “How are we robbing you?” In your tithes and offerings! You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! Bring the

full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” Malachi 3:8-10

The New Testament also supports the principle of tithing. Hebrews 7:5-6 affirms the command that the priests receive from the people tithes offered to God. In Matthew 23:23 in His rebuke of the Pharisees, Jesus Himself tells them that they should tithe, as well as exercise justice, mercy and faith. In the well-known story of “The Widow’s mite” (Mark 12 & Luke 21), the widow and the others who were depositing money into the treasury of the Temple were actually carrying out this biblical command of Tithing.

It is evident from the biblical witness that tithing is an integral part of Christian life. Not only is it commanded by God, but is seen as a sign of gratefulness for God’s blessings, as well as a means of receiving even more blessings.

What the Episcopal Church says about Tithing/ Pledging

In order to be true to God’s requirements as outlined above, the Episcopal Church tithes through the “Envelope System.

The basic beliefs of the Episcopal Church are found in “**An Outline of the Faith commonly called The Catechism**” (from the Latin word “catēchismus” which means “to teach” or “teaching”) in The Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church, commonly called the “Prayer Book” on pages 845—862.

On Page 856, The Catechism tells us that the duty of all Christians is:

“to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.”

Further, Canon 17 - **“Of Regulations Respecting the Laity”** of The **“Constitution & Canons Together with the Rules of Order For the government of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America Otherwise Known as The Episcopal Church”** Section three reads:

“All communicants of this Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing.”

This Canon outlines the standard that is expected of ALL adult members of the Church.

Further, Canon XIV – **“Of Wardens, Vestrymen, and Electors”** of **“THE CONSTITUTION AND CANONS of the DIOCESE OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA”** Section five reads:

“No person shall be eligible as a warden or vestry person who is not a communicant in good standing and a qualified elector in the congregation.”

This Canon speaks of the standard required not only of the Leaders (Vestry) of our church, but it is also a requirement for the leadership and members of the various organizations in our church (e.g. E.C.W., Daughters of the King, Men’s group etc.)

These Canons only reflect the spirit of the Biblical mandate to be stewards of the gifts that God has given to us through our TIME, TALENTS, and TREASURES.

Why should you Tithe/Pledge?

The reasons previously outlined answer this question for us:

You should tithe simply because it is what God requires of you! It is a loving thankful response to God's goodness to you and all mankind!

Tithing is the MAIN means by which God intended for His Church to carry out its mission in the world. Your tithes are used by the church to:

1. Support the missionary work of the Diocese
2. Support the missionary work of your church
3. Pay the salaries of those who work in the church
4. Maintain the physical structures of the church

When you do not tithe, you adversely affect the ability of the church to carry out these tasks.

Our tithes should be paid directly to THE CHURCH. Many people choose to give directly to causes or to those who are in need, instead of tithing to the church, but this does not fall in line with the biblical understanding of tithing, and causes the church not to be able to carry out its work. Money given in this way is called "offering" and should be given after tithing.

We are not expected to tithe while neglecting our financial responsibilities to ourselves and our families. God and the church understand that sometimes our financial circumstances make it difficult for us to tithe the full 10% as we should, and accepts with thanks whatever we are able to give, but the standard remains 10%, to which we should all strive.

Tithing is proportionate. This means that the amount of your tithe is determined by your income. What someone else gives or does not give has no bearing on what you should give. God has blessed us with so much including the ability to work, so we obey His command by tithing 10% of our GROSS income

(thus giving him the “first fruits” (Deuteronomy 26:2)). As we all have different incomes, the amount of our tithe will be different, but what is important is that we strive to be obedient to the 10%.

If you are unemployed and have no income, then you cannot, nor are you expected to tithe financially, but remember that God requires our time and talents as well as our treasure.

Tithing must be done individually. You must tithe 10% of YOUR income. You cannot tithe for somebody else (e.g. your husband, wife, children etc.). Just as God has blessed us individually He expects us to respond by each one of us giving of our own income. When one gives money to the church on behalf of someone else, because that person does not give out of their own love and appreciation for what God has done for them, and/or in an effort to obey His command to tithe, how can we expect God to accept it as a genuine offering from that person? Every person must fulfill their individual responsibilities to obey God’s will.

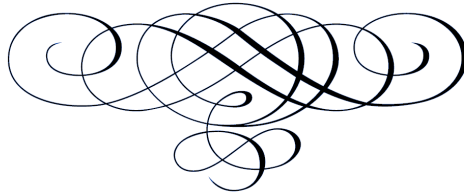
The church’s tithing system is set up so that tithes are systematically and confidentially received and recorded.

Some churches use a “Pledge” system which is simply a form on which individuals commit or pledge to fulfill God’s requirement to tithe.

Conclusion

The three sources above (The Bible, The Catechism, and our Canons), form the basis of our beliefs about Tithing. It clearly outlines the responsibility of all members of our church. If you are serious about your relationship with God and being obedient to His Will, you should be a part of your church’s system of tithing.

During the coming year, these concepts will be further explained, and you will have opportunity to ask questions in an effort for us to understand and obey the will of God.



Calculating your Tithe/Pledge

Many people question how exactly they should determine the amount (10% of their income) they are supposed to tithe.

For your convenience, the next two pages contain tables that show both the yearly and weekly figures that should be paid, and the percentages the payments would represent. I encourage you to think and pray about what you have read, and after you hear from God, seek to be obedient to His will as it relates to your tithes and offerings.

Annual Income	ANNUAL giving amount based on Annual Income				
	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%
\$100,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
\$97,500	\$975	\$1,950	\$2,925	\$3,900	\$4,875
\$95,000	\$950	\$1,900	\$2,850	\$3,800	\$4,750
\$92,500	\$925	\$1,850	\$2,775	\$3,700	\$4,625
\$90,000	\$900	\$1,800	\$2,700	\$3,600	\$4,500
\$87,500	\$875	\$1,750	\$2,625	\$3,500	\$4,375
\$85,000	\$850	\$1,700	\$2,550	\$3,400	\$4,250
\$82,500	\$825	\$1,650	\$2,475	\$3,300	\$4,125
\$80,000	\$800	\$1,600	\$2,400	\$3,200	\$4,000
\$77,500	\$775	\$1,550	\$2,325	\$3,100	\$3,875
\$75,000	\$750	\$1,500	\$2,250	\$3,000	\$3,750
\$72,500	\$725	\$1,450	\$2,175	\$2,900	\$3,625
\$70,000	\$700	\$1,400	\$2,100	\$2,800	\$3,500
\$67,500	\$675	\$1,350	\$2,025	\$2,700	\$3,375
\$65,000	\$650	\$1,300	\$1,950	\$2,600	\$3,250
\$62,500	\$625	\$1,250	\$1,875	\$2,500	\$3,125
\$60,000	\$600	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$2,400	\$3,000
\$57,500	\$575	\$1,150	\$1,725	\$2,300	\$2,875
\$55,000	\$550	\$1,100	\$1,650	\$2,200	\$2,750
\$52,500	\$525	\$1,050	\$1,575	\$2,100	\$2,625
\$50,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
\$47,500	\$475	\$950	\$1,425	\$1,900	\$2,375
\$45,000	\$450	\$900	\$1,350	\$1,800	\$2,250
\$42,500	\$425	\$850	\$1,275	\$1,700	\$2,125
\$40,000	\$400	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$2,000
\$37,500	\$375	\$750	\$1,125	\$1,500	\$1,875
\$35,000	\$350	\$700	\$1,050	\$1,400	\$1,750
\$32,500	\$325	\$650	\$975	\$1,300	\$1,625
\$30,000	\$300	\$600	\$900	\$1,200	\$1,500
\$27,500	\$275	\$550	\$825	\$1,100	\$1,375
\$25,000	\$250	\$500	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,250
\$22,500	\$225	\$450	\$675	\$900	\$1,125
\$20,000	\$200	\$400	\$600	\$800	\$1,000
\$17,500	\$175	\$350	\$525	\$700	\$875
\$15,000	\$150	\$300	\$450	\$600	\$750
\$12,500	\$125	\$250	\$375	\$500	\$625

ANNUAL giving based on Annual Income				
6%	7%	8%	9%	10%
\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
\$5,850	\$6,825	\$7,800	\$8,775	\$9,750
\$5,700	\$6,650	\$7,600	\$8,550	\$9,500
\$5,550	\$6,475	\$7,400	\$8,325	\$9,250
\$5,400	\$6,300	\$7,200	\$8,100	\$9,000
\$5,250	\$6,125	\$7,000	\$7,875	\$8,750
\$5,100	\$5,950	\$6,800	\$7,650	\$8,500
\$4,950	\$5,775	\$6,600	\$7,425	\$8,250
\$4,800	\$5,600	\$6,400	\$7,200	\$8,000
\$4,650	\$5,425	\$6,200	\$6,975	\$7,750
\$4,500	\$5,250	\$6,000	\$6,750	\$7,500
\$4,350	\$5,075	\$5,800	\$6,525	\$7,250
\$4,200	\$4,900	\$5,600	\$6,300	\$7,000
\$4,050	\$4,725	\$5,400	\$6,075	\$6,750
\$3,900	\$4,550	\$5,200	\$5,850	\$6,500
\$3,750	\$4,375	\$5,000	\$5,625	\$6,250
\$3,600	\$4,200	\$4,800	\$5,400	\$6,000
\$3,450	\$4,025	\$4,600	\$5,175	\$5,750
\$3,300	\$3,850	\$4,400	\$4,950	\$5,500
\$3,150	\$3,675	\$4,200	\$4,725	\$5,250
\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$5,000
\$2,850	\$3,325	\$3,800	\$4,275	\$4,750
\$2,700	\$3,150	\$3,600	\$4,050	\$4,500
\$2,550	\$2,975	\$3,400	\$3,825	\$4,250
\$2,400	\$2,800	\$3,200	\$3,600	\$4,000
\$2,250	\$2,625	\$3,000	\$3,375	\$3,750
\$2,100	\$2,450	\$2,800	\$3,150	\$3,500
\$1,950	\$2,275	\$2,600	\$2,925	\$3,250
\$1,800	\$2,100	\$2,400	\$2,700	\$3,000
\$1,650	\$1,925	\$2,200	\$2,475	\$2,750
\$1,500	\$1,750	\$2,000	\$2,250	\$2,500
\$1,350	\$1,575	\$1,800	\$2,025	\$2,250
\$1,200	\$1,400	\$1,600	\$1,800	\$2,000
\$1,050	\$1,225	\$1,400	\$1,575	\$1,750
\$900	\$1,050	\$1,200	\$1,350	\$1,500
\$750	\$875	\$1,000	\$1,125	\$1,250

Annual Income	WEEKLY giving based on Annual Income				
	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%
\$100,000	\$19	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96
\$97,500	\$19	\$38	\$56	\$75	\$94
\$95,000	\$18	\$37	\$55	\$73	\$91
\$92,500	\$18	\$36	\$53	\$71	\$89
\$90,000	\$17	\$35	\$52	\$69	\$87
\$87,500	\$17	\$34	\$50	\$67	\$84
\$85,000	\$16	\$33	\$49	\$65	\$82
\$82,500	\$16	\$32	\$48	\$63	\$79
\$80,000	\$15	\$31	\$46	\$62	\$77
\$77,500	\$15	\$30	\$45	\$60	\$75
\$75,000	\$14	\$29	\$43	\$58	\$72
\$72,500	\$14	\$28	\$42	\$56	\$70
\$70,000	\$13	\$27	\$40	\$54	\$67
\$67,500	\$13	\$26	\$39	\$52	\$65
\$65,000	\$13	\$25	\$38	\$50	\$63
\$62,500	\$12	\$24	\$36	\$48	\$60
\$60,000	\$12	\$23	\$35	\$46	\$58
\$57,500	\$11	\$22	\$33	\$44	\$55
\$55,000	\$11	\$21	\$32	\$42	\$53
\$52,500	\$10	\$20	\$30	\$40	\$50
\$50,000	\$10	\$19	\$29	\$38	\$48
\$47,500	\$9	\$18	\$27	\$37	\$46
\$45,000	\$9	\$17	\$26	\$35	\$43
\$42,500	\$8	\$16	\$25	\$33	\$41
\$40,000	\$8	\$15	\$23	\$31	\$38
\$37,500	\$7	\$14	\$22	\$29	\$36
\$35,000	\$7	\$13	\$20	\$27	\$34
\$32,500	\$6	\$13	\$19	\$25	\$31
\$30,000	\$6	\$12	\$17	\$23	\$29
\$27,500	\$5	\$11	\$16	\$21	\$26
\$25,000	\$5	\$10	\$14	\$19	\$24
\$22,500	\$4	\$9	\$13	\$17	\$22
\$20,000	\$4	\$8	\$12	\$15	\$19
\$17,500	\$3	\$7	\$10	\$13	\$17
\$15,000	\$3	\$6	\$9	\$12	\$14
\$12,500	\$2	\$5	\$7	\$10	\$12

WEEKLY giving based on Annual Income				
6%	7%	8%	9%	10%
\$115	\$135	\$154	\$173	\$192
\$113	\$131	\$150	\$169	\$188
\$110	\$128	\$146	\$164	\$183
\$107	\$125	\$142	\$160	\$178
\$104	\$121	\$138	\$156	\$173
\$101	\$118	\$135	\$151	\$168
\$98	\$114	\$131	\$147	\$163
\$95	\$111	\$127	\$143	\$159
\$92	\$108	\$123	\$138	\$154
\$89	\$104	\$119	\$134	\$149
\$87	\$101	\$115	\$130	\$144
\$84	\$98	\$112	\$125	\$139
\$81	\$94	\$108	\$121	\$135
\$78	\$91	\$104	\$117	\$130
\$75	\$88	\$100	\$113	\$125
\$72	\$84	\$96	\$108	\$120
\$69	\$81	\$92	\$104	\$115
\$66	\$77	\$88	\$100	\$111
\$63	\$74	\$85	\$95	\$106
\$61	\$71	\$81	\$91	\$101
\$58	\$67	\$77	\$87	\$96
\$55	\$64	\$73	\$82	\$91
\$52	\$61	\$69	\$78	\$87
\$49	\$57	\$65	\$74	\$82
\$46	\$54	\$62	\$69	\$77
\$43	\$50	\$58	\$65	\$72
\$40	\$47	\$54	\$61	\$67
\$38	\$44	\$50	\$56	\$63
\$35	\$40	\$46	\$52	\$58
\$32	\$37	\$42	\$48	\$53
\$29	\$34	\$38	\$43	\$48
\$26	\$30	\$35	\$39	\$43
\$23	\$27	\$31	\$35	\$38
\$20	\$24	\$27	\$30	\$34
\$17	\$20	\$23	\$26	\$29
\$14	\$17	\$19	\$22	\$24

**Let us remember the story of
“The Widow’s Mite”, and give
God His due!!!**

**...she, out of her poverty,
put in everything –
all she had.**

Mark 12:44

