

Stewardship Committee Year End Report 2019

Stewardship is not about balancing the parish budget – it is about using the gifts God has given us to do the work to which God has called us. As such, we are all called to invest our gifts – time and talent as well as our treasure – in serving God’s Kingdom through the ministries at St. Matthew’s.

In September, Terri Hurst, Karen Anderson and Mother Liz attended the Diocese of Atlanta Circle of Stewardship Workshop.

The 2019 Annual Stewardship campaign was The New Consecration Sunday program. Focusing on the act of percentage giving as a spiritual discipline and act of faith, we noticed two main changes: the majority of parishioners increased their giving from 2018, and we had a larger than usual number of families pledging for the first time.

For our annual stewardship campaign, the Committee chose the Shining Our Light program developed by The Episcopal Network on Stewardship. This kicked off in October with several weeks of personal testimonials from parishioners about stewardship as a spiritual discipline. On November 17, pledge cards were distributed and collected during the worship services.

The Shining Our Light program focuses on stewardship as an aspect of discipleship – shining the light of God into the world, both in and through St. Matthew’s.

Pledges are still being submitted, but as of January 15, we have received 117 pledges, which puts us ahead of last year at this time. Of the 117 families pledging so far, 54 increased their pledge from last year, 26 kept them the same, and 17 decreased. Twenty families pledged for the first time. Total amount pledged is \$375,206, with an average of \$3,207 per pledge.

In 2020, the Stewardship Committee will continue to increase year-long awareness of stewardship, with the goal of changing perceptions about the wide scope of stewardship as a spiritual exercise. This will focus on parishioners “pledging” their time and talents to the various ministries at St. Matthew’s. We will encourage everyone in the parish family to identify their individual spiritual gifts, and then discern which ministries might be a good fit for them.

Committee members:

Terri Hurst, Chair; Tina Staples, Vestry Liaison; Brett Johnson, Mark DiGiovanni, Wilhelmina Wilson.

The Stewardship Committee welcomes new members of all ages.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terri Hurst, Committee Chair