



Meet Christ.
Be Christ.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Power of Yes!

Pledgetide 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The story of giving begins with the story of creation. Out of nothing, a gracious and generous God gives life, light, love, and grace. From the dust of the earth, the hands of God formed us.

Acts 17:25-28 states, "God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things," so that "in God we live and move and have our being."

Giving is an act of love. Friends give to one another. Spouses and partners give to one another. Parents give to their children and grandchildren; and children, in turn, give as an expression of love.

I remember the beautiful gift we were given by one of our grandchildren. Our granddaughter breathlessly ran into our arms, clutching a fistful of bright yellow dandelions she had pulled from the garden. Her tiny three-year-old hand, complete with dirty fingernails, placed this gift into our hands. She loved us. She gave us a gift. A gift that she gave out of what she had been given.

In the church, the act of giving is often referred to as "stewardship." This comes from the understanding that all things have been given to us by God and we are the stewards, or caretakers, of everything that we have been given. To be a good steward is to use the gifts given to us in faithful ways.

Personally, I must admit that my own giving story has evolved and developed. In earlier times, my giving and sharing of gifts was based more upon duty, but presently has matured to define how I have chosen to walk in love and live my life as a follower of Christ.

In his book *Giving to God*, Mark Allen Powell writes; "Give where you want your heart to be, and let your heart catch up." Our hearts go there...put your treasure where you want your heart to be.

There is a direct connection between giving and living.

The question is, how do you want to live out your life? How is God calling you to live out your acts of giving? How are you being challenged to respond to a generous and gracious God? How will your life change?

The Power of Yes is our response in thankfulness to the life we have been given. Giving has become a calling, a proclamation of our love for God and God's creation.

Being warmly welcomed as a member of the faith family of St. Christopher's has been a gift and a source of great joy. As the body of Christ, we are living generously and graciously as we walk the way of love.

We all have plenty to give—even a fistful of dandelions is a gift.

Peace and all good.

Fr. Randy+