



November 13, 2023

Dear friends in Christ,

Our annual stewardship campaign, which will support our general operating fund for 2024, will begin this coming Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is "Here I Am, Lord."

Over the next four weeks, we would like to ask you to prayerfully meditate on this theme, which is based upon the refrain of the powerful hymn written by Dan Schutte, as you reflect on what it means to serve God through our time, talent, and treasure.

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

The campaign will culminate with our "Abundance Sunday" celebration during both worship services on December 10<sup>th</sup>, when we ask members of each household in our parish family to offer your commitment to support the ongoing mission of Church of the Holy Spirit with your engagement, talents, and finances. Your generosity is vital for Church of the Holy Spirit to maintain and grow the day-to-day ministries that are so important to us all.

We have enclosed a response card for you to prayerfully review and return. Please feel free to contact either one of us with any questions you may have.

Faithfully yours,

Eva Lesniak, Stewardship Chair  
[eva@churchholyspirit.org](mailto:eva@churchholyspirit.org)  
908-420-3613

Sally Bird, Treasurer  
[sally.bird@churchholyspirit.org](mailto:sally.bird@churchholyspirit.org)  
908-328-2925

*Gracious and loving God,  
we understand that you call us to be stewards of your abundance,  
the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us.  
Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously.  
May our faithful stewardship bear witness to our love of Christ in our lives.  
Amen.*

1. *I, the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in deepest sin  
My hand will save*

*I, who made the stars of night  
I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart*

2. *I, the Lord of snow and rain  
I have borne my people's pain  
I have wept for love of them  
They turn away*

*I will break their hearts of stone  
Give them hearts for love alone  
I will speak my words to them  
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart*

3. *I, the Lord of wind and flame  
I will tend the poor and lame  
I will set a feast for them  
My hand will save*

*Finest bread I will provide  
'Til their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them  
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart*

As many of you may remember from the Annual Meeting, Holy Spirit's "faith budget" for 2023 had a \$50,000 shortfall. Early predictions are that we will end 2023 with a less than \$40,000 shortfall. In the spirit of full disclosure, we want to share a few specifics about giving in 2023, as you prepare to prayerfully consider your commitment for 2024:

- CHS currently has 120 active households in our congregation.
- 60 of those have made a pledge commitment for 2023.
- There are an additional 20 households who actively give on a regular basis.

We understand that everyone is in a different financial situation. However, if every active household in our congregation were to give \$5 more a week than you are currently giving, we could substantially close the gap between our "faith budget" and our operating expenses for 2024.

For your contemplation: What might you do without each week that costs you \$5, which you could redirect into stewardship giving to your community of faith?

----- please return bottom portion on or before Abundance Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> -----



*Time & Talent: In 2024, I/we would like to explore getting involved in or to continue to devote my/our time and talents to the following missions and ministries at Holy Spirit:* *<Please check all that you called to>*

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Joining the Altar Guild</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving as an Acolyte</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM)</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Reader or Intercessor</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Singing in the Choir</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Bell Choir</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Greeter / Usher</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Counter</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV)</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sanctuary Tech Team</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Host a Second Sunday Breakfast</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Join Coffee Hour Committee (New)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Publicize/Promote CHS "Goings On" in various Community Forums (New)</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>"We Care" Transportation Angel</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Jesse Tree Giving Branch logistics</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Epiphany House Blessing Driver</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sunday School Adult Volunteer</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Youth Group Chaperone</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Vacation Bible School Volunteer</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Organize Children's Christmas Pageant</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Facilitate Adult Formation Session(s)</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Good Friday Day of Service Organizing Committee</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Decorate Parade Float(s) / Walk/Ride in Parade(s)</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Help Organize a Fellowship Event (e.g. picnic, ball game)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Service Auction logistics</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Prayer Shawl Ministry</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Prison Ministry</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Finance Committee member</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Help with Building &amp; Grounds</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serve on the Vestry</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other _____</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other _____</i> |
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*Treasure: I/we estimate giving \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Church of the Holy Spirit in 2024. I/we plan to fulfill this pledge through giving on a \_\_\_\_\_ weekly / \_\_\_\_\_ monthly / \_\_\_\_\_ annual basis.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we would like to receive a book of giving envelopes.