

Casting our Crowns

Annual Stewardship Campaign

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Trinity Anglican Church,

Every year, we ask our parishioners and friends to kindly estimate their giving for the coming year. This year, for the second year in a row, the Vestry and I have asked Vestryman Andy Figueroa to lead our efforts for the planned giving campaign which we are calling "Casting our Crowns." Why Andy? For many years Andy has experienced a call to address the subject of Christian giving. As his ministry developed, he has helped parishes, schools and dioceses, in both the Episcopal and Reformed Episcopal Churches to learn about Christian giving and to develop planned giving as part of the ethos of Christian discipleship. With his abundance of experience and his clear sense of calling, the Vestry tasked him to lead our efforts at Holy Trinity Church. As Rector, I am grateful that God has abundantly blessed our parish in so many ways, including sending Andy, with his gifts and skills, to our fellowship. I ask you to consider Andy's helpful guidance as you make your plans to give your gift to God and his Church.

May God continue to bless us all at Holy Trinity Church.

Fr. Brad Cunningham+

*Rector, Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island, FL*

Casting Our Crowns before the Throne

By Andy Figueroa 10/19/2014

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." (Revelation 4:9-11 ESV)

This Sunday is the kick-off for our annual financial stewardship campaign, which will run for the next six weeks. On Sunday, November 9, we will place a box in the nave where you may deposit a card with your 2015 estimated tithes and offerings. During the week of November 16, we will mail a letter with an enclosed card and envelope to those who have not yet responded, and we will leave the collection box in-place through the end of November, to be sure everyone has an opportunity to participate. After the end of November cards may be given to David Turner, our treasurer, or turned-in to the church office for the treasurer.

We have this campaign for two reasons. Asking for your estimated giving is one of the things we do to practice good stewardship of your gifts because it lets us prepare a meaningful budget. Second, the period of the campaign provides a framework for focusing on stewardship and discussing the parish's finances with the congregation.

To be honest, compared to most parishes, we don't run much of a campaign. We don't hold any high-pressure commitment events. The finance gang won't come knocking on your door. What we do want is for you to feel right about what you provide as an estimate of next year's giving by helping you to be well informed. The most important outcome of this campaign is that it makes a small contribution towards appropriate, thoughtful, cheerful, and generous giving that is without any pressure, compulsion, or sense of guilt.

Money is important. Money helps to keep the wolf away from your doorstep, and ours. Money is also the fuel that powers the engine of our ministry. With more money we can keep growing towards being the parish that God calls us to be. We can do more good, reach more people, feed more hungry, and the list goes on. With money, we cast our crowns before the throne of God who is worthy to receive glory and honor and power.

You will find a copy of this article at <http://2chronicles36.org/>