

creating a culture of **GENEROSITY**



FALL 2020

Did you know that the average protestant church member gives away about 2% of their income to the church? Another statistic shows that the median protestant (person in the middle if lined up smallest percentage to largest) only give 0.62% of their income to the church.

For most people the reason for this has less to do with their wealth or income and more to do with intentionality and regular systematic giving.

Over the course of a year, \$1 per day comes to a gift of \$365, which for about 35-40% of Americans would be significant growth in their giving to the church. The average Starbucks coffee costs \$2.75. This amounts to over \$1,000 if one is purchased every day of the year.

Regular, systematic giving can help all of us become more generous. We get overwhelmed when we think about larger numbers like \$1,000. However, most of us can find \$2.75 per day. As you think and pray about your generosity this year. Consider how systematic giving may help you become more generous.

Our generosity journey has been both challenging and rewarding. We went from giving about 1/2 of a percent to giving 10% of our income to the church over a three year period. It was scary to make that commitment and stick to it, but we know each of us are entrusted as managers of God's resources and He calls us to help others. We've come to realize the more we give, the more we are able to recognize and respond to others' needs, and that continually encourages us to do more. Giving has become a blessing for us.

Danette and Dan Welsh, Trinity Members

PLACE GOD FIRST IN YOUR BUDGETING AND SPENDING

The Ten Commandments stress that God must be first in our lives. And Jesus said, "Seek first God's kingdom and righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well." (**Matthew 6:33**)

Many experience difficulty giving generously despite the desire and pledge to do so, because they attempt to give from what is left over at the end of the week or month rather than from first fruits, from all they have received.

The simple practice of placing God and The Church first in budgeting and spending has helped many to experience joy in their giving. When you do this you are giving from all that a good and loving God has provided. And you are practicing stewardship, understanding that you are but a temporary trustee of what God has entrusted to you.