



Guide to Giving 2012

“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NRSV)

How will we give thanks to God for all that we have been given? For our financial resources? For our gifts and talents? For the people we love? For our earth and our community, the natural beauty that surrounds us? How can we learn to truly receive each and every gift that God offers – rather than walking through life without noticing his loving gestures? **How might we bless these gifts and share them with others?**

This is what it means to live as a steward. We are called to notice each gift God gives, to bless each gift and be grateful. Only then are our hearts prepared to open our hands and share our gifts with God’s world. Living as a steward is a way of being. It is not an annual pledge drive or a weekly check

in the plate. It is instead a daily call to notice each minute, each dollar, each experience – as given by God.

Beginning this fall, and over the next year, St. Bartholomew's will offer many opportunities to share the abundant blessings with which God has filled our lives. Our pledge drive is only the beginning of a year of noticing gifts and responding with gratitude. The questions and meditations in this guide invite you to reflect on what God has given you and to consider how you will respond with your financial resources in 2012.

Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give to support the ministry of St. Bartholomew's for calendar year 2012 and enter in the attached pledge card. There is a place to offer gifts of service. We will collect out pledges at the altar during the service on November 20, where our gifts will be blessed. If you are not able to attend the service that day, please bring or mail your pledge card to the church office by the end of November, to assist the vestry with preparing the 2012 budget. Of course, gifts are gratefully accepted at any time.

Pledge Campaign Goal

In the congregational meeting in June, we were asked to consider whether we would continue as a parish and call a full-time rector, or if we should become a mission and ask the diocese to hire a part-time vicar. In response to your feedback, the vestry judged that the congregation wished to remain a parish, and voted to list the position of full-time rector. Applications have been arriving and the profile and search committee is continuing with the process of calling a rector.

Supplemental pledges committed by the congregation in June went a significant way towards filling the budget increase needed to cover the increased cost of a full-time rector, but we are not all of the way there yet. The transition is eased by the fact that it will be spread over two budget cycles. The vestry anticipates that the new rector will begin in the middle of 2012, so the budget provides a half year of full-time salary and benefits for 2012, and a full year for 2013 and beyond. The accompanying budget chart shows the need for an increase of about \$6.00/week per pledge for 2012 and an additional \$2.00/week for 2013. An allowance for moving expenses makes the step up for 2012 larger than that for 2013. There is a several thousand dollar difference in the mandatory minimum compensation

depending upon years of experience. Also, some of the benefits are negotiable, so these numbers are estimates. This budget does not allow for increases in other expenses, so it is a low estimate of what our actual expenses will be.

Why are pledges important to St. Bartholomew's?

A formal pledge allows the vestry to manage St. Bartholomew's more effectively by preparing a budget for the year ahead. It allows the vestry and rector to invest in programs and worship throughout the years because you have signaled your intention to give.

I put money in the plate every week. Why should I offer a formal pledge?

Your annual commitment need not be binding, but it represents your response to God's gifts. It allows the leaders to better discern where God is calling our community and to plan accordingly.

I am not sure what I will be able to afford in 2012 so I would rather not pledge a specific amount.

It would greatly aid the parish if you could prayerfully consider what you expect to be able to share with St. Bart's. You will receive periodic reports of your giving to aid your record keeping but both your pledge amount and what you actually give are confidential and known only to the treasurer and one or two others who do the bookkeeping.

I have pledged as much as I am able, but I would like to do more for St. Bartholomew's. Are there other ways that I can give?

Certainly! St. Bart's relies not just on financial gifts but upon many ways in which we give of our time and talents. We depend on volunteers to run the office, perform much of the maintenance of the buildings and grounds, and for child care in the nursery. Volunteer to work in the office. Come to parish work days. Sign up to provide childcare. Sing in the choir. Stand for vestry. Join the parish guild. Sign up to make coffee after the service. There are more things going on at St. Bart's than it is possible to list here. Every week, announcements during the service detail upcoming activities. All of these things are also forms of stewardship. Know that St. Bart's is grateful for your service!

Bring a friend.

How much does St. Bart's mean to your life and to your family? Wouldn't you wish this blessing for your friend, neighbor, or co-worker? A vital spiritual community is always growing. Also, there are dear friends who are no longer with us, through death or when life's changes take them out of the area. Tell the new person at work how you feel about St. Bart's. Ask your neighbor to come to a potluck.

St. Bartholomew's Estimated Budget 2011-2013

Expenses	2011	2012	2013
Interim Rector Salary	\$56,605.00	\$28,303	
Interim Rector Benefits	\$16,967	\$8,484	
Perm. Rector Salary		\$35,768	\$71,535
Perm. Rector Benefits		\$12,692	\$25,383
rector moving costs		\$5,000	
rest of budget	\$92,352.00	\$93,550.00	\$93,451.00
total budget	\$165,924	\$183,797.00	\$190,369
non-pledge income (bldg use, pass thru, etc.)	\$29,385	\$34,560	\$34,560
actual pledges	\$128,656		
pledged income needed	\$136,539	\$149,237	\$155,809
amount per pledge (68 pledges & regular givers)	\$2,007.93	\$2,194.66	\$2,291.31
increase/pledge		\$302.66	\$399.31
increase/week		\$5.82	\$7.68