



St. Chrysostom's  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# AIMING FOR RENEWAL

ST. CHRYS 2017



# in Chicago and the World **Changing**

“What shall I say! And how shall I describe this Birth to you? For this He assumed my body, that I may become capable of His Word; taking my flesh, He gives me His spirit; and so He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares for me the treasure of Life.”

—John Chrysostom, Christmas homily

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A STEWARD?**

A steward is responsible for the oversight and protection of something worth caring for and preserving. It means caring for your body, your relationships, your work, your play, your community, your environment, your heart and mind and soul—not as rights or guarantees owed you—but as gifts given freely to you by a generous God.

The American poet Mary Oliver ends her poem *The Summer Day* by asking the question, “Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” At its most basic, to be a steward means to care—actively and intentionally and regularly and generously—for “your one wild and precious life” which is a gift from God.

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A STEWARD OF ST. CHRYS?**

To be a steward of St. Chrys means making a personal thanksgiving offering to God in the form of a recorded financial pledge to the work of God through this church. It means taking the journey into generosity as the path to spiritual maturity. It means choosing to live with the open hands of gratitude.

## **DOES MY PLEDGE REALLY MATTER?**

Yes it most certainly does! To many people, it comes as a big surprise to discover that St. Chrysostom’s is not a wealthy church. The beautiful buildings, the glorious music, and the great speakers and classes all seem to say we’ve made it. But the truth is that St. Chrys manages to



# lives for love's sake



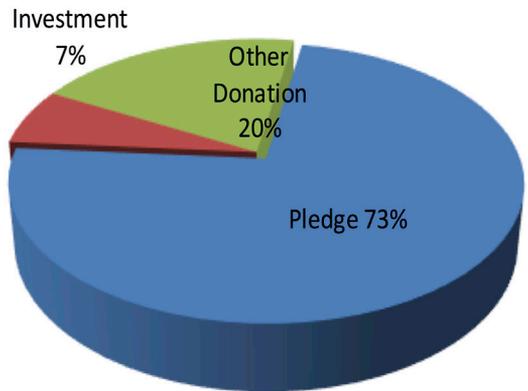
do all these things only through the giving of members and friends like you—we rely on everybody. Unlike some churches, we do not have a large endowment to fall back on in times of need—just those precious pledge envelopes!

## WHAT IS PROPORTIONAL GIVING?

Proportional giving is simply committing to give a specific percentage of your annual income to the work of your church. The Episcopal Church has the wonderful language of “striving to tithe,” or moving incrementally toward the 10% Biblical standard of giving. The minimum average contribution needed to meet our 2016 budget is \$3500 per pledge.

We ask respectfully that you take this year’s annual campaign as seriously as we are all taking God’s call to change lives for the better through all we do as a church. Everybody is important to this effort.

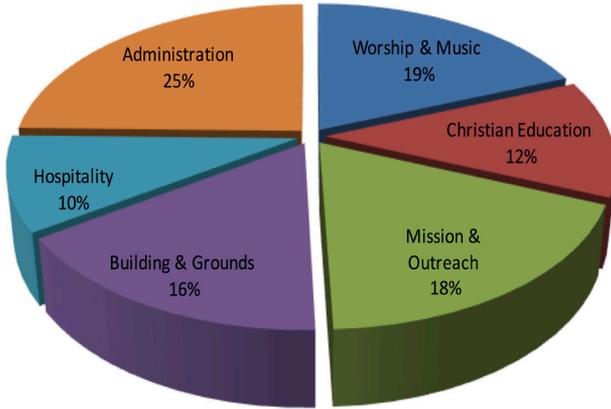
## WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



“Tell me,  
what is it you plan to  
do with your one wild  
and precious life?”

—Mary Oliver, poet

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



## DETERMINING WHAT TO PLEDGE

There is no “correct” way to come up with a pledge amount for you and your family. However, there are some questions to ask yourself as you consider the amount that feels right:

- What is my current pledge as a percentage of my income? Does this reflect God’s generosity in my life? Does this reflect the importance of St. Chrys in my life?
- What did I pledge in 2016? How might I consider “striving to tithe” by increasing this amount by one percent of my annual income?
- Do I feel good about this pledge commitment?

## PROPORTIONAL GIVING PERCENTAGES

Income	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%	12%
\$50,000	\$500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$6,000
\$100,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$12,000
\$250,000	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$12,500	\$17,500	\$25,000	\$30,000
\$500,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$35,000	\$50,000	\$60,000

## FIVE EASY WAYS TO FULFILL YOUR PLEDGE

1. **Check:** Simply place your check in one of the envelopes the church provides (with your giving code printed on the front) and pay weekly or monthly, your choice.
2. **Cash:** Some prefer to fulfill their pledge with cash. In order to properly record pledge contributions and to provide accurate financial statements for your tax purposes, we ask that you be sure to use your pledge envelopes which have your giving code on the front.
3. **Online Bill Pay:** go to [www.saintc.org/howtogiveonline](http://www.saintc.org/howtogiveonline)
4. **Credit Card:** Simply go to [www.saintc.org/howtogiveonline](http://www.saintc.org/howtogiveonline)
5. **Appreciated Stock Transfer:** This is a great way to fulfill your pledge, especially if you have held the stock for more than a year. Contact the church office, and we will send you details of how to pay your pledge this way.