



"God created Heaven and Earth."  
Genesis 1:1

"Do whatever He tells you."  
John 2:5

October 12, 2016

**Dear St. Michael's Church Family,**

Are we changing lives by creating, and strengthening, relationships with God?

I ask myself this question – often – and can honestly say that I do believe we are doing that at St. Michael's. Lives are being changed, and God's kingdom is being impacted for the good by the hands and feet of His servants here. I'm encouraged as we enter our annual stewardship season.

**This year, we're celebrating "Grateful Hearts" during the giving campaign. The reason? Because if we can grasp the eternal truth of the first five words of the Bible, all else should be easy to follow. God created heaven and earth. ALL of heaven and earth, and it's all His.**

That simple truth, those five plain words, give us the freedom to have faith, to exhibit that faith through our corporate worship, our outreach, and our gratitude shown by sharing our time, treasure and talent. Do you believe that it's all God's, that which He created? Do you believe we are changing lives at St. Michael's?

The next five words of our Grateful Hearts campaign are simple and plain as well, spoken by Jesus' mother at a wedding. "Do whatever He tells you," she said to the servants, and water turned into wine. The abundance flowed when the Master was obeyed. If we do whatever He tells us, we follow a narrow path, full of faith and full of grace, lit by the Master himself who created heaven and earth. It's not always easy, carefree nor what we expect. But it is always under the Master's care.

In a recent "Money & Ministry" newsletter, J. Clif Christopher wrote these words:

"If your church cannot envision how more money will help you make more disciples, then maybe you do not need the money. If lives are not being changed for Jesus, perhaps some of your staff is not necessary. If all you hope to do is prop up a building, perhaps you do not need the building."

He exhorts us to be sure of *"what the ultimate mission is."*

I strongly agree with Mr. Christopher. **We conduct an annual giving campaign only to continue God's holy work through this holy place.** You'll hear about Preservation of the buildings, and Preparation as we discern where God wants us to be in the coming year.

Please, prayerfully and carefully consider what you can gratefully give back to God this season through a pledge at St. Michael's. The enclosed "inventory" shows how we are good stewards of all that He has blessed us with here in our corner church in 2016. I believe we are changing lives for Jesus. I pray you feel it as well.



SAINT MICHAEL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In Christ's Love,

**Rick Luoni**  
Rector

*P.S. The enclosed pledge card can be mailed back to the church anytime, placed in the offertory plate on any Sunday, or handed in on our last Sunday of the campaign, on Nov. 20th when all pledges will be offered in gratitude to God and blessed at the altar. Thank you!*