

An Attitude of Gratitude

Script for Stewardship Presentation
Trinity Church, Aurora
November 16, 2014

Introduction: Dialogue format ~ Questions and Answers
guiding congregation through graphs

Purpose: A Reality Check; Disclosure of Financial Resources;
Transparency, Increase Awareness;

Goal: To value and stimulate giving of time, talent and treasure
as
a personal commitment to the Lord considering individual
circumstances.

To discourage reliance on Endowment Fund and Memorials
Fund.

Spiritual Goal: Build community cohesiveness and a shared
appreciation of differences and giftedness and mutual
dependence.

OUTLINE

- 1. Welcome:** Introduce speakers, stewardship committee members: John Heath, Dick Blogg, Tom Herget; Finance Committee: Rob Borchert, Sr. Warden, Alex Adams, Jr. Warden, Marilou Clohessey, Tom Herget; Deacon John Dolan; and I am Fr. Tom

Rosa, interim rector since Feb. 2014, previously long-term supply beginning July 2012

2. Pass out charts, (be sure they have page numbers for referencing) pads of paper for written follow-up questions,

3. **Question: Please show us the sources of money used to**

operate Trinity Church on a day to day basis?

Explanation Sources of Income: Pledges and Gifts, donations (rents) Designated Fund: Endowment Fund capital is reserved, income only is used, Memorials Fund is an undesignated fund with no restrictions

4. **Question:**

Where is this money kept and how is it handled?

4. Invoices for materials, utilities, salaries, support to the diocese are paid by checks drawn on the general fund. The General Fund Checking account receives money from all the sources previous listed.

5. **Question: What happens when there is not enough money to pay the bills.**

We pray! The process is: first, the finance committee examines the problem and makes a recommendation to the vestry. Vestry discuss and make a motion to transfer money from reserve funds. Reserve funds are where the earnings on the Endowment Fund and Memorials Fund are held for either reinvestment or bills and special non -

budget expenses. A recent example is the upgrading of the sound system. Other capital projects are also planned as income from the Funds becomes available.

Some pending projects are: repairs to the pipe organ, and a handicap ramp inside the sanctuary.

6. Question: How are these Funds doing?

Thanks to the recovery in the stocks and bonds market, our two Funds have grown considerably in the past five years. (see page) Currently, the vestry may take 8% of the earnings from certain portions of the Endowment fund for operation.

The Memorials Fund is unrestricted, which means the vestry has the authority to use money from it for special purposes.

For example the vestry has pledged \$15,000 each year for the next three years to the salary and benefits package of a new part-time rector.

(my understanding is that this is in addition to the traditional budget line item for clergy of about \$22,000, meaning \$37,000 to be divided into stipend, housing, health insurance, pension, auto allowance, etc.)

7. Question: Where did the money in the Funds come from?

The most recent large additions were in 2013 with bequests from the Bogvilo Family and _____.
Previously, monies came from benefactors known and unknown. These are the names I know of _____

On All Saints Sunday we remember them before God in our prayers. I hope this will become a regular pattern in the Prayers of the People.

THE BUDGET

8. *Question: How is the money allocated and by whom?*

The vestry approves a budget and presents it at the Annual Meeting in January. The income for the budget, the annual operating expenses of keeping the doors of Trinity open and doing God's work as we have shown, comes from 3 sources: 1)The Pledges and offerings of the members,
2)The Donations of IDOM Church and others using the building ~ upstairs apartment, Sandwich board, Amnesty program, guilds
3) The Endowment and Memorials Funds. (Page 2)

9. *How are these sources doing in keeping up with anticipated income?*

#3: The Endowment and Memorials Funds are doing well. #2: the Donations and others are projected to probably be at budget by the end of the year. #1: at the moment shows a shortfall of \$8,012 according to the Financial snapshot in Friday's Newsletter sent by email.

Historically, December is a month when people catch up on their commitments before the end of the year, plus there are always special gifts for Christmas. If not, we will

be forced to take more money from the reserves. However, expenses through the end of October are below budget by quite a bit. Last year we ended in good shape with a bit of a surplus, I believe.

10. ***Overall then, what do we need to achieve?***

The first priority is successfully calling a priest to be the next rector of Trinity. The Search committee has been moving along in a timely manner since September. The position will be posted hopefully by Christmas.

The second priority is to prepare our selves, property and ministries for new leadership under this new priest. To do this we are streamlining many of our tasks, delegating them to more volunteers who can be trained to use their talents to expand our accomplishments in meaningful worship and music, Christian formation for adults and children (*it was so wonderful to see half a dozen youngsters sitting together at communion and serving at the altar*); Continuing the increased pastoral care and counseling under the direction of Deacon John; Building on our outreach and community involvement as seen in the adoption of families in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas with food baskets, clothing and gifts.

The needs in our own fellowship and of our neighbors near and far is challenging. Opportunities abound for a vibrant Mission to all through Trinity Church which will result from our love of God.

CLOSING

Money is a means, not an end. We spoke much about money and budgets this morning to be sure we have a healthy climate for conversations about the facts and not the fears. We want to maintain transparency in accounting numbers, posting of vestry actions and financial statements.

As quickly as we can, I want us to look at this information shared today not as money and budget but as ministry and mission. We have accomplished much as a small congregation. Be proud, be strong, for we have been very blessed by the faith of those who have gone before us, those who have involved themselves as leaders now, and those we hope are yet to come because of who we are and how we are the people of God in this place.

I am aware that not everyone is in the same place, that is, not everyone can do the same as someone else. But everyone can do something. Giving to the Church is important because it is first and foremost an act of Gratitude to God for the support, guidance, healing and love from our Heavenly Creator.

The world cries and moans that there are troubles, worries, and just not enough to go around. But in truth this fear is based in falsehood. Scarcity is not God's nature, but rather Abundance. Christ Jesus came that we might have Life and have it abundantly.

Your money advances the work of the Church in so many ways. Take a look around you and you will see that the Lord's touch, God's hand is in plain view.

In a moment we will sing the closing hymn *Joyful, Joyful* followed by a rousing postlude from the organ to send us out into the world rejoicing.

The fellowship we will share over treats in the parish hall will be an opportunity to bask in the afterglow of our experience together, for we are “Growing the Church, Forming the Faithful and Changing the World.”

And all God’s people said Amen!

*Compiled by the Very Rev. Thomas P. Rosa, sometime Dean of the Rockford Deanery, Certified Interim Minister, Part-time Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Aurora, IL
November 16, 2014*