



Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

7400 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, Virginia 23505

VESTRY STATEMENT ON STEWARDSHIP

What We Believe

- We will be good stewards of the mission of our Church - *"To Know Christ and To Make Him Known With Joy, Faith, and Service."*
- Stewardship is embedded in everything we do and everything we are.
- We will focus on the theology of abundance. In God's redemptive love, we are confident there is enough of what we really need to go around.
- We invite and desire 100% participation in what we practice.

What We Practice as Members of Good Shepherd

- Involvement in some form of spiritual growth and renewal
- Active participation in public worship
- Service in our ministries
- Promise of financial support to our Parish

How We Give

- **Give First Fruits.** Give God the first portions of your income. When we pay our bills, we write our check to the Church first: as an offering and a reminder that all things come from God.
- **Give Proportionately.** We give in proportion to the income we receive, not a specific dollar amount. Proportionate giving challenges both the rich and the poor. The 10 percent tithe is the standard for Christian stewards, but the fact is, a specific percentage does not adequately express our stewardship before God.
- **Give Sacrificially.** Giving sacrificially usually includes a rearrangement of priorities, a change in lifestyle, or a forfeiture of something valued.
- **Give Regularly.** The habit of regular, pledged giving serves as constant reminder of the generosity of God and helps to shape our souls. Pledged giving also allows the Church to plan responsibly our ministries.
- **Give Cheerfully.** Joy, faith, and service are the qualities that form the foundation of proportionate giving. Receiving is wonderful, but the exhilaration is greater when we are able to give to another person. The Lord loves a cheerful giver.
- **Give Quietly.** Our purpose is to please God, not others. The dollar amounts will vary considerably, but each is sharing with God, through the Church, out of what God has provided.