

Our Christian Duty

By Jane M. Tonokawa

On Sunday, August 14th, I made a stewardship and planned giving presentation to your congregation of St. Mary's. You were gracious and I appreciated your attention very much. Thank you.

I started out by stating that, as Christians, we believe part of our response to God's love is to support the ministry of the Church, whether it be St. Mary's, my home church of Emmanuel, the Diocese, the National Church, or the Anglican Communion. *It is our Christian duty.*

There are four resources for ministry (from the Church's perspective) mirroring four types of financial stewardship (from the individual perspective). They are:

- Ordinary – Annual pledge for ongoing operations of the church
- Occasional – Periodic fundraising efforts for specific ministries (e.g. outreach, youth, etc.)
- Extraordinary – Capital campaign (e.g. for roof repair, renovation, etc.)
- Ultimate – Planned giving, where the focus is on the future; it is legacy-giving

Emmanuel has been a part of my life for approximately 35 years. Other than the current relationship with my living mother, my relationship with Emmanuel has been, and will always be, the longest relationship in my life, longer than that with my husband or my children.

Is Emmanuel important to me? *Absolutely!*

Do I want others to experience such a relationship as I have? *Definitely!*

Am I going to support Emmanuel financially so that others can have this experience? *Of course, I am!*

These are reasons that I tithe my annual income and the reason that I have a bequest in my will that leaves funds to Emmanuel upon my death. I support the important relationships in my life – my family, my church. By supporting Emmanuel in pledging and upon my death, I am giving back AND I am giving forward. I take my Christian duty of stewardship seriously.



I pray that you will reflect on the important relationships in your life and how you are supporting these relationships. Ask yourself if you are giving back AND giving forward at satisfactory levels (according to your own assessment) and following your heart.

I want Emmanuel to be here for generations to come. Don't you want that for St. Mary's too?

In God's love,
Jane

A True Legacy Gift Story

Submitted by Jane M. Tonokawa, Chair, Planned Giving Commission

Mr. Joe Lovell was a member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Kailua for many years until he died in 1991. In his will, he included a bequest to the Church for \$51,000, which was not to be used for general operating expenses. Emmanuel deposited the monies into the Diocesan portfolio. It used \$44,000 of the funds in the late 1990s to construct its columbarium. Since then, the remaining funds were left untouched with the earnings reverting back into the portfolio account. In July 2010, the Church withdrew \$13,000 to landscape its entryway and add a community water fountain for walkers, runners, and pets. We also use \$5,000 to upgrade our sound system. At June 30, 2011, the market value of this account is \$70,000, 37% higher than his initial planned gift, even after putting \$62,000 of the funds to use for his church. Mr. Lovell has contributed to Emmanuel and the community decades beyond his death.



I tell you this story, not only because it's true, but because it is a typical example of how a planned gift can give for a very long time into the future. Emmanuel is blessed to have had and continue to have Mr. Lovell's generosity bestowed upon us and be the recipients of his blessing. And we will remember him always!

Charitable Gift Annuity

Submitted by Jane M. Tonokawa, Chair, Planned Giving Commission

In my presentation on August 14th, I talked about Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs). CGAs are the most popular of the Life Income Gifts. CGAs address these following important issues:

- You want to increase your cash inflow
- You want the security of guaranteed payments, regardless of the fluctuation in financial community
- You want to save taxes

If these pertain to you, then CGAs is a most viable option for leaving a planned gift to your church. Here's how it works ...

You must be 55 years of age or older, and the minimum gift is \$5,000. You donate this gift to St. Mary's and you will likely receive a tax deduction for the donation and you may save on capital gains tax (this is a huge benefit). St. Mary's (through a financial agent, of course) pays you a fixed amount for life. The amount you receive is based on your age. When you die, the remainder of the \$5,000 (normally 50%) passes to St. Mary's as your legacy.

Here's the real attraction: A bank's savings account may pay you 0.5% currently. A bank's CD rate may reach 4% tops. Investment in the stock market goes up and down daily. The CGA gift will pay you a fixed rate of approximately 5% if you are age 60, 6% if you are 70 years old, and 7.5% if you are age 80. Would you not want to increase your cash flow while you are alive and leave something to St. Mary's upon your passing?

Pamphlets and documents are available through Richert Au Hoy, a member of the Diocesan Planned Giving Commission, so please contact him. You are also free to contact me directly at djtono@hawaii.rr.com or 261-5126.