



# Stewardship corner

## “Immanuel’s Community Outreach Depends, in Part, on Your Pledges”

**2 Corinthians 8:12** *For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.*

It all starts with pledging and at Immanuel your pledges are the predominate basis for setting our annual operating budget and serve as the foundation for our activities. While Immanuel’s community outreach programs are directly funded by other means—the annual IPC auction, IPC Endowment, and special campaigns and initiatives—it is pledge dollars that go towards the staff salaries and building maintenance costs that allow the outreach efforts to thrive. Think of the hundreds of Tag Tree gifts collected in the Meeting House at Christmas, the hundreds of sandwiches our Bologna Bunch makes in our kitchen for DC Central Kitchen, and the thousands of dollars raised in the annual Community Service and Action Auction held in the Meeting House and Main church building. Immanuel staff, paid out of pledge dollars, help create budgets and pay bills for these events and services. For example, office staff regularly prepare checks for our Dreamers’ college tuitions.



(“The Bologna Bunch”)

Our campus, spacious buildings, and staff, paid from generous pledges, are the backbone that supports the outreach programs that have defined this church. **This linking of hearts and funds is how we maintain our community of faith** as we know and love it. It is our readiness, made possible by pledges.

Here is a frequently-asked question:

*Why should I make a pledge rather than simply give through the offering plate?*

The act of making an ‘offering’ is an important ritual in Immanuel’s worship service—as we pass the collection plate each week we reflect on our blessings and share from our hearts to benefit others with gratitude. Funds collected in the offering plate do significantly enrich IPC’s life and mission and are greatly appreciated.

Pledges, or planned offerings and gift commitments, enable the Session, our lay governing board, to establish an operating budget for the coming year and to plan within the confines of that budget. To paraphrase from the referenced Corinthians quote, *“when we know what we have, we can act with readiness, knowing we will have the funds to support the plans.”* Just as personal budgets guide us in staying within our means, **pledges from the Immanuel community provide the budget definition the church requires** to set the scope of its activities, and fund staff and physical plant costs each year.

Please reach out to Stewardship Committee members with your questions and suggestions or your desire to join. Our contact information is as follows:

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