

# Stewardship corner

## “How Giving to a Church is Different”

*James 2: 14-17: What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have good faith but do not have works? ... So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.*

Donating to our church is different from donating to other charities because its mission is multifaceted and supports a variety of causes both within and outside our community of faith. Consider the impact that a donation to Immanuel has not only on the lives of others but also our own. When you support Immanuel, you and your family also benefit. Beyond spiritual growth and fulfillment, consider the following:

- The ample hands-on opportunities provided by IPC to do God’s work within our local community, elsewhere in our nation, and abroad.
- How Immanuel is a vibrant center for our social lives and social support: We have fun together; we are genuinely concerned about each other and look out for each other. As Stephanie Berkin said in her Minute for Mission last fall “*We all need community. It can be hard to find a sense of belonging in Northern Virginia.... but those of us at Immanuel have a stronger, deeper connection.*”



- And the broad array of educational and experiential opportunities provided by IPC for children, youth, and adults. It is said, to raise a child, it takes a village; well, at the center of that village needs to be a church to further education and moral development. But at Immanuel it is so much more. At our church there are abundant opportunities for youth to participate and develop confidence and leadership skills and, just like their parents, to do good works. Children are an integral part of our congregation. Indeed, investing in Immanuel is investing in your family.



Here is a frequently-asked question:

### *What is stewardship and pledging?*

Stewardship is the prayerful work of managing our time, talent and treasure to bring about God's kingdom on earth. Pledging is an important Christian spiritual practice, enabling us to grow intentionally in faith and generosity in every part of our lives. A pledge is your commitment to make a financial gift that supports the mission of Immanuel Presbyterian Church. It is also a response to God's call and abundance in our own lives and a statement of thanksgiving.

It all starts with pledging and at Immanuel pledges are the sole basis for setting our annual operating budget. While outreach programs at Immanuel are directly funded by other means — the annual IPC auction, IPC Endowment, and special campaigns — it is our pledge dollars that provide the necessary funds for staff and outside vendors to maintain, clean, and schedule use of our meeting and gathering spaces that facilitate our outreach efforts (more about this in a future column). To maintain our community of faith as we know and love it, successful pledge campaigns are essential.

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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