

Dear friend and member of Trinity:

There's more than one kind of heart disease—not just clogged arteries and elevated blood pressure, but deeper and equally concerning ways our hearts become unwell. A heart can become small and feeble and untouched by the needs of others. We can have a weak heart that leaves us unmoved by God's goodness around us.

Jesus knew how easily our hearts can fail us. Some of his strongest words were directed towards those who idolized money and set their hearts on possessions and were stingy with their wealth. **Perhaps that's why Jesus spoke about our relationship to possessions five times more often than he spoke about prayer.**

It's not that prayer wasn't important to Jesus. Prayer was! It's not that prayer isn't important to me, to all of us. It is! But Jesus stressed our heart's relationship to possessions because he knew how vital it was that we examine and pray about our stance toward the things we own and manage. The attention that Jesus gave to what we possess indicates how closely tied our attitude towards money is to our spiritual maturity.

This season of stewardship at Trinity Cathedral is a key time to explore your own heart's affections and commitments. Where your treasure is, said Jesus, there your heart will be also. He meant by that word *heart* more than feeling and sentiment; he meant also the desires that reside at the center of every life.

May your heart be stirred this year to even greater generosity. Every time we act we act charitably we strengthen that heart muscle. There's deep growing vitality in a soul that gives generously. And the health at the center of such a life gives unending joy—to us and to the lives of those around us.

Warmly in Christ,



Dean Timothy Jones



Sunday, October 7- Sunday, November 4

heart matters

"All the believers were one in **heart** and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need." **Acts 4:32-35**

Heart matters



Giving – of your time, your talent, and your money – is a **heart** matter. It is a result of “what you have decided in your **heart** to give” (2 Corinthians 9:7). For how you choose to spend your time, your talent, and your money is a direct reflection of what matters most to you

... of what matters most to your **heart**.

In Acts 4:32, Luke describes the unity of **heart** of the believers in the early church and how their oneness in giving advanced the ministry of the church. It is a depiction of true church stewardship. Can you imagine a community of faith where all are of one **heart**?

As you pray and discern your role in church stewardship at Trinity, search your **heart** and ask yourself what matters to you. Where are you spending your time, your talent, and your money? Your **heart** matters to Jesus, and He knows that the clearest window into what you truly love, desire and pursue is visible through how you spend your time, your talent, and your money. Your **heart** matters to Trinity!

What is Stewardship? Stewardship is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God, and it defines your relationship to God. It identifies God as owner and you as manager. God has made you His co-worker in administering all aspects of your life. The apostle Paul explains it by saying, “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building” (1 Corinthians 3:9). To be one in **heart** like the early church, we must first embrace this view of stewardship.

What is a tithe? The tradition of giving back to God and to the church comes from the Biblical practice of tithing, which means to give back one-tenth of the fruits of our labor to God. The Bible also tells us there’s more to it than just a percentage: we are called to give from the first fruits of our labor, not from the leftover (Deuteronomy 26:2).

At times it can be scary to give from the first fruits, but you are also called to “trust in the Lord with all your **heart**” (Proverbs 3:5). Think of the parable of the widow and her pure, trusting **heart** (Mark 12:41-44). Although she only gave two small coins, Jesus recognized it was much more than the larger sums deposited by the wealthy out of their abundance. Jesus saw her giving as a reflection of her **heart**. We are called to dig deep and to trust God, and not just with giving of our money but with giving of our time and talent.

Would you consider taking the 1% Challenge? Please refer to your pledge card. Find where you are on the chart (your annual income and current giving). Move to the right to determine how much you are willing to grow in your annual pledge. For example, if in 2018 you gave 5%, consider giving 6% in 2019.

Before you fill in the amount, please begin by **seeking God through prayer and through your heart**. Prayer is an integral part of stewardship. Ask God what his will is for you at this stage of life. What would he have you do? Ask Jesus to help you “throw off everything that hinders.” Be cheerful, grateful for all God has provided. You know God’s commitment to you, what his pledge is to you. What is your pledge to him?

Complete the enclosed **Pledge Card**. Include a total annual amount and the frequency with which you choose to pay your pledge.

Return your Pledge ON OR BEFORE **Sunday, November 4, 2018** in one of the following ways:

- ➔ Place your Pledge Card in the offering plate at any worship service on or **before November 4, 2018**.
- ➔ Mail or bring your Pledge Card to the church office (1100 Sumter Street, Columbia, SC 29201).
- ➔ Visit trinitysc.org/give to complete your Pledge Card online.

Give with your heart and make your pledge online at trinitysc.org/give.