

Fenny – Here we are again, dear. It's that time of year to ....

Rusty – watch football? Get our Halloween candy? Parent teacher conference?

Fenny – Yes, all that but that's not what I'm talking about... It's time to discuss how much to pledge to church.

Rusty - oh! Right. Well, we've been here for almost five years. The church has been good to us, hasn't it?

Fenny – Absolutely. This is the longest we have ever stayed in one location and I feel we have been enveloped into a family here.

Rusty – We have certainly made church a part of our lives too. We are here nearly every Sunday, you're helping to teach Godly play, I'm on vestry, our kids are acolytes (or future acolytes). We have given a lot of our time and talents, that's for sure. Isn't that enough?

F – And you know, it could be. But I keep thinking about a story in the book of Mark, the one the widow putting two copper coins into the treasury and Jesus saying, even though it was a fraction of what others contributed, she had contributed the most b/c it was all she had.

R – wait, are you saying we need to contribute all we have?

F – no, the story ties into what Jesus says in the book of Matthew about where our heart is, our treasure will be also. It's about checking our values and giving what we can, whether it is just or a combination of time, talent, and treasure.

R – I definitely see our ohana here at St Christopher's having great values. Our combined contributions of time, talent, and treasure have supported amazing outreach programs like Family Promise and worked hard with all the building/campus renovations. I have seen this group come together to take care of each other when needed. That's the example I want our kids to see and be part of.

F – You are absolutely right. I'm excited to see where St. Christopher's is going. And I'm so glad we get to give what we can to this church family for at least another year. Did you know we can even turn in a pledge online?

R. That's awesome. Saving the environment and helping the church... I love it. And I love you.

F – Happy Anniversary again.

R - well, we have been really fortunate this year: I got promoted, the kids r happy and healthy, and we r living in Hawaii! We should be giving a lot right? Isn't that what proportional giving is like? Give a lot and we'll get some good on the return?

F - no dear, not quite. Its more like, giving in proportion to what uou r capable of. But, well, aren't we supposed to be saving for retirement and the kids college fund? And it would be really nice if we could take a fun family vacation.

R - sure, we could certainly budget for those things, but remember how important it was for us to find a good church family when we moved here?

F - yes of course. It was a priority for us - a warm, welcoming and family friendly place that would really help us to grow spiritually. St Christopher's has really Fulfilled all that, hasn't it?

R - I certainly think so. Our experience at St Christopher's has Been amazing. It would be great to be able to help support their mission so that other families might benefit too.

F - you r absolutely right. It feels wonderful knowing that In supporting this beautiful church we can also be part of helping others grow closer to God.

R - I am glad we agree.

F - this number look good?

R - lovely, just like you.