

Dear Fellow Members of St. Phillip's:

It occurs to me that as a Church family we have the best of all possible reasons for associating in the first place and for continuing to do so. This is true because we believe Christian principles in general and our Episcopal teachings in particular to be the means of bringing God's truths to the world.

In trying to do this work we have had to be concerned with material aspects and in our 8½ years together a good deal has been accomplished in this respect.

In 1951 through 1952, St. Phillip's was small, average attendance only 34, but we did start a Building Fund and purchased the land for a Church.

In 1953 with considerable courage but with faith in the potentials of Donelson and ourselves we secured as follows, amounts sufficient to build the present Church:

\$14,000	from the Congregation and Donelson and Nashville merchants.
14,000	from the Diocese as a matching gift.
14,000	from other Episcopalians of Davidson County.
7,500	as a loan from the Diocesan Revolving Fund.
<u>20,000</u>	loan from the American Church Building Corporation.
\$69,500	

We were able to occupy the basement of the new building late that year and in 1954 moved upstairs after raising an additional \$2,800 for pews. This project was oversubscribed by \$200.

In 1955 we purchased the Rectory with a down payment of about \$1,200 and assumed a mortgage of \$7,362. We also bought a new car for the resident Priest in Charge.

During 1956 and 1957 Church activities of all kinds increased and the average attendance at Services went up 37% over 1955. More parking space seemed necessary so an adjoining lot was purchased with some \$1,200 from the Diocesan Revolving Fund. During this period we also assumed all the costs involving our Priest in Charge except the salary.

In 1958, Church attendance kept increasing to such an extent that space for the Church School was entirely outgrown. To meet this need a fund had been started the year before to build a separate Church School building and in addition we had the encouragement of a generous offer from one of our families to match the amount raised up to \$2,500. In the middle of the summer we reached the point where minimum requirements could be met with an additional \$4,300.

At an 11 o'clock service, Mr. Dimmick very ably presented the situation and asked for \$5,000. \$5,065 was subscribed at this service.

Our Church School building was immediately built by Mr. J. D. Owen at a cost of \$10,000 and has been appraised by the Insurance Underwriters at \$14,000.

Our present financial situation sums up as follows:

TOTAL ORIGINAL LOANS		PRESENT DEBT
American Church Building Corp.	\$20,000	\$14,287
Diocesan Revolving Fund	16,250	10,685
Rectory Mortgage	<u>7,362</u>	<u>6,360</u>
	\$43,612	\$31,332

A conservative estimate of the value of our property is at least,

	\$100,000
Our debts are	<u>31,332</u>

NET WORTH 68,668

This looks pretty good and with our current attendance figures of between 320 and 340 every Sunday including over 140 in the Church school, we could feel rather complacent, if we looked no further.

However we think it is time to take another look as to where some of our good fortune came from.

The Diocese, which means all the other Episcopalians in Tennessee gave us outright	\$14,000
Davidson County Episcopalians in addition to their part in the above, gave us	14,000
The Diocese has paid in salaries for us in the last 8½ years more than	<u>25,000</u>
	\$53,000

We are grateful and it was proper to have this assistance but I believe we are now old enough, big enough and enough convinced of the right of the work at St. Phillip's to want to stand on our own feet and take our place with the other Parishes in the Diocese.

We have done good work, up to now with the apparent approval of the Bishops and the other Churchmen throughout Tennessee but it is time to move forward.

Everyone, and I am sure that could be repeated, has been most happy with our Priest in Charge, Mr. Dimmick, assigned to us since June 1955 but do you realize that if there appeared to be a greater need for him elsewhere the Bishop might transfer him at any time.

This would not be the case if we could call him to be the Rector of our Parish.

Furthermore, if we relieve the Diocese of this salary and also assume greater and proper obligations as to Assessments and Apportionments which we would as a Parish, this money would then be used for the establishment of other and much needed Missions. Therefore your Council feels that our immediate goal is to attain full Parish status.

So much for the need and concern
fully by many others, to achieve our aims.

Episcopal Church giving, up to a comparatively short time ago, has not compared favorably with other denominations and studies of Episcopal Church giving shows that 80% of the money came from only 25% of the Communicants.

This problem has been given much thought all over the country and a successful solution has been found which can be well described by quoting from a Michigan report, typical of many others.

Partial quotation from an article by Bishop R.S.M. Emrich of Michigan.

"Many minds in many parishes, facing the same problems, have arrived independently at the same necessity for a standard, the necessity for proportionate giving. Above all, it has the backing of Scripture and of practice in the Church. It was the practice, you know in the Old Testament to give 10% of one's income to God.However, the ancient Tithe is not realistic for us today, because so many of the charities once conducted by the Temple or the Church are now carried on by the community.

What is realistic today is 5% of one's income for the Community Fund, Red Cross and special drives and 5% for the Church.

This is Proportionate Giving and is based on the nine reasons below:

1. It guides us by providing a method of intelligent giving.
2. It helps us by freeing our church leaders from a pre-occupation with money for the more important task of ministering to people.
3. It places us all, rich or poor on an equal footing before God.
4. It helps us by enabling our Church to speak not about money in a begging attitude, but about responsibility in a dignified manner.
5. It shows us in a concrete manner the everyday meaning of real gratitude to God for the many things He has given to us.
6. By making us responsible with a fixed percent of our income, it teaches us responsibility in the handling of our possessions.
7. Like all truly Christian living, it brings us the joy of an honest and important participation in God's work in this world.
8. It places us in a mighty tradition because it has Scriptural authority.
9. It helps us to see that all of living, even the making of a personal budget, and the spending of money, can be done to God's glory."

This letter is a partial outline of your Council's suggested plan for Proportionate Giving and is their carefully considered thought for the best way to progress at St. Philip's.

Please, study this communication and the others you will receive and I am confident that working together, as we always have, the right things will be accomplished.

Sincerely,

Fred H. Gates
For The Mission Council