



"We strive to be Christ's living presence in the world, sharing our experience of His love with everyone we encounter, seeing Christ's living presence in them."

– Christ Church Cathedral Vestry Vision for Evangelism, October 2011

November 8, 2011

To my Christ Church Cathedral family,

What does Christ Church Cathedral mean to you?

Last winter, I was asked that question as part of my introduction as a new Vestry member. It seemed so simple a question, yet it sticks with me still. As I continue to consider my answer and the implications the answer has for my church life, I am more and more amazed at what a crucial part of my life Christ Church Cathedral has become. And even as I answer the question, even as I share the story of my life in this community of faith, the story continues to evolve and deepen.

So now, let me ask you: *What does Christ Church Cathedral mean to you?*

You have a story of faith, a story that is bound up with the life of our church. You have chosen your church home for good reasons. Maybe it involves the moving beauty of our worship. Perhaps the local and worldwide impact of our missions programs inspires you. For many of us, fellowship with our rich diversity of parishioners, and the challenging, inquisitive faith that we share with one another, is part of the story. These are the starting points for many, but certainly you have your own unique elements to the story, too.

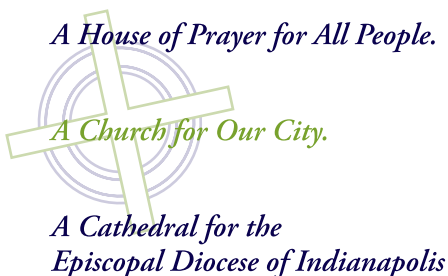
Why am I focusing on storytelling in a stewardship letter? Because the story of our faith—the story of why we are members of this community—takes us to the roots of our beliefs. The story of our faith brings out our vision for ourselves and for our parish, and it illuminates the role that each of us has in realizing that vision. The answer to the question "*what does Christ Church Cathedral mean to you?*" is an invitation to participate in that vision. It is an invitation to stewardship of all that Christ Church Cathedral means to us.

My story is of a church family, a family to which I have presented the greatest blessings of my life. I have stood before our congregation and shared this story, but I also tell it in what I do at church—giving my time, money, prayer and skills to serve this family. As I become more familiar with my story, it guides me to new blessings, new opportunities and new relationships in the church.

And so I invite you to join me in creating and sharing our stories, because out of these is built the story of our congregation. Let us learn the words that describe our story, and learn the actions that support it. The gifts, blessings and offerings we present to our community and to the world, in the name of God, tell our story as deeply as any words.

I urge you to show your support for our church in whatever form that support might take. Tell your story in every way you are able. Pledge your money, offer your time, share your talents, and give your prayers. Give generously, abundantly, and joyfully, and learn how your gifts will help you tell your story.

Yours in Christ's love,
Tim Culbertson



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