



The Cost of Growth

Lessons from 1st Timothy

2025 Giving

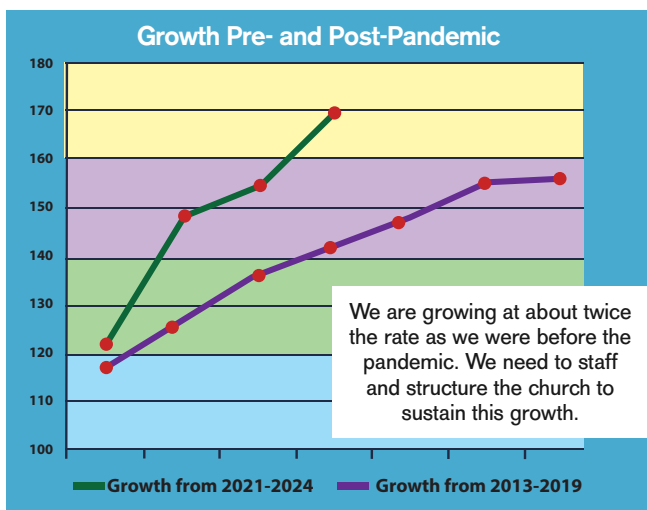


A Growing Church

In recent years our church has grown—drawing from different age groups & places beyond the borough, and we've seen the church deepen in faith; studying, meeting, and serving more. This was our most well-attended Summer since we moved to this site in 1946.

To our existing small groups, we've added a new bible study, new men's and women's groups, new small groups for youths of different ages, and we've doubled our pastoral care budget for our oldest members too.

1st Timothy Chapter 5 begins with a picture of a church in a situation like this, where serving such a broad variety of people, without neglecting anyone, became more difficult as they grew.



The Cost of Growth

We're using more resources: printing more bulletins; providing more coffee and snacks; and we spent nearly the entire events budget on just one occasion because RSVPs increased by 250%!

On top of that, we have come through the highest period of inflation in 40 years and that has hit every line of the budget from energy, insurance, and repairs, through to materials, supplies, and events.

To serve a growing membership we need a bigger team, but as several of our existing team are lacking certain benefits or aspects of compensation they should have we need to start with them first. 1st Timothy 5:18 says “the laborer deserves his wages”.

Our Vision for 2025

In 2024, the vestry set a deficit budget for the first time in nine years. As we write, we look on track to finish positively through increased membership and careful spending, but many of their best plans (such as increased mission, healthcare for staff, a new hire, and a church retreat) had to be shelved.

Teaching from 1st Timothy

As you weigh up your plans for 2025 remember:

Paul warns Timothy:

- lack of providing money for those in need is tantamount to a denial of your faith (5:8)
- trusting in money leaves you feeling uncertain because it can easily fade away (6:17)
- craving money harms your soul, and can even cause you to give up on faith (6:10)

And he encourages Timothy:

- money is fun. Use it to enjoy good things for yourself (6:17) and let others join you (6:18)
- money is practical. We need it to run the church just like anywhere else (6:18)
- money is spiritual. Our decisions with it now, build treasure for eternity (6:19)

How Much Should I Give?

1st Timothy warns church leaders to avoid obsessing about money (3:3) or setting legalistic rules (4:3) because when people keep them, and feel holy about it, they no longer see their need for the gospel (3:16).

But, for those who still want a rough guideline, the Old Testament practice of the tithe or 10% is a helpful starting place. As we grow in faith it is also good to understand that many in the New Testament gave considerably more.

What Next?

We have no external sources of income, so it is impossible for the Vestry to budget accurately unless you tell them what you plan to give. Responding at your earliest convenience is appreciated, but the ideal time to let us know is in November so that a budget can be prepared ahead of the New Year.

“They are to do good,
to be rich in good works,
to be generous and ready
to share, thus storing up
treasure for themselves as
a good foundation for the
future, so that they may
take hold of that
which is truly life.”

1 Timothy 6: 17



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2025 INTENTION OF GIVING

This card is confidential. It is not a financial obligation, merely an estimate of what you hope to give, and a way of keeping us up-to-date on your giving plans.

How to update your information:

1. Return this card
2. Visit our website
3. Visit our app
4. Contact our Finance Manager, Niki De Luca,
via e-mail or phone:
bookkeeper@christchurchfoxchapel.org

If we don't hear from you by the New Year, we'll count on your giving remaining the same.

My Annual Support: \$ _____

My Details

Providing this information helps to keep accurate records and will be kept confidential. Please list your name as you would like it to appear on all church communications.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please return by dropping in the Offering Plate or returning to the office:
Christ Church Fox Chapel, 410 Christ Church Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Ways to Give

1. Online Bill Pay

Using your financial institution's online banking services, you direct them to send us a check on a schedule determined by you.

2. Offering Box in Lobby

Checks and cash (*when in a marked envelope*) will be tracked for tax purposes.

3. Online: mobile app & website

Access the Giving tab at the bottom of the homepage of our app, and on the homepage of our website.

Make sure that we receive the maximum amount of your contribution by checking the box to cover a portion of the processing fees.

4. Stock Transfers

You can gift stock to the church via your broker. *Please contact the office for account information*

1st Timothy Teaches Money Is a Matter of Life and Death

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”

1 Tim. 6:10

“...charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

1 Tim. 6:17-19



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