

*DID YOU KNOW...?*

**Did you know that...** it is estimated many churches receive over 20% of their annual giving during the month of December? The reason is obvious, member's hearts are motivated by the Christmas season in which God's gift of his Son is celebrated. As we prepare our celebrations of Christ's birth, believers' hearts are stirred to express gratitude for this most precious gift. We also are mindful of the blessings we enjoy 24/7 in contrast to those who are without shelter, clothing, and food not to mention gift giving.

In this month of December, I encourage you to prayerfully discern how you can support your church in a joyful, generous and sacrificial way. This could include any of the following:

- Fulfill your annual estimate of giving,
- Give extra above and beyond your tithe or offering to the church for the services provided year-round to you, your family and community,
- Donate a generous gift to the Christmas Offering,
- Ask the pastor or other church leaders if there are any special needs that have been unmet during the past year for which you and/or a collection of friends could fund before the year is over.

**Did you know that...** the Council on Development is available to assist you in fulfilling your Christmas "wish list" for contributions? Of course many will simply write a check. You may not realize the Council on Development acts as a conduit to liquidate assorted assets so a check can be issued directly to the church. It is important to know the COD doesn't take fees for this service. The following can be ways in which you can give as well:

- If you are over 70 ½ the required distribution of your IRA can be transferred to the COD and a check is then issued to the church.
- Securities, like stock and mutual funds, are transferred to the Council on Development to then be distributed to the church.

If you give in this fashion through the Council on Development make sure the church and COD are notified to assure the church and designation requests are completed.

**Did you know that...** you can consider longer term planned gifts that will benefit the church as well? These often have the year-end advantage of immediate tax benefits as well as on-going income. Contact the Council on Development and we'll share with you about setting up a Charitable Gift Annuity or an Endowment.

This is the season of giving. How will you express your gratitude for God's gift of the Christ Child and how that gift is experienced throughout the year in your faith family?

Please do not hesitate to call or E-mail to obtain more information so we can serve you!

**COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENT**

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