

*The first of the first fruits of your land you shall bring into
the house of the Lord your God.*

(Exodus 23:19)

How do we offer our first fruits to God and His church? How do we offer our very best to God and to St. Philip's?

I am reminded of a conversation I had with my daughter several months ago. We were travelling somewhere and began talking about getting older and the responsibilities that we will be faced with. Eventually, my daughter asked if her mother and I would get old one day. My response was God-willing we will. I asked her if she and her sister would take care of us if we needed help. She said quite simply, "Oh Yes, Daddy!" I smiled and asked how she would take care of us. She paused for a moment and said that I would need to teach her what to do.



This conversation is a beautiful reminder of what it takes to be good and faithful stewards. We are blessed with many children at St. Philip's and whether you are a parent or not, we need to take the responsibility of setting good examples for them. We need to find ways on how we will increase our commitment to St. Philip's. Maybe it will be by attending more services. It may be by adding some additional layer of responsibility in our current ministries. Maybe it will be getting involved in a new ministry. It may be by increasing our pledge or quite simply pledging a portion of our income for the first time. It could be all of these things.

Whatever we decide needs to be done faithfully and wholeheartedly. We should be trying to show those younger than us what it takes to support a church. We should strive to do these things not out of necessity, but out of love for God and His church.



God willing, I want to be able to grow old with my family and see my children taking care of others out of love and compassion. I want to see them actively involved with ministries in their church and being supportive by offering their very best.

My prayer with you is that we will find peace in our lives, drawing closer to God day by day and search within ourselves a way to increase our support for our church throughout the upcoming year and in the years to come.

Thank you!