

Carolyn Greene  
Incarnation Pledge Talk - October 29, 2023

When I was deciding where to relocate several years ago, finding a vibrant and inclusive Episcopal parish was high on my list. After visiting churches in several communities, I was warmly welcomed here at Incarnation, enchanted by the tradition of our 160-year worship history and our stunningly beautiful 150-year-old sacred redwood sanctuary.

It was a fortuitous decision all around. My new life in Santa Rosa has been richly blessed by family, friends and especially by this parish community—including each one of you, whether we've met yet or not.

At a previous parish, the pledge program leader once explained in a very matter-of-fact way what it costs to operate a church each month—it was a big number, but as we looked at the details, we could see that expenses were reasonable and pretty much bare-bones; and they were all for programs and services that we really wanted and valued.

As our parish leadership plans for 2024, they need to have some certainty as to what our income will be. To be perfectly blunt, pledging—a leap of faith all around—is the financial foundation of our church.

I count on this parish, and I know it counts on me, including my financial support. Every week, I am inspired and transformed by Stephen, Pamela, our other clergy, and especially by each of you. This is indeed my spiritual community and spiritual home. It takes a lot of support to maintain a parish with as diverse offerings as ours. Every pledge counts, no matter the size, and I feel privileged to be a part of this effort, by pledging my financial gifts to continue this tradition of worship and service in Santa Rosa. Thank you.