



St. Matthew's Cathedral eNews

Christ + Compassion + Community

From the Dean

Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. . . But we are not of those who shrink back . . . but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

--Hebrews 10:35-39

Buy, Sell, or Trade

In my sermon last Sunday I told the congregation of an exercise I did with the vestry when I first came to St. Matthew's as Acting Dean. I asked them: "If you owned stock in St. Matthew's Cathedral, would you buy more stock at this time, sell what you have, or hold to see what the future would bring?"

Of those twelve people on the vestry at the time, no one said they would buy, 11 said they would hold, and one person said they would sell. Wow, talk about lack of confidence in the future of St. Matthew's . . . and honesty!

A year later, with a few new vestry members on board and a year of life together I repeated the exercise. Of this slightly new vestry, eight vestry members said they would buy, four said they would hold, and no one said he would sell. This was significant progress in our attitude and confidence in the future of the Cathedral.

When you receive your Pledge Card for the Capital Campaign in the mail, you have the opportunity to participate in this same exercise. You get to answer the same question: "If you owned stock in St. Matthew's Cathedral, would you buy more stock at this time, sell what you have, or hold to see what the future would bring?"

When you pledge, what it means to:

Sell. You are essentially selling your stock in the future of St. Matthew's Cathedral if you don't make a pledge. You may say you don't have the resources, but, really, when you don't pledge you're saying you don't believe in the future of the Cathedral. If you really believed in the future of our Cathedral you would find **SOME** way to make a pledge.

Hold. When you make a "polite pledge," one that doesn't require much risk or sacrifice, you are basically holding your stock. You're saying, "Let's just maintain the status quo. I'll participate, but it doesn't really mean much to me."

Buy. When you believe that God has a better future for St. Matthew's than our present, you will buy more stock in St. Matthew's. Buying more stock means you give sacrificially, challenging yourself to give because you believe that God's hand is on this congregation and that he has put the leadership and people and resources in place to realize God's preferred future.