

2023 Christian Commitment Campaign

October 31, 2022

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." – Malachi 3:10

Dear People of Plymouth,

We write to announce the opening of our Christian Commitment Campaign just a few months before we launch our "For Such a Time as This" capital campaign. There is no doubt we are asking a lot of our members in the coming months, and yet we write with confidence. We write with encouragement. Our hope is that you will generously support both campaigns; the first will ensure that God's work continues at Plymouth in the coming year, and the second, the capital campaign, will enable Plymouth to be a vibrant Body of Christ now and for generations to come.

We ask that you step outside of your comfort zone during this special season of giving. We reach out to you boldly, because we know that when we give in the name of Jesus, through His church, we do not give alone. We have a miracle worker standing with us, ready to multiply our generosity. We invite you to be a part of a Plymouth miracle that will leave our church, and each of us, transformed.

We know Plymouth is worthy of your support. We are a church with an active mission, building God's kingdom and serving our neighbors. In the last year, Plymouth gave many thousands of dollars to more than three dozen organizations, responding to everyday needs and crises. Our members assembled birthing kits for women in the Congo. They tutored school children in reading. They served dinners at housing shelters; delivered food to the crisis pantry; volunteered at our thrift shop; and repaired homes in the Grove. Members recently traveled to Florida's west coast to help Hurricane Ian victims.

God values generosity so much, and realizes how critical it is in our broken world, that He promises to bring blessing – to us, and through us – when we give in His name. That promise stands, even if our doubt is larger than our faith. In the Gospel stories of the loaves and fishes, the disciples inform Jesus that they absolutely, positively do not have enough to feed the people. Yet those same disciples have the great pleasure of sharing an extraordinary bounty as Jesus performs a miracle and fills their baskets beyond their wildest imagination.

Through His prophet Malachi, God encourages our giving and promises blessing, and in the very same breath He anticipates our uncertainty. When He says, "Test me in this," He is letting us know He understands us. We are like the disciples: before giving, we count items, check bank statements, demand ROI – and we never factor in the miracle God is going to do. He wants us to be generous with the gifts He has given us and, in Malachi, it's clear our stewardship includes His church.

We don't have to tell you that Plymouth is an extraordinary church. Sitting in the middle of the Grove and blending into the neighborhood, Plymouth is ungated and open, its beautiful acres traversed by dog walkers, joggers and cyclists. Hymns and prayers are audible on the street. Love and loyalty run deep at Plymouth, which is nearly as old as the City of Miami. We have members, and multiple generations of families, who have worshiped at Plymouth for decades. Yet we are an active, growing church, constantly welcoming new members, our doors and hearts open.

Please pray over this appeal. As you consider your annual pledge, set aside – for once – bottom lines and budgets. Skeptical? Uncertain? Test Him. For one year. Be the giver you aspire to be, and see if He doesn't astound you with blessing.

Join the miracle at Plymouth in 2023.

Most sincerely,

Bill Gerlach *Amy Shipley*

Bill Gerlach and Amy Shipley
Co-chairs, Christian Commitment Campaign

