

Dear Parishioner:

I am aware that some are considering reducing or withholding their pledge (or “estimate of giving”) to express their displeasure over the church’s finances. The goals of my actions are to restore the restricted funds to their proper place as well as induce the Vestry to act in a financially responsible and financially transparent manner. Withholding or reducing your estimate of giving would be counterproductive to those goals.

Should you want to express your displeasure, I would suggest that you instead fill out the pledge card as you would normally do, then simply write an additional comment on the card. A simple phrase such as “save the churchyard” or “restore the funds” would serve as a powerful message to the Rector and Vestry without increasing the financial crisis already facing Caroline Church, which continues to spend well beyond what its income and resources can support. While we may never be told how many parishioners do this, the Vestry can demand to know—and by doing so will be able to gauge the wishes of the congregation.

Chris Haring

emailed October 27, 2019