

Top 10 reasons why I give to my church....by Karen Manuzzi

Reason 10 - I give to my church for Spiritual growth

When I come to church, I feel closest to God. It is a dedicated hour where I can work on my relationship with God and learn about how I can follow the teachings of Jesus. Church fills up my spiritual gas tank so I can return to work every Monday and tell my staff the same thing I told them last Monday with a smile on my face

Reason 9 – I give to my church for fellowship opportunities

Adult Choir, Thanksgiving dinner, Young at heart, Adult Choir, Retired Men's group, Adult PF, Morning Circle, Winetasting, Adult Choir, The Mustard Seed, Vacation Bible School, the Strawberry Festival...did I mention the Adult Choir? There is something for everyone here at MCC!

Reason 8 – I give to my church to support our church's wider mission

Through OCWM, we support the beautiful Silver Lake Conference Center which as many of you know is a very special place for a weekend retreat, or if you are lucky enough, a summer. I mean where else can you slide down a snowy hill on a mattress? OCWM also keeps religion alive by supporting church's in need and/or ministers as they transition into their new roles. Folks it is important now more than ever to look away from the mirror and out into the world to keep religion alive. Remember, it is what you DO that matters in the world, not what you think or say.

Reason 7 – I give to my church for the opportunities it provides to this town

MCC gives back to the town of Monroe in many ways. We support the food pantry through the giving garden, offer old fashioned country fun through the Strawberry festival, provide cultural enrichment through the Monroe Musicfest, assist our town social worker by providing gently used furniture and clothing items and Thanksgiving and Easter baskets and school backpacks, and provide gently used clothing through the Mustard Seed, and more!

Reason 6 – I give to my church for our children's programs

The church teaches children the value of being a good person, the rewards of helping others, compassion, music, and the value of giving back. Our programs include Sunday school, Junior PF, Senior PF, Vacation Bible school, Junior Choir, the Christmas pageant and confirmation class. They also learn the rewards of a strong work ethic by working two long days at the Strawberry Festival...a free pasta dinner and the world's best Strawberry Shortcake!

Reason 5 – I give to my church for our music program

I have grown musically through the support offered by MCC. I have been a part of the adult choir since 1993, directed the cherub choir for 8 years, played in then directed the bell choir for close to 12 years, now help with the junior choir, and sing in a folk band! Folks, for me, it doesn't get any better than that!

Reason 4 – I give to my church to for Will Duchon

I have been a member of this church since 1993. I have seen choir directors come and go. All but one have been a good fit. (I am not going to tell you who that was) We as choir members get to see the energy, humor, enthusiasm, bravery that goes into being the director of the MCC Adult choir. If you don't believe me, just read the Music notes in the bulletin each Sunday to see what we have reduced him to. Through Will's hard work, education, experience and passion for music, MCC has a beautiful new piano, an exquisite new organ (which is not affected by the weather and is maintained at a fraction of the cost of the other one) and a new cultural event for the town and our church in Monroe Musicfest.

Reason 3 – I give to my church for Jennifer Gingras

I was brought up in a church environment, and I have my parents to thank for that. By the way if you haven't done so already, please sign up for the church pictorial directory in Wilton Hall after church. Judy Coward, my mother is in charge of sign ups. You are welcome mom. Anyway, just as I have seen music directors come and go, I have seen ministers come and go. I have seen ministers say all the right things, do the right things, tell us to do the right things...but at the end of the day they are people like us who have a job to do. There are ministers who do the job, and ministers who believe in the job, and ministers who live the job. That's Jenn. Friends we have been given an amazing gift in Jenn Gingras and I want her be happy here at MCC here for a long time.

Reason 2 – I give to my church because being in church gives me perspective

Church is a place for me to reflect on who I am, where I am, where I am going, when I should go, how I am going to get there, what should I do when I get there, how long should I stay and quite frankly it is place to remind me to stop complaining because I don't really have any problems to speak of.

Reason 1 - And the number one reason I give to my church is...YOU! For Ed, Lisa, Marge, Gary, Henry, Julia, Bruce, Debbie, Heather and every one of you sitting in a pew in front of me today. A church is not a minister, a music director, an organ, a piano, or a building...You can have all those people and things, but without a congregation, you cannot have a church. I give to my church so that YOU my friends, can experience everything on my top 10 list. You can spend your money on many material things in life today, but you will never get such a large return on your investment.