By making a planned gift, such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable trust, to your support local parish or other church ministry, you receive a charitable deduction that you can use to offset your income taxes for up to five years.

When you make a planned gift, you then have twice the satisfaction: you support a ministry that you value, and you save a little on your 1040 federal tax forms. At least you know you'll have something to put a smile on your face when April 15th rolls around next year! To find out more, call the Episcopal Church Foundation at 1-800-697-2858 or email us at giving@EpiscopalFoundation.org.

As we begin to recover from the frenetic holiday season, it's a relief to know that everyone's least favorite time of year, the tax season, is still a few months away. However, in the lull between these busy times, it could be useful to think about a strange relationship between the two seasons.

During the holidays, we are often reminded that our favorite charities need our support. During tax time, we are often reminded of how we would really rather not be paying as much as we are in taxes. How do the two relate?