



ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Reverend Richard C. Bauer, Rector

November 2020

Dear fellow parishioners of St. Edward's:

What a year 2020 has been! We began as a parish in transition, and, now, as we begin our season of stewardship, we offer our thanksgiving, not only for the joy in God's creation, but for our thriving parish, under the leadership and spiritual guidance of our new Rector, Father Rick Bauer.

Like a child learning to walk, during our season of "Covidtide," we are all finding new ways to "do church." Some of us worship in person again while others worship from home via live stream. We are connecting through online Bible studies and prayer groups. Our mission work continues through donations to the Hempfield Area Food Pantry and a day of service helping fellow members. The revitalized Memorial Garden is fast becoming a visible symbol of Christ's resurrection. A new day is dawning at St. Edward's, with all the promise of God's grace and goodness for our future.

A new church year begins shortly with the arrival of Advent, so, too, does our new budget year (on January 1). The Vestry would like to create the parish budget before the year begins, so we are launching the annual stewardship campaign a few weeks earlier than in recent years.

Stewardship is the word we use to describe how each Christian makes a commitment of time and resources to help accomplish God's work and to live the life Christ calls us to live. Remember his teaching: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). We show our commitment to membership in Christ's Body alive and at work in setting aside our "first fruits" as an offering to God.

Our hearts can certainly remain at St. Edward's even while we must be physically distant. Let us continue our ministry to one another and to the community. Your gifts make the ministry of St. Edward's possible—the staff, the building, the technology. Without a sizeable endowment to draw from, our annual giving determines the parish's annual budget. Giving to St. Edward's—your parish—is one of the most tangible things you can do to further God's work in the world.

We acknowledge that we are living in extraordinarily uncertain times. If your situation allows, however, please consider not just giving but increasing your annual gift by 5%. Your stretch gift will enable the church to meet the growing cries for help in our hurting world—and to bring the good news of Christ Jesus to others.

For all of you who give each year, we extend our heartfelt thanks. For those who haven't given yet, we invite you to experience the joy of giving with a grateful heart. We trust that God truly does provide, and that we are all co-creators, working with God, in the stewarding of our parish.

Please give our request prayerful consideration. Then complete the enclosed pledge form for 2021. Mail it to the church or place it in the offering plate on or before the first Sunday of Advent on November 29.

God has richly blessed us, and the day will come when we can all worship together again, safely. In the meantime, let us be a blessing to others!

Your St. Edward's Stewardship Committee,

James Alton

Catherine Donohue

Stephen Donohue

Matthew Sternberg