



“You are the light of the world!  
You are the light of the world!  
But if that light is under a bushel,  
It's lost something kind of crucial  
You've got to stay bright to be the light of the world.”  
— Godspell

Dear Saint Mark's Parishioners,

These words, adapted from Matthew 5:14, remind us in a fun way that, although our light may be shining, “something kind of crucial” is lost if we don't bring the light we have out into the world, for all to see, for the glory of our generous God and the building of the kingdom.

Over the past year, we have seen that light demonstrated joyfully in our own parish: in our weekly worship, warm hospitality, excellent music programs, Stephen Ministry, repairs to our facilities, and in our outreach to the wider community. Saint Mark's provides the space where each of us can find a place for our light to shine. We are overjoyed at the generosity of the people of Saint Mark's, because when we bring our light out into the world, we express our gratitude, confidence and willingness to take risks as agents of Jesus remaking the world. Our work, our prayers and our giving are all about making God's love visible and available to all in our lives. And they are about our willingness to accept the challenge to stretch and grow into our individual purpose, and into the mission of our church.

We will kick off this year's stewardship campaign, "Shining Our Light", with the ancient tradition of "**Beating the Bounds**" on **September 29**, an excellent opportunity to shine the light of Saint Mark's beyond our walls. In the weeks leading up to our **Annual Pledge In-Gathering on October 27**, we hope you will reflect on the gifts you have received, and consider how God is calling you to *Shine Your Light* in the world with your time, talents, and treasure.

As we focus on this year's theme, let us join together to give generously from our abundance so that Saint Mark's can continue to be a beacon of Christ's love into the world around us.

Faithfully, your Vestry Stewardship Leaders

Jay Wilcox and Ellen German Berndt

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Church**