

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. - 1 Peter 4:10

September 29, 2020

Dear Fellow Saint Mark's Parishioners,

When "Faith-Filled Generosity" was chosen as the theme for this year's stewardship campaign, none of us could have known what this year would be like. We can say, however, that although the coronavirus pandemic has tested our resolve, it has *not* tested our faith. In ways, we are stronger, more resilient, and more connected than we have ever been as a Church and as a community of neighbors.

The focus of Saint Mark's stewardship and mission of service toward all of our neighbors remains constant, despite being "re-imagined." As we have experienced months of not being able to gather in person, our Open Hearts – Open Doors Task Force continues to work hard to bring Sunday services into our homes each week and to keep our campus safe for return to inperson worship. Our corps of Stephen Ministers continues to regularly meet virtually with their care receivers, and our Outreach Committee meets and provides support to the NNEMAP food pantry, Saint John's Town Street, Catch Court, and other local ministries. This new reimagining will also continue as Saint Mark's is called into a period of congregational self-study through the search for our next rector.

In the coming weeks, we will explore how our generosity is inspired by our faith - the ways in which we are formed and led into relationship with each other as we share our gifts with the world. This is what we mean by "Faith-Filled Generosity." As we look at each family and individual in our community, we realize that we can give to the world only that which we have received as the stewards of God's manifold grace. How will you discover and use the gifts you have been given to help Saint Mark's in the coming year? How will you hear the Gospel call to seek and serve Christ in all people, and respond with generosity?

Our stewardship campaign will kick off on Sunday, October 11th. Shortly thereafter, you will receive a letter and a pledge card from our interim rector. We ask that you prayerfully consider how your faith in God fills your life and reflect it with a generous pledge to Saint Mark's.

In the spirit of generosity and love,

Dot Yeager Senior Warden Mark Drew Junior Warden

Jay Wilcox Stewardship Chair

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church