



The Church of the Good Shepherd

A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

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A CALL TO ALMS! Stewardship season is a time for discerning how we use the abundant gifts God has given us.

Dear Members of the Church of the Good Shepherd,

We hope you are faring well during this on-going pandemic. Last week's stewardship message from our Rector discussed how God's abundant love resides within us, even during the bleakest of times. Rev. Imogen Rhodenhisser's letter also reminds us that while the coronavirus may have bent the bonds of our friendship and love, it has not broken them – and asks that we reflect on what God is calling us to do.

Typically, we would have in-person workshops, meetings and large events to kick off our annual season of giving. As this year's Stewardship Committee came together, we realized there was no good playbook for an annual giving campaign in a time of social distancing. But as we thought about what stewardship is all about, we realized that our work together and within this community is bigger than any disease. And so, with God's help we are moving forward, trusting that all we need do is,

**“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you. (Matthew 7:7)**

While our sanctuary has been mostly empty since March, our hearts are full of God's blessings. As our Rector noted in last week's letter, we have greatly extended our community outreach, through partnerships with OneWake, Campbell Law School, the Raleigh Mennonite Church and the Raleigh Boychoir. Our parishioners have continued to fulfill their pledge commitments, even under trying circumstances, so that our financial situation remains fundamentally sound. And we have found new ways to worship and conduct other vital ministries online, reaching more people than ever before.

Over the next few weeks, as we build toward Commitment Sunday on November 15, please take time to reflect on how you can help continue the important work of the Church of the Good Shepherd, not only through your financial contribution, but also through the gifts of your service. Along with this letter we are including a pledge card. One side contains a place for you to pledge your financial support and the other a place for you to sign up for individual ministries that make the best use of your time and talent.

Be on the lookout for additional information about our stewardship activities. While we won't be holding any large, in-person gatherings, we plan to offer several on-line testimonials from our members, as well as a “drive-through stew” event, so that all parishioners can enjoy the delicious Brunswick stew that has become a traditional part of our Good Shepherd family's stewardship season. Please stay safe and healthy, and may the love of Jesus Christ be with you always.

Faithfully Yours,

Frank Fee
Stewardship Chair

Christie Barbee
Vestry Lead for Stewardship