



Dear Members of St. James',

Welcome to the 2019 stewardship campaign. We, the members of the Stewardship team, have put together some fun new ideas this year and made a few changes to the pledge card. Please see the enclosed Pledge Card Instruction sheet for information on how to fill out the cards.

Our theme throughout this year is "My Church is . . . . .". It is of course, many things, to many people, and we hope to share those thoughts with one another in the coming weeks. First, we need to remember that St. James' *is*. We **are here**, physically, in this world. We have an historic building in which to gather for worship and fellowship. We have lights and heat and air conditioning. We have a copy machine to print bulletins and flyers. We have computers to maintain a web site. We have telephones and email so that we can communicate. A commercial kitchen to prepare great meals. Yes, St. James' is all these things! But, is giving to the Church only about such physical things?

**No, it is not!** Giving to the Church is about sharing the good news of God's love with others. It is about being the hands and feet of Jesus on this earth. It is about living into our Baptismal Covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

But to do those things we must **be**. We need a place to welcome newcomers, young people and their growing families, people reconnecting with their faith, seekers looking for answers, those with shattered hearts and all who choose to pass through our doors. We need a place to be in community for worship, to celebrate, to serve others and yes, sometimes to grieve. We need the tools to connect with the world and each other and to share our stories. We need a freezer to hold meals to comfort those suddenly in need. We need those who can teach and preach and serve God in every way. All of these things are here for a purpose - to share Christ's love with the world.

And for all of those things, we need your time, talent and treasure. Treasure to pay for the freezer that holds meals for those in need, talent from those who prepare them and time from those who deliver them. Treasure to pay for a website, talent to create the graphics and content, and time to post them on the site. Treasure to maintain the pipe organ, time and talent for those who sing

and perform. And we can go on and on, time, talent and treasure, for the Altar Guild, for our Youth Groups, our worship space and our Outreach programs, for all the activities that God is calling us to do. All of these things require time, talent and treasure and all are worthy of our stewardship.

My family and I have been blessed as members of St. James'. We hope and pray that our ongoing support of the parish will allow others to experience the love and joy of this Christian community as we have. Please join us and be generous in helping all of us live out our mission statement - *to know and serve God by serving others*. If you have questions about stewardship, please feel free to contact me at [philiptatem@gmail.com](mailto:philiptatem@gmail.com).

Yours in Christ,

Phil Tatem  
2019 Stewardship Campaign Chair