



To our St. Augustine Family,

In my short time here many of you have expressed worries and concern over the state of the world. There is no question that we are living in challenging times, but here is the good news. Our faith was made for times like these. Our God is powerful beyond all measure and capable of all things. This same God offers us the peace that passes all understanding. That is the peace of God that makes no sense in the face of this broken world. A peace that looks at fear and says you have no place in my heart. Whether that is fear of illness, fear of politics, or even the fear of loss or death, the God of all creation is offering us a peace more powerful than all our fears. Thanks be to God.

As the church, we have an opportunity to give thanks to that same God. We do that primarily by sharing the Good News with a broken world. That is the number one responsibility and privilege of all Christians. This is done through kindness and loving acts, but most importantly it is through sharing what God has done or is doing in our lives. If this church is a blessing to you, then you are being called to share that blessing with others. We are still the church and you are still God's people no matter what is happening in the world around us. I recognize that things have changed, but God has not.

One of the ways that we return thanks to God and serve the world around us is through stewardship. Stewardship involves the giving of time, talent, and treasure. We spend much of the year asking for volunteers for the church and other organizations and your time and talent are our most important resources. Having said that, this one time a year we are making a request for money. With this in mind, I am writing to encourage you to make a pledge for 2022. There is much that we can do in the world and we are continuing to seek new ways to serve our community. As I said at the annual meeting, one of my priorities for the upcoming year is to create some hands on outreach opportunities for our parish. Opportunities for us to come together as a church family and give of our time and talents together in service of others. Whether it is outreach, attracting new members, or increasing our Christian Education offerings, money is not the most important thing we have to offer the world, but it can be a catalyst for creating opportunities to bless others. I hope you will choose to be a part of that blessing.

In your stewardship packet, along with this letter, you will find a letter from Tony, your Senior Warden, and Steve your Treasurer. Please take a few minutes to read over these letters. You will also find a pledge card. Please fill this out and return it to the church by February 27th. You can put it in the offering plate, bring it to the office, or mail it in. If you have already given your pledge, please fill out a card so that we can count it among our pledges. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Wes Shields, Rector