

2020 Stewardship Report (written report)

“It’s Not Just Giving Generously, It’s Living Generously”

We began our stewardship planning long, long ago ... in late February 2020. And we came up with a ‘Plan’ that encompassed the entire Church. And then we hit a ‘brick wall’ in mid-March 2020 which became known as Covid-19, a global pandemic, and we had to regroup, reassess, and modify our ‘Plan’.

For all the struggles that 2020 brought us and the world we live in, it has given us the unique chance to reflect on what is really important in our lives (like God, family, and service) and how our stewardship commitment fits into that. It allowed us to really work in allowing the mission of St. John's Episcopal Church to help us move in our stewardship journey. This commitment is a vital part of the life of our parish and we worked hard on trying to show that during this campaign.

During the past 10-odd months of the global pandemic we at St. John’s found ways to overcome and keep stewardship alive and well. Our church remained available for prayer ministering to others, for Bible classes and weekly services which we celebrated live-streaming and in Zoom meetings. And late last year we initiated in-person services with a reduced number of worshipers outside on our beautiful campus. We remained strong and viable.

During this past year, we remained strong because we still believed. We did not fold up our ‘tent’, we stood strong in our faith and persevered. That showed through in your sacrificial giving in our offertory during 2020 and your personal efforts that reflected the bond we share in serving our God. Your giving allowed you through St. John’s to touch so many with your generosity.

Keeping your commitment strong during this unique pandemic was a light guiding the Stewardship Ministry as we planned how we all could make our annual stewardship journey together in spite of the limitations posed by this pandemic. The Stewardship Ministry worked through during many on-line meetings to ensure that we did our best possible to keep St. John’s accomplishing her mission in the coming year, 2021.

Thank you for prayerfully reviewing your generous commitment for the coming year. Your intended level of giving will help the Finance Committee and the Vestry plan for our goals and continuing ministry this year (2021) to be met. Even with our difficulties we, you managed a slight increase which will strengthen all that we do. Thank you for your investment in our church!

We, your Stewardship Ministry, thank you for giving of your time, your talent, and your treasure, most especially during this difficult time in sustain your Church and her good works. Your gifts is an important part of how St. John’s is able to serve, who we can reach in fulfilling our mission. We believe the number one reason people give to their church, or any other charity, is because they believe that organization makes a difference.

Clearly, we are a blessed congregation. As difficult as this year has been for us, it has been far more difficult for many others in our community as well as across the country. We give thanks to God, as we count our blessings so we may be able to support the needs of our many less fortunate. Thank you for showing that belief again with your commitment as we move forward into 2021.