

Dear Epiphany family,

It is with faith and hope that we write to you as we begin our annual stewardship campaign, *Giving from the Heart*. Last year, through our shared generosity, we deepened our connection and commitment to one another, while expanding our service to the world. This fall, there is a new energy and vitality as we have welcomed over 20 new households and we launch new offerings, such as Faith Circles, Parent Groups, Young Professional Gatherings, and explore more local opportunities to serve.

Alongside this vibrancy, we face a particular stewardship challenge. Epiphany is heavily supported by 20 households whose pledges cover 42% of our operating budget. Pledges from two of those households represent 16% of our budgeted revenue. One household is moving away, but has committed to still pledge to our shared ministry at a decreased amount and the other household will be shifting some of their support to future Capital Campaign efforts. We are grateful for such strong pledge support and continued commitment. In order to replace this lost pledge income and that from several others who have moved away or died, we will need to increase pledges by about \$200,000. This is significant. And, we believe that our shared generosity will enable us to continue our vital life together as we strive to share more equally in supporting our annual operating budget. Our hope is that each of us will consider increasing our pledge (or pledging for the first time) to support the life that God calls us to here at Epiphany.

Jesus tells us that where our treasure is, there we will find our hearts (Matthew 6:21). Your pledge to Epiphany speaks clearly that your heart is in this place, and for God, and for you, we rejoice. Our campaign, *Giving from the Heart*, is an invitation to align our hearts and stewardship with the vision God calls us to as a parish. In these unsettled times, God is calling us to invest in one another through more small group offerings, additional opportunities to serve our neighbors in need, and building meaningful relationships that help us grow in faith, hope, and love.

Our annual campaign goal for this year is \$1.2 million. *Giving from the Heart* invites us to a season of personal and communal growth. Your pledge enables us to have exceptional staff and programming that invites, welcomes, and connects people into life-giving relationships with God and one another. If you can sustain or increase your pledge, or pledge for the first time, then we believe we will be able to align our mission and financial stewardship. Know that any financial commitment is a gift to our shared ministry. Your generosity makes a difference. Join us on Sunday, October 1st for the formal launch of our annual stewardship campaign, *Giving from the Heart*.

At the State of the Church meeting on October 15th, we will discuss the upcoming year and opportunities for us all to serve, share our talents, and connect with God's call among us.

The included materials clearly present the opportunities and challenges before us as a parish. We welcome your questions during this pledge campaign, between now and Ingathering Sunday on November 5th. God is with us, leading us on, and has given us all we need. We give thanks for you and rejoice in what lies ahead for us all.

God's peace to you,

The Rev. Nick Myers, Rector
Nelia Newell and Heather Keith-Lucas, Co-Chairs of Stewardship