

11/27/2020

Dear Members of Advent,

When 2020 began, little did we know how many changes and challenges we would encounter this year as individuals, as a church or as a community. From the tornado, then the derecho, the spread of the COVID-19 virus, financial insecurity, quarantine, social distancing, and so much more, it has been a year we will not soon forget!

As we look to the future and getting back to a new normal, let us take a moment to appreciate what we as a church community have been able to achieve over the past year.

- ✓ We moved from in person worship services and Christian education to mastering Zoom and watching worship on YouTube. We invested in technology that would allow this transition and overall, it has been very successful!
- ✓ Our food pantry, Body and Soul, helped more families and received much needed support from previously untapped areas.
- ✓ Fr. Brian and many others helped with dispensing money to those in need through the Metro Cares Fund program.
- ✓ Church volunteers helped families and teachers with supplies they needed so their students could be successful at school that went from in person to virtual learning overnight.

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At this time, we need to think about the Faith Giving Commitment we can make to Advent. This is not only faithful giving of our treasure but also of our time and talent. We will launch our Faithful Giving Campaign at the end of November 2020.

There are 4 ways to complete and return your pledge card:

1. You can mail the pledge card to the church, or
2. You can drop it in the offering plate on Sunday, or
3. You can drop it off at the church during the week, or
4. You can complete the pledge card online at our new website, [www.churchoftheadventepiscopal.org](http://www.churchoftheadventepiscopal.org).

**Please remember that your information is confidential.**

Something new this year along with being able to pledge online is you can also **give online**. With our new website you can complete your **Faithful Giving 2021 Commitment form** online and make your **Faithful Giving donations** by clicking Online Giving and selecting the Faith Giving fund.

The Vestry has several goals for the upcoming year. Some goals they would like to achieve should our income rise enough to have a generous budget are:

- Bring in an educator to support our parish with Christian Education offerings for the next generation of Adventers.
- Review building repairs and improvements needed to Parish Hall Building, Rectory and Sanctuary.

- Review the plan for the physical upkeep of the Parish Building as it continues to be well utilized by Parishioners, friends, family and community organizations. Traditionally we have relied on volunteer labor and expertise which is becoming sparser.

Your generous donations can help make these goals a reality. Please return your pledge card or complete the online Faithful Giving Commitment form **on or before December 13, 2020**.

If you would prefer to complete a Pledge card on paper, please send an email to [stewardship@churchoftheadvenepiscopal.org](mailto:stewardship@churchoftheadvenepiscopal.org) and a hard copy will be mailed to you.

If you have any questions on how to access the website or complete the form, please let me know by contacting me at [stewardship@churchoftheadvenepiscopal.org](mailto:stewardship@churchoftheadvenepiscopal.org).

We hope you will also join us on **Wednesday, December 16, 2020** to celebrate the end of our Faithful Giving Campaign during the virtual Wednesday Happy Hour. See you there!

Please pray for our Church, its members, the staff, and the community we serve. We would like to thank you in advance of your continued support of Church of the Advent and our ministries.

Sincerely,

Church of the Advent Stewardship Committee

Jeri Platt, Chair