

Rev. Marty Shelton-Jenck, Pastor



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October 29, 2018

Dear Alan & Carolyn,

Ten years ago; can you believe it? I became your Pastor ten years ago. If time flies when you're having fun, how fast does it fly when ten years feels like a blink of an eye? I am so thankful I was called to this congregation on the beautiful Island of Bainbridge.

In the past ten years, how many people have been deeply touched by the Holy Spirit in worship? How many people have been moved to greater joy and gratitude for life while listening to our music? How many people have felt cared for in prayer? How many people have grown spiritually in educational and spiritual formation conferences and classes? How many have received God's deeper peace through Reiki ministry? How many people have laughed and enjoyed one another during meals? How many families now have a home? How many people now enjoy safe drinking water? How many homeless people have warm feet in winter? How many kids love Vacation Bible School and tell their parents they want to come here next summer? How many teens have grown in faith and service to our greater world? How many non-profits have space to enjoy meeting and gathering? How many employees who work in Rolling Bay and shoppers who come to Bay Hay park safely because we maintain and share a community lot for all? I am so grateful to be the Pastor of a congregation that knows how to worship, grow, and serve others together.

Last Sunday we kicked off our annual Stewardship pledge drive with over one hundred people at the Gratitude Brunch. Then, in the afternoon, another hundred, mostly kids and young families, showed up to enjoy swimming and pizza at the Bainbridge Aquatics Center. It was an excellent way to begin our annual pledge drive when we ask you to pledge to fund God's ministry in this congregation for the coming year.



Everything we do in ministry depends on you. Your pledging makes everything possible. Your pledging and giving is essential. So, this year, our Session is asking: "Can you increase your pledge by 2-3% so that we can fund all our ministries, add an additional evening bible study, take good care of our facility and grounds, increase our mission giving, and give a cost of living increase to our staff?"

If you can increase your pledging, we will love you. If you cannot, we will love you. God's love for you and our congregation's love for you cannot and will not be broken.

Enclosed you will find our pledge drive brochure and pledge card for this campaign. Read through the details of our annual drive. Come this Sunday to the congregational meeting right after worship with any questions. After prayer and thoughtful consideration, bring your completed pledge card this Sunday or any of the following Sundays in November. By God's grace and your pledge, I believe we can and we will receive all that our congregation needs to thrive.

Blessings,



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PS How important is your pledging and giving? Let me give you one example. Because you and many others pledged and gave generously over the past 10 years, we were able to spend \$65,000 on re-roofing one-third of our facilities. After 23 years, we needed new shingles. 😊 This was all paid for from past generous giving without having to make an additional request for funds. Thanks for your generosity!

In everything give thanks. 1Thessalonians 5: 18

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgiving, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings. William Ward

