

Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church  
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The Reverend Michael Bordelon, Rector  
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Jerry Ernest, Maintenance Coordinator

September 22, 2022

Dear Fellow St. Barnabas Members,

As beloved children of God, we recognize our blessings no matter the circumstances of the world around us. When faced with uncertainty, fear, and worry, our deeply rooted faith sees us through, providing the strength we need to get through each day. Over the last few years, faced with a pandemic, natural disasters, and economic rollercoasters, it would be easy to get weighed down in the heaviness of the world. Yet, faith allows us to stay rooted and grow. Faith allows us to continue to see the blessings around us.

We see blessings in being part of this congregation at St. Barnabas, and we respond by inviting others into our worship and fellowship. Today's invitation may be different, in that it may be in-person or an online experience. We're exploring new ways of "being church" that may expand our reach to people we may not have seen before.

We see blessings in being part of this community, and we respond by inviting our neighbors to share in the Lord's Table each Sunday! We invite our neighbors to join us at our Pumpkin Patch, using our playground, and holding events in our hall.

We see blessings in being together, and we respond with fellowship and with mutual support. We know that St. Barnabas is there for us: with a meal or a ride to the doctor when needed, with counseling and prayer. We've found an extended "family" with whom we can share our worries and our joys.

As Christians, we strive to be generous, improving the lives of our neighbors, local and global. Perhaps even more importantly, living generously improves us. It changes our relationship with our "stuff", and, in doing so, changes our relationship with God. Generosity moves our perspective to trusting in *God* instead of only relying on *ourselves*, *our* hard work, *our* knowledge, and *our* resources. What a relief to understand that we can rely on more than ourselves!

This year's stewardship drive must be different in some ways, because this year has put all of us in different circumstances. Some of our community is suffering from the health impacts and the economic consequences of the pandemic. On the other hand, some find themselves with reduced expenses, because they are still spending more time at home. The uncertainty of this time will make St. Barnabas' budgeting very difficult. Your pledge is the best way to let our congregational leadership know how much financial support St. Barnabas is likely to see next year. If you can afford to increase your pledge, please consider that St. Barnabas is poised to expand our engagement with and ministry to the community. Fulfilling these plans will depend on our funding. As always, please be aware that a pledge is a statement for your planned giving, not an immutable contract.

Enclosed is a pledge form. We hope that you will first give it some thought and spend some time in prayer about your financial commitment to St. Barnabas for the upcoming year. We will celebrate the gathering of our planned offerings in the coming months. You can bring your pledge card to St. Barnabas and place it in the offertory plate, or mail it directly to the church.

Please know that you are welcome to contact Father Michael or any member of the Vestry or Stewardship Committee to discuss or help determine your pledge. We thank you in advance for your commitment to St. Barnabas and wish you many generous blessings!

The Stewardship Committee,

Tessy Guidry, Mark Evans, David Alwell, Dale Gauthier, Devin Guillory

