



November 2, 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters of St. A's,

Greetings, grace, and peace!

Who in the world would ever have guessed we'd have a year like the one we've just been through? Who in the world would have guessed that St. Augustine's would have come through it so beautifully and with such creativity? Although the current pandemic has kept our buildings largely empty since March, our parish has remained active, whether it be congregating over Zoom, in-person services on the lawn, choir rehearsals, pub quizzes, providing vital food to the Peekskill Soup Kitchen, and many more. We hope you'll join us in giving thanks to God for our leadership and Vestry, who have worked so diligently to keep our church community together throughout this difficult year.

It goes without saying that your financial support means more now than ever to keep this flexibility, creativity, and faithfulness alive and thriving in the year to come. If you have pledged in the past, we THANK YOU and hope that you will renew your pledge in 2021. If you have not pledged but contributed in other ways, we THANK YOU and hope that you will consider making a pledge for the coming year. Our vestry cannot prepare the budget for the coming year without a solid understanding of the financial resources it can expect. Our pledges provide the vestry with this information. With those estimates in hand we will be able to plan for St. Augustine's mission and ministry next year with confidence.

Stewardship Sunday is November 22nd this year. On that day, we will seek to meet the challenges before us by gathering up our pledges, blessing them, and celebrating remotely, but together, our St. A's community. Before then, we hope you will take the enclosed pledge card and place it somewhere prominent in your home. Whenever you see it, ask God to help you discern your pledge for 2021. As you do, consider praying this prayer:

*Almighty and loving God, for you the floods clap, for you the hills sing.
You know my circumstances better than anyone.
Take my credits and debits, abundance and scarcity,
my joy and my grief, successes and struggles
and show me how to use them to join the great chorus of Creation. Amen.*

For all that we've already accomplished together during this challenging season, for all that we will accomplish together in the future, thank God and thank YOU. See you soon, either on Zoom or hopefully in person - and until then, let us be together for joy.

In faith,
Your Stewardship Team

Jim Tyre, Stewardship Chair
Andy Harken, Senior Warden
Ingrid Ross, Junior Warden
Barbara Gellman, Vestry Member