



“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift,
is from above...” *James 1:17*

October, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am so very grateful for all the ways that St. John's has met the challenges of staying connected to share a community of love and joy during this most difficult year. Thank you for your presence (physically and virtually!) in our congregation.

Our stewardship campaign theme this year is **Compassion, Care, and Community**. As the pandemic has pulled us from each other, I have been deeply moved by the ways you have compassionately offered care to each other, holding our community together. In the perfect gifts you have given one another, I see the hand of God. Everything we receive and everything we give comes from God.

I have seen you give your **time**, the greatest gift perhaps, because it is something we can't replace or reclaim. Whether these gifts of time are measured in hours spent running a ministry, participating in worship, volunteering in the community, or reaching out and generously offering compassion and care of each other, this community is generous!

I have seen you share your **talents**, the blessings with which we are imbued by our Creator. Talents are a double gift—by Grace you have received them, and by Grace you generously have shared them. Each of you has something you do well, and I am grateful that you share those talents with our church community and our neighbors.

I have seen you share your **treasure**, too. In a year when churches across the country struggled with finances, you have given to sustain our mission. New families joined our parish and started pledging, long-time (and long-distance) parishioners joined us online and gave generously, and we anticipate closing the year with a balanced budget.

This year has been so different in what has been asked of us. Because I have heard your stories and walked with you, I know some of us are struggling with finances, with isolation, and with uncertainty. Over and over, I learn that it is God whom we encounter and Jesus whom we follow that keep us together and provide consistency in a shifting world.

And we have work to do. There is still a world that needs God's love, our love, to repair it. There are people in our community and neighborhoods that need our care. We will need each other's compassion as we emerge from the pandemic and grieve our losses. With joy and humility, with gratefulness and grace, let us do this work together. If you are ever in doubt about the impact of your giving, look about you. Whether you have seen your church family on a computer screen or in the pews, every person you see is part of the story of your giving. When you consider your offering for the coming year through the lens of the blessings you've received, I ask that you also consider how your gift expresses your compassionate care for this community.

This year I invite you to make your perfect gift, reflective of the gifts you have received from our Creator, so that together we can continue to be the **Compassionate, Caring Community** that is St. John's. You may use the attached pledge card to mail in or link to our [online pledge form](#).

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Ann+

My 2022 OFFERING TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9120 Frederick Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042

In gratitude for Every Perfect Gift I/we have received, I/we joyfully offer: \$ _____.

I/we plan to fulfill this pledge: weekly monthly semi-annually annually

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

I will pay my gift by:

- setting up payments in my SJEC member portal account.
- contacting my bank to authorize payment to SJEC.
- contacting the SJEC Finance Office to *set up (or renew)* my monthly EFT.
- cash or check. I need giving envelopes. Yes No

Please contact me about making my gift through stocks or securities. Yes No

Please contact me about including the church in my estate plans. Yes No

If you need assistance, please call 410-461-7793, ext. 112.

