



October 29, 2021

Letter from the Trustees, the Stewardship Team, the Pledge Team and the Treasurer

Dear Members and Friends,

At this important time of reflection and promise, it is good for all of us to recall the accomplishments our church has made during the past two years – a very challenging time for everyone.

Among our greatest accomplishments has been our ability under Pastor Char's devoted leadership to maintain meaningful worship and fellowship, even during times when the sanctuary has not been accessible. In doing so, we have experienced the benefits of social media gatherings, Zoom meetings, and other online platforms. We have realized the benefits of reaching out beyond the walls of our historic church to minister to others previously distant. Looking forward, our church will build on this experience to expand our communications and worship using social media. We have Jim Corbett and Bill Bausch to thank for bringing us happily into the media world, including hybrid services. And speaking of media communications, haven't we all become dependent on the twice weekly *Snippets* periodical to keep in touch!

At the same time, Jane Wilmot has inspired our dedicated choir to learn new skills in order to produce music that we all love, with Zoom productions, recorded back up and mixing, and selection of musical pieces that suit our circumstances. New audio recording and video display systems will further enhance our musical services in the year ahead. And Lucy Emerson, our Office Manager, has kept records and information flow current all along.

While our sanctuary and building have been less used during 2020 and 2021, we have taken the time to improve safety and health attributes such as improved lighting, vastly improved air filtration and air circulation, improved heating and cooling equipment, and updated accessibility. We have improved security of the facility while increasing controlled access to our spaces. Sexton David Gay has steadily tended to the maintenance of our facilities throughout this pandemic period, and it now shines like new. We plan deep cleaning of carpets and pew cushions, and electrical safety improvements in 2022 in preparation for greater facility use. We aim to have our building and grounds be the safest sanctuary available.

Though we have had fewer scheduled events in the building, our building use has increased in some important ways that further our mission – we support the Ecumenical Food Bank with improved food storage and food distribution systems, making more sustenance

available to those in need. Through our own gifts and a substantial gift from the Food Bank to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, we have expanded care to the needy in the community and our church family.

We have continued our generous financial support to non-profit organizations by direct gifts selected by our Service Team, maintaining our steady support to them during challenging financial times. In addition, we have used money maintained in the John Andrews Fund to support other major grants to organizations chosen in a careful selection process. The John Andrews Fund is one of our endowment funds, but it will be thoroughly disbursed to deserving organizations in the coming years and it will need replenishment in order to keep up our community service.

In addition, the Stewardship Team is opening church spaces for community use and improving the beauty and safety of the grounds. This includes plans to re-landscape the church entry area to provide safe and convenient entry to those with accessibility concerns. Moreover, our church has completed a church-wide initiative of brainstorming and evaluation that has capped the Re-imagine process, yielding an impressive list of extraordinary and meaningful initiatives that the members of this church wish to achieve.

All these things and more have been done because of your generous support. Our church operations require reliable annual funding. Pledges vary widely between \$100 a year and over \$5,000 a year. All pledges are important and valued. We have also had the benefit of revenue earned by our investment portfolio managed by Camden National Bank, which carefully invests funds donated by former church members and friends. Use of earned proceeds has enabled us to protect the principal funds while using the earnings for high priority needs. Should you wish to join the ranks of the generous donors, please contact the Trustees or the Treasurer.

Please make your pledge a generous expression of your commitment to our church and our community. Your financial support is important.

And please accept our heartfelt thanks for your past and present support during these challenging times. With your support and participation, we have glorious years ahead, advancing our mission within and beyond the walls of our church. Please submit your generous pledge and plan to celebrate our church on Stewardship Sunday, November 14.

Yours in Faith,

The Trustees, the Stewardship Team, the Pledge Team, and the Treasurer