Dear Fellow St. Stephen’s Parishioner,

Once again, it’s the season in our church calendar to pause for a moment and reflect on God’s endless bounty, ever present in our parish and everyday lives. Of course, we know that our recognition of God’s love and care for us is not limited to one particular time, but expresses itself in all that we do for the church with our time, treasure and talent throughout the year. Now we are invited to review our stewardship goals in the light of that eternal love, and to look forward to the achievements of the coming year.

Last year, the annual Campaign Committee initiated an audacious two-year effort to raise the parish’s undesignated giving total (personal giving goals and other funding streams) to equal or exceed by 25% the expected income for 2017. Whether or not we eventually achieve it, the real importance of this goal is to engage together joyously in giving, sharing God’s bounty and bestowing it on our valued ministries. When participating in the discernment process, we encourage you to think what ministries you hold dear, and in what direction you would like to see them develop. They need your support. Also, we ask you to consider that this year there may be particular needs relating to choosing an interim, and, eventually, a new rector. Most of all, remember that goal setting is a target to which you can aim in exercising your Christian giving. Each of us is unique in our journey with Christ and in our earthly means. In considering your giving goal, remember that the amount is not as important as are the spiritual benefits of giving gladly.

We invite you to fill out and mail the enclosed giving goal card in the envelope provided or bring it along with you to the In-gathering Sunday Service on November 18th. At this service, we will offer our cards and re-commit ourselves, our goods, our time and our talents to God, from whom everything comes. This will be a service of community celebration of God’s bounty in our lives. Let us go on our way rejoicing!

If you have any questions regarding your sharing and giving, please contact one of us on the Campaign Committee.

Irv Cummings · Lonnie Fisher · John Hammer · Elizabeth Oettinger
Barbara Stratton · Winky Thomas · Alice Van Tuyl