



Meet Christ.
Be Christ.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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"PAPA! Are we there yet?"

2021 Rector Stewardship Campaign Letter

"Are we there yet?" were the words heard from my three-year-old granddaughter's tiny voice from the back seat of the car. *"No, not yet,"* was my response. Moments later, the tiny voice had gained both volume and intensity, *"Are we there yet?"* Again, my patient response was, *"No, not yet, Kiddo."* Soon, those tiny feet were kicking against the back of my driver's seat, my head bobbing back and forth, *"PAPA! Are we there yet?"* *"I'm afraid not...we have a while to go...let's look for the landmarks that may help us remember where we are and where we are going,"* I said.

Does this conversation ring with familiarity to you? I am fairly certain it has occurred at one time in your life or another. Where are we going? Where have we come from? How long will it be until we get there? And, what will it be like when we arrive?

These are the questions we have as we navigate uncharted waters in the chaos and confusion of the COVID-19 pandemic that has overtaken us in the year 2020. Many people I have spoken to have shared that this is the year they cannot wait to be finished with...a year that they would like to get behind them. I have caught myself echoing this sentiment. Many of the familiar "landmarks" of our common life in Christ have been either missed, misplaced, delayed, or placed on an indefinite hold. We have mourned the heartfelt joys we share together in "normal times" ...Holy Week...Easter...choral music and congregational singing...gathering in worship...corn feeds...community dinners...youth and children's events...vacation bible school...weddings and funerals...to name but a few.

*But if we pay attention...*we see the many new ways we have maintained our faith community connections in these uncertain times. Zoom gatherings...outdoor worship...telephone calling trees...food shelf drives and distributions...outdoor children's worship events...video worship services...through these and many more innovative ways we continue to love and serve in Christian community.

As we navigate these challenging times, we remain aware of the things which are ongoing in the common life of our faith family. The generous financial support practiced by individuals and families at St. Christopher's is necessary to sustain our life of service to our community. We thank each one of you for doing your part to sustain a witness to the healing power of our Creator God in your homes, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, families and here in your faith home. Our Vestry and Finance Committee have continued to be dedicated stewards of the gifts you have so generously contributed and shared with the world. God's manifold grace is the gift we share from the gifts we have abundantly received.

I have witnessed the countless ways that you have used your resources for the mission of the Church and to help each other. Your generous sharing of time, talent, and treasure is inspiring and sustains me in great hope for what the future holds for us as we together move ahead boldly into 2021.

As we sit in the back seat asking, *"PAPA...ABBA FATHER...DADDY...Are we there yet?"* may we listen intently to God's words of assurance, grace, and love, saying, *"Abide in me, I am with you always to the end of the age."* May we see with keen eyes the multitude of new landmarks which point the way we innovatively live in Christian community. Let us take the time to live into a life of new beginnings, intentional prayer, and faith-filled generosity as we join together in the 2021 Stewardship Campaign.

Faithfully,
Randy+