



September 29, 2020

Dear Friend,

Our prayers are with you today in this challenging time and, along with all our vestry members and staff, we send our warmest wishes for your health and safety.

In the past months we've seen extraordinary changes to our daily lives following the need to temporarily close our church to public worship and the directive to stay at home. We've postponed services of baptism, weddings, and funerals, suspended fellowship activities, and our church staff and vestry are ministering safer-from-home. We look forward to the time that we can re-gather together safely. The diocese asks us to think of this as "Holy Agility". It is a time that we must remain agile and flexible as we navigate the uncertainty of current events and plan for our future, always remembering that we are one in God's love for us.

Despite the current circumstances, we have lived boldly into our Stewardship theme of 'One Together,' based on the opening liturgy of Holy Baptism: There is one Body and one Spirit; There is one hope in God's call to us; One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; One God and Father of all.

The ministries at St. John's have indeed continued. We have been heartened by the strength and resilience of our ministry leaders as they've found ways to maintain a connection within our parish family and more broadly within our wider community:



We have continued to worship through online Wednesday and Sunday services, and we have continued to meet using Zoom gatherings for both business and fellowship. We have remained spiritually **together** even if we are physically apart.



We have continued to support Western Fairfax Christian Ministry by collecting food in our drop box by the Breezeway doors and by Saturday drive-by collections.



We have continued to support two children through Save the Children, and the Diocese of Virginia and their outreach programs.

We live as 'One Together' through our baptism, and our one faith unites us even when we are not together physically. **While we have missed worship in our church itself, we are the one body – the feet and the hands of Jesus – we are the Church. And the Church has been busy following God's call to us.**

We all continue to feel the pinch of this uncertain time. Our Ministry Partners are experiencing similar challenges and have not been able to provide their normal level of support to St. John's, which allows us to meet our expenses and sustain our outreach. Please keep them in your prayers.

St. John's Episcopal Church relies on support from individuals who declare their faithful commitment to our church through a pledge. **Together** our pledges allow St. John's to provide a spiritual home for each of us, as well as support for our outreach ministries. The vestry has committed to supporting this campaign. Please join with them in prayerfully considering your pledge for 2021. While we won't have a physical ingathering this year, we would appreciate you submitting your pledge to the church by October 28. Join us in sustaining our mission and ministry. **Now more than ever, your gifts make a difference.**

In Christ's Name,
SJEC Stewardship Team

John Tucker

Penny Parker

Carol Hancock, Rector

Susie Pike, Senior Warden