



# St. David's

Episcopal Church and School

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**Please help us keep the light of St. David's shining bright in the world.**

My fellow parishioners,

We offer our heartfelt *thank you* to those of us who have already sent in a pledge for 2022. As of November 29<sup>th</sup>, we have received \$454K towards our goal of \$850K. However, with 25 fewer pledge cards in hand, **we are \$111K below the amount we received at this point last year. Looking at 2022, as you can see, we need your help to keep our doors open and our ministries alive.** So, if you have not yet pledged, **we need your commitment now** to continue to grow our ministries of joyful worship, engaging outreach, lifelong learning and celebration of our covenant community.

When Rev. Mary Kay wrote to us last year at this time, we were all expecting to have moved well beyond the "extraordinary and uncertain" times of 2020. We would have adapted to whatever the "new normal" is given the societal changes permeating our day-to-day lives. Our church doors would be open wide with little or no COVID restrictions and attendance at our Sunday services would be close to normal. We know this is not the case. We remain masked, we are receiving the consecrated elements in plastic cups, and in-person attendance at the two Sunday services is still not at pre-pandemic levels. Even passing the plate is not yet permitted. In her sermon on Sunday, Rev. Mary Kay preached about *hope* as we entered the season of Advent. However, our hope is tempered by *reality*, and with eyes wide open, we are looking at some hard facts about 2022:

The good news first...

- Pledges received so far in 2021 are running almost 10% ahead of last year
- Special collections for Easter and Christmas wildly exceeded expectations
- We've reduced expenditures by \$115K compared to pre-COVID 2019
- The Preschool is open and running at capacity
- We successfully obtained two CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) grants allowing us to save \$200K on church staff salaries, mortgage interest payments and cover salaries of the preschool teachers and administrators
- As a result of your generosity, the PPP grants and reductions in expenses, we may end 2021 with a balanced budget!

And now the not-so-good news...

- So far, we have received **25 fewer pledge cards** compared to the same point last year
- This translates into a **decline of \$111K in pledge revenue received to date**
- Income from other key sources (unpledged gifts, loose cash from passing the plate and facility rental) is down by another \$111K compared to pre-pandemic 2019
- It is unlikely we will see PPP-like financial assistance in 2022
- In regard to expenses, there is not much more "meat on the bone" for us to cut without impacting key elements of what makes St. David's Church and School what it is.

**In short, we are likely facing a potential shortfall of \$200K to \$250K for the 2022 budget year.** The Finance Committee, staff and Vestry will be working over the coming month to create a viable budget. We welcome your suggestions and input.

Again, we thank those of us who have already sent in a pledge and hope you will find a way to support the good work of St. David's Church and School through your gifts of giving. We know that God is watching over us and He will guide us through this time.

To make a pledge, please visit our website [here](#).

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Sheatsley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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