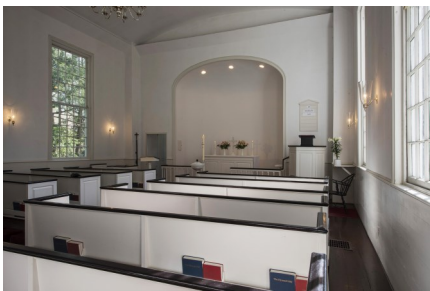




ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INCLUSIVE – BECAUSE DIVERSITY WAS GOD’S IDEA



November 2020

Dear Members of our St. Francis Episcopal Church,

As this tumultuous year comes to an end, the time of *“Pledging To Be Together”* for the 2021 St. Francis stewardship campaign is here. By God’s grace and your generosity, the many opportunities for our St. Francis family to be together have helped us all weather these trying times.

We thank you for your willingness to adapt to entirely different ways of connecting for worship, for community outreach, to socialize and enjoy each other’s company, and even to bless our pets. These are some of the activities that help us stay together as a congregation:

- *Worship* – Online Sunday worship, evening meditations, morning prayer and the beloved Service for Pets and Their People
- *Social events* - Coffee Hour conversations, lively Prayer Shawl gatherings, Sing-Alongs and Poetry Slams
- *Enrichment* – Godly Play weekly packets for youngsters, Book Club discussions on current topics and Adult Forums held with St. John’s Lutheran featuring prominent Stamford citizens.



The St. Francis Outreach Ministry continued to thrive in 2020, as well. Miles for a Mission’s virtual run raised an outstanding \$38,000 which was donated to Equal Justice Initiative. This national beneficiary was selected, given the heightened awareness of systemic racism in the U.S. St. Francis also signed onto “A Call To Action: Stamford Stands Against Racism”, a program working to confront systemic racism in our community. The Outreach Committee continues to offer small grants to local non-profits.

Cottage Meetings were held this fall as a first step in an evolving parish renewal. We hope you were able to share your views about what the future of St. Francis may look like and how we can engage with our community in a dramatically changing world. A report will be shared in early 2021.

All this was accomplished during this pandemic year of upheaval and hardship for many. We are truly grateful for your past support and hope you can find it within your means to pledge again this year for 2021. Unfortunately, the Church properties must remain closed at this time, but expenses for essential utilities, maintenance and well-deserved salaries continue, and your support is needed. As Pastor Mark has stated, “the building is closed but the Church is open”.

On behalf of the St. Francis Stewardship Committee, we deeply appreciate your *“Pledging To Be Together”* and your generous, cheerful, and gratitude-filled giving.

With good wishes for 2021,

Jane Lazgin *David Woods*

Jane Lazgin & David Woods
Church Wardens

