

Every Perfect Gift

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above...” James 1:17, NRSV

October 6, 2021

Dear Parish Family,

Even though I have not been your Rector for very long, I am inspired by your warm welcome and your generosity – by what you have accomplished this year, by your acts of love and kindness, and by the behind the scenes work you have done in the service of God and our faith community. Thank you! I cannot say it enough!

As we plan for the future together, this year’s pledge campaign focuses on our gifts; not just on the things we wrap with paper and bows, and not the things we put in envelopes or give from our bank accounts, but all of the gifts that we give throughout the year.

Often, when discussing our gifts, we as Episcopalians tend to talk about the three-legged stool of giving: Time, Talent, and Treasure. I am grateful for and aware of the ways in which you have given all three. Today, I want to focus on your time.

Time, they say, is the greatest gift, because it is a gift that we can’t replace. When we give of our treasure or our talent, they come, to some extent, from renewable streams. But time, once given, cannot be taken back, or reclaimed. For this reason, I am impressed by the ways that you give your time to build our community. Whether these gifts of time are measured in hours spent overseeing a ministry, participating in our Sunday services, volunteering in our community, connecting through the phone or in-person, and taking care of each other, this community is generous with its time!

In his timeless work, *The Little Prince*, Saint-Exupéry reflects upon the Prince’s tending of his beloved rose, “It is the time you have spent on your rose, that makes your rose so important.” Our parish is that rose, tended gently and blessed abundantly by your efforts, prayers, love, and time. When I think about how well you have tended the rose that is our parish, I feel my heart swell with thanksgiving to God for you – each of you.

We kick off our 2022 pledge campaign this Sunday, October 10th, which happens to be the feast day of our patron saint, St. Wilfrid. Over the coming weeks, you will be hearing more about our collective gifts from our leadership, in our liturgy, and in our common life together. Because our planning for the future is driven by your generosity, I would ask that you consider being as generous as you can and making your gift or your intention to give in 2022 known to us. This will help us plan and prioritize your desires for the future of the parish. We will bring our campaign to a close on Sunday, November 14th, with a parish celebration. Please plan to be with us!

You are a gift, each of you! You are a gift to each other and to a world in need of our love; our parish is certainly blessed with every perfect gift that comes from God above.

Warmly in Christ,

Rev. Nathan Biornstad +
Rector