

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Stone Harbor, NJ

2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

“EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things and at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

LOOKING BACK AT 2021

While we have continued to deal with the often overwhelming issues related to the pandemic, we at St. Mary's were fortunate to become a “Zoom Access Church” in addition to having complete services available on our website and broadcast live every Sunday on FaceBook, allowing us to continue to worship together and to reach a broader community of viewers who are not formal members of St. Mary's. In addition, Mother Allison's weekly “Staying Connected” emails have done just that . . . kept our church family connected and up-to-date on what's happening.

We are back in the pews (or on the lawn on occasion), and thanks to our shared music ministry with the United Methodist Church of Avalon, we now have Kyle Sheppard uplifting our spirits and enhancing our worship by making our beautiful organ “sing” along with the voices of our wonderful choir.

Some of our accomplishments this year include:

Bible/Book study with St. Barnabas via Zoom.

Thursdays on the Lawn continued this summer with some support from Springer's Ice Cream.

We provided 100 backpacks filled with school supplies to The Branches for distribution and several schools throughout Middle Township. We also engaged our youth to pack them.

We cleared out a bay at the Thrift Shop that will be used by The Branches in working with the Food Bank of New Jersey.

The Thrift Shop continues to provide low cost/no cost clothing and household items to those in need. They are also furthering their discipleship by supporting and donating time and talents to St. Mary's ministries like our Halloween Family Fun Day.

We participated in a very successful summer fun day with children who live in hotels/motels which included games, food and a fun water slide.

We raised \$1500 for CARA (Coalition Against Rape and Abuse).

We hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive which brought in many people from the community.

And, one of the most important/memorable things was the installation of our Rector, Rev. Allison Burns-LaGreca, by our Bishop, "Chip" Stokes.

So , despite all of the challenges, St. Mary's prospered in providing us the opportunities to do as Jesus has asked us to do be disciples.

WHAT IS PLEDGING AND WHY SHOULD WE?

Pledging is your covenant with God to give thanks and offerings, both financial and spiritual, to assist your church in expanding its ministry. The support of St. Mary's through pledging allows the Vestry the opportunity to budget and plan for the coming year. If this past year is any indication of the direction we are headed in and the momentum that has been generated, then it will be filled with new challenges and opportunities and we know that your financial giving plays an important role in making it all happen. Your financial stewardship is the way to help us grow spiritually in our relationship with God by supporting the mission and ministry of our church.

We are not members of a social club being asked to pay dues. Rather, we are followers of Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship.

LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR YEAR END AND MORE

Halloween Family Fun Day on the Lawn Sunday, October 31st @ 11:30 AM

October Food Drive

Choir Rehearsal Starts October 7th @ 5:00 PM

Advent Bible Study

Continued support of The Branches' programs such as advocacy for mental health & addiction, providing food and shelter to those in need.

We will continue to participate and network with various organizations in our community such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Civic Club, along with fundraisers being hosted for The Branches.

Continue to participate in community events building trust in St. Mary's with local merchants and leaders.

We will continue to engage and participate with neighboring churches and congregations on and off island in an effort to better address the needs of the people in our county.

November 14th Thank You Service and Coffee Hour Reception

Please prayerfully discern the gifts you have received and how you choose to proportionately, generously and sacrificially pledge your gifts in thanksgiving to your church.

In appreciation of all God's blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Proulx". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Janet Proulx
St. Mary's Stewardship Committee