



BRUTON PARISH CHURCH
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Annual Giving 2021

Common Prayer, Common Mission

October, 2020

Lately we've been praying a new collect called "A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit Among the People of God." As all good collects do, it begins by addressing God and continues with the things it asks of God: **Light a fire** within each of us, through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Revive** us, and make us Christ-like in these trying days. And finally, **unite** us to pray and serve together, even though we're apart.

The gravity of the pandemic calls for prayer like this! It speaks to those staying home, with new and difficult demands on their time. It's for those feeling confined, alone or adrift. *Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.* For everyone sitting six feet apart or in front of a screen, gather us in as one people, Lord God, united in prayer and mission. Wherever we find ourselves this day.

The Living of These (Recent) Days

Last spring, Bruton was not alone in wondering how we'd continue to meaningfully engage in worship and ministry without being together. These past months have called upon the creativity and resiliency of our people in every corner:

-) Clergy and parishioners have begun and continued new ministries of pastoral care.
-) We have kept staff positions at regular pay and trimmed administrative and utility expenses.
-) We've accomplished maintenance tasks in-house to eliminate or cut costs.
-) Our communications are reflecting changed circumstances.

An Invitation

Two recent surveys revealed that even remotely, you are grateful for opportunities to interact and feel heard and supported. Many asked, "What can I do in return?" The simple answer is, support Annual Giving 2021. Today, please begin prayerful consideration of a pledge, with the understanding that you have until December 31, 2021 to fulfill it. Your commitment this fall will be added to that of other individuals and families to reach a revenue projection, needed to plan confidently for 2021.

Pledge revenue goes to the Annual Fund-- the unrestricted dollars for Bruton Parish's greatest, regular needs. A strong response will serve all program areas, for example: to meet costs of improving technology; to continue to minister to children, youth and students of the College; and to preserve and share our heritage with visitors, now and later.

To continue to carry on ministry as we do right now, the parish will need growth in pledge revenue of \$100,000 over last year. This is in anticipation of loss of income from some usual sources, due to the pandemic.

The **brochure** enclosed gives more details. It is a guide to your discernment of a pledge amount, and a reference as you plan payments toward that pledge. We hope you will choose the schedule best for you, while bearing in mind that making periodic gifts as opposed to a single gift at year-end helps with management of our cash position.

The clergy, staff and vestry have begun making their pledges to express their commitment. Please join them by submitting a pledge on or before **Sunday, November 22**. Return the enclosed **pledge card** or use the online form found at www.brutonparish.org/giving.

Closing Thoughts

On Sunday, September 27, we held Holy Baptism in the church, with five family members gathered to witness and support the candidate in his new life in Christ. As much as we wish for life to be normal, for a moment it was: we received him into the household of God. When we needed a happy occasion, the Sacrament of Baptism resumed that day at Bruton Parish.

Our collect closes with the reminder that Jesus connects us to God's unfailing presence. May God strengthen the bonds of mutual love that unite us and call us to *Common Prayer, Common Mission*.

Faithfully,



The Rev'd Christopher L. Epperson, Rector



Martha R. Jones, Senior Warden

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit Among the People of God

*God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.*

Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.

*Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship,
learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.*

*Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Rev'd Christopher L. Epperson, Rector
The Rev'd Charles H. Bauer, Associate Rector for Christian Formation
The Rev'd Lauren M. McDonald, Associate Rector for Outreach & Women's Ministries
The Ven. Jan M. Brown, Deacon