



September 22, 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioner,

Thanks be to God as we, the St. Philip's family, look to the year 2021 with anticipation and joy. In spite of the difficulties presented by the Covid 19 virus, St. Philip's continues to be active in celebrating the good news of Jesus Christ and his ministry among us. Our long history is one of pressing forward during difficult times and we continue that tradition during this pandemic as we gather each Sunday for worship and also begin construction of our long-anticipated Parish Hall.

Although we write as members of the Stewardship Committee, we understand that we are all stewards of St. Philip's and its future. Stewardship campaigns are generally based on an effort to maintain current programming while looking to the future. While that is certainly the case this year, the demands that we face in 2021 are particularly compelling. Fr. Eric has been handling all pastoral duties and responsibilities since Fr. T.J. left in January. We must provide him with some relief by hiring an assistant priest. We also need to install a new security and fire safety system and cover additional hurricane and property related insurance costs. The need to continue our current programming and support these operational costs requires each of us at St. Philip's to think more carefully about how we intend to fund these added expenses. Our Vestry has worked carefully with the Finance and Facilities Board to reduce and manage expenses as much as possible. The 2021 budget, soon to be made available for your consideration, is the result of their careful budgetary analysis. And now it is our turn.

The budget for 2021 will increase by approximately 7% over that of 2020. More detailed information will be forthcoming in October as we begin our Stewardship campaign in earnest. We ask that you begin now to prayerfully consider your support for the new beginnings and challenges that 2021 will bring.

In Christ,

Your Stewardship Committee