



MORE THAN ENOUGH

And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces. Luke 9:16-17

November 4, 2022

Dear Holy Trinity,

As I sat down to write my annual stewardship letter, I reflected on all the wonderful blessings we encountered throughout 2022. Wow! Where do I begin? We hired Anne Punch, who has revolutionized how things operate in the church office. We contracted with new IT and phone providers, which have greatly improved the technology needs of our church. We hired Olivia Garthwaite and began hosting Sunday School for the children of our parish. On Palm Sunday, we saw the return of the chalice in morning worship, signaling that ALL previous Covid-19 restrictions had been lifted. On Pentecost, Jeremy Silverman joined us as our new music director, bringing a new and fresh energy to the music program. We saw the return of our beloved Hot Breakfast. We hosted the Florida Symphonic Winds. We enjoyed fellowship at our redesigned Shrove Tuesday Celebration, and our All Saints Chili Cook-Off. We had a highly successful Fall Kick-Off/Ministry Fair, and we welcomed Bishop Scharf for his very first Bishop's visit. We've seen the return of Christian formation with Coffee with the Clergy. Our outreach programs are BOOMING, with many new initiatives that started in 2022...particularly the Sandy Lane Backpack Project and Laundry Love. And finally, we replaced our aging metal roof, a sizable undertaking that cost the church more than \$300,000. There were many more items that came to mind, but these represent particular highlights I wanted to share.

(Over)

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
3240 North McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, Florida 33761

All of these highlights inspire a massive THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone who gave generously of their time, talent, and treasure to make all this possible. Thank you to the newer members of our church, who joined us throughout the year and began contributing to the work of this wonderful community. Most of all, thank you to God for blessing us in ways we never dreamed possible.

In many ways, I saw 2022 as a return to “normal.” Our worship is no longer restricted by Covid-19, fellowship events are happening, meetings are in-person, Christian formation has restarted; the general weekly, monthly, and yearly life of the parish feels the way it did prior to Covid. And yet, there are hints of something new beginning to blossom. Outreach is leading the charge with fresh ideas coming to life. The choir has doubled in size. We’re seeing new faces on Sunday mornings. Different people are stepping into leadership. There is a general excitement for the future.

Considering all this, I feel confident 2023 is going to be a year of growth. I think we have arrived at the new baseline we had hoped to achieve prior to the pandemic. Covid set us back about a year, but the time has finally come. Therefore, I ask each of you to seriously consider your financial commitment for 2023. Growth is coming and we will need additional financial resources to keep up. I pray that God will continue to bless this congregation as we are faithful with the gifts we are given.

This year, I intend to post one video that will focus on stewardship. I will use this video to dive into additional detail that I could not cover in this letter. I encourage everyone to watch this video, listen to the content, and prayerfully discern your pledge for 2023. All our stewardship materials can be found on our website:

<https://holyltrinityclw.org/stewardship2022>

Included with this correspondence is our updated pledge letter. I invite you to receive this with grace as you consider how you will share with our church what you have received from God. It is our goal to collect everyone’s pledge letter by **Sunday, November 27th**, at which point all pledge letters will be blessed, and our entire stewardship campaign will be prayerfully offered to God as part of our Holy Eucharist.

In the spirit of generosity and love+

Rev. Daniel J. Lemley

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