



St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

Our mission is to live as Christ's Heart and Hands in the World

“I will bless you...so that you will be a blessing”

Genesis 12:2

October 10, 2018

Dear Friends,

Blessed to be a Blessing

From the very beginning of our faith history God's people have always been beneficiaries of God's blessings for the sole purpose of sharing those blessings with others. That's the purpose with all of God's giftedness; nothing is given to be grasped at or possessed but to be shared. St. Paul expressed this to the people in his Second Letter to the Corinthians (9:8) saying, "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." He then reminds them that through their generosity they are enriched, the recipients are enriched and all this overflow in thanksgiving to God.

This is the heart of our annual Stewardship drive. We encourage you to consider prayerfully how God has enriched you with blessings in order to be a blessing to others through your contribution to and participation in our church programs.

Blessings of an Assistant Rector

Several years ago, at our Strategic Planning sessions, a goal was set for the hiring of an Assistant Rector. About three years ago we received a sizable amount of money from the Chaney estate which enabled us to fund that position. We are now at the point where we must take over the funding of that position through our budget as the Chaney money is mostly depleted.

Having our Assistant Rector has been a tremendous blessing to the church which, in turn, has been a blessing to you, to me, to our community and our diocese. Because of our Assistant Rector, more gets accomplished, more lives are touched, more ministries are strengthened, and we have the benefit of experiencing a different perspective in leadership. Especially now that we have no deacons on staff the position of Assistant Rector is invaluable.

I ask you to please prayerfully consider your giving to the church for 2019, increasing it to an amount that is feasible, and continue to bless God's work through our church.

With much affection,

Fr. Dan Messier

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