

The Gifts of God for the People of God

October 3, 2016

Dear Friends of Calvary,

As we head into fall, Calvary becomes a busy community and place. Multiple classes and groups to deepen our faith for children and adults resume, outreach and fellowship opportunities abound, the wonderful sounds of the full choir return to services, and the Women of Calvary have begun preparing for the annual Holiday Bazaar in November.

At Calvary, we are blessed with an historic and inspiring facility, an outstanding organ and music program, remarkable and devoted clergy, and dedicated staff and volunteers. These are all used to fulfill Calvary's mission to serve God and our neighbors which includes celebrating four Sunday services each week, serving our members and those in our community, and providing meeting space for more than forty outside groups, all who help make the city better for all. All of us – clergy, staff, and members alike are the stewards of Calvary Church and its mission.

So, what does Stewardship mean and what does it entail? Stewardship focuses on the care and nurture of all the resources with which we have been blessed be they talents, buildings, history, financial assets or, most importantly, people. Stewardship, in the Biblical sense, means we are entrusted with the care of our small but significant part of God's creation.

The theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign is "The Gifts of God for the People of God." Those are the words the priest pronounces as the faithful prepare to receive the sacrament, taking Christ into ourselves transforming us from the inside out. The original wording actually translates better as "The holy for the holy" meaning the holy gifts for the holy people. Holy means "set apart" for God's sacred purpose, to continue, through us, the work Christ began. We are continually reminded that all we are and all we have comes from God and we are stewards of God's creation.

With this in mind, we hope that you would consider participating in the annual appeal for the coming year. Every pledge to Calvary is an important pledge, and we value the participation of every person in our community for this effort.

Please take time to discern how you can best respond and return your completed pledge card by Dedication Sunday, scheduled for November 20, 2016. Our goal is to finalize the annual appeal by this time so the Vestry can thoughtfully establish a budget and plan for 2017. Your cooperation by making a pledge by Dedication Sunday would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Mark and Michelle Rust in black ink.

Mark and Michelle Rust,
Stewardship Committee Co-chairs