

Sharing Our Gifts Stewardship Campaign for 2023

Dear Calvary Friends,

How good it is to see the pews filling up again, coffee and bagels in the parish hall, and confirmation classes meeting in person. We've been through a lot together in the past few years, but now the light at the end of a long tunnel is shining brightly and clearly!

Thanks to the commitment and energy of so many at Calvary, our mission work has continued throughout this difficult time, with outreach to our community, in-reach to our fellow congregants in need, flexible and varied worship options, and a whole new audio/video setup that allows us to reach people who might otherwise not be able to join our worship services. In some ways, Calvary Episcopal Church is rising from the pandemic stronger than ever.

Calvary has always been good at bringing all hands-on-deck to get the job done. History has made it abundantly clear how much we can achieve when all of us pitch in and share our gifts, and yet there is still so much that we can accomplish together!

Our campaign theme for 2023 is **Sharing Our Gifts**. This might bring to mind Luke's version of the feeding of the five thousand. Responding to Jesus' call, the gathered crowd turn their pockets inside out, shake out their blankets, rummage through their parcels to find enough to take care of the needs of the community. Sharing created abundance, just as our 2023 campaign can create the abundance necessary to fund our missions and our operations at Calvary! Every gift of time, talent and treasure supports our ability to do God's work in the world that he created.

Today we ask that you begin considering what you will pledge in 2023. We ask that you pray with us as we launch this campaign. Pray that as we all commit to share our time, talents and treasures, we will create the abundance necessary to sustain and grow our ministries and operations at Calvary. Prayerfully consider what you are called to give!

This year's campaign begins now and will run through Sunday, December 4 when we will close with a potluck breakfast and Ministry Fair. Throughout the interim timeframe we'll hear testimonials from fellow parishioners about why and how they give, a message or two from our clergy on stewardship, and additional communication to build your understanding of how Calvary uses the money that is pledged. Pledge cards will be mailed and should be received early to mid- November. They will also be available in the church office. Please reflect on the many gifts of time, talent and treasure that God has given to you and your family and give generously to help us meet our goal of \$390,000, allowing Calvary to sustain and grow our ministries and operations.

In the spirit of love,

Your 2023 Stewardship Committee
David and Lisa Schenker and Tim and Jennifer James