

# Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

Dear Friend,

You are warmly invited during our now open stewardship season to commit your time and treasure to the support of our joyful, welcoming and "justice-seeking church in the heart of our nation's capital." Our theme this year is *Dreaming God's Dream*. This is the time of year when we build our budget and volunteer teams for 2026. Enclosed you will find a commitment card, a narrative budget sketching our aspirations, and a return envelope. In the coming weeks, you will hear from members of the congregation about what the church means to them and how that inspires their financial and volunteer commitments. Please reflect yourself and with your household members about how our church sustains and empowers you for challenges personal and social.

Our theme, *Dreaming God's Dream*, evokes for me the message of Luke's gospel, which we have studied in Bible Workbench. Jesus's teaching and ministry prepared his followers themselves to act upon the good news of God's concern for every person and for social justice. Jesus promised his followers that the Holy Spirit would come to inspire and guide them forever. We come to worship to experience that presence. We seek to be God's hands in the world, caring for one another and working for a just, peaceful, and thriving world. That is God's dream and our calling as a community.

Please pledge by or before Commitment Sunday, November 16. Pledging allows us to budget wisely and match volunteer requests with your preferences. You can return your commitment card in the envelope provided, in the offering plate at worship, or online. As you look at the narrative budget, I hope you will see that our expenditures are lean and mission committed. We are reducing our deficit, generated by the pandemic, but still have a gap to close. We need to increase our pledge income. Our finances are transparent, and we encourage you to ask questions about the budget.

We know that this is a difficult year in many ways. We are particularly conscious of those who have lost their jobs due to the reckless and cruel actions of the current administration. Yet the church's mission, God's Dream, has never seemed more important and sustaining. Please give what you can so this essential beacon of hope can shine ever brighter. Hope is a basis for action.

Thank you for your commitment.

In fellowship,  
Peter Byrne, Finance Commission & Stewardship Chair