



St. Benedict's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*We are a
welcoming
community
sharing and
spreading
Christ's love
through
worship,
education,
fellowship,
& outreach.*

October 7, 2021

Dear People of God at St. Benedict's,

"I planted, Apollos watered, and God gave the growth." (1 Corinthians 6:3) St. Paul's words to the church at Corinth frame our 2022 pledge campaign and remind us what God does with our offerings. Over the last couple of years, St. Benedict's had a double portion of waiting. Even before the pandemic, our congregation was in a "wait and see" mentality. Looking for a new leader and some necessary stability, we "paused" as we waited for our new rector, and paused some parts of parish life as we waited for the pandemic to pass. Our 2021 pledge season was challenging. And yet even in the midst of what felt like waiting, God was growing seeds that had been planted long before.

In Jesus's resurrection, we see the abundant life God brings forth from waiting; and we see it at St. Benedict's! Our pews are beginning to refill each Sunday as we worship God and break bread. A new rector and the parish delight in continuing to get to know one another: discovering shared gifts, opportunities, and faithfulness. As we feel the energy beginning to build again, and God's Holy Spirit blowing new life into our church, it's time to plant, to water, and to tend. Our members' faithful giving enables our ministries and our life together. Right now, through a financial pledge to St. Benedict's in 2022, we have an opportunity to prayerfully plant seeds.

During this stewardship season at St. Benedict's, you will hear and see some of the usual things: pledge cards, reflections from the St. B's community about why they give, and social media reminders to pledge. But this stewardship season, we also invite you to reflect a little bit differently. What gifts and passions has God called forth in you that you can offer back to the glory of Christ? What is the value of commitment: to God, to each other, and to our parish? How can we talk about finances together in a way that is more approachable and transparent? How can our church do more for our members, our Smyrna community and the diocese?

Enclosed is a 2022 pledge commitment card. During the next five weeks, we invite you to prayerfully reflect on the seeds you plant at St. Benedict's, the watering and tending we share, and the growth God provides. How might your faith practices include a financial pledge to St. Benedict's? How does your standard of living align with your habits of giving? What impact has St. Benedict's had on your life of faith, and on the wider community? What are your hopes for growth?

We are so thankful for the seeds planted at St. Benedict's over the past 14 years, for the tending and watering you engage in all around us, and for the growth that God gives. Together, let's see what will bloom.

In Faith.

The Rev. Jenna Strizak
Rector

Julia Searcy
Stewardship Chair

