

Saint James Episcopal Church
3100 Monkton Road, Monkton, MD 21111

Dear fellow parishioners,

Enclosed please find your pledge card for 2010. As previously announced in the September newsletter and a letter sent to you in mid-September, we are asking that you bring your completed pledge card to church on **Stewardship Celebration Sunday, October 25th**.

Before you fill it out, take a minute to reflect on all the blessing from God that are part of the life we enjoy— a warm dry home, sufficient food, a loving faith community full of others who encourage us to live into the promises made at our baptism. Then think about all the ministries of St. James and how they connect with a few of those promises.

Will you continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers? We have good music, a beautifully adorned altar in the church, the weekly healing liturgy in the Meditation Chapel, and the monthly Children's Eucharist that serves as many as 60 children. Your gifts help make all of this possible. Thank you.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? Think of the orphanage in Honduras that we are helping to expand, the work we do with Episcopal Community Services of Maryland, the Baltimore Seafarers' Center, and the Ark Day Care Center. Consider the prayer shawls that volunteers knit and then send to home bound and ill persons here in Monkton. Don't forget all the pastoral visits made by our priests and the Pastoral Care Community, the Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Flower Ministers and Bread Ministers to homes, hospitals and nursing homes. Your gifts help us honor what Christ asks us to do for others. Thank you.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? Consider the Sunday School, the Confirmation class for 9th and 10th graders, the book groups, bible studies and prayer opportunities that meet three days a week. Look at the study tools on our web site, including our e-classes. Did you know that we had a half a million web site visitors last year? Look at connections we have forged with St. Mary's, the Ecumenical Institute, Sewanee and the Virginia Theological Seminary from which we are able to craft the new Adult Lecture series. We have so much to offer to those who are seeking a suitable foundation on which to build a life for their family. And your gifts help them to do so. Thank you.

We have much for which to be thankful. And, in Christ's name, we are doing much that enables others to give thanks to God as well. We appreciate your pledge and will work hard to use it well.

On **Stewardship Celebration Sunday, October 25th**, the clergy will invite all who brought their cards to come up to the rail to have their card collected. Extra cards will be available for those who may have misplaced their card. This is a new way of doing the pledge card collection but we hope to experience 3 benefits: to received filled in pledge cards in a timely manner to better plan for the 2010 budget year; to allow the clergy to immediately thank you for your commitment; and to allow us all to witness our church family working in fellowship to keep the work of God growing here at St. James.

Everyone is very busy and we tend to back burner items that don't have a specific deadline. This new approach should make it easier for all of us to plan for next year. As always, we thank you for your consideration - and for your help in making Stewardship Celebration Sunday a success.

Yours in Christ,



Erik



Charlie