

*a bon mot from jo+*



## MORE THAN ENOUGH

Remember the story of the widow who was gathering wood to cook the last bit of her stores for herself and her son before they were going to lie down and die of starvation? Elijah happens upon her and asks her to cook him some bread. He gives her the promise of never-empty jars of oil and flour. But first the widow must take the risk. (See I Kings 17:10-16.)

When faced with diminished resources (like after damage from a hurricane or the restrictions of COVID) what do we at St. Andrew's By-the-Sea do? We get creative. We roll up our sleeves and get to work. We stretch our funds to sustain our services and outreach ministries to feed and clothe the hungry and provide bikes for those without transportation and keep up the air conditioners and pay our staff and our bills, all with Vestry approval. Our Vestry has taken necessary steps so that we had enough. Indeed, we have had more than enough. Our Blue Door Ministry has expanded reaching more and more clients in the last two years and recently has added more care for our brothers and sisters. During COVID our Bike Ministry was able to provide for the needs of so many with what we had and could repair. God has been good to us. We have seen an abundance of goods and volunteers, enough to sustain the church and her ministries, and more than enough to share. But first we had to take a risk. We had to trust God to provide enough. And God has given us more than enough!

Trusting in God to continue to bless us, where do we go from here? The first draft of the 2023 Budget is being prepared. It will be approved by the Vestry and presented to the congregation at our Annual Meeting of the Parish on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Our "Next Steps" that came out of 20 weeks of intentional listening to the Holy Spirit and each other during the "Listen and Hear. Hear and Listen" discernment. The "Next Steps" that came directly from all of us, have been shared with the entire congregation twice recently, but I include them again here:

1. The vestry will provide a detailed financial report to the parish twice a year.
2. Provide a report to the parish on the cost of operating and maintaining our facilities, including the anticipated cost of unanticipated problems (*e.g.*, failure of another air conditioning unit).
3. The vestry, with the advice of the development task force and the consent of the rectors, will appoint a "property working group" to review and recommend workable options for management and possible disposition of one or more of our four plots encompassed in our property.
4. The vestry will direct the property working group to evaluate and make recommendations to the vestry, parish, rectors, and bishop, prior to the next annual meeting.

5. Clean out all buildings and dispose of unused and unnecessary items
6. Finish painting the outside of the church
7. Replace our antiquated sound system with a modest state-of-the art audiovisual system that will work both in the sanctuary and for streaming.
8. Reformat the parish hall with round tables for fellowship (if the old sanctuary is used for Sunday services).
9. In preparation of the 2023 budget, the vestry will consider
  - a. establishing an endowment fund to be used for specified purposes
  - b. conducting a capital campaign to fund renovations and maintenance of our facilities
  - c. expanding our stewardship program
10. Expand the development task force and task it to
  - a. Orchestrate performing arts and other fundraising events in our sanctuary.
  - b. Renew our efforts to gain media coverage of our ministries and activities
11. Expand our coordination with other churches in providing for the needy
12. Initiate discussions with other churches concerning providing housing and/or shelter for the homeless.
13. Re-instate greeters for Sunday morning services
14. Revise and reinvigorate use of name tags
15. Task the development committee and ministry leaders with developing strategies to increase the number of committed volunteers at the Blue Door and Bike Shop.
16. Offer an educational series on the liturgy and history of the Anglican/Episcopal Church.
17. Have an “instructed Eucharist” occasionally
18. Conduct our Sunday service in the old sanctuary (parlor) on a quarterly basis.

In March and September, we will review our progress and a report to the congregation after six months and then again after a year. At each review, we will discover which steps we have taken, which were, perhaps, unrealistic, and which should be modified or supplemented to conform to the new circumstances.

During our “More Than Enough” stewardship program, Don, our director of music will teach us a new theme hymn for our stewardship program that we will sing every Sunday for the month leading up to our dedication or commitment Sunday. We all will hear from our priests, then from the wardens, and finally from our stewardship committee with pledge cards, a copy of our budget, and our “Next Steps.”

Our pledges – our promises to God and St. Andrew’s By-the-Sea – will be collected on Christ the King Sunday, which is the last Sunday of this church year, Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a celebration after service that day in the parlor; it will be live and virtual. So let us mark our calendars and plan to come and thank everyone for pledging to support the church and the community, celebrating that we really do have more than enough.