

# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511 ♦ (203) 777-7623 ♦ [www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)



Fall 2018

Dear Members and Friends of St. Thomas's,

In Revelation, John's vision of a new heaven and a new earth, he hears a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them." At St. Thomas's, we experience "God with us" in worship, education, service, and fellowship every week. And we hear the One who is seated on the throne, who says, "See, I am making all things new."

As we enter the Stewardship season and consider making or renewing our personal commitments of time, talent and treasure to St. Thomas's for 2019, we are living in a time of transition and collective renewal. We are working to discover together who God is calling us to become in the years ahead. Our mission has not changed. But we can find new ways to express our continuing values: Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, and Walking Humbly with God.

Offerings, including both pledges and unpledged money in the offering plates, make up almost 40% of the church's income, which is then used to support all of the vital, vibrant and life-affirming ministries and programs that we enjoy. St. Thomas's is in the midst of an exciting period of growth, and your offerings sustain the momentum. By pledging, you allow the leadership to plan responsibly for the coming year.

Our Church teaches that the act of pledging does more, however, than make the budgeting process more accurate. As a spiritual discipline, pledging offers us an opportunity to check in with ourselves and assess how accurately the allocation of our resources—our time, our talents, our financial treasures—reflects our professed values. The stewardship season is an annual reminder for us to look inwardly in order to assess our willingness and ability to express outwardly the affirmation of our faith.

This year, we ask you to prayerfully consider the opportunities now before us. Our congregation continues to draw new members into our parish family, our ministries are alive and flourishing, and we celebrate the movement of the Spirit among us.

Once you have decided on your generous donation, please return your pledge card.

Thank you,

The Stewardship Team

Diana Empsall, Chair

Don Edwards, Kyle Holton, Alexandria Robison, Ozan Say, Kathryn Scherer, Joann Sweasy