

November 18, 2022

Hello Fellow Parishioners,

The pretty leaves are here, and I am back again to remind you that we all need to begin considering our blessings and to what level we are willing to demonstrate our thankfulness to God for these blessings. Last year I entitled this letter "Preaching To The Choir" because we all know that, like our day-to-day needs, the Church of the Holy Communion has financial, time and talent needs as well, and we are counting on your commitment to meet these needs.

For the past several years we have been fortunate to be able to stay either within or close to our annual budget. For 2023 we have to budget for larger expenses. Inflation is costing both you and the church more. For example, last January and February's utility bills ate up over 50% of our utility budget for the entire year. This was unexpected and was quite a shock, but now we know we must anticipate utility bills this year that will probably be significantly larger than in recent years.

Beginning in late November we welcome our new half-time priest, the Reverend Liz Meade. We are blessed to have found her, and we certainly want to continue to have the finances to support her position with us. Additionally, we have added the position of Technology Specialist which is being filled by Keith Gerlach. John Cornue continues as our excellent organist. These three are compensated positions and fill vital needs at Holy Communion.

A third area requiring attention is the need to repair/restore our priceless stained glass windows, the protective windows, and the wooden frames that surround them. This project has begun but will require us to obtain new monies to fully complete.

Please give this letter careful consideration, pray about the Church's situation, and then decide how you can help keep the Church of the Holy Communion the wonderful asset we are in God's community.

For Your Vestry,

Gary Shine, Senior Warden

