



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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December 8, 2021

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

Soon, we will celebrate the **RETURN OF LIGHT** with the **WINTER SOLSTICE**. There is so much light pouring into our community at St. Peter's Episcopal Church right now and I hope you are able to sense it as I do. So many new families and parishioners are joining our parish. New people are stepping up to engage in ministry. People feel connected to community and lives are being changed. We want to share this LIGHT, our love of Jesus, with others in the wider community. We all want a parish where vitality and spirit abound, where parishioner involvement is overflowing, where all feel welcomed and needed.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, here are some highlights of 2021:

- *The highlight of 2022 was the radical transformation our **Music Ministry** with the hiring of new staff: Michael Moniz as our parish Director of Liturgical Music and Kenny DeAlmeida as our drummer. We are continuing to develop a more contemporary liturgical expression that will help people experience God's love in a stronger way.*
- *The newly developed **Moms Group** was started by Molly Armando, Nicole Kloss, Katie Soares and Ashley Simon and continues to grow with over 300 members in the Facebook group. They hosted a Fall Family Festival and recently collaborated with the Padanaram Business Association to host the Christmas Festival here. They are also fixing and restoring our Carriage House, the little building on the side of the church. It is newly painting and new lighting will be installed soon. They have so much passion.*
- *Our **UMass Dartmouth Episcopal Campus Ministry** program is growing and making an impact on campus.*
- *Our **Outreach Ministry** continues to grow under the direction of Barbara Bosworth. Our School Supply Drive to help UMass D students and our Thanksgiving Drive in collaboration with the Dartmouth Public Schools helped so many. Now, our outreach is being extended to Afghan refugee families in our neighborhood with Martin Costa leading the effort.*

Our THEME for the 2022 Stewardship Campaign is **I'M IN!** Are you **IN** in helping us to support the good work that takes place here?

In the Episcopal Church, the Bishop and our diocesan administration do not support our local parishes. Our individual parishes are supported by the generosity of our members – in sharing of our MONEY and SERVICE – so that our programs, projects and ministries can continue to grow and flourish. **STEWARDSHIP** is our call, as followers of Jesus, to share our **TIME, TALENT and FINANCIAL TREASURE** with our faith community.

Over these next days, I would encourage you to spend some quiet time with God and reflect on this question before completing your commitment card: **How important is St. Peter's Episcopal Church in my life?**

As we do every year, we are asking our parishioners to complete the enclosed pledge card to help support the ministries that take place here throughout the year. The reason the Episcopal Church uses this pledge system is because we need to PLAN our budget for 2022 and, as you know, it is impossible to plan a budget without commitments from our members. In addition to your financial commitment, we are excited to know how you might be able to share your **time** and **talent** with our parish in the upcoming year.

We invite you to return the **enclosed Stewardship Form** by placing it in the collection basket at Mass on Sunday, December 19. You can also mail it into the Parish Office. A member of our Finance Committee will then reach out to you to help you with the next steps.

We urge you to consider **ONLINE GIVING**. Online Giving is safe and secure. It helps you to make a planned, consistent, faithful, weekly or monthly commitment to our parish. So many parishioners have moved away from using archaic budget envelopes and are now engaged in Online Giving as a way to faithfully and consistently support our parish each week.

So, we hope that you will be **IN!** Let's all be IN and work toward embrace new and exciting ways of being witnesses to God's love in this community.

Wishing you and your loved ones and abundance of blessings in this Advent and Christmas Season, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott A. Ciosek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

(The Rev.) Scott A. Ciosek
Rector