

Dear Parishioners,

As you are all aware, this past year without a Rector has been a challenge; however, we have continued to do our core work. Our leadership team has worked hard to continue our existing programs along with making needed improvements to spruce up our space to provide a welcoming space for clergy.

We are blessed with many extraordinary gifts. We have both vocal and handbell choirs, which provide their beautiful and inspiring musical offerings. We are proud of all the outreach and community service programs we participate in which include, several garden projects, Haven of Hope, Crossroads Camp, Homeless Solutions, North Porch, Senior Resource Center's Festival of Trees, our continued support of the local food panties.

We have an outstanding Thrift Shop that provides a place for the community to pass on gently used items and allow others to obtain a bargain. The Thrift Shop has provided Messiah with a major source of annual income greater than \$50,000. The Senior Resource Center (SRC) uses space in our building where it provides minimal and no fee classes for seniors.

We have a Social Justice Group which has been joining with other local denominations. We offer Sunday School during our Sunday service.

Every week we host a coffee hour, following our Sunday service, which is a fantastic opportunity for attendees to catch-up with fellow parishioners or to get acquainted with visitors and most importantly, is to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards.

Can you say WOW? Can you say Rooted in Abundance? This is an exciting place for sure. It is the purpose of this leadership team to reach out and encourage you to keep doing what you are doing. We invite you to share your gifts with us. Please consider raising your contribution in the year ahead if you can afford to do so. This can relieve pressure on other members and ensure these worthwhile programs can continue to serve the community.

This letter would not be from the Finance Chair without some numbers to share. Our median pledge over the last five (5) years has been \$1,800. The Median is calculated by taking the “middle” value, the value for which half of the pledges are larger and half are smaller. By using a Median number, we filter out any values that might be skewing our numbers. \$1,800 annually is \$150 per month or \$37.50 per week. Would you consider increasing your pledge to be above the Median?

Consider this another invitation to share your gifts from a place of Abundance in Body, Mind, and Spirit. We gather to hear the Word of God, let us all, share the word with a sense of Joy and Wonder, a sense of Duty and Delight.

Remember that God “loves a cheerful giver” and that “where there is a willingness,” no gift to the Lord is too small. That is true whether through monetary giving or volunteering your time.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kremins

Finance Committee Chair