

October 2021

My Friends,

As we turn the calendar to October and fall's beauty spreads its wings, we begin the month-long celebration of Stewardship. We all know the church is in transition as we continue to battle the pandemic with a sense of uncertainty upon us. All kinds of voices are heard in the debate about the future and how to address it. The question is what kind of voice the Church should have about stewardship in this time. We speak our own language, a biblical and Gospel word as our compass, with the teachings of Jesus as our North star.

We express deep thanks to all who support this community of faith in these turbulent times! As Christians, we need to embrace a community ecology, if you will, which learns to look at and listen to Church in a new way. And that is never an individual effort!! But together? Yes, that's what will energize us in ways that are deeply grounded and truly effective, the kind of engagement, transformation and service made possible by the power of the gracious Sacred Spirit.

Your gifts of prayer, of time and of money so far in 2021 have made a difference.

A recipient of the weekly North Park Neighbourhood Association hamper program supported by our church says "Thank you so much for everything: the weekly hampers of great food, veggies and baked goods, the monthly Market certificates, the garden kit, and we are especially grateful for the wonderful volunteer who delivers our weekly groceries, bless his soul!"

Our Place, a recipient of funds from the Margaret Cameron fund, says "Your donation of \$5,000, received in February, 2021 has touched Our Place family members across our various sites in three key program areas: Support of the Spiritual Care Team Indigenous Cultural and Spiritual Care services, Self-management and Recovery Training (SMART) workshops, and Drumming to the Beat of Your Heart."

First Met has also been able to:

- Pursue multiple Evolving Church Opportunities including supporting Our Place's Tenant Starter Kit initiative by providing funds, space for donations and volunteers to organize them

- Hold socially distanced and outdoor Sunday school here and at our annual congregational camp at Camp Pringle
- Provide practice space for Music Bursary students as access to these spaces remains severely restricted in post-secondary institutions
- Provide support to individuals affected by the pandemic through its Margaret Cameron Fund

None of these activities could take place without your contributions of caring, talent and treasure. Part of our connection is through our online worship so, in addition to this year's pledge goal of \$170,000, we will have a stretch goal of an extra \$10,000 to upgrade the screens known as the "stage monitors" in memory of Jim Anderson whose contributions to the church's audio-visual systems were invaluable.

We will also be celebrating First Met's 25th anniversary in 2022 so, if you are able, please consider pledging an extra \$2 per month and/or an extra 2 hours of volunteering per month in honor of this milestone.

Please take some time to think about why you give then please fill out and return the enclosed confidential pledge card which can be mailed, dropped off in the

Finance Office or phoned into the Finance Office. The information helps us plan our ministry and support God's mission in our congregation and beyond.

We understand that, for various reasons, you may not be able to pledge for 2022. Financial gifts including memorial gifts are accepted any time in the office, in the mail, by e-transfers to finance@firstmetvictoria.com or through canadahelps.org. Gifts of time are always welcome! Many volunteer opportunities are listed in the enclosed brochure. Prayers for the health of all and a brighter future are always appreciated.



Blessings,

Shelagh

Liane

Reverend Shelagh MacKinnon Treasurer Liane Clark

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