



Trinity Episcopal Church

Daniel Z. Gerhart, Senior Warden

Advent, 2022

Dear Friends,

"We're onna mission from God." – *Elwood Blues*. That's a quote from the 1980 Rhythm & Blues comedy movie, "The Blues Brothers." Two rather shady brothers, Jake & Elwood Blues, attempt to financially save the

Roman Catholic orphanage in which they grew up. Despite several nemeses – including Carrie Fisher, Henry Gibson, John Candy, and Aretha Franklin – Jake & Elwood succeed.

We're onna mission from God here at Trinity Church, as well. Really! "To seek and serve Christ in all people" is our mission from God.

We open our doors to all people as a safe place. We make our parish hall available to 4 AA groups during the week. We decorate the Carol Reed Memorial Mitten Tree with items that will lend assistance to people throughout the community (this year we are emphasizing the cooperative venture of the Bridge of Penn-York Valley for the elderly). We weekly collect food for a local food pantry. We support the Abuse & Rape Crisis Center. We support the Church Periodical Club, which buys books for seminarians. We financially support schoolgirls in our companion diocese of Kajo Keji.

Yes, we are a small congregation, but we are the Church and this is our mission from God.

By now you've recognized that this is a stewardship letter, but the only thing I'm going to say about money is that I know you will support Trinity Church's mission financially, as best you can. A pledge card is included in this mailing – you know what to do with it.

Thank you. Now, please turn the card over. Let's take a moment and talk about your talent and your time because the mission and ministry – the work of being the Church with a mission – involves more than just your financial contributions.

Vestry needs people with new ideas, new approaches to help guide our congregational mission. The "old" way is not the only way to approach our mission: a new voice, a new perspective might be exactly what is needed.

Please consider that just because someone is already doing something, that you can't offer to help them in their burden of love. Your suggestions and help are all part of your stewardship.

You may be worried that you have nothing to offer in terms of creativity or new ideas. But that's not true. Jake & Elwood, through some rather unique and innovative ways, fulfilled their mission from God. With your help, we can too.

This Advent, please prayerfully consider what it is that you can do to further the mission and ministry of the Church. Even if your offering begins with "I'm not sure what I can do, but how can I help?"

Because, remember: *We're onna mission from God*.

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