



WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH

2021 Annual Giving Campaign

Dear Friends of 'Old Durham' Parish,

Over the past 15 months, we have travelled through the unprecedented experience of a global pandemic. Our lives have been altered in dramatic and unexpected ways. Within weeks, our Sunday worship services became an online digital experience as we were no longer able to gather in person. At the same time the clergy and parishioners at Christ Church Durham Parish moved to assure that vital ministries and the work of our church continued. Now, a year later, we find ourselves embarking on a different journey, as we move into the process of "regathering".

This year's Annual Giving theme, *We've Come This Far by Faith*, asks us to reflect on our journey together over the past year and to cast our gaze forward to God's preferred future for our church. It also reminds us that our financial support, in the form of a pledge to the Operating Budget of Durham Parish, is an essential component of our ability to carry out the work of the church. Over the past year, as our parish has journeyed on in faith, we have worshiped both online and in person, while continuing to support our neighbors through generous regular donations of food and supplies both to the families at the local elementary school and through our Joe's Place Food Pantry. We have performed important maintenance and improvement work on our buildings and grounds. As we turn our focus to the future, we do so secure in the assurance of God's abiding and steadfast love.

As we regather, we delight in the opportunities to be with our families, friends, and fellow parishioners and we engage in the important work of rebuilding our communities. There is much to celebrate and there is much to do. More than ever, we must express our love and gratitude by continuing to pledge to the parish that is our spiritual home.

Nearly all members of Durham Parish make an annual financial pledge. Some members tithe, committing ten percent of their income to the work and missions of our church. Others give proportionally by committing some other percentage. Still others give as they are able. What is most important is that everyone supports *We've Come This Far by Faith* in the form of a financial pledge. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you might contribute.

Included with this mailing is a pledge card for 2022. We have indeed come this far by faith – and with the faithful, financial support of our community. Please join others in supporting our congregation by making your faithful, financial pledge by September 26.

If you have any questions, or would like to further discuss making a financial pledge to the church, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Catharine T. Gibson, Rector

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