

March 23, 2020

Dear St Barnabas Community,

Over the past few weeks we have seen profound changes to our daily lives as COVID-19 moved from a regional outbreak to a global pandemic. This has significantly impacted our parish community, changing the way we socialize, activate and worship. Despite these seismic shifts, we remain resilient; quickly adjusting to virtual meetings and online services. We will continue to adapt as we find our footing in this new reality. We want to recognize that many of these changes can be emotionally and physically challenging for us all.

As your St Barnabas Vestry we want to update you on what we are working on and shed light on some potential challenges that lay ahead.

First and foremost, we know that we have an amazing rector at the helm who has support from a team of retired clergy, staff, and lay people. This incredible team is by her side via zoom, phone or perhaps six feet apart—smile. Hence, our spiritual guidance is grounded.

You also have a vestry doing our part to work closely with Rev. Karen. It has been a learning curve and fun meeting via Zoom the past two weeks. The vestry and others have had the privilege of checking in with you via phone calls over the past week—thank you for sharing.

We also know that, thanks to your generous giving, we are in strong financial shape. We feel confident that St Barnabas will weather the storm. Thank you so much for your continued support of our church.

While we do not know how long the pandemic will last, here is what we are doing right now to assure that St. Barnabas continues to run smoothly:

1. Keeping all staff on salary.
2. Keeping an eye on the preschool's financial needs.
3. Decreasing costs where possible.
4. Recognizing that our weekly plate pledges will come in different ways.

Please be on the look-out for further communication from your church as new opportunities to connect and to help are rolled out, and please also be aware that new ways of engaging will be introduced. Of special note are upcoming messages from your stewardship team about how to help others in these extraordinary times.

While we cannot be physically present at St Barnabas at this time, we continue to feel St Barnabas' presence from afar. We are the church, and that is not a bond that can be broken by disease or distance. We want you to know that your Vestry is also not far away—we welcome phone calls or emails with your suggestions and thoughts.

Blessings from your St Barnabas Vestry,

Will Nickum

Rosalys Peel

Randy Krause

Angie Bickerton

Dave Teves

Linda Maxson

Kirk Eichenberger

Carolyn Myers