



*What is  
Faithful Stewardship?*

# *It is everything*





*... after "I believe!"*

# A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

*"It is now time to be bold."*



*I believe*

Dear People of God:

**T**hroughout salvation history, the people of God have turned to God for water; water from rocks, water from heaven, and water from deep within the ground. In face of

traversing an arid and dry land, God provides what it is His people need to sustain life and maintain community. There is no greater example of this than the presence of the Gishon Spring that flows under Jerusalem. Gishon literally means “gushing and siphoned.”

The City of David was the beginning core of Jerusalem and existed about ½ a mile to the south east of the Temple Mount today. Its altitude served as a strategic defense against those who wanted to destroy all expressions of holiness to include her people.

In 701 BC King Hezekiah of Judah refused to pay financial and political tribute to the evil King Sennacherib (suh NAK ur ib) of Assyria and so the Kingdom of Judah became a target for the more powerful and greater resourced nation of Assyria (II Kings 18:7). Because of their strategic location, the only way that King Sennacherib could attack the people of God was to cut off their water supply. As a defense, King Hezekiah constructed a tunnel that cut deep into the rock beneath the City of David leading water from Gishon Spring to the Pool of Siloam (John



9:1-11), a freshwater reservoir fed by Hezekiah's tunnel. This 1,750 foot long tunnel stands even today as a testimony to the resourcefulness and faithfulness of the people of God.

This invitation is a call for the people of God to respond with all their might to the great needs of the Church today. Christ Church will not enter into an unholy alliance with those who want to cut off our water supply. We will not succumb to foreign rule, intended as a strategic move to get us to publically betray our Lord and our God.

God Himself supplies the water. The Holy Church throughout the world provides safe access to all that we will ever need to sustain consecrated life this side of Christ's resurrection. Please join me and your parish leaders in ensuring that the cavern of faithful stewardship is dug very deep here so that the Living Water of Jesus Christ comes flooding into this parish and down the streets of the cities, townships, and boroughs in which we live.

It is now time to be bold. I invite you to a level of sacrificial stewardship today, the likes of

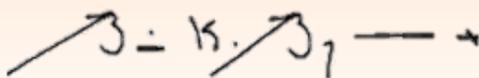
which will send a very clear message to all those who believe we will surrender soon.

Christ Church Woodbury is a great deal more than strategically located. It is a great deal more than a shining city on a hill (Psalm 48). Our orientation and our tactics surpass all others, especially in times of siege because the Living Water of Jesus Christ runs very deep beneath the foundation of this place.

The Egyptian Army is not on its way to deliver us. We have been delivered in Christ our Lord. It is now time to penetrate deep into

the rock beneath our feet to ensure that parched lips are soothed and that salvation unto life eternal is afforded to all who feed on him in their hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. Come and see. Come and *taste* and see.

In the peace of God, which passeth all understanding;



**(The Very Reverend)**  
**Fr. Brian K. Burgess,**  
Dean and Rector







pledge for 2022. Please pray upon your faithful stewardship consideration at home and before the altar, please consider not what this Parish has done for you but what you can return to God and our Parish family, please consider placing Christ Church *first*. All we do and all we believe brings glory to God. Give us the strength and means to continue worship, teach, mission, outreach, and fellowship. Let us continue to be active in the community and to help others. Help us maintain and preserve our beautiful buildings and all that is within them. Support this Parish, thankful for its history and excited about its

future. All to the glory of God.

Thank you to my fellow Parishioners and Vestry for allowing me to serve as Stewardship chair this year. I have enjoyed the time to self-reflect as to my own stewardship journey through my life in this Parish. I have learned much and hope you have enjoyed the articles and discussions we have had. As my newsletter articles started getting longer and longer my wife remarked I never knew you had that much to say. Speaking from my heart about Christ Church was not hard. Now I step back to listen. I cherish all the special

moments and memories this Parish has provided to my family over the years, all through the generosity and faithfulness of this Parish family past and present. I will be ever blessed.



Together as family.

**Steve Lewis**  
Vestry Chair of  
Stewardship

Steward Sunday is  
September 26th



# WORDS FROM OUR PARISHIONERS



*“In our house, Christ Church is part of our foundation. Each month the different worship dates, programs and events are woven throughout our family calendar. We look forward to worship & fellowship with our church family. It's an honor to be pledging members of Christ Church.”*

**Paul & Tara Mass**

*“This parish has been an invaluable part of my upbringing. I’ve learned so many lessons not only from the liturgy, but from Sunday school classmates, youth group field trips, chorister rehearsals, singing during Lessons and Carols, the list goes on. I am so grateful that generations ago, my family landed here at Christ Church Woodbury, because this place and the people here have helped shape me.”*

**Sarah Novalsky**



*“Our family came to Christ Church in 2010 when John became a choral scholar. Through the births of the younger two of our four children, a house move, career changes, and all life's happenings,*



*we have always been able to rely on the support of our church family and the comfort of beautiful, sustaining worship. From the beauty of our sanctuary to the rich musical offerings to our children's Christian education and First Holy Communion, Christ Church is a place where the ordinary is transformed into the holy. We feel truly blessed to be a part of Christ Church.”*

***Aimee Lyden***

## **Annual Giving Societies of Christ Church Woodbury**

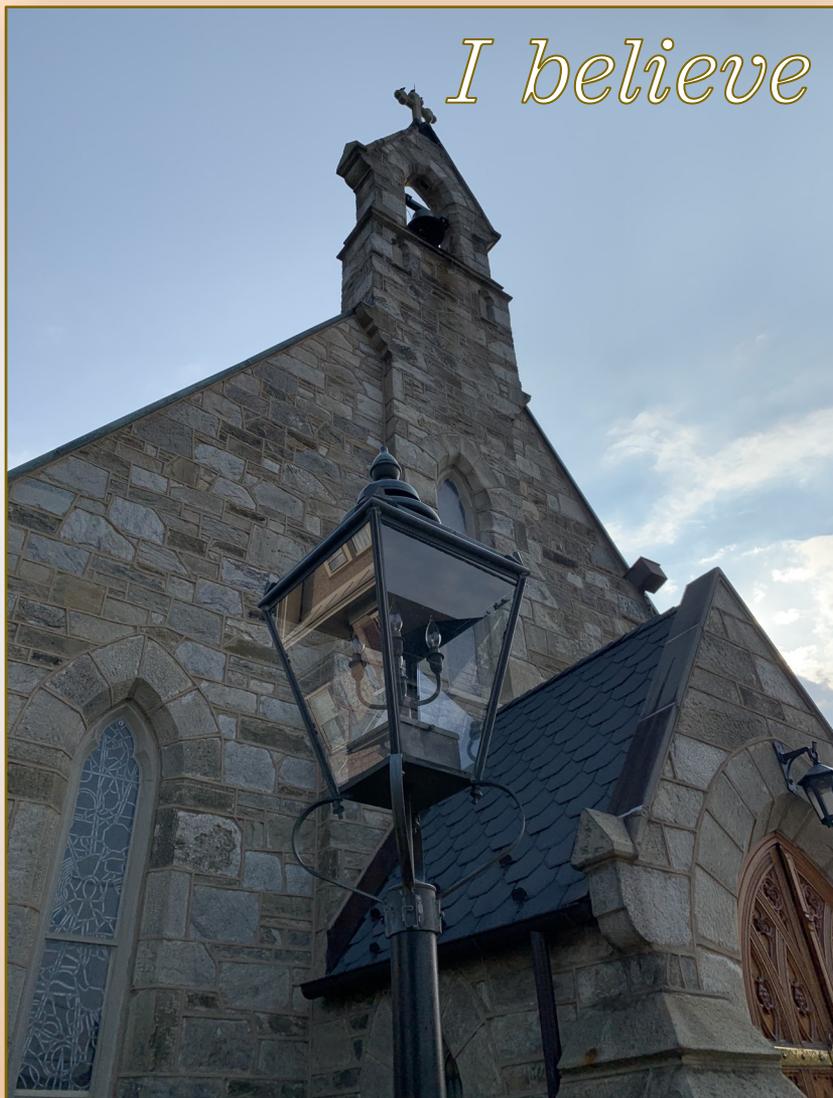
**\*Bishop Doane Society:** Named after the Second Bishop of New Jersey and the founding Bishop of Christ Church Woodbury, the Bishop Doane Society recognizes parishioners and friends of our parish who pledge and fulfill the pledge of \$80.00 a week or more to our annual giving campaign.

**\*The Reverend Herbert Norris Society:** Named after the founding rector of Christ Church Woodbury, this society recognizes parishioners and friends of our parish who have increased their pledged giving over their previous year's contribution to the annual giving campaign.

**\*1856 Society:** Celebrating the year of our founding, this society recognizes parishioners and friends of our parish who have maintained an uninterrupted pattern of pledged giving over the last five consecutive years or more.

**\*St. Alban Society:** Commemorating the earliest Christian in Britain who is known by name and, according to tradition, the first British Martyr, this society recognizes Millennials (ages 22-39) who make a pledge, return an electric giving card, or make an annual gift of \$100.00 or more.

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***A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey and  
the worldwide Anglican Communion***