

# Anglican Parish of Richmond

3667 Route 540, Richmond Corner NB E7M 4W7

3 May 2021

Dear fellow Parishioners ~

**Parish financial giving has declined in recent months to the point where your wardens are writing all parishioners to ask for your prayerful consideration and action to address this matter.** Unless the present decline is reversed, the parish will not be able to afford a new priest, and the ability of the parish to help meet the needs in our communities might become impaired.

At the same time that we make this plea, we are quick to acknowledge the many faithful and steady givers and all the generosity evident in our parish, and to be thankful.

Since our Rector, Rod Black, retired at the end of 2020, divine worship has continued regularly at St. John's, St. Mark's and Holy Trinity with the interim ministry of Walter Williams and Rick Robinson and with the leadership of our faithful layreaders. Despite pandemic restrictions, the mission of visiting, telephoning and staying in touch with neighbours, seniors, shut-ins and people with needs has continued in our various communities. Burnt-out families have been helped, as have the Food Bank, Sanctuary House, the Homeless Men's and Women's Shelter in Fredericton, and other needs. The Vestry is keeping up the business side of the parish and the Parish Advisory Committee is working with the Bishop to secure a new cleric. **God continues to bless the work and mission of the parish**, and again we are thankful.

Hopefully, the recent decline in giving will be temporary and the parish will return to sustainable levels. This will require each of us to examine our patterns and methods of giving. To give faithfully and consistently, some might benefit from the **use of e-offering\***, which the Vestry recommends. However it is we give, let us follow God's advice to give "as we have decided in our hearts, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). And elsewhere we are assured, "You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way" (2 Cor. 9:11).

We need to ensure that the mission of our parish -- in Richmond Corner, Jackson Falls, Hartland, and the world -- will continue. **With God's help we can do this! Thanks be to God!**

***Ernest Clarke***

***Andrew Bell***

***Patricia Margison***

\* To join e-offering, just contact Cindy Derksen: [cinder46@bellaliant.net](mailto:cinder46@bellaliant.net) 375-4642