



taking the
next step

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

*Whoever you are and wherever you find
yourself on the journey of faith, you are
welcome at St. Stephen's!*

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Dear St. Stephen's Family:

On behalf of the 2021 Stewardship Committee, which consists of Carla Daws, Ed Galle, and myself, we would like to welcome you to week 1 of Taking the Next Step. We have started our 21 day countdown towards **Step Up Sunday** on November 1, 2020. During this time, we have much to share with you, including, for the first time ever, video testimonies.

When I was a young man, I thoroughly enjoyed helping my mother with her garden. She was always planting, and I marveled at seeing the little seeds sprout, starting with those little hairs of green. From those seedlings, wonderful magic would happen-vegetables and flowers would appear. She would say, "Good things grow, Robert." And, I say to all of you now, "Your gifts and pledges also Make Good Things Grow."

Jesus tells his disciples that some seeds "are the ones sown on good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, 30 and 60 and 100 fold." I invite you to join us as we move together, reaping and sowing towards 2021. This year we one again are hoping you will "Step Up" your pledging so that we can continue to grow the mission of St. Stephen's Church. The Church is still here through all the challenges of 2020, and because God is with us, because these are God's seeds that have taken root, we know that there are good things ahead, more than we could ever imagine today.

Also, new this year is our Stewardship Portal, accessed through the church website, **ststeve.org/stewardship**. There you can find direct links to the online pledge card, Fr. Kevin's adapted stewardship prayer, the Step Up card, an informational brochure, video testimonies, and letters. If you prefer to have a hard copy of the pledge card, Step Up card, or informational brochure mailed to you, please, e-mail your request to Jeannetta Watson, jwatson@ststeve.org, or call Lydia at the church office, 512-847-9956.

We will have additional surprises in store for you and look forward to what we can do together.

Vaya con Dios,

Robert McLemore, Stewardship Chair

