



October 3, 2022

Dear Advent members,

What a difference a year makes!

Last year's Stewardship season began with a great deal of uncertainty among our church family. We were without a Dean and the search process was in its early phases. This Stewardship season kicks off amidst powerful reminders of God's provision. Craig Smalley has been called as our leader, and with the Advent's anniversary, we are remembering how the Lord continues to work faithfully among us as he has for 150 years. It is with tremendous gratitude that I approach the role of Stewardship Chair. I often think of the answered prayers of our parish and the church family we are so blessed to be a part of.

I believe our Stewardship verse provides the perfect explanation. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." God's grace provides for all of us, regardless of our merit, and moves us to give back in gratitude with the ultimate realization that all that we have been given is his.

Kathleen and I feel incredibly blessed to be part of this wonderful church family. The Advent has given us an understanding of grace and allowed our family to grow in so many ways. We have experienced amazing gospel-based preaching and teaching. Our small group has met weekly for more than twenty years. Lenten services and various retreats have also fostered personal faithful growth. The Advent House has provided life-altering prayers. Our children's spirituality has been nurtured through Vacation Bible School, retreats, mission trips, Bible studies, Sunday school, the acolyte ministry, and youth group activities.

Please join us in giving thanks for all that Jesus has done for the Advent and for his ongoing provision.

Enclosed you will find a pledge card. The Advent needs our pledges – what each of us pledges makes up 90% of our operating budget. Please prayerfully consider how God has blessed you and those you love. You may return the card to the Advent by mail, bring it to the stewardship table in Clingman Commons on Stewardship Sunday or on Make-Up Sunday (October 9 or 16, respectively), or pledge online at [AdventBirmingham.org/Give](http://AdventBirmingham.org/Give).

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edmund Doss".

Edmund Doss  
Stewardship Chair