



They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

—Jeremiah 17:8

November 1, 2023

Dear St. Peter's Grace Families,

Before we discuss our 2024 stewardship campaign, we want to recognize your generosity and say thank you for making the 2023 campaign a success! Our congregation was coming out of a pandemic that impacted us all in various ways. We also completed the merger of St. Peter's with Grace Church in 2022, and we also recently hired a new Priest in Charge. Additionally, we experienced significant turnover in our congregation as several long-term, dedicated parishioners passed away and some moved out of the area. Despite these challenges, this congregation gave generously so we could meet the financial obligations of the church and conduct several outreach activities.

As our annual stewardship campaign gets underway, you have been hearing about the theme, *Rooted in Abundance*, and its reminder to us that we are inspired to give because so much has been given to us. We do not give in proportion to how we feel we have benefited or suffered, rather, we give because of the love we have experienced in the story of our faith. We have explored trees, roots and flowers all as metaphors for the way we dig deep into what nourishes us to transform that goodness into work, service, and joy in a world that needs us.

We are grateful that we have been called to lead this process of telling the story of our abundance and gratitude. We love hearing the stories that you will tell about what connects you to St. Peter's Grace and how your family flourishes here. Every gift matters this year, and every gift will be accepted, brought to the altar, and blessed before God and our community.

As you fill out your pledge cards, you will notice that one side is about your financial promises for the year, your wealth. The other side is dedicated to how you might want to share your works and wisdom. Beyond staffing committees, our work of wisdom is about unlocking creativity to grow our mission, collaborating with other people, institutions, and churches to serve more of our neighbors, and how we form generous, grateful hearts through our education programs. Our works bring us opportunities to roll up our sleeves, to volunteer for services, and to pitch in to help make things better.

This year, as you pray about your commitment to the church, please tap into that nourishing structure of faith and generosity shown to us by an extravagant God, a patient Shepherd, and a gathering Spirit who call us to extend our networks and share our gifts with the world. When you are rooted in abundance, you realize that your giving can be as boundless as the Creation that gave birth to us all. Thank you for your generosity and your prayerful consideration of your pledge to St. Peter's Grace.

In gratitude,
Chuck Hickey & Jennifer Read

P.S. The last Sunday of our campaign is December 3, 2023. Please send your gifts by that date so that we may gather them together and bless them. This will also help us in planning our 2024 budget.