



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

October 25, 2023

Dear St. Peter's Grace Families,

We are so pleased this year to talk about the theme of our annual stewardship campaign, ***Rooted in Abundance***, and we're particularly excited about it because it describes the state of our church community, and how we share our gifts with each other.

Our giving tradition at St. Peter's Grace Church has been focused on how we share all of our gifts – not just our financial gifts. A church needs new ideas, creative people to lead, individuals who know how to solve complex problems, volunteers to keep our ministries focused on our neighbors. We usually talk about this in a three-fold way: wealth, works, and wisdom. If any one of these areas is missing from our community, we are diminished.

Each of us has a gift, some have many. For some it is cooking and baking, others might have beautiful singing voices. We praise those who have administrative gifts of balancing books or counting the collection, and we admire those who offer hospitality, who work with our children, who serve at the altar, who help us find a seat as the service begins. Whatever your ministries are, we couldn't be who we are without you.

In Father Derek's recent stewardship letter to us, he talked about how trees are connected via their root structures, and how they share information and resources with each other through those underground networks. As your Co-Wardens this year, we have witnessed the ways in which you communicate with each other to get things done. Planning of the Apple Festival and Evensong-Tasting fundraisers, outreach opportunities and serving at Chapel on the Green, pastoral care and helping others, worship ministries and book discussion groups - it all happens so wonderfully because you are each deeply connected to each other through your roots of faith and service.

We sincerely thank you this year for the ways you have shared your gifts with us – your wealth, works, and your wisdom. In the coming days you will be receiving more information about this year's campaign and an invitation to let us know what gifts you would like to share with us for next year's ministry. Thank you for your generosity and support of St. Peter's Grace Church.

In gratitude,
Beth Harrington, Nancy Johnson, & Fiona Varker
Co-Wardens