



Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2, NRSV

October 2024

Dear Friends of St. John's,

We are grateful to have been asked to lead our Stewardship Campaign this year and to spend these weeks reflecting as we enter a season of giving. Our theme this year is *Walk in Love*, and it calls us to remember that our greatest gift in community is how we come together in purpose and mission. When we walk in the same direction with God and neighbor, we can achieve so much.

During this season we talk a lot about money, about our budget. That is important, but our real focus is on what our gifts can do for the world. Jesus calls us to heal, visit, feed, accompany, protect, advocate, and love our neighbor. Over the past year, the members of St. John's have served hundreds of meals at the Katherine Hanley House, donated groceries and fresh vegetables and herbs from our Creation Care Garden to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, and collected backpacks for local elementary school students, just to name a few examples. We can support these activities because the Vestry and Financial Committee of St. John's have worked hard to have a balanced budget as well as be prudent with the gifts we have received. Our building is probably in the best shape it has been in some time.

With this letter, you are receiving the invitation to make your promise to the Church for the year to come. Before you fill it out, whether online or on paper, we ask that you pray about it and discern how God is calling you to share your gifts. As you might know, the preschool we have hosted for many years is departing. As we work to welcome a new partner, your pledge is more important than ever. Pay special attention to both sides of the pledge card and let us know what time and talent offerings you would like to learn more about this year. Our campaign will end on November 24. Please return your answer to us by then if possible so that we may count your pledge in our ingathering. If there is anything we can do to support you or questions we can answer, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Each of us hears this call differently, just as each of us has been blessed by God differently. Our talents and training were gifts freely given to us in Creation so that we may share them with a world in need. How will you feel God's call to walk in love this year? How will you determine how you will share your gifts with God's people in the world?

Walking with you in Love,

Andrew Wade
Stewardship Chair

Susie Pike
Sr. Warden

Lisa Heller
Stewardship Chair

Kevin Laskowski
Priest-in-Charge