



*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 22, 2023

Dear friend,

Our annual stewardship campaign is underway! Over the last few weeks, you have been hearing about our theme, “Rooted in Abundance.” It reminds us that we are inspired to give because so much has been given to us. Our Creator has blessed us with everything we need to survive and thrive. We acknowledge that every breath and every heartbeat are gifts, not entitlement.

In our times of joy and of sorrow this year, we have known God’s gracious abundance: the beauty of the natural world, a baby’s first smile; the caring visit; the ministry of presence, and prayers over us or a loved one in times of distress. Through it all, the roots of our faith, and trust in God held and sustained us.

In our narrative 2024 proposed budget, in order to cover our expenses, you will note a deficit of \$53,000. At this point this budget is preliminary and includes a 3% raise for clergy and staff and anticipated expense increases in 2024. The results of our campaign will determine whether we can absorb this deficit or not. In 2023 you’ll remember we passed a deficit budget and funded it with accumulated surplus from prior years. This won’t be possible in 2024, so in order to fully fund our mission and ministry we’ll need to find new pledges, new members and receive increases in existing pledges.

**In your packet you will find:**

- **Narrative budget brochure** – Along with the financial landscape shown in numbers, and the need, we show and tell how our financial gifts impact our gathered community, and the impact of our ministries on the lives of our neighbors.
  - **Pledge card** – Your financial promise is on one side, and on the other side, what works and wisdom you want to share in 2024.
  - **Proportional giving chart** – What percentage of my income do I offer?
  - **Return envelope.** Mail or bring your commitment to church with you.
- Or make your gift online using the QR code provided on your pledge card.**

During this stewardship season please reflect on how God continues to abundantly provide for us. Then, please make a first-time pledge of financial support or increase your current pledge. Help us to continue to work together to make the Kingdom of God a reality, both inside and outside our walls.

Please send or submit your pledge card by November 19 so that we may gather and bless them.

In gratitude,

Mary Jane Meadows  
Stewardship chair

The Rev. Phillip Parker, Rector    The Rev. Becca Walton, Curate  
The Rev. Dr. Billy Walton, Deacon

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