The Episcopal Church of the Annunciation 602 N. Old Orchard Lane

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Together on the Journey of Faith and Generosity

October 27, 2025

Dear Fellow Parishioner,

As we enter this season of stewardship, I find myself reflecting on the work we are doing together in communion with God. What challenges have we faced? What blessings have we received? And most importantly, how can each of us contribute—faithfully and generously—to the areas of greatest need in our parish?

Stewardship is often associated with giving treasure—but it's so much more. The offering of our **time** and **talents** is just as vital to the life and mission of our church.

Scripture teaches us to give **cheerfully**, **according to our ability**, **generously**, and **from the heart**. I'm reminded of the widow in *Mark 12:41–44*, who gave two small coins. Jesus honored her because she gave all she had in faith, trusting God would provide. Her gift, though small, was great in love.

Each Sunday, many hands and hearts come together to make worship possible. Even more is needed behind the scenes to manage our ministries, outreach, and parish life. Every person who gives of their time and talent makes our shared mission a reality.

This year, our **Vestry** reflected on our **mission and values**, reaffirming our call to be a spiritual home **"where the love of God and neighbor grows."** We're living into this through a welcoming spirit, authentic belonging, loving service, and growing faith.

Looking ahead, we have set several **key goals for 2026**:

- Hire an assistant priest or curate to lead youth ministry and support clergy
- Build financial stability for operating needs and reserves
- · Complete necessary repairs to parish facilities
- Expand program funding to deepen community outreach
- Rebrand our parish identity to stay relevant and welcoming
- Renovate the parish hall kitchen to a commercial standard for outreach and events

These are bold steps—but we take them in **faith**, trusting that God will continue to bless our shared journey.

I invite you to prayerfully reflect on your giving of time, talent, and treasure:

- Are you giving cheerfully?
- Are you giving according to your ability?
- Are you giving generously?
- Are you giving from the heart?

Thank you for being a vital part of our church family. With your continued support, and by God's grace, we will move boldly into the future—together.

"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us..."

— Romans 12:4–6a (NRSV)

In Christ.

Laura Braun, Senior Warden