

Dear Family of Annunciation,

As part of Stewardship, every Fall we plan for the ministries and mission and the funding required to support them for the next year. It's a time of reflection, renewal, and recommitment – when we, as a parish family, pause to remember who we are, where we've been, and where God is calling us to go together.

Our theme this year – *“Together on the Journey of Faith & Generosity”* – is both timely and timeless. It reminds us that we are not alone. In the Episcopal tradition, faith is not a solo endeavor; it's a communal pilgrimage. From the waters of baptism to the breaking of bread at the altar, from pastoral care in times of grief to shared celebration in moments of joy – we walk this road together.

The Apostle Paul's words to the early church offer a grounding image for this shared path. In his letter to the Romans, he writes:

“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)

This is the Church. This is us.

We are one body in Christ, made up of many people – different in age, background, ability, and resources – yet united by God's abundant grace. Each of us offers something essential to the life of this parish: a voice lifted in song, a meal prepared for a grieving family, a gift placed in the offering plate, a prayer whispered in faith. Stewardship is the recognition that every gift is sacred and every person essential to the life and ministry we share.

As your Stewardship Committee, we have reviewed the parish's finances and are mindful that we have an opportunity – and critical need – to strengthen our foundation for the year ahead. While we have experienced some challenges, including fewer active givers and a modest deficit, we believe this community has both the heart and the generosity to respond together in faith. Included with this letter is an infographic outlining Vestry priorities, our current financial standing, and answers to frequently asked questions, so you can see how every gift contributes to the mission and ministries of our parish.

Our goal this year is simple but vital: to increase participation and strengthen giving so that we can stabilize our finances, sustain our ministries, and prepare for future growth. If you have not pledged before, we warmly invite you to join in this shared commitment. If you are already a pledging member, we ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your pledge this year, knowing that your generosity will make a real difference in closing our deficit and strengthening our shared ministry. Every gift matters and every giver is essential.

Please bring your personalized pledge card to church on Nov 16, 2025 – for the blessing of the pledges. Each gift offered with intention and hope contributes to fulfilling our mission. When we give from a place of faith, we open ourselves to deeper connection with God and with one another. That's what this journey is all about.

Thank you for the ways you already give – through your presence, your prayer, and your love for this church. We are deeply grateful to be walking this journey with you.

With faith and gratitude, the Stewardship Committee:

Merriam Wyne (Chair), Cindy Simpson-Scharff (Vestry Liaison), Mike Scharff, John Bartkus