



CHURCH OF THE ADVENT IS A
PLACE WITH HISTORIC ROOTS
WHERE FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST
GROWS THROUGH WORSHIP,
STUDY, COMMUNITY, & SERVICE
ACROSS ALL AGES.



A Prayer for Stewardship

please join us in offering this prayer daily

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded that Yours is "the earth in its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it." We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share our time, talent, and treasure generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray this with grateful hearts in Jesus' name. Amen.



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ROOTED IN FAITH
SERVING IN LOVE

SEASON OF GRATITUDE
AND GIVING
2025

STRENGTHENING OUR ROOTS

2025 has undoubtedly been an eventful year as our parish considers how best to use a large monetary bequest from one of our beloved parishioners and moves forward with a planned church partnership with a Mar Thoma congregation, all of which represent the potential for generational growth within our church family. I was reminded of the concept of exponential growth in my hobby as a sometime vegetable gardener. I planted tomatoes, cucumbers, and squash alongside some herbs and flowers in my garden last spring, then patiently watered, fertilized, and pruned throughout most of the summer. My tomatoes and squash were lackluster performers this year, but the cucumbers have exploded as summer turned into fall. I'm practically falling over them every time I go out into my backyard. That reminds me, does anyone need cucumbers?

What happened? Indeed, there were a few significant events over the summer months. I had to remove some trees in my backyard, which changed the pattern of sunlight and shade on my garden beds. A few significant storms dropped heavy rain in a few short hours. But for the most part, my patient and habitual tending —daily watering, weekly feeding, occasional pruning, carefully training vines to climb a trellis —those regular small nudges eventually produced a

bountiful harvest. I find it helpful to think about pledging a regular financial contribution in much the same way. Your regular gift may not seem earth-shattering, but it is the small, regular things, as insignificant as they may seem, that accumulate into exponential growth over time.

In the 13th chapter of Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells the story of a man who planted a fig tree and was disappointed when it did not bear fruit. His patient and wise gardener advises him to let it be for another year while he digs manure around its roots to fertilize and strengthen them. This smelly, repetitive task is essential to future growth and productivity. It is a lot like the daily work of the parish: unglamorous, sometimes even unpleasant, but vital, and only possible because of your faithful commitment of time, talent, and treasure.

*Blessings,
John Womack
Stewardship Committee Chair*



Major Achievements in 2025

1. Restarted Christian Education for children through Godly Play, expanded nursery hours, and children's bulletins
2. Brought clergy compensation into line with the Diocesan minimum
3. Replaced the parish hall and walkway roofs and addressed leaks in the sanctuary.
4. Provided food for 49,000 people through Body Soul Food Pantry.
5. Improved network to better serve the parish and ensure consistent livestreams for worship services

Plans for 2026

1. Expand Christian Education offerings for adults and youth.
2. Continue overdue repairs to the Rectory
3. Upgrade permanent signage on the grounds and buildings.
4. Add Church of the Advent to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.
5. Increase staff and clergy salaries in line with Diocesan and regional guidelines.