



*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. - 1 PETER 4:10*

October 23, 2020

Dear Friends,

Last month I was in a recorded conversation with Mary MacGregor, a member of the board of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), an organization that supports congregations as they invite members to respond with faith-filled generosity towards God and community. During this conversation with Mary, I shared a story of generosity which our St. Andrew's Appalachia team experienced in 2017, when a young person ordered pizza on for our team, spending money she received for her birthday to feed us as we labored in her home. [Click here for that story \(minute 1:40 through 5:35\).](#)

Faith-Filled Generosity is a timeless theme in the stories of God's people. As we study the scripture stories on Sundays and continue to seek ways to worship and love another safely during this pandemic, we see that our faith compels us to be more and more generous.

Being more generous does not always mean writing a bigger check for ministry. (Although increasing your support of ministries has a big impact in the work we share at St. Andrew's and is very much appreciated!)

Being more generous might mean...

- being generous to people in the OTHER political party during this season of electing government leaders.
- being generous with your time to have a socially-distanced chat with a neighbor when you are out for a walk.
- being generous to your spiritual growth by attending a Bible Study or practicing a new way of praying.
- being generous to your body and soul by practicing self-compassion – getting away from the screen and stepping outdoors for sunshine, fresh air, and exercise.
- being generous to your children or parents by sending a loving and supportive text, without any demands attached.
- being generous with your focus, choosing to participate fully with your whole self in some activity a loved one enjoys.
- being more generous with God's grace, choosing to be forgiven AND forgiving as a way of daily life.



During this season of celebrating Faith-Filled Generosity, we will be inviting all members of the congregation to make a pledge to fund the 2021 budget for ministry. Every person on our email list will be receiving materials by email, inviting you to participate in our Annual Stewardship Campaign. We will gather the pledge cards virtually this year (or you can mail back to the office if preferred), and we will give thanks to God for these generous gifts on Sunday, November 8th during worship services.

On November 30th, St. Andrew's will turn 40 years old as a congregation! This will continue our celebration of God's generosity toward us, and our faith-filled generosity as a response.

While this past year has required incredible adaptation in ministry and worship, one aspect of this life we share together at St. Andrew's has remained constant: your generous support of ministry. Thank you for your constancy, care and commitment to continuing the ministries to which God has called us. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

In gratitude to God for this community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Dina van Klaveren', with a small cross symbol at the end of the signature.

The Rev. Dina van Klaveren, Rector