

October 23, 2023

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's:

All that we are and have - our lives, intelligence, imagination, sensibilities, abilities, potential for growth and inheritance - are gifts from God, given to us to be developed and used for the benefit of all God's children. Stewardship begins with a recognition that God is a generous giver and that we are called upon to be a grateful, responsive, and responsible people.



In the words of first Peter, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gifts each of you has received." (1 Peter 4:10-11)

These words invite us into a life of service and generosity in our faith community and beyond. This coming **Sunday, October 29th**, is our **Stewardship Celebration Sunday, playfully named Pledge and Pancakes**. It is our opportunity to make a generous and meaningful commitment to joyfully give back a portion of our income for God's use. Enclosed with this letter you will find your **Widening the Welcome: Open and Generous Hearts Annual Giving 2024 Pledge Card**, and a postage-paid return envelope.

There are at least two ways to participate:

1. Place your completed **2024 Pledge Card** in the offering collection on **Sunday Oct. 29th**.
2. Place your completed **2024 Pledge Card** in the mail this week or drop it by the Church.

The goal of Celebration Sunday is for every household—long-time members, new households, online participants, and all that are part of our faith community—to join in supporting our Church! We believe that making an intentional, regular and percentage-based commitment to the work of God at St. Mark's is an important part of your Christian practice and life. This intentional giving leads to growth and deepens our involvement in God's work in the world. When we commit to giving back some of our financial blessings from God, we find the other aspects of our lives and our energy also become more significantly invested in the work of God in the world.

We will report back on our shared commitment to growth in giving on Sunday, November 5, 2023. We want to be sure that your gift is counted among the gifts of our whole congregation and that everyone who is able participates in our **Widening the Welcome: Open and Generous Hearts** Celebration Sunday.

If you have any additional questions regarding Celebration Sunday, please contact Lucy Sinkular (703) 638-4286 or Fr. Christopher (505) 331-4638 so we can make sure you are able to participate.

In God's Generous Love,



Lucy Sinkular
Senior Warden



The Rev. Christopher McLaren
Rector