



Dear Friends,

Fall, 2026

How many times in a day do you say "Thank you"? If you were to count, I'm sure it would be in the dozens at least, ranging from the perfunctory to the prayerful to the profound. Gratitude, even when merely routine, is an expression of our interdependence. We say thank you because we rely upon each other.

That's why gratitude is at the heart of Christian life. Everything we do as Christians is in grateful response to God's loving action in Jesus. Rather than trying to repay God's goodness, we allow our gratitude for that goodness to transform how we use our time, talent, and our treasure. In the Church, we call this use of what we've been given stewardship: the way we gratefully care for the lives God has given us. This is not an obligation; our service is a sign of the transformation that God works in us!

Our giving is one of the ways we express our gratitude to God for the many blessings we've received. Obligation would say that we give *in order to* receive; gratitude says we give *because* we have received. God has given us all that we have, and all that we are. Looking at the world with the same generosity, we see not obligations to fulfill, but opportunities to serve and share.

One of those opportunities comes to us every fall, as we make a faithful and grateful decision to support St. David's in the coming year. Our Stewardship team is highlighting *Grateful Giving* this year, as a way of reminding us that our giving flows from our gratitude for God's gifts. Enclosed with this letter is a pledge form and envelope. I urge you to join me and your Vestry in making a grateful commitment to support St. David's in 2027.

Reframing my earlier question: how many times during the year have you experienced something at St. David's that inspired gratitude? A moving moment in worship, a sermon that inspired, a meaningful conversation at coffee hour, an insight gained in a class or study? Not only do our pledges allow these moments to happen, we give because God has met us here. We cannot quantify the ways in which we have been blessed; we can only reflect God's generosity with our own grateful giving.

Finally, thank you. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful community, for sharing the gift of who you are with all of us, and for the many ways your faithfulness finds expression in the work and ministry of this church we love. With abiding gratitude, I am

Yours in Christ,

Andrew