

Dear Friend,

Colin, your Sr. Warden and I are so pleased this year to share about the theme of our annual stewardship campaign, *Grace as a place of bounty*. I am particularly excited about it because it describes the many blessings of our church community, and how we share our gifts so lovingly with each other.

Our giving tradition at Grace Episcopal has always been focused on how we share all of our gifts – not just our financial gifts. A church needs new ideas, creative people to lead, individuals who know how to solve complex problems, volunteers to keep our ministries focused on our neighbors. We usually talk about this in a three-fold way: time, talent and wealth. If any one of these areas is missing from our faith community, we are diminished.

Grace has recently moved from being financially dependent on the Diocese as a mission to being self-sufficient as a parish. This means that we can no longer rely on grants or financial support from the Diocese. Our school helps the community around the church offering infant care through preschool. It is a ministry of our church in which we have a shared financial responsibility with the school. To grow as a parish, Grace needs everyone to help us financially so that the church is not only vibrant in its abundance of ministries, which share God's grace with each of us and our world, but also to share the expenses more fully of being a church with a school. While the Holy Cow survey showed that Grace has a bounty of blessings that we share with each other, it is vital that each member contribute as they are able, and to use their gifts as we search and welcome a new Rector.

Each of us has a gift, some have many. For some it is teaching, others have musical gifts. We appreciate those who have an administrative gift of balancing books or counting the collection, others offer hospitality, serve at the altar, lector, or help us welcome each person before the service begins. Whatever your ministries are, we couldn't be who we are without you. Grace is a place of bounty. This stewardship season we are asking each member to be generous with the bounty of blessings that God has given each of us to build up the kingdom of God at Grace.

In Gratitude,



Rev Wendy Wilkinson
Interim Rector



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Senior Warden

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