



*They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.*

Jeremiah 17:8

I am so pleased this year to talk about the theme of our annual stewardship campaign, *Rooted in Abundance*. I am particularly excited about it because it describes the graceful state of our church community, and how we share our gifts so lovingly with each other.

Our giving tradition at St. George's 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: wealth, works, and wisdom. If any one of these areas is missing from our community, we are diminished.

Each of us has a gift, some of have many. For some it is cooking and baking, others might have beautiful singing voices, we praise those who have an administrative gift of balancing books or counting the collection, we admire those who offer hospitality, who serve at the altar, who help us find a seat as the service begins. Whatever your ministries are, we couldn't be who we are without you.

In Pastor Steve's recent letter to us, he talked about how trees are connected via their root structures, and how they share information and resources with each other through those underground networks. In this year of being in leadership ministry with you, I have witnessed the ways in which you communicate with each other to get things done. Potlucks, community events, pastoral care, it all happens so wonderfully because you are each deeply connected to each other through your roots of faith and service.

In gratitude,

*Joanne Lassiter, Senior Warden*